



Public Works Commission

Regular Meeting
PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION
Minutes

Thursday, September 6, 2007

North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Avenue

CALL TO ORDER: 7:05 p.m.

Present: Commissioners Alward, Francis, Holland, Nelson, Prevo, Schueler, Shumer, St. John

Absent: Commissioner Wolfe

Vacant: None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Tony Hill, of the Prince Street neighborhood, indicated that the residents of his street and neighborhood are interested in learning how to get into the next round for undergrounding utilities and what amount of money they would have to put up. Mr. Hill was invited to stay for the Commissioners' discussion of the topic later in the meeting.

Deborah Badhia, Downtown Berkeley Association, 2230 Shattuck, Suite C, indicated an interest to obtain better scheduling information on street cleaning in downtown Berkeley.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The July 5, 2007 minutes were adopted with a correction to add "areas" after "regarding" in the first sentence on page two (MSC Nelson/Francis, with a vote of 7-0-1, Schueler abstaining). The "No Quorum" notes for of June 7, 2007 meeting were accepted with the correction of the date (MSC Shumer/Francis, with a vote of 7-0-1, Schueler abstaining).

CHAIR REPORT:

Margo Schueler was welcomed as a new commissioner and, by way of introduction, provided a brief background of herself.

To avoid future instances of agenda packets arriving late, they will now be scheduled to be mailed (or possibly delivered by Pedal Express if later) on the Monday of the week prior to each meeting, rather than the end of that week. To keep "to be delivered items" to a minimum, they

ACCOMMODATIONS PROVIDED UPON REQUEST

To request meeting materials in large print, Braille, or on cassette, or to request a sign language interpreter, assistive listening device, real-time captioning or other accommodation for the meeting, call 981-6406 (voice) or 981-6903 (TDD) as soon as possible. Providing at least five (working) days' notice will help to ensure availability at the meeting.

STAFF REPORT: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The passing of former Chair Ted Gartner was noted with sadness. Tonight's meeting will be adjourned in his honor.

PRESENTATION: Lisa Malek-Zadeh, Senior Budget Specialist for Public Works, presented highlights of the adopted Public Works Fiscal Year 2008-2009 budget. In response to Commissioners' questions, she elaborated on the financial impacts of adding back the previously opted-out street sweeping areas. She also confirmed that the Watershed Coordinator is funded as a fulltime position. Lastly, she referred to the City's budget website for any further information.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Undergrounding Proposals: The Commission discussed the workgroup's proposal included in the packet. It was agreed to place the paragraph on funding private portions at the end, and revised wording was developed to indicate that Rule 20A funds would pay for private portions. The revised policy proposal was adopted (MSC Nelson/Alward, with a vote of 8-0-0).

2. Watershed/Stormwater - Infrastructure: Commissioner Francis indicated that the revised workgroup recommendation will be ready for either the October or November meeting. Additionally, Commissioner Schueler was added to the workgroup.

3. Review of Five-Year Street Plan and Program: Secretary Egeberg indicated that the Plan has been resubmitted for the Council agenda on September 11, 2007 with no changes from the July 17, 2007 version, which the Commission had approved on April 5, 2007 (5-1-1). This vote had reflected changes made since the originally recommended version on March 1, 2007 (6-1-1). Since there are no further changes since the April vote, no additional motion is needed at this time. Resolution 55,384 was then briefly reviewed. The Public Right-of-Way (PROW) workgroup shall review and investigate the policy and its consistency with Berkeley's General Plan. They also were interested in investigating whether the annual process could start earlier in the year so that it would be resolved during the budget process in accordance with Resolution 55,384. The workgroup will report back in November.

4. Review of Creek Permits to be Issued by Staff: The staff recommendation for approval of the creek permits enclosed with the packet were approved by the Commission (MSC St. John/Alward, with a vote of 8-0-1, Schueler abstaining).

REPORT ON WORK PROJECTS AND LIAISON WORK: As noted above.

FUTURE AGENDAS:

October: Watershed/Infrastructure report
November: 5-Year Street Plan report
December: No regular meeting (retreat?)

ADJOURNMENT: 9:32 p.m., in honor of Ted Gartner.