



Public Works Commission

Special Meeting
PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION
Minutes
Saturday, December 10, 2007
North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Avenue

CALL TO ORDER: 9:00 a.m.

Present: Commissioners Francis, Henry, Holland, Nelson, Schueler, Shumer, Wolfe
Absent: Commissioners Alward and Prevo

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

ORGANIZATIONAL ISSUES:

Commission Binder

The Commissioners Binder should be updated this year.

Focus of the Public Works Commission

At present, this focus includes the “hardscape” of roads, street sweeping, under grounding, sewers, and storm drains.

Access to Staff

There was some discussion of the impacts of reduced access to staff.

City Council Meetings

There is a role for commissioners to attend city council meetings to support actions taken and recommendations made by the Commission.

This meeting is being held in a wheelchair accessible location.

To request a disability-related accommodation(s) to participate in the meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact the Disability Services specialist at 981-6346(V) or 981-7075 (TDD) at least three business days before the meeting date.

Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting.

Outcomes of Commission Recommendations

Commissioners reviewed a chart showing recommendations made by the Public Works Commission and the outcomes of these activities to determine whether there were patterns that could help strategically. However, the chart is not complete. There are more outcomes than are noted in the chart. The Commission needs to update this information.

In the future, the secretary should provide periodic progress updates regarding the Commission's recommendations in order to better track the outcome going forward. Understanding more about outcomes is useful, but should not solely be used in the future to guide the Commission's strategies.

Future Work Plans

- In selecting issues for the work plan, it would be useful for the Commission to identify a constituency for each topic area. These constituencies can include the public, the council, and other commissions and community groups.
- The street sweeping recommendations were cited as an example of an issue with a constituency.
- The proposed work plan should be submitted to staff for feedback.

2007 WORK GROUPS**Stormwater Infrastructure**

- In concurrence with staff, the infrastructure work group concluded that approximately \$80 million in improvements are needed. The next step is to support a public outreach effort to promote a bond measure to be placed on a future ballot.
- Tying the needs for infrastructure with environmental watershed issues should assist the city in gaining broad based support for the ballot measure.
- If the City experiences major flooding problems, this situation could also increase support for a bond measure, since the need for upgrading the stormwater system will be more obvious.
- The Commission could help put together a PowerPoint presentation for the council. It would be good to get an update on the Public Works Department's priorities for stormwater improvements to be funded through a Bond Measure.

Best Practices to Reduce Stormwater Run-Off

The best practices work group and the infrastructure work group will merge in 2008, since the two are linked. There is a maximum of four (4) commissioners allowed on any one work group.

Additional Work Groups

Other topic areas to consider include Aquatic Park and Five-Year Paving Plans. Paving is also inter-related with stormwater best practices.

The Commission discussed the possibility of playing a larger role in the one-year and five-year paving plans. The repaving policy from the early 1990's is so broad that it is rather easy for staff to develop a plan that fits into the policy. The Commission has rarely, or never, found inconsistencies between the plan and official policy. Some research might be useful in that regard.

There was some discussion about the Commission's role in recommending changes in priorities for street paving. The Commission is interested in assuring that the city is applying for all possible grants to augment funds for street paving and maintenance.

ADJOURNMENT: 12:00 noon.