



Public Works Commission

Regular Meeting
PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION
Minutes
Thursday, February 7, 2008
North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Avenue

CALL TO ORDER: 7:07 pm

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

Absent: Commissioner Nelson

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the regular meeting of January 3, 2008 were approved as submitted (MSC Francis/Shumer, with a vote of 5-0-2, Alward and Schueler abstaining, Prevo arriving late).

The minutes of the special meeting of December 10, 2007 were approved as submitted (MSC Wolfe/Francis, with a vote of 6-0-1, Alward abstaining, Prevo arriving late).

CHAIR REPORT: None

STAFF REPORT:

Stormwater Discharge Permits: A Tentative Order for new stormwater discharge permits (Municipal Regional Permits) has been released by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). There is currently a public comment period culminating in a Public Hearing at 9:00 am, March 11, 2008 in their offices in Oakland. There are potentially significant impacts in expanded requirements for street sweeping, storm drain cleaning, stormwater treatment, and trash control, among others. Staff is currently reviewing the document and will provide comments in more detail at the next meeting. A link to the website to access the tentative order was provided to 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.

Ballot Measures: Staff has been working on proposed ballot measures to be submitted at a Council Workshop on February 12, 2008. Public Works staff has been requested to identify the ways in which an additional \$1,500,000 - \$3,000,000 annually, from a Clean Storm Water fee increase, would be used. Uses identified include continued repair/replacement of cross culverts, storm inlets, creek culverts and open channel restoration. Staff was requested to return with a follow-up at the next meeting of the Commission.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Andrew Clough has been hired as Deputy Director of Operations, and he will be introduced at the March 2008 meeting. The tour of the Corporation Yard for new Commission members will be deferred until after that.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Final Adoption of Work Plan and Work Groups for 2008:

Stormwater/Watershed Issues: The Work Group will tackle the huge array of Best Management Practices (BMP's) that have been published and boil it down to a reasonable number to recommend priority in Berkeley. The target date is Summer 2008.

Rule 20A Undergrounding: Recommendations regarding policy have been completed and forwarded to the Council. What remains is to work with staff on a presentation to Council in May 2008 on the history and trends of past usage of Rule 20A funds and then recommendations and estimates for future undergrounding work.

Right of Way: There was considerable discussion of Commissioner Prevo's advocacy of the repavement of University Avenue, including her representation at meetings of outside agencies. Additionally, the Work Group will continue to explore its role in the annual update of the Street Repair Policy (the 5-Year Plan). Finally, Commissioner Alward was added to the Work Group.

Status of Commission Actions: Commission Wolfe will submit her annual report in December 2008.

Commission Binder Review: This Work Group consists of Commissioners Schueler and Prevo. They will meet to review and purge material in the previous binder. The secretary will supply a copy of the binder to Schueler.

Monitoring: The monitoring programs were approved as proposed.

The 2008 Work Plan was adopted as discussed (MSC Shumer/Wolfe, with a vote of 8-0-0).

2. Rule 20A Undergrounding: The Council Workshop has been postponed from March 25, 2008 to May 6, 2008. The Work Group will continue to work with staff on the presentation on the history and trends of past usage of Rule 20A funds and recommendations and estimates for future undergrounding work.

3. Election of Officers (Chair and Vice Chair): Commissioner Holland was re-elected as Chair (MSC Wolfe/Shumer, with a vote of 8-0-0). It was noted that new elections need to be held in May 2008 when the 2-year limit will be reached. Commissioner Francis was elected as Vice Chair (MSC Shumer/Schueler, with a vote of 8-0-0).

INFORMATION ITEMS:

1. Staff Report on Private Sewer Laterals: Staff reported that the statistics are not very clear regarding how many laterals were being replaced before versus after the program started, but that it appears that there was roughly an increase of around 20%. Discussion ensued on the merits of expanding the private lateral program versus other methods of achieving clean water goals.

2. Uses and Activities at Aquatic Park (waterskiing?): It was confirmed that the last occurrence of waterskiing in Aquatic Park was in 1992. Staff indicated that the work plan for the tide tube clearing work has been submitted to the RWQCB and are waiting for response.

FUTURE AGENDAS:

- March: 5-Year Paving Report, 20A Undergrounding, Introduction of Deputy Director, Update on Ballot Measures
- April: Budget Development
- May: Street Sweeping Report, Election of Officers
- June: Update on Status of PWC Actions

ADJOURNMENT: 9:12 pm