



Public Works Commission

**Regular Meeting  
PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION  
Minutes**

**Thursday, March 6, 2008**

North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Avenue

**CALL TO ORDER:** 7:03 pm

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

Absent: Commissioner Alward (Leave of Absence)

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Paul Winsberg, David Goldsmith, Lynene Corkia, Randy Farrimand, and Councilmember Betty Olds, all representing the interests of the Park Hills neighborhood, spoke in favor of the option of either adding Overlook Road, The Crossways and The Crescent back into the 5-Year Street Paving Plan or substituting said roads in lieu of paving certain stretches of neighbor roads that remain in the Plan.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 7, 2008 were approved as submitted (MSC Francis/Henry, with a vote of 7-0-1, Nelson abstaining).

**CHAIR REPORT:** There was no Chair Report.

**STAFF REPORT:**

The "Infrastructure" Council Workshop, originally scheduled for March 11, 2008 has been postponed to March 25, 2008 and will include follow-up discussions on the ballot measures, which will be reported on more fully later in the agenda (below).

Commissioner Francis asked Staff to report on a vendor presentation to staff and the Commission's Work Group on permeable paving materials which took place on February 20, 2008 at the offices of the Berkeley Public Works Department. Staff together with Commissioner Henry noted that per the presentation, the main advantages of such materials are

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to slow down drainage flows (detention) and to remove pollutants (filtration). Methods of addressing clay soils, as in Berkeley, include excavation to depths of several feet and placement of engineered drain rock and underdrain piping systems which connect to the municipal storm drainage system. However, this extent of work can often affect other utilities under the pavement.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Andrew Clough, the new Deputy Director of Operations, Public Works Department, was introduced, and he provided a brief description of his background and his agenda for taking over management of the Corporation Yard. He will proceed to arrange a tour of the Corporation Yard for Commissioners Schueler, Henry, and Alward.

#### **ACTION ITEMS:**

**1. Update of Street Repair Policy (including 5-Year Paving Plan):** First of all, the Secretary explained that, subsequent to creating the current 5-Year Plan, \$500,000 of one-time funding was cut from the budget. As a result, certain streets were cut from the plan, including streets in the Park Hills neighborhood. It was also pointed out that it is more cost-effective to overlay a street before it deteriorates to the state of requiring reconstruction (a cost of 3-4 time higher), and this is why it may appear to the public that sometimes the worst streets do not get paved first.

The Secretary further explained that, due to the Council's recent desire to reconsider priorities involving University Avenue and Martin Luther King Jr. Way, staff has not had enough time to add a new year (2013) to the Plan. Staff will provide this update at the April 2008 meeting. The Work Group report is also deferred to the next meeting. Staff was further requested to see if the conditions of streets could be reported by PCI rating, rather than the qualitative phrases such as "poor" and "very poor."

**2. Update on Possible Ballot Measures:** The Secretary summarized the Council Ballot Measure Workshop, held on February 26, 2008, and that a proposition is included to raise the Clean Storm Water Fee, to one of two thresholds: one that would yield an additional \$1,500,000 and one yielding \$3,000,000 in revenue. In either scenario, the first \$1,000,000 would go to O&M, with the remainder going to Capital.

#### **INFORMATION ITEMS:**

**1. Rule 20A Undergrounding Presentation to Council in May 2008:** Staff has begun the task of going through historical records prior to the 1990's. Another meeting with the Work Group will be scheduled in the next two weeks.

**2. Tentative Order regarding new Stormwater Discharge Permit Requirements:** Staff pointed out that the written public comment period had closed, and the Berkeley, along with almost all other cities, had sent in extensive comments, along with the Mayor's letter requesting that the entire process be held off at least six months. There is an upcoming public hearing on March 11, 2008, and many elected officials are expected to testify.

Meanwhile, staff gave the Commission a brief synopsis of the many impacts as noted in Berkeley's comment letter, which was handed out. These included potentially major increases in street sweeping and storm drain inlet cleaning, trash collection (possibly including grates with small-sized openings at every inlet), and greatly expanded inspection, data collection and

**FUTURE AGENDAS:**

**April:** Staff Budget Report, Ballot Measure Update, Rule 20A Presentation Update, Pedestrian Plan Review, Street Repair Policy Update (including permeable pavers)

**May:** Annual Street Sweeping Update, Election of Officers

**June:** Private Sewer Lateral Program Update

**July:** Stormwater BMP Work Group report

**Sept:** Work Group Report on paving policies

**ADJOURNMENT:** 9:24 pm