



Public Works Commission

Regular Meeting
PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION

Action Minutes

Thursday, November 7, 2019

Willow Room, Corporation Yard, 1326 Allston Way, Berkeley, CA

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 PM

Present: Ray Yep, Margo Schueler, John Hitchen, Matt Freiberg, Shane Krpata, and Jackie Erbe.

Absent: Sachu Constantine (Excused)

Staff: Joe Enke, Andrew Brozyna, and Lisa Cronin

Public: Marvin Snow, Gordon Wozniak, and two others.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Marvin Snow – Marvin asked if undergrounding would be the primary issue addressed in the Undergrounding Phase 3 Report agenda item, given that a large part of the report relates to fire prevention.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes for the October 5, 2019 meeting were approved (Krpata/Schueler, 6/0).

CHAIR REPORT:

1. Ray Yep reported that Jim McGrath has resigned from the Commission due to his appointment as Chairperson of the Bay Area Regional Water Quality Control Board.
2. Shane Krpata let the Commission know at this time that he will also be resigning in December. He has been appointed to the Planning Commission, and Councilmember Robinson would like him to focus his efforts there.
3. Ray stated that this is his last meeting as a commissioner. He offered to prepare notes on his experience as knowledge transfer for the continuing Commissioners.
4. Regarding the December meeting, Margo Schueler mentioned that there is no mechanism for getting the meeting room door open on a weekend day. Joe Enke said he will make sure that access is taken care of.
5. Matt Freiberg presented Ray with a Certificate of Recognition signed by the Mayor and Councilmember Harrison.

STAFF REPORT: No report.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Undergrounding Phase 3 Report
 - Ray Yep reviewed the written report with the Commission, except for the portion related to financing which was written by Gordon Wozniak.
 - Gordon Wozniak explained the parts of the report related to financing.
 - Marvin Snow told the Commission he thinks it's urgent to keep the undergrounding program moving forward.

- Commissioner comments included:
 - John – The plan needs to include every street in the city, eventually.
 - Shane – 17-20 years to complete is too long. 10 years is still too long, but reasonable.
 - Jackie – A lot of the undergrounding areas overlap with the Paving Plan. We look at a lot of these things siloed; I would like to see them layered. There’s an economy in using that money to fund multiple things at once.
 - Margo – If we hop around town, it costs us a fortune. San Diego does continuous long jobs; that’s where you save money. Regarding undergrounding the whole city, I don’t want my neighborhood undergrounded; I want bike routes, flood control, reforestation. Risks are different neighborhood to neighborhood.
 - Matt – it’s too early to say which financing option makes the most sense.
 - Ray would like to convene a final meeting of the subcommittee to let them weigh in on the report, and would like to have another meeting with Phil Harrington, David White, Paul Buddenhagen, Andrew Brozyna, Councilmember Wengraf, Gordon, and himself. Sometime after those meetings, the draft report will get updated and an agenda cover memo will be written and routed to Council.
 - The following motion was made and passed: The Public Works commission concurs with the recommendation of the report and recommends forwarding it, along with any further updates, to Council, which completes the Commission’s obligation on the referral. (Schueler/Erbe, 6/0).
2. January Regular Commission Meeting Date
- The Commission agreed to hold the January meeting on January 9, 2020.
3. Select Date for Joint Parks & Waterfront Commission/Public Works Commission Meeting for the T1 Phase 2 Public Process Kick-off
- After discussion, the Commission agreed that January 29, 2020 or January 30, 2020 would be their preferred dates. They also requested that the meeting time be from 7-10 pm. The Parks & Waterfront Commission will select from those dates at their November meeting.
 - Margo Schueler noted that this second January meeting will count as a regular meeting, so a Council Report will need to be written asking for an additional meeting at some point next year.
4. Council Referral: Develop a Bicycle Lane and Pedestrian Street Improvements Policy
- Ray Yep said that he asked for this item to be placed on the agenda as the referral has relevance to the Commission. The referral recommends that 50% of Paving Plan money be designated towards bike routes and Vision Zero locations of high impacts. Commissioner comments included:
- Margo - The current Paving Policy says that PWC makes changes to the Paving Policy. Is this taking that authority away from the PWC?
 - Matt – Do we send a letter to Council saying, “We love the direction the Council is taking but we’d like to be involved since this falls into our area?”
 - Shane – Councilmember Harrison suggested this go through the FITES Committee, which is one way it could come to us.
 - Jackie – This is a move to force the paving issue further to the forefront.
- Margo Schueler asked Shane Krpata to bring the Commission’s discussion up with Councilmember Robinson. Ray Yep added that Councilmember Robinson might not know that this is one of the clearest mandates the Commission has.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

1. Modification of Measure T1 Phase 1 Project Phase and List
- Andrew Brozyna informed the Commission that this is a housekeeping item: any time changes are made to a T1 item, it’s brought to the Public Works Commission and the Parks & Waterfront Commission for review. The list of items and phases are being updated as indicated in the packet.

- Joe said that a Staff Report on T1 with some of the modifications will be going to Council.
- 2. Standing Information Item: Subcommittee Reports
 - Street Paving – covered in earlier agenda item.
 - T1 Implementation – covered in earlier agenda item.
 - Utility Undergrounding – covered in earlier agenda item.
 - Watershed Management and Sanitary Sewers – John Hitchen reminded the Commission that the Parks & Waterfront Commission will discuss Adopt-a-Spot at their November meeting and encouraged everyone to attend.
 - Street Lighting – Matt reported on street light replacement and lumens testing and mentioned that the Subcommittee is considering what a Master Street Lighting Plan would look like.
- 3. Upcoming City Community Meetings – not discussed.

FUTURE AGENDAS:

1. 2020 Work Plan and Subcommittees (Jan)
2. Shattuck Avenue Renaming (Jan)
3. Referral to the PWC: Naming Berkeley Paths for Women Founders of the Berkeley Path Wanderers Association (Jan)
4. Commission Meeting Schedule (Jan)
5. Chair and Vice Chair nominations/ vote (Jan)
6. T1 Phase 2 Public Process Kick-Off (Jan Joint Meeting)

Motion to ADJOURN – (Erbe/Freiberg, 6/0) 9:30 pm.

Commission Secretary:

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