



Public Works Commission

Regular Meeting
PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION

Action Minutes

Thursday, January 9, 2020

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

CALL TO ORDER: 7:03 PM

Present: Matthew Freiberg, Jacqueline Erbe, Christopher Brennan, Bryce Nesbitt, John Hitchen, Sachu Constantine, Shane Krpata, Mark Humbert, Margo Schueler

Absent: None

Staff: Nisha Patel, Lisa Cronin

Public: Alina Constantinescu, Marvin Snow, Ray Yep, Sheryl Drinkwater, David Thill, Susan Schwartz, Liam Garland

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Marvin Snow encouraged the Commission to consider the newly released PG&E Audit of Undergrounding Rules to make sure that the Commission's undergrounding study recommendations are aligned with the audit.
2. Susan Schwartz recommended sunseting fencing around Codornices Creek.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes for the December 14, 2019 meeting were approved with the correction of the month for Future Agendas from September to January, and with the note that a second T1 meeting may need to be scheduled in 2020 (Erbe/Krpata 9/0/0).

CHAIR REPORT: No report.

STAFF REPORT: Nisha Patel reported on progress with retaining wall design adjustments for several residents in the Undergrounding district and stated that construction contracts should be advertised in the Fall of 2020. Marvin Snow asked why advertising for the contract had been delayed. Nisha responded that this is due to the retaining wall issue, which didn't arise until Public Works met with new area residents.

ACTION ITEMS: Action items were heard out of order in consideration for the two guest speakers.

1. Referral to the PWC: Naming Berkeley Paths for Women Founders of the Berkeley Path Wanderers Association – Alina Constantinescu, President of Berkeley Path Wanderers Association, was present for the discussion. Margo Schueler asked if any of the paths were to be named for living women. Alina replied that three of them are. Margo noted that current policy is not to name things after living people. The Commissioners discussed the reason for the current policy and the implications of changing it, and agreed to have Alina come back for a further presentation.
2. Final Update on Phase 3 Undergrounding – Ray Yep presented an update on Phase III Undergrounding. Comments included the cost benefit of undergrounding while digging is underway on a street for another reason (dig once); the potential for 20A credits to go away; the desire of

some communities to have a 20B process; the cost per household to have a utility tax cost increase, and potentially having Sacramento Street included as an additional North-South route.

Motion to approve the report pending the inclusion of the items in the meeting minutes on this conversation (Erbe/Constantine 9/0/0).

3. Chair and Vice-Chair Nominations – Matthew Freiberg asked if there were any additional nominations for Chair or Vice-Chair of the Commission. No additional names were put forward. Voting on the current nominations, Matthew Freiberg for Chair and Shane Krpata for Vice-Chair, will occur at the regular February Commission meeting.
4. FY 2020 Work Plan and Subcommittees:
 - The Commission would like to split the Street Paving Subcommittee into two—one to work on the Street Paving Plan and another to work on revising the Street Paving Policy. The Commission has existing Adopt-a-Spot and Traffic Circle referrals from Council; because of overlapping concerns, these could be combined into a single subcommittee.
 - The proposed subcommittees and their Chairs are:
 - Street Paving 5-Year Plan – John Hitchen
 - Street Paving Policy Revisions – Bryce Nesbitt
 - T1/Measure M – Shane Krpata
 - Utility Undergrounding – Sachu Constantine
 - Streetlighting – Margo Schueler
 - Adopt-a-Spot/Traffic Circles – John Hitchen
 - Watershed Management – (inactive; convene if necessary)
 - Each chair will try to schedule a meeting within the next two weeks to fill in the Work Plan grid.
5. Referrals from Council – Discussed during subcommittee assignments.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

1. Shane Krpata informed the Commission that the Berkeley Civic Arts Grant application deadline was approaching.
2. Matthew Freiberg reminded the Commission about the joint Parks Commission/Public Works Commission T1 Meeting on January 29th.
3. Standing Information Item: Subcommittee Reports
 - a) Street paving – discussed above.
 - b) T1 implementation – Margo Schueler reported that the Parks Commission presentation on January 8th stated that there are currently 42 T1 projects, but her understanding is that there are 39. It might be possible to clarify this number with Parks at the January 29 joint meeting.
 - c) Utility Undergrounding – discussed above.
 - d) Watershed management and sanitary sewers – discussed above.

FUTURE AGENDAS:

Items for the February commission meeting.

1. Officer Votes
2. Adopt-a-Spot
3. Shattuck Ave. Renaming

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4. Work Plan Approval
5. Berkeley Path Wanderers
6. Vision Zero Staff Report

Item for the March commission meeting:

7. PRW Forestry presentation

Motion to ADJOURN - (Constantine/Brennan 9/0/0) 10:00 pm.

Commission Secretary:

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