



Public Works Commission

Regular Meeting
PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION
Action Minutes

Thursday, September 5, 2019
Willow Room, Corporation Yard, 1326 Allston Way, Berkeley, CA

CALL TO ORDER: 7:01 PM

Present: Ray Yep, Nic Dominguez, Shane Krpata, Margo Schueler, John Hitchen, Sachu Constantine, Jim McGrath, and Jackie Erbe.

Absent: Matt Freiberg, excused

Staff: Nisha Patel, Joe Enke

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. James Chang – James provided a list of streets in South Berkeley that needs repaving.
2. Susan Schwartz – Susan said that lower Codornices Creek is in good condition. Maintenance is being done and lots of volunteers are helping. Fish and Wildlife are checking the amount of fish in the creek.
3. Bryce Nesbitt – Bryce suggested placing extra empty conduits with street construction projects.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Margo Schueler requested that “diversity” be changed to “equity” on page 2, item C, first bullet. Minutes for the July 11, 2019 meeting were approved as amended (McGrath/Constantine 8/0/0/ 1, abstain: none, absent: Freiberg)

CHAIR REPORT: Ray Yep reported on the following:

1. The commissioners enjoyed our social get together in August.
2. Nic Dominguez is moving to Sacramento. This is his last commission meeting and we thanked him for his service.
3. On Tuesday, September 10, the Council will have agenda items on paving revenue and the GI plan.

STAFF REPORT:

1. Nisha Patel added comments on the Council agenda items on September 10th.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Audit on streets – Jenny Wong, Claudette Biemeret, and Erin Mullin described an audit of the streets program that they are starting. Erin said they are in the scoping phase and have talked with many people. They know that it is a complex issue. Comments from the commissioners included:
 - Sachu – consider street materials.
 - Jackie – don’t use bond funding for short lived materials, such as asphalt.
 - Jim – the commission has highlighted the need for additional street paving funding. There should be reporting on actual expenditures.

- Shane – we should comply with ADA requirements.
 - John – more funding is need for streets.
 - Nic – the auditors should review the commission’s reports on the 5-year paving plan, the prioritization process, and the fluctuation of construction costs.
 - Margo – need to define equity.
 - Ray – Berkeley needs comprehensive planning for our streets. The auditors should read the commission’s 2017, 2018, and 2019 paving reports to Council.
2. Adopt a Spot program – Nic Dominguez reported that the watershed sub-committee met and discussed the potential Adopt a Spot program. Berkeley has an Adopt a Drain program and Oakland has a Adopt a Spot program. Berkeley citizens have volunteered to work on city parks, traffic circles, etc. It was generally concluded that a program would need a leader and some level of coordination. Jim said this referral needs quite a bit of further discussion before a recommendation can be made to the Council.
 3. Nomination of vice-chair – Ray Yep nominated Matt Freiberg to be the next vice chair of the Public Works Commission. There were no other nominations. We will hold over the nominations and will vote at the October commission meeting.
 4. Sidewalk program – Nisha Patel handed out a memo from Ryan Murray that answered questions from John Hitchen about our sidewalk program. John will meet with Ryan for further clarifications.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

1. The commission reviewed and discussed the letter from Ben Gerhardstein.
2. Standing Information Item: Subcommittee Reports
 - Street paving – Ray Yep provided a handout on activities with street paving. He mentioned that staff is preparing a companion report to the commission’s report to Council.
 - T1 implementation – Jim McGrath reported that the program is working on developing a public input process for Phase 2. A sub-committee meeting will be held on September 16.
 - Utility undergrounding – Ray Yep provided a handout of activities on undergrounding. He mentioned that the sub-committee is preparing a progress report to Council.
 - Watershed management – Covered in earlier agenda item.
 - Street lighting – No report.

FUTURE AGENDAS: Items for the September commission meeting.

1. Continue nominations and vote on a vice chair.
2. Adopt a Spot program
3. Measure T1 phase 2 progress
4. Sidewalk program

Motion to ADJOURN - (Dominguez/Krpata 6/0/0/0 abstain: none; absent: Freiberg; Constantine and Schueler left early) 9:45 pm.

Commission Secretary:

Nisha Patel, Public Works - Manager of Engineering/ City Engineer
 Public Works Department/Engineering Division, 1947 Center Street, 4th Floor,
 Berkeley, CA, 94704, Telephone (510) 981-6406, Fax: (510) 981-7060
 TDD: (510) 981-6400, Email: NPatel@cityofberkeley.info