



Public Works Commission

Regular Meeting
PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION
Minutes
Thursday, March 5, 2015
1326 Allston Way, Ratcliff Building

CALL TO ORDER: 7:02 PM

Present: Henry, Swift, Neal, Elgstrand, Schueler, Kelley, Yep

Absent: None

Staff: Sean Rose (PWC Secretary), Phillip Harrington (Public Works Deputy Director), Donald Irby (Public Works Engineering)

PUBLIC COMMENT: Three residents (Mr. Marvin Snow, Ms. Nicole Chabot, and Mr. Paul Teicholz) spoke on the topic of Underground Utility Districts. Mr. Snow provided a 48 page handout (attached) to the Commission when he was finished speaking. CM Neal requested contact information from each of the speakers and they provided the requested information.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes for the regular meetings of January and February, 2015 were approved as amended. (M/S/C Kelley/Swift, 7-0-0)

CHAIR REPORT:

1. **Kim Le resignation, open seat:** Chair Schueler informed the Commission of Kim Le's resignation and briefly discussed the current open seat.
2. **APWA presentation:** Chair Scheuler informed the Commission that Secretary Rose would be making a presentation on Measure M during the upcoming APWA conference in Phoenix AZ.
3. **AWWA draft paper status:** Chair Schueler confirmed that she, Commissioner Yep, and Secretary Rose will be preparing a paper on Measure M for submission to AWWA.

STAFF REPORT:

1. **Allston Way Project monitoring update:** Mr. Irby provided a status update on Allston Way Permeable Paver Roadway monitoring. He informed the Commission that the monitoring was on-going and partially completed. He plans to provide another update at the May PWC meeting.
2. **LED implementation update:** Mr. Harrington informed the Commission the LED street light conversion was nearly complete and it was anticipated that all street lights would be converted by the end of April. He provided a project summary sheet (attached). He also indicated that Public Works was developing a policy to handle lighting concerns. Chair Scheuler indicated the need for public process and discussion as part of the lighting policy. She suggested the formation of a lighting sub-committee.
3. **Skeo Solutions contract Update:** Secretary Rose informed the Commission that Skeo Solutions has been approved for Measure M outreach and assistance with grant funding. Skeo Solutions will attend the May PWC meeting to discuss Measure M outreach.

PRESENTATION: The planned presentation on City of Berkeley Resiliency Initiatives was cancelled. It will be rescheduled.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. **Finalize sub-committee assignments** : After some discussion, the Commission made the following motion:
 - i. “Establish a Lighting Sub-committee consisting of Commissioners Elgstrand, Swift, and Kelley.” (M/S/C Neal/Swift, 7-0-0)
 - ii. “Approve establishment of the sub-committee(s) discussed during the January and February, 2015 PWC meetings.” (M/S/C Kelley/Yep, 7-0-0)

2. **Discuss utility undergrounding referral from Council Member Wengraf and Vice-Chair Neal’s outreach to other Commissions and clarification of the referral:** This item was moved up and discussed following the public comments period. Commissioner Neal presented information from his outreach efforts. Commissioner Henry briefly discussed his experience with utility undergrounding and also recommended exploring a bond to help fund utility undergrounding. Secretary Rose provided his experience with utility undergrounding and indicated the rates paid to utility companies to assist with implementation of utility undergrounding (known as 20A funding) started in 1968 but these rates have not kept up with the increase in construction costs associated with utility undergrounding. Therefore, there is not adequate 20A funding available to pay for all of the desired undergrounding in Berkeley. Commissioner Swift suggested the development of a cohesive summary outlining utility undergrounding information which could be provided to Berkeley residents.
 - i. The Commission passed the following motion: “Utility Undergrounding Sub-committee to respond back on utility undergrounding Council referral from CM Wengraf at the April PWC meeting.” (M/S/C, Neal/Swif, 7-0-0)

3. **Review letter from the Public Works Commission in support of the draft sewer rate study recommendations:** After a brief discussion the sewer rate study recommendations were approved as amended (M/S/C Neal/Swift, 7-0-0).

4. **2016 Paving Plan Revisions:** After some discussions the commission moved to approve the 2016 additions as presented and the 2017 deferrals as presented, with the exception of Bancroft Way pending development of treatment alternatives including a full range of Green Infrastructure components up to and including full width permeable pavers. (M/S/C, Neal/Swift, 7-0-0)

INFORMATION ITEMS:

The following information items were discussed:

1. **2017 Paving Plan:** Discussion of the 2017 paving plan was deferred and will be discussed at an upcoming PWC paving Sub-committee meeting.
2. **Paving plant in West Berkeley:** Commissioner Schueler added this information topic to the agenda to bring to the Commissions attention that this paving plant has significantly ramped up production over the past year and the increased truck traffic and other effects of the increased production are creating significant community concern.

FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS:

April

2017 Paving Plan
Skeo presentation

May

2017 Paving Plan at Senior Center
Allston monitoring results

June

Re-streets presentation

ADJOURNMENT: 10:35 pm