



Public Works Commission

Regular Meeting
PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION
Action Minutes

Thursday, February 6, 2020

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

CALL TO ORDER: 7:05 PM

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

Absent: Sachu Constantine (leave of absence)

Staff: Nisha Patel, Eric Anderson, Kieron Slaughter

Public: Alina Constantinescu, Colleen Neff, Jacque Ensign, Misoon Yang, Liam Garland, Sophie Hahn, John Aronovici, Anirvan Chattergee, Swati Rayasam, Monisha Bajaj, Prashant Jawalika, Wahida Rashid, Nirvaan Jaswal, Donna Graves, Deborah Matthews, Sunny Jaswal, Zach Franklin, Sumeet, Indrani Baruah, Barnali Ghosh

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No Public Comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes for the January 9, 2020 and January 29, 2020 meeting were approved as written.

CHAIR REPORT:

Matt Freiberg relayed that he attended the Council Meeting on January 21, 2020 for the 5 Year Paving Plan item. The Council approved to: add Michigan Avenue from Maryland Avenue to Spruce Street, Channing Way from Milvia Street to Shattuck Avenue, and Channing Way from MLK to Milvia Street; delay the Roosevelt Avenue segment to 2024. City Council also moved for the development of a long-term street surfacing master plan (as described in the Public Works Commission's report to council) and referred the Facilities, Infrastructure, Transportation, Environment, & Sustainability (FITES) Committee to work with the Public Works Department and the Commission to oversee the creation of the master.

Matt Freiberg also relayed that he and other commissioners attended the joint PRW and PWC Subcommittee Meeting on the Measure T1 Infrastructure Bond Program – Phase 2 Community Process on January 29, 2020. There will be a number of Community Meetings in February and March and it is expected that at least one PW Commissioner attend each of the meetings.

STAFF REPORT:

Eric Anderson gave an Update on Vision Zero.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Chair and Vice Chair Election – Matt Freiberg provided the nominations from the last meeting. It was Matt Freiberg for the Chair and Shane Krpata for Vice-Chair of the PW Commission. A motion

was made to approve Matt Freiberg for the Chair and Shane Krpata for Vice-Chair of the PW Commission (Nesbit/ Erbe 8/0/0).

2. Staff Presentation: Shattuck Avenue Renaming – Kieron Slaughter presented to the commission on the Shattuck Avenue East renaming process. Following the completion of the Shattuck reconfiguration, there will be a two block stretch of two way traffic that is currently slated to be named Shattuck East. To avoid confusion between the two streets, an effort has been initiated to re-name Shattuck East. This process also serves as an opportunity to recognize a person, place, or thing deserving of memorialization in a unique public place. The presentation included a described the process the City undertook through to develop an initial set candidates and how the list was narrowed to ten names. Following the presentation there was a brief discussion about other streets, statues, and locations that may have already been named after some of the ten candidates. It was also discussed that streets with repeated names or even similar sounding names could pose a risk of misidentification in emergency situations. It was noted that Station Place and Julia Street already exist, and McGee could potentially be confused with Maggie Gee. Slaughter then provided a brief overview of the history and contributions of the people, places, and concepts up for consideration. There were 15 members of the public that provided testimony on why they believe certain names should be in consideration and provided back stories to build a case for the individuals up for consideration. Twelve people from the Public commented they would like Shattuck Avenue East renamed after Kala Bagai. One person commented that they would like Shattuck Avenue East renamed after Sitha Vemireddy. One person commented that they would like Shattuck Avenue East renamed Old Depot Way. Bryce Nesbit commented that we need interpretive signs to go along with the new street name sign. He said that if we are going to name a street based on a person, the Public should understand the meaning behind it. The Commission voted on their top 5 street names from the top ten street list. The top names and the votes were as follows:

Kala Bagai= 8
Sitha Vemireddy= 7
Maggie Gee= 5
William Byron Rumford= 4
Anna Saylor= 3
Ohlone*= 3

*Or an appropriate indigenous name related to the Berkeley area determined after consultation with leaders of local Native peoples and Muwekma Ohlone Tribe representatives.

Ultimately 6 names were carried forward. Anna Saylor and Ohlone both received 3 votes and the subsequent tie break resulted in yet another tie.

A motion was made: In recognition of the unusual opportunity to name a Berkeley Street, we recommend City Council consider the following 6 names (Kala Bagai, Sitha Vemireddy, Maggie Gee, William Byron Rumford, Anna Saylor, and Ohlone) with the additional recommendation to include interpretive signage for place making and education about the individuals' unrecognized contribution to our community. (Schueler/Krpata 8/0/0).

3. Referral to the PWC: Naming Berkeley Paths for Women Founders of the Berkeley Path Wanderers Association – Alina Constantinescu, President of Berkeley Path Wanderers Association, provided a handout and gave a presentation on renaming four Berkeley Paths in honor of the four women founders of the Berkeley Path Wanderers. The presentation highlighted the scope and depth of the

contribution of the Path Wanderers and the development and maintenance of the 87 paths that have been created to date. The presentation also highlighted the origins of the Path Wanderers, starting with the four founders Ruth Armstrong, Jacque Ensign, Pat Devito, and Eleanor Gibson-Hall. Council Member and Vice Mayor, Sophie Hahn also provided testimony on the item. Hahn highlighted that women typically do not receive the recognition for the contributions made to our communities and that we need to move from the male centric criteria that result in women disproportionately being overlooked for such honors. At that time when many of our streets and places were being named, many women didn't work outside of the house and their contributions typically came from volunteer activities such as the PTA, fund raising, and other events. We should finally recognize the women for their contribution. Bryce Nesbit said the three living women have reached the higher bar that the paths should be named in honor of them even though they are living. Nesbit also said that the City or Path Wanderers should have interpretive signage installed. Matt Freiberg noted that each of these individuals have clearly made significant contributions to the community, provided outstanding service, and naming paths after these individuals is fitting for the service they provided our community. These attributes clearly pass the requirements of the City's naming policy and it is clear that the unanimous referral from council to the Public Works Commission indicates that there is enough support from council to clear the 2/3rds voting requirement to name a path after a living person. A motion was made: We recommend naming the 4 paths after the founders of the Path Wanderers Association. We recommend the 3 living persons have met the higher bar for naming (Schueler/Brennan 8/0/0).

4. FY 2020 Work Plan and Subcommittees- The proposed work plan (with subcommittees and their descriptions) for the rest of the Fiscal Year was provided as a handout from Matt Freiberg and Margo Schueler.

The proposed subcommittees and their Chairs are:

- Street Paving Plan – John Hitchen
- Street Paving Policy – Bryce Nesbitt
- T1/Measure M Bond Program Implementation– Shane Krpata
- Utility Undergrounding – Shane Krpata
- Street lighting and Street Sweeping– Margo Schueler
- Adopt-a-Spot/Traffic Circles – John Hitchen
- Watershed Management – (inactive; convene if necessary)

A motion was given to approve the subcommittees as written in the handouts (Brennan/ Hitchen 8/0/0).

5. T1 Neighborhood Meeting Sign-up – The Commission discussed which Commission would attend each neighborhood meeting on Measure T1 Infrastructure Bond Program – Phase 2. The meetings and the Commissioners to attend to meetings are below:

2-19 / 7:00 PM Claremont Elmwood Neighborhood Association (Mark Humbert, Matt Freiberg)

2-20 / 6:00 PM Friends of Strawberry Creek Park (Matthew Freiberg , Shane Krpata)

2-21 / 8:00 AM Friends of Rose Garden/ Amigos de Codornices (Margo Schueler)

2-26 / 7:00 PM Friends of Ohlone Park (Margo Schueler)

3-3 / 7:00 PM Live Oak Codornices Creek Neighborhood Organization (Jacqueline Erbe)

3-5 / 6:30 PM Curtis Street Neighbors (Shane Krpata)

- 3-10 / 7:00 PM Friends of James Kenney (Jacqueline Erbe)
- 3-12 / 7:00 PM Thousand Oaks Neighborhood Association (Bryce Nesbitt)
- 3-14 / TBA McGee- Spaulding Neighbors in Action (Matt Freiberg)
- 3-19 / 7:30 PM Berkeley Path Wanderers (John Hitchen)
- 3-26 /10:00 AM Berkeley Business District Network (Bryce Nesbitt)
- 4-14 / 7:00 PM AFSU (Bryce Nesbitt)
- 4-23 / 7:00 PM Friends of Marin Circle (John Hitchen)

No motion was needed on these items.

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 earlier.
 - b) T1 implementation – discussed earlier.
 - c) Utility Undergrounding – Bryce provided handouts on Dig-Once approach.
 - d) Watershed management and sanitary sewers

FUTURE AGENDAS:

Items for the March commission meeting:

1. PRW Forestry presentation
2. Adopt-a-Spot

Motion to ADJOURN - (Schueler/Hitchen 8/0/0) 10:59 pm.

Commission Secretary:

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