



Public Works Commission

**Regular Meeting
PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION
Minutes**

Thursday, October 7, 2010

North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Avenue

CALL TO ORDER: 7:03 p.m.

Present: Allen, Casmer, Henry, Holland, Kidd, Nelson, Schueler

Absent: Alward

PUBLIC COMMENT: The presence of a UC student was acknowledged as recording the meeting but did not wish to make comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 2, 2010 were approved as submitted (MSC Nelson/Allen with a vote of 7-0-0).

CHAIR REPORT:

New Commissioner Sharon Kidd was welcomed (Councilmember Moore appointment). Ms Kidd and other Commissioners briefly shared each of their backgrounds.

The SOSIP development process has been completed, and a report to Council is scheduled for January 2011. Therefore, since the PWC does not have a regular meeting in December, their comments need to be adopted at the next meeting in November. Commissioner Schueler will highlight the main issues for Commissioners to consider. Both the Transportation and Parks & Recreation Commission have proposed joint retreats for this purpose. The PWC will consider this at the November meeting also.

STAFF REPORT: The PWC paving report to Council has been delayed to November 16, 2010 with no explanation other than “balancing” the Council’s agendas.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Deborah Badhia, Downtown Berkeley Association, provided an update on recent events and activities. She emphasized how important Public Works is to the downtown landscape. She touched on mental health effects and the impacts of sales tax fluctuations. Commissioners mentioned their involvement in “SOSIP” and that they would like to continue to be in contact with DBA on those elements.

This meeting is being held in a wheelchair accessible location.

To request a disability-related accommodation(s) to participate in the meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact the Disability Services specialist at 981-6346(V) or 981-7075 (TDD) at least three business days before the meeting date.

Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Charging of Electric Vehicles in Public Right-of-Way: A draft Council Report has not yet been prepared due to the rapid influx of developments in this field across the country. Commissioner Allen summarized the meetings and other materials she has received recently. The report will be submitted for Commission review and consideration at the November meeting. Meanwhile, it was decided that there are two parts to the issue, the first of which addresses the permitting and legality of attempts by property owners to do things like run electrical cords to their electric vehicles parked in the street. Since the Commission is aware of such instances, it was moved and seconded that the PWC send a message to the City Manager that in the course of responding to a Council referral the Commission has encountered such instances and is hereby recommending that the City Manager “enforce the law” and eliminate these instances (MSC Nelson/Holland with a vote of 7-0-0).

INFORMATION ITEMS:

1. Status of Rule 20A Undergrounding Districts: The Secretary presented information on the schedule status of the remaining three Rule 20A districts that have already been formed. He handed out copies of the Council presentation in 2008 to answer other Commissioner questions. He also handed out maps that show the districts and properties included. The remaining question on these three districts is whether the districts have expanded since they were originally formed, and whether the length of the joint trenches are known for each. Staff will bring back this information at the next meeting.

2. Calera Green Cement: Commissioner Henry described the technical information provided by Calera. They are developing methods to produce cement in a carbon negative environment by re-using flue gases to eliminate the exhausting of CO₂. He will proceed to try to arrange a tour of their facility at Moss Landing.

FUTURE AGENDAS: November 2010

- SOSIP
- EV Council Report
- Rule 20A Data
- Retreat Agenda
- PG&E Transmission Lines

ADJOURNMENT: 8:40 p.m.