



Public Works Commission

Regular Meeting
PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION
Minutes
Thursday, November 13, 2014
1326 Allston Way, Ratcliff Building, Berkeley, CA
Willow Room

CALL TO ORDER: 7:06 PM

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

Absent: Abramson, Kelley (Excused)

Staff: Sean Rose (Secretary)

PUBLIC COMMENT: No members of the public were present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 2, 2014 were approved with minor amendments (M/S/C, Schueler/Neal, 7-0-0).

CHAIR REPORT: Chair Yep led the Commission's discussion of an article published by the Council of Neighborhood Associations (CNA). The article indicated that Measure M was being used inappropriately to pay for staff salaries and administration. The Commission asked Secretary Rose to clarify Measure M expenditures. Rose stated that Measure M funds are being used to accelerate the paving program and install green infrastructure projects where appropriate per the bond measure. City staff time and administration is one of the standard costs of implementing City capital projects, including paving and green infrastructure projects funded by Measure M. Those costs are allowed to be charged to Measure M to implement the approved projects. The Commission had concerns that some of the statements made in the article were not factually correct. They discussed whether to submit a rebuttal article through Berkeleyside or other media outlet. The Commission decided that Commissioner Henry would discuss the article with CNA and report back to the Commission at a future meeting.

STAFF REPORT: Rose provided the Commission with an update on the status of the December special meeting. At the request and direction of the Commission, Rose indicated

he would request an additional meeting on December 13, 2014 from 9am-Noon. The Commission passed the following motion: “The Public Works Commission requests an additional meeting to be held on December 13, 2014.”

Rose provided a brief update on the Allston Way Permeable Paver project. The project is substantially complete. The project was completed on schedule and within budget. The project construction presented many challenges, including utility conflicts, pre- and post-construction monitoring considerations, traffic control, and coordination with other organizations and events. At the request of the Commission, City staff will present construction challenges and post-construction monitoring at a PWC meeting in 2015.

PRESENTATION: None.

ACTION ITEMS: None.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

Update on 2016 paving plan report to City Council, scheduled for November 18,

2014: The paving and green infrastructure subcommittee (Yep, Swift, Henry) provided the Commission with an update on the PWC’s staff report going to Council on November 18, 2014. The PWC is recommending approval of the 2016 plan proposed by staff, with amendments requested by the Commission including two additional green infrastructure sites. CEAC is recommending an alternate plan that includes a requirement to install green infrastructure on every block being paved. The PWC discussed the PWC and CEAC recommendations. The PWC will be at the Council meeting. The Commission requested that Rose bring the Citywide green infrastructure map that was provided to the PWC during development of the 2016 plan.

Sidewalk policy status: Rose indicated that staff provided Council with an update on the Sidewalk Program, including the 50/50 cost sharing program approved by Council in 2012. Staff plans to provide the Council with another program update in 2015. Commissioner Schueler indicated her belief that the 50/50 policy results in inequity between homeowners (e.g. some homeowners have more sidewalk frontage than others, some homeowners don’t have sidewalk frontage, etc.). Schueler further indicated that the adoption of the policy did not include adequate public outreach. The Commission discussed the need for a subcommittee in 2015 to discuss the policy and potential changes and potentially make a recommendation to Council.

Update on water conservation referral: Rose summarized the City staff report provided to Council at the September 16, 2014 Council meeting, in response to the PWC and CEAC July 8, 2014 report to Council. The joint Commission report recommended reducing municipal water consumption by 20% below the average of 2012 and 2013 levels within a

year, moving towards EBMUD WaterSmart certification, and replacing lawns not used for recreation with mulch until other measures can be taken. The staff report indicated a 27% reduction in municipal consumption in the months of April-June 2014 compared to averages in 2012 and 2013 for the same months. The City seeks permanent reductions with investments in water conservation, leak repair, improved irrigation systems, and conversion to more drought-tolerant landscaping to be implemented through an energy and water efficiency performance contract for design, financing and construction of water and energy efficiency measures. The City applied for and was awarded Water Smart certification for City Hall, 2180 Milvia Street. Council will receive another update on further results and implementation in April 2015. Commissioner Elgstrand noted his observation that some irrigation systems spray water on the street, and requested they be adjusted. Rose indicated he would pass that information along to the appropriate staff. The Commission discussed the possibility of congratulating City staff on its accomplishments in the area of water conservation.

Update on Measure M public outreach: Rose provided an update on the contract with Skeo Solutions to assist staff with Measure M public outreach. The contract is going to Council on December 9, 2014 for Council approval. The Commission discussed the possibility of holding a Measure M outreach subcommittee meeting with Skeo in attendance to discuss planned outreach activities, provide input, and brainstorm outreach activities and potential ways the Commission can assist.

Update on sanitary sewer consent decree: Rose provided a brief update on the sanitary sewer rate study. A rate study is currently underway to meet consent decree requirements and its recommendation and options will be presented to Council in the first half of 2015 in anticipation of a vote later in the year. The PWC indicated its interest in reviewing the draft study and recommendation.

La Vereda Road Paving: Rose informed the Commission that EBMUD paved La Vereda Road in October 2014 after replacing their water line. EBMUD normally only paves over their utility trenches. The City coordinated with EBMUD and due to several factors, including the deteriorated condition of the pavement and narrowness of the street, EBMUD agreed to overlay the full width of the street. The City will reconstruct the street in 2016 as planned.

FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS:

1. Rule 20B

ADJOURNMENT: 9:20 pm