



Public Works Commission

Regular Meeting
PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION
Minutes
Thursday, March 6, 2014
1326 Allston Way, Ratcliff Building

CALL TO ORDER: 7:05 PM

Present: Henry, Kelley, Neal, Schueler, Swift, Abramson

Absent: None

Leave of absence: Yep (Excused)

Staff: Sean Rose (Acting PWC Secretary)

PUBLIC COMMENT: No members of the public were present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the Regular Meetings of February 6, 2014 were approved without amendment. (MSC Swift/Kelley, with a vote of 6-0-0)

CHAIR REPORT: Vice-Chair Neal reported and Secretary Rose confirmed that Heidi Abramson has been officially reappointed as a Commissioner effective March 3, 2014.

STAFF REPORT: Rose gave a brief update on Brown Act Training. The last training will be held on March 19, 2014. It is non-mandatory and RSVP is not required.

PRESENTATION: Alexis Schaffler gave an informative presentation on alternative green infrastructure funding. Her presentation included several ideas for providing incentives for private property owners to invest in green infrastructure, and private/public partnerships to build green infrastructure.

Josh Bradt of the San Francisco Estuary Partnership gave an informative presentation on the San Pablo Spine Green Infrastructure Project. In Berkeley, the project will be installing bioswales on San Pablo Avenue between Harrison Street and the Albany city limit.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. **Residential curbside electric vehicle charging policy:** Commissioner Henry gave an update on the policy and after subsequent discussion by the Commission, the following motion was passed:

“The PWC supports the increased use of EVs as included in the Climate Action Plan. The PWC has reservations regarding EV charging in the public right of way (ROW), concerning private use of the public ROW as well as concurring with City Attorney’s concerns with respect to City liability as a result of private installations in the public ROW. PWC is supportive of the pilot as presented with revision of item 9 to provide annual inspections during the pilot project, deletion of item 16, and additions to another section stating evaluation criteria to determine success or factors that would provide guidance for permanent codification or termination of the pilot project.” (MSC Swift/Abramson, 6-0-0)

INFORMATION ITEMS:

The following information items were discussed:

1. Update from the Public Works Department on the 5-year paving plan development schedule.
2. Discuss setting up a sub-committee meeting with Community Environmental Advisory and Parks and Waterfront Commissions in March. This is to get their input to the 5-year paving plan, with an emphasis on the watershed components.
3. Report on Council referral to evaluate water conservation measures in response to California's drought.
4. Report on Council discussion of the San Pablo Avenue green stormwater spine project in Berkeley.
5. Update on Allston Way Permeable Paver Project.
6. Update on the sidewalk policy scheduled to go to City Council in April.
7. Report by Ray Yep on coordination with the Parks and Waterfront Commission.

Regarding item 5, Rose informed the Commission staff was evaluating alternatives for proceeding with the project in light of the estimated cost of the project based on bids staff received on February 20, 2014. The Commission passed the following motion:

“Having considered the costs/benefits over a 50-year time span, PWC continues to support a demonstration full width permeable paver project. Specifically, PWC recommends to Council to accept the lowest responsive bid and proceed with the construction of the project. However, in late March the Measure M and Paving subcommittee will meet with staff to review the staff recommendation

and data, and the Commission empowers the subcommittee to either reaffirm or revise this recommendation” (MSC Kelley/Henry, 5-0-1)

Two separate subcommittee meetings were requested in late March to discuss the update of the rolling 5-year paving plan and the Allston Way Permeable Paver Project, respectively.

FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS:

1. Water conservation – Richard Harris, EBMUD – May 2014 meeting
2. Sidewalk program policy update
3. Transportation Grants
4. Measure M public outreach

ADJOURNMENT: 10:37 PM