



Public Works Commission

**Regular Meeting
PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION
Minutes**

Thursday, May 7, 2009

North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Avenue

CALL TO ORDER: 7:06 p.m.

Present: Allen, Alward, Henry, Holland, Kojan, Nelson, Schueler, Soto-Vigil, Threet
Absent: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: David Snippen, past chair of the Civic Arts Commission, described the materials delivered to Commissioners about the competition for environmental artwork to be located at the Berkeley marina (Information Item 2 later on this agenda). He indicated that 32 artists have responded to the Call for Artists.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the regular meeting of April 2, 2009 were amended (1) to add Nelson to the roll call as being present, and (2) to add the following comment at the end of Action Item 2: "A concern was expressed about uses of the public right-of-way for nonessential services such as television." The amended minutes were then approved (MSC Nelson/Alward with a vote of 9-0-0).

CHAIR REPORT: The recent tour of the Corporation Yard was cut short, and a second one is expected to be scheduled soon.

STAFF REPORT: The letter to Caltrans regarding undergrounding Ashby Avenue/Tunnel Road is almost ready to go out, and based on this, the Commission's report on utility undergrounding, with comments by the City Manager, is now slated for the June 23, 2009 Council meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Commissioner Soto-Vigil distributed excerpts of a court case known as "MetroPCS Inc. v. City and County of San Francisco," regarding the installation of antennas. It was noted that recent court cases regarding telecommunications issues have given cities greater flexibility in dealing with these installations.

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. Street Repair Policy: It was noted that the 5-Year Plan is the same as last year since

the 2009 streets have been deferred a year. It was then moved (MSC Soto-Vigil/Allen with a vote of 9-0-0) to authorize the Chair to work with the Secretary to prepare the cover report to be transmitted to the Council on June 23, 2009. The report should emphasize that the 15% discretionary funding should be allocated to a trial project for permeable interlocking paver (PICP) installation.

2. Salmonid Habitat Restoration Pilot Project -- Agreement with Marin Rod & Gun Club: Dr. Bud Abbott, of Environ Corporation, gave a slide show of the current oyster bed habitat project located along the pier at the Marin Rod & Gun Club and of a similar one proposed near the northwest corner of Cesar Chavez Park in Berkeley. After the presentation, it was moved (MSC Schueler/Allen with a vote of 9-0-0) that the Commission supports that the City becomes a co-applicant in regulatory permitting applications and enters into an agreement with Marin Rod & Gun Club for the “Oyster Bed Project” in Berkeley.

3. Bay Friendly Landscaping Scoreboard: Staff made a presentation of the material included in the packet. After the presentation, it was moved (MSC Alward/Schueler with a vote of 9-0-0) that the Commission supports the City Council’s adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to implement a Bay-Friendly Landscaping Policy for City projects and the Public Works Director to designate a Bay-Friendly Landscaping Compliance Officer.

4. Review of permit for Strawberry Creek culvert repair and retaining wall reconstruction between Acton Street and North Valley Street: Staff presented a summary of the issues involved with the Creek Permit proposed to be issued by the City Engineer, as handed out at the meeting. It was then moved (Soto-Vigil/Alward with a vote of 8-0-1, Allen abstaining) that the Commission has reviewed the permit, with plans being in substantial compliance with the permit, with no comment.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

1. Subcommittee Report on Telecommunications Regulation: A report was made on the recent subcommittee meeting (Holland and Kojan attending). Although the proposed ordinance is considered a worthwhile first step, Commissioners felt that further regulation may be needed. Another subcommittee meeting will be scheduled for the purpose of exploring the possibility of initiating another communication in this regard.

2. Marina Environmental Artwork: Commissioners acknowledged the material in the packet and the oral report made during Public Comment.

3. 2010-2011 Budget Preparation: Held over to the June 2009 meeting.

FUTURE AGENDAS

June 2009: Staff report on street lighting

PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION – REGULAR MEETING
ADJOURNMENT: 9:48 p.m.

May 7, 2009