



Public Works Commission

Regular Meeting
PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION
Minutes
Thursday, July 9, 2009

CALL TO ORDER: 7:09 p.m.

Present: Commissioners Allen, Alward, Henry, Holland, Nelson, Schueler, Threet

Absent: Commissioners Kojan, Soto-Vigil

PUBLIC COMMENT: Tom Kelly spoke about the creek repairs near Strawberry Creek Lodge and noted that the Public Works Commission had recently reviewed the issuance of the permit. Mr. Kelly felt that the repair methods could be improved and was under the impression that the Water Board had many comments to resolve before work could begin. The Commission asked for a staff status report on the project and a summary of the Board's comments at its September 2009 meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the regular meeting of June 4, 2009 were approved as submitted (MSC Nelson/Schueler with a vote of 6-0-1, Allen abstaining).

CHAIR REPORT: None.

STAFF REPORT: Responses to the Commission's questions from the last meeting were given as follow:

1. Investigations into LED street lighting have begun, and staff has been evaluating other municipalities' published reports (Oakland as an example). In a nutshell:

A) There are no standards established for the LED's for use as street lighting (wattage, luminosity, color spectrum, spacing and height of fixtures) as compared to the existing fixtures and lamps.

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.

B) The study conducted by Oakland a few months ago determined that the return on investment for the average 200-watt fixture is approximately 22.6 years. This factors in the following: cost of fixture (at about \$800), the PG&E charge for operating the LED fixture, labor cost to replace, and maintenance costs.

2. “Dark Skies” has been looked at, but only very rudimentarily. However, it does go hand in hand with LED's, for LED technology does lend itself to mitigating this problem, for the LED's do not diffuse the light as the High Pressure Sodium or Metal Halide lighting does.

3. As far as lights turning on and off, this is where the lamp turns on, heats up, and then shuts itself off. This means the lamp needs replacing, and when this is discovered the lamps are replaced.

4. When lights are on around the clock, this happens when the photocell is burnt out. The photocell locks in the closed position so that during daylight hours, the bad photocells can be detected and replaced.

5. Tree trimming does occur, and there is a new policy in tandem with Forestry to trim the trees that require attention. This will keep the photo cells clear of "shading", and also allow the light emitted to reach the ground unencumbered.

Citizens are encouraged to call in and identify the problems they have observed with street lighting. If a citizen finds a problem ahead of the City crews, the crews will respond.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Climate Action Plan: Excerpts of the Plan were distributed and briefly discussed. Commissioners were requested to review the Plan further in order to discuss in the Fall as to how to incorporate elements of the Plan into the Commission's Work Program.

2. Possible Update to 2009 Work Program: The Commission reviewed its mission and goals as stated on the Commission's home page. In addition to Climate Action Plan issues, Commissioners expressed concern about the deteriorated state of the infrastructure and the lack of funding for repairs and improvements, and that a role for the Commission may be to advocate for funding. This shall be further discussed during the upcoming update to the Commission's Work Program.

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Update to Council Report on Street Repair Policy: Copies of the companion City Manager's report were distributed for discussion. After considerable discussion, it was concluded that both the eastern end (Milvia to Shattuck) and the western end (Redevelopment projects) of Addison may be priority sites for a trial project that could start soon. The following motion was

then adopted (MSC Alward/Allen, with a vote of 7-0-0): "Having considered the City Manager's recommendation to Council regarding the PWC's Street Repair Policy Update and Permeable Paver Trial Project and becoming aware of the questions raised regarding feasibility of immediate implementation of trial plans, we ask that the item be withdrawn from the July 14 meeting (Item 42) and be held over and resubmitted by the Commission for the second meeting in September for consideration."

2. Update on Council Report on Rule 20A Utility Undergrounding: The secretary reported that the Commission report has been held over till September 2009 and that staff has been requested to provide the Council an off-agenda report during the summer recess on PUC rules and criteria for selecting areas to be undergrounded under Rule 20A. The Commission requested a copy when available.

3. Update from Telecommunications Subcommittee: The information submitted in the packet was acknowledged. The subcommittee is continuing its research and will report back at a future meeting.

4. Staff/CEAC Report on Alternatives to Petroleum Based Fuels: Joy Brown, Environmental Compliance Specialist, handed out and presented a brief summary on the current issues. Yellow grease biodiesel is now preferred to the previous soy-based product. A final report on usage in City vehicles and equipment will be submitted to Council for action in September 2009.

FUTURE AGENDAS:

1. Above-noted reports for September 2009 meeting.
2. Discussions of Climate Action Plan and Work Program, September – November 2009.

ADJOURNMENT: 9:17 p.m.