



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: January 5, 2016
To: Honorable Mayor & City Council
From: Cheryl Friedling, Deputy City Manager for Public Affairs
Subject: Request from Mayor Gold to Convert the Sunshine Task Force into a Formal City Council Committee with an Expanded Mission and Expanded Appointee Process
Attachments: None

INTRODUCTION

The Sunshine Task Force was established by (then) Mayor Mirisch to enhance transparency, accountability and improve open government concepts. Since its inception, the Sunshine Task Force has met approximately 14 times, and has accomplished the following:

- Created a new Ombudsman role within the city staff;
- Strengthened legislative advocate (lobbyist) reporting requirements
- Enhanced community outreach efforts through improved postings online and other web-based tools

The Task Force's composition was initially at the discretion of Mayor Mirisch. Original appointees, most who still serve in this role, are as follows:

Vice Mayor Mirisch
Dr. Charles Aronberg
Ed Brown
Fred Fenster
Marilyn Gallup
Gerald Lund
Dr. Stella Sarraf
Gloria Seiff
Thomas White

Mark Elliott withdrew from the Task Force approximately 2 years ago. During her Mayoral term, Mayor Bosse was a member of the Task Force.

New appointees added by Mayor Gold in 2014 are:

Judie Fenton
Murray Fischer
Todd Johnson

DISCUSSION

Mayor Gold is requesting that the Sunshine Task Force be recast as a formal City Council committee with a broader mission, emphasizing its advisory role to the Council as a repository for best practices in the following areas as indicated below:

An independent City Council advisory committee to advise about best practices for open government, transparency, ethics, public engagement and public participation.

Two City Council members would serve as City Council liaisons.

This proposal would invite Council members to each select one new additional committee member.

The new committee would also include:

- Member of the BHUSD – to be selected by the School Board
- PTA council member – an officer of the PTA, to be selected by the PTA
- Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce

The composition of the committee would require a vote of the Council for additional revisions. Additionally, this committee would fall under the requirements of the Brown Act, and as such, would require posted agendas.

The first priority of this new committee would be to focus on community outreach initiatives, particularly noticing initiatives.

FISCAL IMPACT

Cannot be determined at this time, as the fiscal impact would be based on workload and committee recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council discuss the proposed reconstitution of the Sunshine Task Force and provide staff direction.



Cheryl Friedling

Approved By