



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS
City Hall Room – Room 280-A
455 N. Rexford Drive
Beverly Hills, CA 90210
MINUTES

PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
February 14, 2013
8:30 a.m.

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m.

A. ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Shalowitz, Shooshani, Weinglass, Foldvary and Pressman
Commissioners Absent: None
Staff: D. Gustavson, C. Theisen, D. Cartagena, C. DiRenzo, L. Enriquez, A. Eason, C. Burnley, J. Harris, R. Acaba
Guests: Mr. Wilmer, Ms. Boston

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Weinglass

COMMISSION MINUTES

Consideration of the Minutes of the Regular meeting of November 8, 2012.

MOTION by Chair Pressman, SECONDED by Commissioner Weinglass to approve the minutes of the Regular meeting of November 8, 2012.

Ayes: Weinglass, Shooshani, Foldvary, Pressman, and Shalowitz

Noes:

Abstentions:

Absent:

CARRIED 5/0

Consideration of the Minutes of the Regular meeting of December 13, 2012.

MOTION by Commissioner Weinglass, SECONDED by Commissioner Shooshani to approve the minutes of the Regular meeting of December 13, 2012 with noted correction.

Ayes: Weinglass, Shooshani, Foldvary, Pressman, and Shalowitz

Noes:

Abstentions:

Absent:

CARRIED 5/0

Consideration of the Minutes of the Regular meeting of January 10, 2013.

MOTION by Vice Chair Shalowitz, SECONDED by Commissioner Shooshani to approve the minutes of the Regular meeting of January 10, 2013.

Ayes: Weinglass, Shooshani, Foldvary, Pressman, and Shalowitz

Noes:

Abstentions:

Absent:

CARRIED 5/0

C. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Ms. Boston, a Beverly Hills resident, addressed the Commission to complain that the alley behind her home on the 1000 block of North Roxbury Drive was filthy and that the green recycling containers were overflowing. Staff stated that there is a maintenance schedule for the collection of green waste and cleaning of the alleys but that the challenge staff is facing is illegal dumping. Staff is looking into ways to educate gardeners on the proper disposal of yard waste.

Commission asked staff to look into the following:

- Using larger green waste containers
- Licensing and regulating landscapers/gardeners
- Educate residents to watch for illegal dumping
- Keep this as a future agenda item for further discussion

(Staff Action Items)

Chair Pressman noted he took part in a recycling video shoot on Saturday, February 9th, as part of staff's development of a recycling education video. Staff anticipates being able to showcase the video at the March meeting.

D. REPORT FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

Mayor's Cabinet Meeting – Chair Pressman reported on items discussed by other Commissions at the Mayor's Cabinet meeting held on February 12, 2013. Highlights from this meeting can be found on the City's website under City Government/Mayor and Council members.

E. CONTINUED AND NEW BUSINESS

City Solar Panels – Mr. Alan Schneider, Director of Project Administration, gave the Commission an update on City solar panels. Mr. Schneider stated that six City facilities currently have solar panels. Mr. Schneider discussed the cost of the project and stated this is more of an environmental project than a financial one. Mr. Wilmer, Beverly Hills resident and member of the IT Technology Committee, added that the City does not pay taxes so the City does not get tax benefits from state and federal programs. A contract went out to a private entity that would benefit from tax deductions as solar does not pay for itself without tax. He also stated the contract with the third party was essentially so the City could freeze its electrical cost at a fixed definable rate for 20 to 30 years.

"Positive Change Not Spare Change" – Ms. Wendy Hughes, Special Assistant to the City Manager, and Mr. James Latta, Human Services Administrator, gave the Commission a presentation on a public awareness program they are spearheading regarding panhandling. Ms. Hughes and Mr. Latta discussed the City's Ordinance "Prohibiting Certain Conduct on Public Property" but added panhandlers have a right under the First Amendment to panhandle. They explained the difference between being homeless and panhandling and stated the purpose of their campaign is to engage the business community, and in particular, the outside dining restaurants, to not give money to panhandlers; but rather donate money to charities that assist the homeless. Signage in City owned parking garages about this cause is going up next week.

Discussion of Team Beverly Hills Event – Chair Pressman and Commissioner Foldvary stated they both attended the Team Beverly Hills event and felt it was well attended and well staffed.

Discussion of January 10 field trip to the Santa Monica Urban Runoff Recycling Facility – The Commission provided their thoughts about the field trip at which point Chair Pressman invited Mr. Di Renzo to provide an update on the status of implementation of the recently adopted NPDES permit. Mr. DiRenzo summarized the activities conducted by the LA Permit Group to develop EWMP (Enhanced Watershed Management Plans) to comply with permit requirements. Mr. DiRenzo will update the Commission as work plans develop further.

Capital Improvement Program Projects Under Public Works Management – Mr. Theisen gave an update on the Capital Improvement Program projects the Commission is overseeing.

- Water Main Replacement CIP
- Sewer Pipeline and Manhole Rehabilitation Project
- Reservoir Replacement CIP
- Street Pavement Master Plan/Paving Project.

Commissioner Shooshani stated he observed a sewer lining procedure and found it very interesting. Chair Pressman asked how many linear feet of sewer lining is yet to be completed. Mr. Theisen said he they would get back to the Commission with this information.
(Staff Action Item)

Regarding the selection of a consultant for the Pavement Management Program Project, Chair Pressman and Commissioner Foldvary noted that they wanted to be more involved in the selection process and asked staff for more information before the next Public Works Commission meeting.
(Staff Action Item)

Outstanding Action Items from Previous Meetings

Update on status of outstanding action items from previous meetings.

2. **Photo of CNG truck Sent to the BH Courier** – Staff coordinated a press release promoting the opening of the CNG fueling station and the CNG fueled refuse trucks with the Communication Office. KPCC had run the press release but staff was unaware if The Beverly Hills Courier or the Weekly had done so. The CNG station was also covered by the Maintenance Operations manager in a “Report from the City Manager” on February 5th.
3. **Redesign of Utility Bill** – Mr. Di Renzo noted the utility bill redesign project could begin in advance of the implementation of the new finance module. Mr. Di Renzo assured the Commission that they would be involved throughout the project.
4. **Smart Manhole Covers** – Mr. Di Renzo noted that twelve composite manhole lids had been installed throughout the City, but that he had decided to terminate the smart flow meter initiative since many critical areas had been addressed by the sewer CIP.
6. **Outreach and Education of Recycling Activities** – Ms. Eason stated she is still working on scheduling a date to make a presentation to kindergarten classes. Vice Chair Shalowitz suggested designing a poster on recycling similar to the poster on panhandling. He also suggested that staff should consider using the tagline “We Recycle for You” on the poster.

9. **Prepare and present a cost/benefit analysis of City-wide bin replacement** – Mr. Di Renzo noted that staff was still evaluating the project and would return within the next couple of months. Chair Pressman inquired about label distribution to the community. Mr. Di Renzo noted that placing labels on containers would require overtime expenditures. The Commission asked that staff look into other more economical distribution methods e.g. schools, Farmer’s Market, etc.
16. **Ask Communications and Marketing to place “We Recycle” ads in both papers and place posters in the public garages.** – No update.
19. **Contact the City Attorney’s Office for a response on how to handle the complaint about star maps racks and inquire if the ordinance be amended.** – Ms. Enriquez, Assistant City Attorney, spoke to the Commission on the issue of news racks. Ms. Enriquez stated the City is not planning to update the current news rack ordinance. Chair Pressman asked if the City is required to allow news racks to be placed in the City. Ms. Enriquez replied there is a balance the City must follow as newspapers & periodicals have a right to free speech under the first amendment and freedom of the press but that the City also has an interest in regulating the interest of public health and safety. She added the City can place some restrictions on news racks. Vice Chair Shalowitz shared the background on how this particular issue arose. Mr. Gustavson added the exact location was on Little Santa Monica east of the Rodeo Drive right-of-way and that this particular news rack has since been moved to a different location. Ms. Enriquez stated the ordinance was already amended in 2004/5 and further amending could result in challenging its validity.
23. **Develop a plan to encourage residents to request sidewalk repairs.** – Mr. Cartagena discussed and app the City has titled “Ask Bev” which residents are being encouraged to use to report hazardous conditions as well as unsafe sidewalks. Chair Pressman asked for an update in three months.
(Staff Action Item)
25. **Add an hour glass and a “remember me” button to Water Tracker** – Ms. Eason stated this should be completed next month. Chair Pressman asked for a report next month if it is completed, he also asked staff to note on the next month’s agenda if it has been completed so the Commission has a chance to view it before the meeting.
26. **Add use of social media and community outreach to next month’s agenda** – Keep this on the list and Commissioners can bring back any ideas they have for this at the next meeting.
27. **Notify Commissioner Shooshani when the sewer line project begins.** – Commissioner Shooshani did make a site visit to view the sewer lining project.
29. **Include a discussion of the \$1.8 million loan from Solid Waste to Clean Water on the next City Council/Public Works Commission Liaison meeting.** Mr. Theisen stated he is working on three items prior to arranging this meeting.
 - Short term leak detection methodology.

- Long term plan –software interface
- Establishment of an Appeals Board which would include two Public Works Commissioners and a staff member.

30. **Ask the City Attorney's Office about requirements we can make regarding contractor's clothing.** – Mr. Cartagena said he spoke with the City Attorney's office who stated that little can be done to enforce contractor's clothing. Mr. Cartagena did say in City agreements, contractors are required to maintain a dress code consistent with state and federal law requirements. Mr. Cartagena also stated that if residents will be impacted by a public works project, an advance notice is given to them. Staff reaffirmed that City employee's wear uniforms and comply with CalOSHA regulations, including wearing safety vests if working in the street. Commissioner Shooshani stated he would like contractors to comply with the culture of Beverly Hills and dress nicely.

Update on News Rack Ordinance by the City Attorney's Office – Item addressed in outstanding action item number 19.

F. **COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Weinglass stated that while in attendance at a mayor's campaign party he was approached by a lawyer who does negotiations for the City of Burbank. She extended an invitation to the Commission to come to Burbank to exam some self-sustaining energy programs that Burbank has instituted. Chair Pressman asked staff to call this attorney for more information and if necessary, a sub-committee would be formed that would then tour this facility.
(Staff Action Item)

G. **COMMISSION ACTIONS**

Consideration of the Minutes of the Regular meeting of November 8, 2012.

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Ayes: Weinglass, Shooshani, Foldvary, Pressman, and Shalowitz

Noes:

Abstentions:

Absent:

CARRIED 5/0

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MOTION by Commissioner Weinglass, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Shooshani to approve the minutes of the Regular meeting of January 10, 2013.

Ayes: Weinglass, Shooshani, Foldvary, Pressman, and Shalowitz

Noes:
Abstentions:
Absent:
CARRIED 5/0

H. ACTION ITEMS

- In response to an alley maintenance complaint –
 - Check into using larger green waste containers
 - Licensing and regulating landscapers
 - Educate residents to watch for illegal dumping
 - Keep this as a future agenda item for further discussion
- How many linear feet of sewers in the City still need to be lined
- Provide additional information regarding the consultant selection process for the Pavement Management Program.
- Design a poster on recycling similar to the poster on panhandling using the tagline “We Recycle for You” on the poster.
- Look into other more economical distribution methods for bin labels e.g. schools, Farmer’s Market, etc.
- Contact attorney in Burbank regarding possible visit to exam some self-sustaining energy programs that Burbank has instituted.

There being no further business, Chair Pressman, with the consent of the Commission, adjourned the meeting at 10:44 a.m.

Passed and approved

This _____ day of _____, 2013

Chair Pressman