

**MINUTES OF THE
PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION
11TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2017 AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE
CITY MANAGER'S CONFERENCE ROOM, SECOND FLOOR
1414 MISSION STREET**

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 P.M. by Chair Abelson. Present were Commissioner Fisher, Commissioner Hughes, Commissioner Glauz and Commissioner Granath. Councilmember Robert Joe was present. Staff present: Public Works Director (PWD) Paul Toor and Deputy Public Works Director (DPWD) Rafael Casillas.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Hughes led the pledge of allegiance.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Meeting on August 9, 2017.

Minutes approved as amended. (Hughes, Fisher 5-0)

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Palma Jones-1000 El Centro Street. She stated on September 19, 2017 she and other residents of 1000 El Centro shared their concerns about the section of Diamond Avenue between Mission Street and El Centro Street. Ms. Jones stated there are five entryways converging on to this stretch of narrow street. This includes the School District parking lot, from Mission Street and her garage parking lot. She would like to get an update on the issue.

DPWD Casillas shared that the City has made some adjustments particularly during Farmer's Market by restricting parking adjacent to the senior complex between El Centro and the driveway. He stated staff will be installing "Keep Clear" at the driveways to help with circulation.

Commissioner Fisher suggested restrictive parking on the eastside of Diamond between El Centro Street and Mission Street due to the restrictive width of the street and in consideration of the fact that there is no retail frontage along the eastside of Diamond Avenue.

5. COUNCIL LIAISON COMMENTS

Councilmember Joe informed the Commission the new City Manager Stephanie DeWolfe will be starting the first week of November. She formerly worked for the City of West Hollywood for 4 years as the Assistant City Manager. She was also employed with the City of Pasadena for approximately 12 years and she held a number a various positions. On October 12, 2017 the Cultural Heritage Commission will be having a Special meeting for the discussion of historic housing inventory. Homeowners that have historic properties received notice that they are on the inventory list. Now, multi-family properties are included on the list. Councilmember Joe stated the City and Public Works Department will be recognized for the CDBG Sidewalk and Access Ramp Project and the award will be presented by Congresswoman Judy Chu.

6. STAFF COMMENTS

DPWD Casillas announced the upcoming Garfield Reservoir Open House on Saturday, October 21, 2017. PWD Toor spoke briefly about the Public Hearing taking place on Wednesday, November 1, 2017 at the City Council Meeting for the water and sewer rates.

Commissioner Hughes believes there is a lot of misinformation out in the community regarding the water and sewer rates. People are not aware that there are senior subsidies available to qualifying customer and these are funded through the General Fund. People also do not understand the need to purchase water to re-charge the aquifer.

7. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Granath commented on the street sweeper and if Athens is using the right metal rod brushes. It appears metal rods from sweeper brushes are being deposited on the street creating a hazard.

Commissioner Glauz mentioned an accident that happened on Orange Grove Avenue at Monterey Road. She requested staff to get information on the accidents at the location.

Commissioner Fisher shared that he was stopped at the intersection on Mission Street and Meridian Avenue after preemption the traffic on Mission Street received the green light, but he observed that there is not enough time to clear out the waiting queue, so he had to wait through a second cycle. Commissioner Fisher looks forward to the improvements at this intersection to eliminate the waiting queue of vehicles. He inquired about the status on legal means there are in place to enforce the speed on Fletcher Avenue and hopes to have a definitive response at the next meeting.

DPWD Casillas responded that he has been in communication with Metro regarding Mission Street and Meridian Avenue intersection. Metro is currently making circuitry changes on the tracks and they indicated that they will be completed in September or October 2017. Once the work is completed staff will be able to assess the communication to the controller at Mission Street and Meridian Avenue, which will allow staff to reevaluate the timing changes. DPWD responded that the Fletcher item was bumped due to other items however, it will be on the next agenda.

Commissioner Hughes commented that a NREC Commissioner Nancy Wilms was overjoyed at how quickly staff responded to her concern regarding her street repairs. She noted that Metropolitan Water District voted in favor on the water fix and dual tunnels.

Commissioner Abelson made an urgent request for improvements to the intersection on Orange Grove Ave. at Monterey Road because it's dangerous and it needs the signal approved some time ago. Commissioner Abelson attended the City's General Plan Core Group meeting. The key areas of focus were Well Planned, Resilient and Accessible. He shared how the projections are that the City will add 400 new housing units, 130,000 sqft. of retail space and 420,000 sqft. of office space. Commissioner Abelson inquired about a preferential parking permit program that is under review. DPWD Casillas responded that the City has a preferential parking permit program that is handled by Principal Management Analyst Margaret Lin.

8. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM

A. SR 710 TSM/TDM Alternatives

DPWD Casillas gave a brief overview of the item. Staff recommends that the Commission review the studies and adjourn to a Joint Freeway and Transportation Commission and Public Works Commission Meeting on Tuesday, October 17, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Chair Abelson stated he requested to have this item on the agenda to make sure the Commission had the information to review the suggestions submitted by Chair Abelson and Commissioner Fisher.

Commissioner Hughes commented on 1) There is no designated left turn signal on Fremont at Huntington Drive and this could be helpful in flowing traffic; and 2) Propose shuttles to carry residents to the central business area.

Commissioner Granath mentioned his concerns over the right turn at Columbia and Orange Grove Avenue and that it is not clear what the Vision Zero plan will mean to the overall traffic plan for the future.

Commissioner Glauz said that we should not do a "road diet" and we can look at eliminating left turns on Fremont to improve traffic flow.

Commissioner Fisher also voiced concern over the Vision Zero strategy.

Discussion ensued regarding various projects, a key focal area is securing neighborhoods, so they have protection from traffic intrusion, removal of bulbouts on Fair Oaks Avenue, and managing the arterials (signal synchronization, organizing traffic etc.)

Councilmember Joe provided background information on the SR 710 TSM/TDM Alternatives that is related to Metro not moving forward with the 710 Tunnel Project. The funding will be split between a number of cities (South Pasadena, Alhambra, Pasadena, Monterey Park, Los Angeles, Rosemead and San Marino). Councilmember Joe wanted to provide a better understanding of the process and to look at regional projects with neighboring cities. He stressed to the Commission to make a decision on these projects and to prioritize them.

DPW Toor wanted to emphasize that Metro is expecting the cities to come up with regional project alternatives to the 710 Tunnel. He stated the focus should be on regional projects and to a key focus is to move traffic north and south. DPW Toor stated the goal is to put forward two or three projects and then the FTC will also weigh in on their ideas and projects.

Discussion ensued regarding funding and regional projects.

Commissioner Fisher discussed the feasibility of installing a hook on ramp on State Street. He provided a map showing the approximate layout and location.

DPW Toor shared that the City Council will be discussing the Monterey Road Configuration Project at the next City Council meeting.

A motion was made to continue this discussion to the Joint Meeting of the FTC and PWC. (Abelson, Glauz 5-0)

C. Capital Improvement Project Update

DPWD gave a brief update on the capital improvement projects.

The Public Works Commission Annual Report will be presented on November 15, 2017. Commissioner Glauz is assisting with the drafting of the report.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Abelson declared the meeting adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing minutes were adopted by the Public Works Commission of the City of South Pasadena at a meeting held on November 8, 2017.

AYES: 5

NOES: 0

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:



Lawrence A. Abelson, Chair