

**MINUTES OF THE
PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION
13th DAY OF AUGUST, 2014 AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE
AMEDEE O. "DICK" RICHARDS, JR., COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1424 MISSION STREET**

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:01p.m. by Vice Chair Granath. Present were Commissioner Abelson, Commissioner Pendo and Council Liaison Mahmud. Commissioner Fisher had an excused absence. Staff present: Deputy Public Works Director Shin Furukawa and Public Works Assistant Leonna DeWitt.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Abelson led the pledge of allegiance.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Meeting of July 9, 2014.

Minutes approved as amended. (Abelson, Pendo 3-0)

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS – Items not on the agenda

Werner Hintzen – 1816 Via Del Rey. He had concerns about tree roots uplifting new sidewalk on Via Del Rey.

Vice Chair Granath closed public comments.

5. COUNCIL LIAISON COMMENTS

No Council Liaison comments.

6. STAFF COMMENTS

No staff comments.

7. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:

A. Synthetic Turf Presentation

Debby Figoni, Senior Management Analyst, gave a presentation accompanied by a PowerPoint on synthetic turf in connection with a proposed amendment to the City's initial Parkway Ordinance. City Council requested feedback from various commissions, including the Public Works Commission, on whether synthetic turf should be allowed in parkways and front yards.

Vice Chair Granath opened the meeting for public comment.

Al Benzoni - 1617 Monterey Road. Benzoni serves on the Natural Resources Environmental Commission (NREC). A resident should be allowed to choose synthetic turf as groundcover. Synthetic turf is permeable, which is a requirement in the ordinance. Another requirement is an 8-year warranty. He mentioned the disadvantages of synthetic turf: 1) lead – level that is specified by the State is 50 parts per million; 2) toxic runoff.

Kay Findley – 318 Arroyo Drive. Findley stated she is a Commissioner on the NREC and the discussion of artificial turf was brought by a resident who was not able to complete their project, because artificial turf is not allowed. She researched artificial turf and went to a landscape warehouse to look at samples of artificial turf and the samples looked really nice. She contacted the City of Pasadena and they allow it in the front yard, but not in the parkway. The City of South Pasadena

currently prohibits the use of synthetic turf in front yards and parkways, as does San Marino. The NREC would like residents to have the option of synthetic turf if that is their choice. She stated there are a number of other cities that allow synthetic turf. She clarified that the Commission's input is being sought as to the use of synthetic turf in the parkways only.

Discussion continued regarding the maintenance and different types of synthetic turf. Commissioners Granath and Abelson raised a number of concerns regarding synthetic turf, including aesthetics, durability, length of warranty, heat and toxic emissions, and the lack of City resources needed to administer the proposed regulations for the installation and maintenance of this product.

The Commissioners requested the proposed use of synthetic turf be brought back to the Commission along with samples, pictures of installations, repairs and comparison of mulching the parkway area instead of installing artificial turf.

B. Consideration to Extend Red Curb at Charter Oak and Orange Grove

Deputy Public Works Director Furukawa gave a brief presentation regarding extending red curb on Charter Oak and Orange Grove, accompanied with exhibits. Extending the red curb will cause the loss of one parking space on the north side of the street.

Vice Chair Granath opened the meeting for public comment.

James He – 617 Orange Grove Avenue. Mr. He is against the removal of the one parking space. Mr. He stated 617 Orange Grove apartment complex consists of 14 units, 6 units are 3 bedroom condos and the rest are 2 bedroom units. In the garage below, each unit has 2 reserved parking spaces, which is not enough for some of the three bedroom units. The only option for these residents is to park on the street and by removing this parking space it will be a hardship for those who are disabled. The City also removed parking on the Orange Grove side when the street was improved a few years ago. The street is narrow and extending the red curb space would not fix the problem with visibility.

Kay Findley – 318 Arroyo Drive. She stated she contacted the City of March 3, 2014, regarding this issue and this has been an ongoing problem. She observed a big panel truck turn onto Charter Oak from Orange Grove and another vehicle heading east on Charter Oak had to back up to allow the truck to pass.

A motion was made to recommend the installation of the red curb and have staff to explore the option of making Charter Oak a one way street. (Abelson, Pendo 3-0)

C. Discussion of Old Street Name Sign Disposal

Deputy Public Works Director Furukawa provided a brief presentation on the disposal of the street name signs. He provided information on what different cities have done such as offering them for sale, putting them up for auction and/or donating them.

Discussion continued regarding the different options on the disposal of the street signs.

A motion was made to recommend selling the old street name signs for \$50 each as the obsolete signs become available, preceded by advertising in the South Pasadena Review and posting on the City's website. (Pendo, Abelson 3-0)

Commissioner Abelson asked to be kept apprised of the status of this project.

D. Street Improvement Project Update

Deputy Public Works Director Furukawa briefly discussed the status of the current projects.

Discussion ensued regarding treatment of tree roots and counter as part of sidewalk reconstruction.

Deputy Public Works Director Furukawa noted an error on the report for the Hawthorne Project, stating that Vasily is actually a subcontractor, and the correct name for the prime contractor is EC Construction.

8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

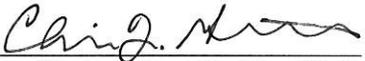
Commissioner Abelson inquired about any information from the Ad Hoc Downtown Committee meetings. Council Liaison Mahmud responded the committee has not met because of negotiations between two major property owners. The result of the negotiations can significantly have the potential to change the contour of the project and a group will be meeting next week to hear an update.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Granath declared the meeting adjourned at 9:13p.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 October 8, 2014.

AYES: Granath, Abelson, Fisher, and Pendo
NOES:
ABSENT:
ABSTAIN: Glauz



Clinton Granath, Vice Chair