

**MINUTES OF THE  
PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION  
14<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JANUARY, 2015 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 7:00p.m. by Vice Chair Granath. Present were Commissioner Abelson, Commissioner Fisher, Commissioner Glauz and Council Liaison Mahmud. Commissioner Pendo had an excused absence. Staff present: Deputy Public Works Director Shin Furukawa. Leaonna DeWitt was absent.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Commissioner Abelson led the pledge of allegiance.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Meeting of December 10, 2014.**

Minutes approved as amended. (Fisher, Abelson 4-0)

Discussion ensued regarding the preparation of the minutes.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENTS – Items not on the agenda**

No public comment.

**5. COUNCIL LIAISON COMMENTS**

Council Liaison Mahmud informed the Commission this will be her last meeting and Councilmember Schneider will be her replacement. She recognized members from the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission (NREC) and requested to reorder the agenda to allow the Commission to address the Synthetic Turf item first.

**6. STAFF COMMENTS**

Deputy Public Works Director Furukawa gave an update on the Engineering and Traffic Survey (E&TS) and reported that the City Council approved the E&TS as recommended by the Commission.

**7. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

*The agenda was reordered to allow for the Synthetic Turf presentation.*

**A. Synthetic Turf**

Debby Fioni, Senior Management Analyst gave an overview on the Parkway Ordinance which included a proposal to allow synthetic turf in 30% of the parkway. She provided a handout with pictures and samples of synthetic turf.

Kim Hughes, Chair of the NREC, stated the NREC initially reviewed the parkway ordinance for two reasons: 1) inconsistent parkways in the City; and 2) the ordinance was last updated in 1983. Ms. Hughes discussed the aspects of the proposal to allow synthetic turf in only 30% of the parkway. She stated manufacturers are continually improving the quality of synthetic turf products. She expressed concerns of another drought season and looking at ways to conserve water. In conclusion, she stated the NREC is recommending the Parkway Ordinance allow for synthetic turf in only 30% of the parkway with specific guidelines and restrictions, which were detailed in the NREC's guidelines.

Al Benzoni – 1617 Monterey Road. Mr. Benzoni is a member of the NREC and wanted to address some of the concerns of the Commission, including crumb fill and the heat island effect. He stated crumb fill is mostly used on sports fields and does not have to be applied in a parkway. Mr. Benzoni discussed other materials that absorb heat in greater temperatures such as asphalt and concrete, so the heat island effect is not necessarily an issue.

Kay Findley is a member of the NREC and wanted to clarify the purpose of the Parkway Ordinance, which presently allows 30% of non-living materials in the parkway, such as rocks, stepping stones, or bricks. Synthetic turf, if approved by City Council would be another hardscape option. She stated the Parkway Ordinance will provide guidance to the residents to make sure quality materials are used.

Discussion ensued regarding the Parkway Ordinance and the aspects of synthetic turf and water conservation.

A motion was made to approve the NREC's recommendation to allow synthetic turf as one of the materials that can be used as the 30% artificial material that can be installed in the parkway with the following recommendations: 1) surface leveling agent will be sand or rock material, prohibiting crumb fill and synthetic material (rubber, tires); 2) foam backing be prohibited; 3) installation would respect the minimum distance from any existing trees; 4) sunset provision for 5 years; and 5) an appropriate fee to be charged in association with the installation to support enforcement; and 6) to provide a list of approved manufacturers and styles be developed. (Abelson, Fisher 3-1) No: Granath.

#### **B. Commission Reorganization**

Deputy Public Works Director Furukawa briefly introduced the item.

A nomination was made to appoint Commissioner Granath as Chair. (Fisher, Abelson 4-0).

A nomination was made to appoint Commissioner Fisher as Vice Chair. (Abelson, Glauz 4-0).

This item will be brought back to the Commission to appoint a secretary pending clarification from the City Attorney about the duties of the secretary.

#### **C. Identification of City Council Strategic Planning Priorities**

Deputy Public Works Director Furukawa briefly provided background information on this item.

A motion was made to adopt the following three strategic goals: 1) improve traffic safety; 2) investigate opportunities for recycled water use at public facilities; and 3) improve traffic flow on arterial streets and protect local residential streets from traffic intrusion.

It was agreed by the Commission to designate Chair Clint Granath as the Commission representative at the Citizen's Seminar on February 7, 2015.

#### **D. Capital Improvement Project Update**

Deputy Public Works Director Furukawa gave a brief update on the current Capital Improvement Projects.

Council Liaison Mahmud requested for specifications on future street improvement projects to limit work to one street at a time to minimize the inconvenience to the residents.

**8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

No Commissioner comments.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

Vice Chair Granath declared the meeting adjourned at 9:09p.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 February 11, 2015.

AYES: 5

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:



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Clinton Granath, Chair