

**MINUTES OF THE
PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION
10TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2016 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 Chair Granath. Present were Commissioner Abelson, Commissioner Fisher, Commissioner Glauz, Commissioner Hughes and Council Liaison Michael A. Cacciotti. Staff present: Deputy Public Works Director Shin Furukawa and Public Works Assistant Leaonna DeWitt.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Glauz led the pledge of allegiance.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Meeting of January 13, 2016

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

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS – Items not on the agenda.

Richard Helgeson – 1602 Camden Parkway. He is a member of the Freeway and Transportation Commission. His concerns are related to the Mission Place Project Transportation Study, which states no significant impacts on traffic. He urged the Commission to review the Transportation Study and to provide written comments prior to the March 4 deadline. He stated the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) would bar the City from challenging any conclusions, if the EIR is certified.

Mayor Mahmud recommended the Commission submit their comments to David Watkins, Planning and Building Director, who is preparing the comments for the City. She suggested submitting any concerns or comments as a resident and acknowledging membership as a PW Commissioner. She thanked the Commission for their time and service to the community. She informed the Commission that the City of South Pasadena does not have a Code of Ethics for Commissioners and she has recommended to the City Council to adopt a formal policy. She wants Commissioners to be reminded that when they are acting in their official capacity they are representatives of the City.

5. COUNCIL LIAISON COMMENTS

Council Liaison Cacciotti announced the opening of the Gold Line Foothill extension on March 5.

6. STAFF COMMENTS

No comments.

7. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:

A. Selection of Commission Officers for 2016

Deputy Public Works Director Furukawa gave a brief introduction to this item. This item is an annual requirement that all boards and commissions select its officers for the 2016 calendar year.

A motion was made to appoint Commissioner Fisher as Chair. (Granath, Hughes 5-0).

A motion was made to appoint Commissioner Abelson as Vice Chair. (Granath, Hughes 5-0).

A motion was made to appoint Commissioner Hughes as Secretary (Abelson, Fisher 5-0).

B. Discussion of Arroyo Drive Traffic Calming Concepts

Commissioner Fisher recused himself and Vice Chair Abelson chaired the discussions on the item. Deputy Public Works Director Furukawa gave a brief introduction to this item. He presented various traffic calming concepts developed by the consultant, which were previously presented in a neighborhood meeting conducted on October 20, 2015.

Discussion ensued regarding installation of speed bumps, speed limits and traffic incidents.

Vice Chair Abelson opened the public comment period.

Kay Finley – 318 Arroyo Drive. She has lived in South Pasadena for 45 years. Her concerns are speeding and limiting parking on the east side of Arroyo Dr. She requested unrestricted parking on the west side of Arroyo Drive, installation of a stop sign at westbound Hermosa and a street name sign for Arroyo Drive. She recommends enforcement and/or reducing the speed limit. She indicated support of a vehicle speed feedback sign on Arroyo Drive. *Letter dated 02/08/16 by Kay Finley is attached as part of the official record.*

Joan Hillard – 534 Arroyo Drive. She indicated support for this item and suggested staggered enforcement and installation of stop signs. She recommends warning signs for the safety of children.

Danny Johnson – 304 Arroyo Drive. He has lived in South Pasadena for 9 years. He believes the challenge for Arroyo Drive is the width of the street and the vehicles traveling 60-70 mph. He indicated support for this item and recommends reducing the speed limit and enforcement.

John Fisher – 431 Grand Avenue. He commented that the proposals would add pavement markings and delineations (bike lanes, centerlines) on Arroyo Drive, which he believes would be counterproductive to the efforts of calming traffic. He suggested the following: 1) a striping channelization improvement at the intersection of Mission Street and Arroyo Drive; 2) a channelized right turn from westbound Mission Street to northbound Arroyo Drive; 3) installation of stop signs at each cross street of Arroyo Dr. including Hermosa St., Sterling Dr., Arroyo Verde Dr., and Magnolia; 4) a speed feedback sign in the southbound direction south of Columbia and northbound somewhere between Mission Street and Magnolia Street; and 5) add a continuous sidewalk on the west side of Arroyo Dr.

Vice Chair Abelson closed the public comment period.

Discussion ensued regarding cost of improvements, speeding and enforcement.

A motion was made to recommend the following traffic calming concepts for Arroyo Drive:

1. Installation of a speed feedback sign for southbound Arroyo Drive at a location to be determined by staff.
2. Installation of stop signs on the cross streets of Arroyo Drive including Hermosa Street, Arroyo Square, Arroyo Vista Place, Magnolia St. and westbound Charter Oak at Grand Avenue.
3. At the intersection of Arroyo Drive and Mission Street add an all way stop indication underneath the stop sign at each leg.

4. A striped crosswalk at Arroyo Drive and Mission Street.
5. Increase enforcement by the Police Department.
6. Add an Arroyo Drive street name sign on the existing post of Arroyo Drive at Hermosa. (Abelson, Hughes 4-0)

Deputy Public Works Director Furukawa commented that some of the improvements cannot be acted upon immediately. A traffic study would need to be conducted for the installation of the stop signs and the speed feedback sign would need to be budgeted.

Chair Fisher returned to the dais.

C. Traffic Study to Consider Left Turn Restrictions at Diamond Avenue from Monterey Road During Peak Hours

Deputy Public Works Director Furukawa provided background information on this item. Staff does not recommend prohibiting left turns from Monterey Road to Diamond Avenue during peak hours due to potential increased delays at the intersection of Monterey Road and Meridian Avenue as a result of spillover traffic.

Chair Fisher opened the Public Comment period.

Kelly Conte – 1335 Oak Hill Pl. She commented on the traffic impacts of the SPSD Mission Place Project Transportation Study.

Lisa Boyd – 1510 Chelton Way. She commented on the traffic impacts of the SPSD Mission Place Project Transportation Study. She is concerned with the amount of traffic that will be created in all of the areas due to the development proposal.

Chair Fisher closed the public comment period.

Discussion ensued regarding the traffic study, piecemeal improvements, spill over traffic, signalization and congestion.

Commissioner Abelson provided the Commission with copies of the minutes from the City Council meeting on September 17, 2014. (will be attached as part of the official record)

Commissioner Abelson provided background information from that meeting. He stated a motion was made by Councilmember Cacciotti and seconded by Councilmember Mahmud to approve staff's recommendation for a 6 month trial period. Councilmember Schneider proposed waiting to make the improvements until after the microsimulation study of a potential road diet on Monterey Road. Councilmember Mahmud withdrew her second and ultimately the item failed. Based on the traffic analysis, it is recommended that eastbound and westbound left-turn restrictions be implemented at the intersection of Monterey Road and Diamond Avenue during the AM and PM peak hours. It is also recommended that the preferred reconfiguration of Monterey Road at Meridian Avenue include the addition of dedicated left-turn lanes on the eastbound and westbound approaches. (Minagar & Associates, page 3)

A motion was made to recommend to the City Council to proceed with the implementation of eastbound and westbound left turn restrictions from 7am-9am and 4pm-6pm, Monday through Friday on Monterey Road at Diamond Avenue along with the striping of left turn lanes on eastbound and westbound Monterey Road at Meridian to be implemented concurrently with the pending street resurfacing project and to proceed as soon as possible. (Abelson, Glauz 5-0)

D. Consideration to Install Speed Feedback Signs on Hill Dr. and on San Pasqual Avenue

Deputy Public Works Director Furukawa gave a brief summary of this item.

Chair Fisher opened and closed the public comment period.

Discussion ensued regarding street configurations, pedestrian activity, speeding and traffic congestion.

A motion was made to recommend installation of the speed feedback sign on southbound San Pasqual Avenue and not recommend installation on Hill Dr. (Hughes, Abelson 5-0)

E. Capital Improvement Project Update

Deputy Public Works Director Furukawa gave a brief presentation of this item.

8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commission Kim Hughes showed pictures of Garfield and Wilson Reservoirs. She commented on the condition of the grass at Wilson Reservoir.

Chair Fisher requested the Commissioners receive the link to the Mission Place Transportation Study.

Vice Chair Abelson requested an update on the pending resurfacing project for Monterey Road. He inquired about the removal of the crosswalk on Fair Oaks Avenue at Lyndon Street. Deputy Public Works Director responded that the City's purchasing procedures requires soliciting three proposals and we are in the process of executing the contract to remove the crosswalk.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Fisher declared the meeting adjourned at 9:55p.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 March 9, 2016.

AYES: 5
NOES: 0
ABSENT:
ABSTAIN:



John Fisher, Chair