



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS
Room 280A
455 North Rexford Drive
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

In-Person / Telephonic / Video Conference Meeting

PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

January 11, 2024
8:00 AM

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Date/Time: January 11, 2024 / 8:01 AM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

SWEARING IN OF NEW COMMISSIONER BEN RITTERBUSH

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Commissioners Ritterbush, Kimura, Nehoray, Vice Chair Nystrom, Chair Millan

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff Present: Craig Crowder, Josette Descalzo, Samer Elayyan, Shana Epstein, Michael Hensley, Ilene Knebel, Ken Pfalzgraf, Tristan Malabanan, Robert Welch

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Public Speaker: None.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

By order of the chair, the agenda was approved as presented.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Consideration of Minutes

Consideration of Minutes of the Public Works Commission regular meeting of December 14, 2023.

Motion: MOVED by Vice Chair Nystrom, SECONDED by Commissioner Nehoray to approve the Consent Calendar item as presented (4/0).

AYES: Commissioners Kimura, Nehoray, Vice Chair Nystrom, Chair Millan

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: Commissioner Ritterbush

CARRIED

REPORTS FROM PRIORITY AGENCIES

Operations Reports from City Departments, Consultants and Outside Agencies

Environmental Compliance & Sustainability Program Manager Josette Descalzo introduced Graham Hill, Founder and CEO of The Carbonauts, a consulting company dedicated to working with companies to achieve greater sustainability and foster climate literacy. He gave a presentation on the focus of the company and the various tools and programs it uses to achieve that with major companies such as Amazon, Chanel, and Disney, among others. The Commission thanked Graham for his presentation and asked about whether The Carbonauts operates internationally and what kind of feedback they receive from people enrolled in their courses.

Public Speaker: Public comment was heard from David Gingold.

CONTINUED BUSINESS

2. Best Practices – Tiny Forests

City Arborist Ken Pfalzgraf gave a presentation seeking commission support for a Tiny Forest model landscape plan to be planned into the design of the Cabrillo Reservoir project, with the goal of maximizing the canopy coverage at the Reservoir. He also explained the definition of "Tiny Forests", a method of maximizing canopy coverage in small spaces of available land. The Commission asked about social functions for Tiny Forests, how and why trees are condemned and replaced, whether trees on private property are involved, whether the Tiny Forest could be an educational site as well, and how to find balance on the project. The Commission gave consensus approval to pursue the project.

The commission took a break at 9:34 AM.

The commission returned from break at 9:45 AM.

NEW BUSINESS

3. Fleet Services Decarbonization

Public Works Deputy Director Michael Hensley and Fleet & Facilities Manager Craig Crowder gave a presentation on Public Works' various methods of decarbonizing's the city's vehicle fleet, including electrification, Advanced Clean Fleet regulations, switching to renewable natural gas, and purchasing gasoline electric hybrid vehicles. The Commission asked about any difficulties in decarbonizing the city's fleet for heavier vehicles such as street sweepers, the fleet's engagement with the California Fuel Cell partnership, backup generators for charging stations, and the number of Level 2 chargers.

Public Speaker: Public comment was heard from David Gingold.

CONTINUED BUSINESS

4. La Brea Subarea Update

Project Manager Tristan Malabanan gave an update on the La Brea Subarea. The Le Doux and Clifton wells bids are due January 16 at 2pm. Assuming that a lowest responsive bid is received, staff plans to present the bid to the City Council for approval in February 2024. The Commission asked about the costs of the project and potential environmental impacts on the site due to businesses on La Cienega.

5. Water Efficiency Update

Utilities Manager Rob Welch reported that the storms and snowpack are not up to expectations and that conserving water is still important. The Commission asked about filling in the Water Conservation Administrator's position and how much water the city conserves.

6. Capital Projects Update

Project Manager Samer Elayyan gave an update on capital projects. A notice to proceed will be sent out for the Reservoir Management Project this week with the goal of beginning construction in spring 2024, alongside other projects such as the La Cienega wells. The commission asked about the water pumps in the Burton Way median project and rain levels.

7. Specific Information and Department Updates

No questions from the commission.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COMMISSION

8. Chair's Report

Chair Millan asked residents to read and review the Water and Wastewater Rates pamphlets being sent to them in the mail.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM STAFF

9. Director's Report

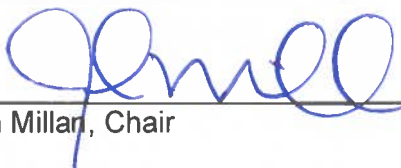
Public Works Director Shana Epstein announced that a liaison meeting is scheduled for January 25 concerning the Plastics Ordinance and the Dewatering Ordinance. She also said that she has been going to other Commissions and reviewing the wastewater/water rates pamphlets with them. She asked residents to read and review the pamphlets they receive in the mail or to visit the City's website. Two townhall meetings for residents to discuss the rates are scheduled for January 17 and February 1.

Public Speaker: Public comment was heard from David Gingold.

ADJOURNMENT

Date/Time: January 11, 2023 / 11:09 AM

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 8TH DAY of FEBRUARY, 2024



John Millan, Chair