



VIRTUAL MEETING **MINUTES**

Public Works & Telecommunications Committee **Meeting Held** **Friday October 16, 2020**

1. **Call to Order/Roll:** Chair, Patricia Murphy called the meeting to order at 12.36 pm. Five committee members **Present** – Patricia Murphy, Larry Leisten, Jamie Hall, Robin Greenberg and Mindy Mann. **Absent** – Marcia Hobbs, Nickie Miner and Philip Enderwood
2. **Motion:** Committee members approve the October 16, 2020 Public Works & Telecommunications Committee meeting Agenda.
Moved by: Patricia Murphy; **Seconded by:** Larry Leisten; **5/0/0; passed**
3. **Motion:** Committee members approve the August 26, 2020 Public Works & Telecommunications Committee Minutes.
Moved by: Larry Leisten; **Seconded by:** Robin Greenberg; **5/0/0; passed**
4. **Public Comments:** No comments made.
5. **Chair Report** – Patricia Murphy thanked committee members for attendance at this meeting. Prior to meeting the Chair distributed a draft copy of the Public works and Telecommunications committee Mission statement and Goals to committee members. No comments/feedback provided prior to the meeting. Patricia anticipating discussion on the draft documents during this meeting. Committee members agreed to discuss the draft mission and goals as part of the agenda motion discussions.
6. **Discussion and Possible Motion:** Discuss the draft Public Works & Telecommunications committee mission statement.
Discussion points: Larry Leisten clarified that the BABNC area includes more than “Hillside” neighborhoods and recommended that we remove that line from the Mission Statement. Larry also noted that Public Works stakeholders should include State and Federal entities, and that Public Works activities may not always be specific projects. He recommended that we consider using broader terms in the Mission Statement.
Committee agreed to hold off on a motion until we re-draft a broader Mission Statement. Larry and Patricia to work on an improved version of the Mission Statement for distribution and discussion before voting on a new Motion at the next committee meeting.
7. **Discussion and Possible Motion:** Discuss and review the draft plan for Public Works and telecommunications committee priorities.
Discussion points: Larry Leisten clarified that the word priorities should be changed to GOALS. Larry Leisten shared his view that the Motion of committee goals should include a specific aim to encourage placement of electrical power lines underground. This action may be a ‘lofty’ goal due to cost challenges. However, Larry believed it is an important issue that addresses the high risk for

FIRE caused by electrical power lines. The committee should do all that we can to prevent a catastrophic event here that could be as tragic as the 2018 Camp fire in N. CA.

Jamie Hall noted that he is involved with state and city legislature. He offered to forward a copy of any reports that may outline Los Angeles hillside fire risk caused by above ground powerlines.

Committee members agreed to hold off on the agenda item of a Motion of goals for the PW/T committee. Patricia to work with Larry on refining the goals and providing a new draft for review before the next meeting. We will then aim to vote on a motion at the next meeting.

8. Discussion: Local District 4 issues update – Chair to provide an update on any issues associated with the Sunset Plaza DWP pipe replacement project and the Miller Way BNE project.

Patricia shared that CD4 DWP street pipe replacement completed on Sunset Plaza. Ellen Evans shared that traffic challenges remain with the Bureau of Engineering project continuing on Miller Way, numerous private construction projects and the completion of the Sunset Plaza project. DWP have the primary responsibility for enforcement of parking issues.

The Wonderland construction project off Laurel Canyon has been delayed. Jamie Hall noted there are many challenges that are under discussion regarding the implementation of this project in 2021.

9. Discussion: Local District 5 issues update – Chair noted that we received notice of a postponement of the Sunset Blvd Trunkline project from a November 2020 start, to January 2021.

Patricia shared that a local neighbor, Linda Whitford had reached out prior to the meeting to discuss the need for DWP to engage a Certified Arborist to analyze the Trunk Line project. The purpose of the analysis should be to make sure that DWP has a clear plan to protect ALL trees within and near the project area. Linda was concerned that DWP may not have had an Arborist review of the project. She believes that DWP will need to have a clear plan for protecting trees both above and below the surface of Sunset Blvd. This is essential to ensure underground root systems that will be directly under the project area, or potentially extend into the project area underground from trees that may not be obviously considered within the impact area above ground. The committee members agreed that this action should have been taken by DWP in the planning process. Patricia agreed to reach out to the DWP Trunk Line project Community Liaison to gain a copy of a report indicating a Certified Arborist analysis and plan was completed. The committee also agreed that if that was not done that the current delay to the start of the project should provide ample time for DWP to complete such a report before the project begins in January. Jamie Hall noted that DWP has ample funds to pay for the cost of a Certified Arborist analysis and that they should make such a report available to the PW/T committee.

Mindy Mann and Robin Greenberg confirmed that the Benedict Canyon road resurfacing project (which was delayed in late September due to water pipe burst on Sunset Blvd) has now been completed.

10. Good of the Order

Larry Leisten briefly shared history and his understanding of the new 5G cell availability and the issues with access capacity to the new technology in local hillside neighborhoods. Jamie Hall recommended that we invite a representative from the top 3 major cell providers to attend one of our PW/T committee meetings so that we can better understand their plans for ensuring future access to 5G technology. And, how we can help partner with the providers so they can better serve their customers located in the hillside neighborhoods.

Jamie Hall discussed seeing an online video posting that showed a party balloon hit a power line causing the balloon to catch fire. This was an example of the vulnerability to fire from above ground power lines along our local hillside neighborhoods.

Robin Greenberg raised the issue of a plan by the CA Governor to have all electric cars in the state by 2035. Robin is concerned about access to E.V (electric vehicle) charging stations within the BABCNC area. Larry Leisten and Jamie Hall shared information regarding DWP plan to support implementation of charging stations and local ‘private’ companies who appear to already be involved in establishing charging units around areas of Los Angeles (e.g. on La Brea Avenue).

Committee members agreed this issue should be tabled for further discussion at the next meeting.

11. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 1.28 pm

Next Meeting Date: Friday November 20, 2020 at 12.30 pm

