



TRANSPORTATION and INFRASTRUCTURE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES

Thursday, April 18th, 2024, 6:15 pm

North Berkeley Senior Center
1901 Hearst Avenue
Berkeley, CA, 94709

A. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

1. Call to order

6:18 pm: Chair Fixler called the meeting to order.

2. Roll call

6:18 pm:

Commissioners Present: Noelani Fixler, Barnali Ghosh (arrived at 6:28 pm), Liza Lutzker, Karen Parolek, Kim Walton, Ray Yep

Excused: Adrian Leung

Commissioners Absent: Alison Bernstein

Staff Present: Wahid Amiri, Ron Nevels, Noah Budnick

3. Public comment on items not on the agenda

6:19 pm: One public comment.

4. Approval of minutes from March 21st, 2024

6:20 pm Action: It was Moved / Seconded (Parolek / Yep) to approve the minutes.

6:20 pm: Vote:

Ayes: Fixler, Lutzker, Parolek, Walton, Yep

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Bernstein, Ghosh, Leung

Recused: None

6:20 pm Motion passed 5-0-0-3-0

5. Approval and Order of Agenda

6:21 pm Action: It was Moved / Seconded (Parolek / Walton) to postpone the presentations on Vision 2050 and BerkDOT because new commissioners and the new Public Works Director are not present at the meeting.

6:23 pm: Vote:

Ayes: Fixler, Lutzker, Parolek, Walton, Yep

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Bernstein, Ghosh, Leung

Recused: None

6:23 pm Motion passed 5-0-0-3-0

6. Update on administration and staff

6:24 pm: Deputy Director Wahid Amiri provided updates and answered Commissioner questions about the Transportation Division's vacancy rate, hiring, workforce development and other ways to hire, support and retain staff. Engineering Manager Ron Nevels provided updates and answered Commissioner questions about the Engineering Division's hiring and vacancy rate and the status of the sewer program.

7. Announcements

7:10 pm: Commissioner Lutzker announced that Berkeley Unified School District will hold a Climate Fair at Longfellow Middle School on April 20 from 10 am to 2 pm. Commissioner Yep announced at UC Davis seminar about pavement materials and design techniques to improve sustainability on May 20. Commissioner Ghosh announced that BART is hosting a meeting on reimaging safety at the Ed Roberts Campus on April 23 from 5 to 7:30 pm (see attached flyer).

B. DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS

1. Disaster and Fire Safety Commission's Action in Support of Creating a Street Trauma Prevention Program

7:20 pm: Vice Chair Parolek briefed commissioners on the Disaster and Fire Safety Commission's vote to support the Fire Department's budget request to the City Council to add a new staff person to help start a street trauma prevention program in the Fire Department.

7:22 pm: Mike Wilson, a member of the Disaster and Fire Safety Commission briefed the Transportation and Infrastructure Commission on his commission's work with Fire Chief Sprague and the Fire Fighters Local 1227 union to create a "prevention" function in the Fire Department in addition to their "response" function. Wilson outlined three factors that led to this: 1. in the fire safety profession, prevention strategies work; 2. responding to traffic crashes takes an emotional toll on fire fighters and first responders; and, 3. the Berkeley Fire Department wants a better way to engage in the city's Vision Zero goal of eliminating traffic deaths and serious injuries by 2028. Wilson asked for the

Transportation and Infrastructure Commission
Thursday, April 18th, 2024

Transportation and Infrastructure Commission's formal support at the May 7, 2024 City Council meeting for the Fire Department's budget request for a Program Manager II position that will lead the department's Vision Zero work and have a role in operational, equipment and other considerations. Commissioners asked Wilson questions and discussed his request.

7:49 pm Action: It was Moved / Seconded (Parolek / Walton) for the Transportation and Infrastructure Commission to add their support to the Disaster and Fire Safety Commission's for the Fire Department's budget request to add a new Program Manager II staff position to work on a street trauma prevention program, Vision Zero and related activities.

7:50 pm: Vote:

Ayes: Fixler, Ghosh, Lutzker, Parolek, Walton, Yep

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Bernstein, Leung

Recused: None

7:50 pm Motion passed 6-0-0-2-0

C. INFORMATION ITEMS AND SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Subcommittee reports & assignments: verbal reports form subcommittees

7:51 pm: Commissioners provided reports:

D. COMMUNICATIONS

None.

E. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

7:55 pm: Commissioners discussed when and how to provide briefings on Vision 2050 and BerkDOT Commissioner Ghosh asked for an update on school crossing guards. Commissioner Lutzker asked for an update on how Public Works Transportation Division staff and Berkeley Police Department staff are collaborating on fatal crash investigations.

7:55 pm: Commissioner Walton left.

Transportation and Infrastructure Commission
Thursday, April 18th, 2024

E. ADJOURNMENT

8:05 pm: It was Moved / Seconded (Lutzker / Ghosh) to close the meeting

8:05 pm: Vote:

Ayes: Fixler, Ghosh, Lutzker, Parolek, Yep

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Bernstein, Leung

Recused: None

8:05 pm Motion passed 5-0-0-2-0

The next meeting of the Transportation and Infrastructure Commission is scheduled for Thursday, May 16th, 2024 at 6:15 pm, at the North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Ave, Berkeley, CA 94709.

Administrative Procedures

From the City of Berkeley Commissioners' Manual, 2019 Edition, page 70 regarding minutes:

Although the Brown Act does not require minutes, except for closed sessions, the Commissioners' Manual does require minutes of commission meetings but not for subcommittee meetings. When required, minutes are limited to action minutes only. Minutes are unofficial until approved by the commission. The minutes are converted to PDF and posted on the City's website.

The secretary shall keep an accurate record of the commission's proceedings and transactions. The secretary shall provide action minutes similar to those provided to the Council by the City Clerk. Action minutes list the date, time, and place of the meetings; the staff in attendance; the commissioners present and absent; and a clear and concise description of final actions taken. Approved motions are indicated by "moved, seconded, and carried" and include a breakdown of the vote. The vote breakdown includes the commissioners voting yes, no, abstain, absent, recused, and reason for recusal. Reasons for making a motion, debate, content of public comments, and audience reaction are not to be included.

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