



MINUTES
CITY OF NORCO
STREETS, TRAILS AND UTILITIES COMMISSION MEETING
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 2820 CLARK AVENUE
FEBRUARY 2, 2009

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chair Potter called meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.
2. ROLL CALL: Commissioners Present: Potter, Showalter, Hickey, Mauro, Walker, Hedges, Burt, Turpin. Absent: Hutnik
3. STAFF PRESENT: Bill Thompson, Director of Public Works
Terry Piorkowski, Public Works Supervisor
Rose Matthews, Executive Secretary
4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Chair Potter
5. PUBLIC COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS:
6. TO BE READ BY THE CHAIR: "All discretionary actions before the Streets, Trails and Utilities Commission are advisory in nature and final actions will be confirmed, modified, or deleted by the City Council."
7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
 - A. November 3, 2008
 - B. December 1, 2008 (joint minutes)

M/S Showalter/Hickey to approve the minutes of November 3, 2008 as corrected. Change page 5, "sidewalk to pedestrian trail."

Motion carried by the following vote.

AYES: Potter, Showalter, Hickey, Mauro, Walker, Hedges, Turpin
NOES: None
ABSENT: Hutnik
ABSTAIN: None

M/S Showalter/Walker to approve the minutes of December 1, 2008.

Motion carried by the following vote.

AYES: Potter, Showalter, Hickey, Mauro, Walker, Hedges, Turpin
NOES: None
ABSENT: Hutnik
ABSTAIN: None

8. NEW DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. Election of Officers

The Director announced Chairperson Matthew Potter had been appointed to serve on the new Historical Preservation Commission. With the appointment the Commission is required to elect a new Chairperson. Chairperson Potter then called for nominations for the new Chair.

The Director thanked Chair Potter for his service on the Commission.

Commissioner Walker also thanked Chair Potter and noted he did a fine job for the Commission.

M/S Hickey/Mauro to nominate Commissioner Showalter for Chair.

M/S Turpin/Burttt to nominate Commissioner Hedges for Chair.

Commissioner Showalter noted he loved doing this type of work.

Commissioner Hedges noted he would be honored to serve.

Commissioners Showalter, Hickey, Mauro, Walker, Hedges voted for Commissioner Showalter.

Commissioners Showalter, Hickey, Mauro, Turpin voted for Commissioner Hedges.

M/S Hedges/Hickey to elect Commissioner Showalter as Chair.

Motion carried by the following vote.

AYES: Showalter, Hickey, Mauro, Walker, Hedges, Hutnik, Burttt, Turpin

NOES: None

ABSENT: Hutnik

ABSTAIN: Potter

Former Chair Potter leaves the Commission meeting and newly elected Chair Showalter continues the meeting.

B. Special Event Parking in the Equestrian Trail

The Director presented the report from the CNUSD noting several dates for special event parking in the equestrian trail.

Discussion was held and the identification of specific trails was addressed.

Commissioner Hedges asked if the tickets written at the previous events had prompted this request list.

Commissioner Walker questioned if they had the ability or areas to provide overflow parking as an alternate option instead of closing trails.

Further discussion was held.

The Director noted that the presented list came after much discussion and the dates have been substantially reduced. The events and closures were the same as previous years, although this year the District was asking permission to avoid some of the inconvenience issues.

Further discussion was held on street widths and parking solutions.

Commissioner Mauro noted some examples on Crestview Drive with regard to parking and visibility issues.

Commissioner Hedges noted it was a good communication effort from the District to pass on this list.

M/S Hedges/Burt to receive and file the report for special event parking in the equestrian trail for the noted dates.

Motion carried by the following vote.

AYES: Showalter, Hickey, Mauro, Walker, Hedges, Burt, Turpin
NOES: None
ABSENT: Hutnik
ABSTAIN: None

C. Solar Power Agreement – WRCRWA

The Director presented information regarding the solar power agreement from WRCRWA to build a 1 megawatt solar power plant consisting of approximately 9 acres.

Chair Showalter wondered who the partners were for the treatment plant.

The Director noted that JCSD, Western Municipal Water District and Home Gardens were some of the partners in the plant.

Chair Showalter inquired where funding was acquired for the expansion.

The Director indicated the Capital Improvement Fund was the major funding resource.

Commissioner Turpin wondered why the City was not moving toward the manure biodiesel plant instead of looking at these nine acres and a solar plant.

The Director noted that the City is looking for energy flexibility and is excited about both energy options in the future. The completion date for the solar energy project is tentatively scheduled for December 2009.

M/S Hedges/Turpin to receive and file information on the solar power agreement from WRRCWA.

Motion carried by the following vote.

AYES: Showalter, Hickey, Mauro, Walker, Hedges, Burt, Turpin
NOES: None
ABSENT: Hutnik
ABSTAIN: None

D. Award of Design Contract for Hamner Avenue Street Improvements

The Director presented information on the award of the design contract for the Hamner Avenue Street Improvement project.

Chair Showalter inquired if the bridge design was going to be involved in the Hamner Avenue Street Improvements design contract.

The Director noted the bridge design is in process, but will not be constructed in the next two years. However, the City will design and construct the street improvements up to the north side of the existing Bridge deck.

Commissioner Hedges inquired regarding the dedicated right-hand turn lane into the Silverlakes Project at Citrus Avenue.

The Director assured the Commission that a right hand turn movement would be part of the design.

Further discussion was held.

M/S Hickey/Mauro to recommend the City Council award the design contract to DMC for the Hamner Avenue Street Improvement Project.

Chair Showalter inquired if the design will be brought back to the Commission for comments.

The Director notes, that yes, it will be brought back for Commission's comments.

Commissioner Hedges inquired if the Commission was recommending or approving.

The motion moved forward as stated.

Motion carried by the following vote.

AYES: Showalter, Hickey, Mauro, Walker, Hedges, Burt, Turpin
NOES: None
ABSENT: Hutnik
ABSTAIN: None

9. CONTINUED DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. Waste-to-Energy Project

The Director noted the waste-to-energy project was moving along. He noted that Chevron has sent another revision to the contract.

Further discussion was held.

Chair Showalter wondered if the waste to energy plant was manure only, or would it encompass other types of waste.

The Director explained that the initial feed stock would be green waste and manure, ultimately with expansion; a number of waste streams would be evaluated.

Commissioner Mauro inquired if the waste included other animal waste, not just manure.

The Director noted that in the future, details regarding the animal waste could change. He went on to explain the differences.

Commissioner Mauro noted the doggie waste bags at Pikes Peak Park were a wonderful idea; however, he also noted the dangers of the waste produced by the degradation of the bags.

The Director noted that all of these issues would be addressed, however, only manure/green waste (due to permitting requirements) were being considered at this time.

Additional discussion was held regarding how much energy would be produced and who would use it, including marketing the energy produced to prisons, schools or other facilities, agencies or partners. Also, the Director mentioned using the energy at the treatment plant, thereby lowering the costs at that facility.

The Commission agreed to receive and file the information regarding the waste-to-energy discussion.

Chair Showalter inquired as to the timeline of this project.

The Director is optimistic that the plant would be operational by late 2012.

B. Trail Master Plan

The Director noted there were some new developments in the trail master plan and indicated he would be mailing out information later in the week to all Commissioners. Also, colored maps of the trail systems identifying trail fence, fence and street improvements would be mailed as soon as completed.

Commissioner Hedges noted he would like to see homework assigned to the Commissioners in order to help out with the tedious research. For example, assigning chapters to everyone would help in getting the research completed.

The Director will move this issue from the "continued" to "discussion" for the next meeting.

The Director also noted the new trail etiquette chapter of the trail master plan and is considering how to incorporate this chapter. Also, he would like to see the helmet ordinance incorporated into the plan.

Discussion was held.

The Director will include this item on the agenda for the next meeting.

10. VERBAL UPDATES ON STREETS/TRAILS ISSUES:

The Director referred the Commission to Terry Piorkowski, Public Works Supervisor to report the status of the encroachment removals in the City. TP, PWS also noted the arrival of the alternative trail fence material that would be received on Wednesday. Avcon, will also resend the newly designed post caps for the fencing.

TP, PWS went on to elaborate on the placement of dg in the LMD trail areas and indicated the ongoing challenge to remedy erosion damage from rainfall.

Weed spraying (the department uses "Roundup") along the right-of-way will continue when weather conditions improve.

Commissioner Mauro inquired as to the effects of Roundup on humans.

TP, PWS noted there were only cautionary statements on the Roundup container for humans.

The Director inquired of the installation locations of the alternative trail fence.

TP, PWS noted the locations stayed the same as previously discussed. He went on to explain the "Dig Alert" program for the underground utilities research involved in the installation of the alternative trail fence.

Discussion was held regarding the fence height as the sleeve on the fencing may be adjusted to accommodate mailboxes and other items, if necessary.

The Director noted the street improvements at Sierra Avenue and Fifth Street to include trail improvements.

The Director went on to mention the new Trails Advisory Task Force Committee and their mission to find solutions for trail erosion issues on slopes. Drains, pavers, alternate materials; any items that may be available to help with trail erosion solutions will be discussed.

Commissioner Walker inquired if the worst trails were on a list.

The Director noted a list could be formulated with the trail maps he was creating and this may also assist the task force.

Chair Showalter inquired if Stalok or soil cement is the only material that is going to be used as a solution for the trails.

The Director noted that in the sloped areas, conditions would be put in place that would address the slope issues before, rather than after, then the water would daylight in the street. One of the issues is the lack of curb and gutter on some streets.

Further discussion was held on type of material or other solutions for these types of trails on slopes.

The Director noted that Commissioner Hedges is a member of the task force and that the meetings would be open for anyone who wanted to attend.

Commissioner Hedges inquired regarding inmate labor.

TP, PWS noted the inmate labor was working out great. They have been used on other projects other than trails including weed removal, removing encroachments, trimming trees, and removing unwanted vegetation.

The Director noted that much of the resistance to the inmate labor from the community has diminished.

TP, PWS also added that inmate labor at CRC will begin producing the new City of Norco "Adopt-A-Trail" signs incorporating the "Horsetown, USA" logo.

Further discussion was held.

11. OTHER MATTERS:

A. River Road Bridge Project

The Director wanted to present information on the River Road Bridge Project to the Commission and discuss the impacts to the residents who were not able to ride at the intersection of River Road and Bluff Street.

The Director noted that the crossing at Bluff Street and River Road would remain closed until the construction is complete.

An unidentified resident questioned how long the intersection would be closed.

Discussion was held on the future improvements and what this project will mean to the Community.

Another unidentified resident reported she was caught in the intersection before the signs were placed warning of the construction.

Commissioner Hedges inquired if signs have been placed at the indicated trails.

TP, PWS noted, that yes.

Commissioner Turpin noted there were two mountain lion dens found when the vegetation was trimmed away at the location of the River Road Bridge project.

Chair Showalter inquired of the Broken Arrow Storm Drain project.

The Director noted that meetings for the Broken Arrow Storm Drain project are scheduled to start February 3, 2009.

Discussion was held on future and existing projects.

The Director noted that there would be a possibility of low-density type senior housing for the residents of Norco that may include facilities that might include boarding stables. Staff is exploring possible projects that would fit with the equestrian life style.

Commissioner Hedges inquired of North Drive and the street having the higher speed limit. The Commissioner wondered if traffic calming methods could be used at this location.

The Director noted that the Mayor has already issued this same request. A median has been researched for this location and the design has been completed.

Commissioner Walker inquired of the water ordinance.

The Director noted he would schedule the ordinance for the City Council agenda of February 18, 2009.

Commissioner Mauro noted that the wood chips are really small at Pikes Peak Park and reported he had to help a child that had swallowed a chip. Also, he notes, the climbing stones are too high and the padding at the playground is very thin.

The Director noted that he would refer these items to the Parks Department.

Further discussion was held.

TP, PWS noted the change of speed limit on Hidden Valley Pkwy.

Discussion was held.

12. ADJOURNMENT: 9:15 p.m.

M/S Hedges/Walker to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., March 2, 2009.

Motion carried by the following vote.

AYES: Showalter, Hickey, Mauro, Walker, Hedges, Burt, Turpin

NOES: None

ABSENT: Hutnik

ABSTAIN: None

William R. Thompson
Director of Public Works

/rmm