

PUBLIC WORKS & FACILITIES COMMITTEE
August 21, 2008
City Hall – City Manager’s Conference Room (Upstairs)

The Public Works and Facilities Committee met in regular session on the above date at 2:30 p.m. at City Hall in the City Manager’s Conference Room and the following items were discussed.

ROLL CALL:

Members present: Committee Members Dan Gjerde and Meg Courtney.
Staff present: Director of Public Works Dave Goble, City Manager Ruffing, and City Clerk/Assistant to the City Manager Cindy VanWormer.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Minutes of May 16, 2008

The minutes of May 16, 2008 were approved as received.

CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

1. Follow-Up Discussion Regarding Construction of New Bathrooms at Town Hall per FY 2008-09 Budget Workshop

Committee Member Gjerde stated that he brought this item up at the budget workshop as he felt that by changing the location of the bathrooms to be more visible people would be more comfortable using them. He suggested refurbishing the existing restrooms but only having them open at times when there are events or meetings at Town Hall. Gjerde suggested that it should be too costly to install two one-person restrooms as no walls or roof work would be required.

Discussion: The following items were noted during discussion of this item:

- The Committee and staff discussed issues regarding the plaza area; it was suggested that some of the vegetation be trimmed and the benches be moved so that they face and are closer to the sidewalk.

The Committee requested staff look at the as-built drawings for Town Hall to see what existing plumbing and electrical could be used for restrooms. This item will be brought back to a future meeting for further discussion.

2. Discuss Possible Infill of Sidewalk “Gaps” Adjacent to Commercial Properties

Committee Member Gjerde noted that he also brought this item up previously but that he hasn’t had a chance to drive around and look at locations where this would apply. The most apparent location is behind Tradewinds, on Franklin Street. City Manager Ruffing noted that there are also areas along Main Street, in front of Rite Aid, where trees used to be planted; she suggested filling those areas in with concrete.

Discussion: The following items were noted during discussion of this item:

- Committee Member Courtney stated she would like to see more trees planted.

The Committee will identify locations in town where trees can be added; staff will check into obtaining trees through Mendocino Releaf.

3. Matters from Committee Members and Staff

- A. Committee Member Gjerde suggested having the Public Works Crew repaint the garbage/recycling bins located downtown. It was suggested that there be a designation on top, in blue, to indicate the recycling bin.
- B. Committee Member Courtney asked when the green curbs would be painted that the Committee previously discussed. Director of Public Works Goble stated he would check with Public Works Superintendent Cimolino to see what has happened.
- C. Gjerde recommended using the hybrid sharrow line system adopted by the City Council on Harrison Street after the overlay is completed. In response to a question by Gjerde, City Manager Ruffing stated that the white lines would be 10’ from centerline. Staff will order the sharrow template.

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- D. City Manager Ruffing reported that the City's new Standards and Specifications are close to being ready to present to Council for review and direction. Director of Public Works Goble stated, in response to a comment by Gjerde, that the City may need to develop different standards to address his (Gjerde's) concerns. Staff suggested having the Council adopt the Standards and Specifications they are comfortable with and provide direction to staff on amendments to those they aren't comfortable with (most particularly those dealing with streets and sidewalks).
- E. Director of Public Works Goble reported that Mendocino Council of Government's Technical Advisory Committee (MCOG TAC) received a presentation from CalTrans regarding the roundabout at Simpson Lane. CalTrans looked at both a signal and a roundabout and determined that a roundabout was the best solution. MCOG TAC recommended support for the roundabout; MCOG will take action on this at their next meeting. Discussion then ensued among the Committee and staff regarding what would be in the center of the roundabout such as landscaping (perhaps with the assistance of the Botanical Gardens) or artwork (through a sculpture contest). Ruffing suggested that the City actively participate in planning for this area as this will be a gateway into Fort Bragg.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.