



HSR City Council Committee

Members

Patrick Burt
Larry Klein
Nancy Shepherd
Gail Price

Special Meeting

Thursday, April 29, 2010
8:30 am – 10:00 am
Council Conference Room
Civic Center
250 Hamilton Avenue
Palo Alto, CA

Minutes

All Committee members present.

1. Oral Communications

Public Comment: Appealed to have underpasses for High Speed Rail. He believes it would be much less of a hassle.

Public Comment: Bill Cutler provided and will submit suggestions for improvements to the CSS Toolkit. He said there is a lack of a clear, competent roadmap as to what High Speed Rail will be like from here – he will submit his own roadmap for feedback from the community.

2. Approval of Minutes from the April 1, 2010 Meeting

Chair Klein moved for approval. CM Price seconded the motion. All ayes. Minutes from the April 1, 2010 meeting passes unanimously.

3. Timeline for Alternatives Analysis Comments

Gayle Likens said she is working on the timeline. A peer review done by our consultant should have draft comments ready by May 17. Steve Emslie told her that we should be able to wrap up all comments within the 60-day time frame. We will be scheduling community meetings within the next couple weeks.

CM Shepherd said she wanted to see the schedule. She asked if the 60-day period started on April 8.

Gayle Likens answered yes.



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CM Price said the comments deadline is not specified, but we should get them in as soon as possible. She asked if there was any relationship between the comments for the Program EIR and the Alternatives Analysis.

Gayle Likens answered that we need to focus on the Alternatives Analysis comments separately from the Program EIR. We need to focus on the technical aspects.

CM Price asked the name of our consultant working on the comments.

Gayle Likens replied that Hatch Mott McDonald is conducting the peer review.

Mayor Burt stated we had two different representatives of the Rail Authority give us two different timelines of when comments should be submitted for the Alternatives Analysis. He recommended the Committee send a letter to Robert Doty and carbon copy Dominic Spaethling, requesting clarity and verification of the comment period. Chair Klein agreed with that recommendation.

CM Price questioned whether the Committee should request clarification if they will provide an updated Alternatives Analysis document in July.

Mayor Burt questioned if it was clear when the starting date of the 60-day comment period began. He suggested we should include that question in the letter as well.

4. Discussion of Strategic Legislation

Gayle Likens said she has not spoken with Ravi Mehta in the last week.

Chair Klein asked if there were any updates to provide.

Gayle Likens responded that there isn't anything to report right now.

Mayor Burt stated Ravi Mehta organized meetings with Assembly Members Hill and Ruskin regarding the uncertainty of the role of the peer review.



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Nadia Naik suggested the Committee hold this item until next week when we can get an update from Ravi Mehta.

Chair Klein agreed with Ms. Naik. He said we need to have a list distributed for the next meeting.

5. Consideration of Guiding Principles

CM Shepherd said she wants to take this item to the full Council for more input.

Mayor Burt said the Guiding Principles are from the City Council, not staff.

Chair Klein established that the Guiding Principles is not a document of the City's position on High Speed Rail, but rather a "grab of authority" for the Committee to act without the full Council – a way to move swiftly.

CM Price said we need to look at the most useful and expedient set of principles to allow the Committee to function smoothly.

Mayor Burt said these principles are parameters of authority, granted by the City Council, under which the Committee can act. We should definitely update these.

CM Price recommended the Committee have a former Council Member and a current Council Member work on the Guiding Principles. They should include a few sub-headings that would reflect importance. She motioned for a two-member sub-committee to revise the Guiding Principles. Chair Klein seconded the motion.

CM Shepherd said she wants to take this to Council as soon as possible.

Chair Klein stated there is no urgency for this item to go to the City Council right away.

Chair Klein suggested the two-person sub-committee would consist of himself and CM Price. All ayes. Motion passed.



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6. Update on HSRA Information Requests

Gayle Likens said a request was made yesterday to Dominic Spaethling, asking to provide us responses to all our questions and where in the Alternatives Analysis we can find these answers. She also said we requested answers in addition to the Alternatives Analysis, if they are not yet included in there.

Mayor Burt raised the issue of which of our questions have been answered. We should be doing our own work, parallel to the answers we receive – not just wait for Dominic Spaethling to get back to us. He continued by saying we need to go through each of our requests and see what on our list has been answered so far.

Chair Klein said we should keep this item on the agenda for next week's meeting.

7. Discussion of Caltrain Finances

Mayor Burt questioned as the Rail Authority moves into a partnership with Caltrain, how would the interests of Caltrain be achieved through High Speed Rail or not. We cannot go into depth about this today, but we eventually need to specify the potential situations. Caltrain came forward with their projections of future budget issues – they think they can fix those by piggy-backing on High Speed Rail initiatives. We should possibly create a sub-committee to look at this issue.

CM Price said Caltrain needs to establish fixed rail services along the Peninsula, with or without High Speed Rail.

CM Shepherd suggested a discussion be held regarding whether a hybrid option is feasible.

8. Updates and Informational Items

Chair Klein said this item was covered briefly earlier in the meeting.



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9. Discussion of Sources of Funding for Context Sensitive Solutions Work

Chair Klein stated we should continue this item to next week's meeting.

10. Future Meetings and Agendas

Chair Klein said how we shape our agendas should be discussed. The next scheduled meeting is next Thursday, May 6, 2010.

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