

Utility Undergrounding Advisory Committee
Joe LaCava, Chair

Minutes

Friday, August 15, 2014, 8:30 am – 10:30 am

Committee Chambers (12th Floor), City Administration Building
202 C Street, San Diego, California

For information:

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Purpose of the Committee per Resolution 308721: "Undergrounding Committee shall advise the City Council on (1) how the City may better implement the program to minimize community concerns related to the installation of utility equipment, including above ground utility boxes, while undertaking undergrounding projects, and (2) how the City, community, and utility companies could improve communication in implementing the goals of the Program"

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Joe LaCava, Chair

David Moty

Vicki Granowitz

John Ready

Thomas Hebrank

Ian Stewart, SDG&E Representative

Kathy Valdivia, SDG&E Representative

Ileana Engel, Cox Communications

Joe Gabaldon, Time Warner Cable

Ignacio De La Torre, AT&T

Christine Moore, AT&T

CITY STAFF/REPRESENTATIVES: Molly Chase, Ralph Dimarucut, Hasan Yousef, Mario Reyes, Tim Graham, Steve Hill

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Joe LaCava called the meeting to order at 8:32 am and proceeded with introductions and announced that one community member, Charles Angyal, has chosen to resign.
2. **NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT:** Earlene Thom, Normal Heights, commented regarding the Union Tribune Article about undergrounding.
3. **COMMITTEE COMMENT:** None.
4. **CITY STAFF COMMENT:** None.
5. **CITY ATTORNEY COMMENT:** None.
6. **HOW THE CITY MANAGES AND IMPLEMENTS THE UNDERGROUNDING PROGRAM:** Information Item.

Hasan Yousef, Mario Reyes, and Tim Graham presented the City of San Diego Utilities Undergrounding Program and highlighted changes the City has already made to make the process more responsive to individual communities. This

includes a new PIO position for the undergrounding program as well as an additional community meeting to occur before design to gather input. Powerpoint included as an attachment.

Committee Member Comment: Tom Hebrank asked when the process was implemented and how many projects were currently moving forward under the new process. Hasan responded that there are 11 projects moving forward and clarified that pre design is to determine public right of way. Mario indicated that the map with location of boxes provided at the second meeting. The projects that were approved on June 23rd are now just having their first meeting with utilities to discuss design parameters. Tom then asked who is usually in charge of the project and staff responded that they are City projects that SDG&E participates in but ultimately the City is the project manager. David Moty requested detailed handouts of all the boxes, their use, functions, and the names that the utility companies are used to hearing. He also asked that the City provide examples of other boxes. David then explained the Kensington chose to not have the community meeting and stressed that it was crucial to have a pre-design community forum and it is important to have people present who are knowledgeable of the process to speak for the community.. Vicki Granowitz stated that the community still doesn't know about the boxes that go in that are unrelated to undergrounding. Vicki explained the frustration that the initial public meetings are actually Council meetings and asked what the process was for selecting neighborhoods. Mario explained that that is done based on the Master Plan and each Councilmember can participate in that. Mario also stated that Undergrounding Master Plan is currently being revised for the entire program. Chairman LaCava recognized what a good group of community members are on the board and stated there was a consensus that no one likes the term undergrounding program because it doesn't explain that not everything is undergrounded. He then asked how many meters are usually required to be upgraded and agreed with David that a legend would be helpful. He then confirmed that the City does not have any regulations and/or guidelines on specific placement of utility boxes. He then asked if it would be possible to have an intermediate community meeting to show what the design is starting to look like. Hasan responded that it may be possible to say the number of boxes that are going to be needed but exact placement will still not be known.. LaCava then asked more specifically about the role the City has from engineering to where the box is actually placed. Hasan indicated that is determined by the engineering plan. Brendan explained that pull boxes are static connection point that doesn't have any electronics in it. John Ready asked for more information on permits to enter and easements and indicated that what is sent to homeowners is overly broad. Hasan indicated we could clarify the language and that the City is taking over that role. Chair LaCava wrapped up the meeting and focused on the need for consistent language, the potential for payments from the surcharge money for easement agreements, and brought up the idea of leaving the poles for appurtenances but undergrounding the lines.

Public comment: Don Taylor, Kensington, stated that while no one believes this is an easy process, he would like to have meetings with the community before design begins and work with the owners to determine the best location.

7. OVERVIEW OF PUBLIC OUTREACH: Information item.

The conversation regarding public outreach was included in the conversation about the city process.

8. ADJOURN TO NEXT REGULAR MEETING: September 19, 2014
The meeting was adjourned by Chair LaCava.

Meeting Schedule: The Committee holds its regular meetings on the 3rd Friday of each month, from 8:30 A.M. to 10:30 A.M. in the Committee Chambers (12th Floor), City Administration Building, 202 C Street, San Diego, California.

Public Comment on Matters Not on the Agenda: Members of the public may address the Committee on any matter not listed on the Agenda at the beginning of the meeting during Non-Agenda Public Comment. To address the committee, one must complete a speaker form and deliver it to the Committee staff. However, California's open meeting laws do not permit the Committee to discuss or take action at the meeting on comments made during Non-Agenda Public Comment. At its discretion, the Committee may refer such comments to staff.

Public Comment on an Agenda Item: Members of the public may address the Committee on any item listed on the Agenda. To address the Committee, one must complete a speaker form and deliver it to the Committee staff before the Committee hears the Agenda item. Each person submitting a speaker form will be called at the time the item is heard.

Time Limitation on Public Comment: Public comments are limited to three minutes per speaker. At the discretion of the Chair, if a large number of people wish to speak on the same item, comments may be limited to a set period of time per item.

Access for Persons with Disabilities: The information contained in this Agenda is available in alternative formats. To request an Agenda in Braille, large print, cassette, or to request a sign language or oral interpreter for the meeting, call the Committee staff at least five (5) working days prior to the meeting at (619) 236-7042.