

Utility Undergrounding Advisory Committee

Joe LaCava, Chair

AGENDA

Friday, September 19, 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

Vicky Granowitz

John Ready

Thomas Hebrank

Ian Stewart, SDG&E

Ileana Engel, Cox Communications

Joe Gabaldon, Time Warner Cable

Ignacio De La Torre, AT&T

CITY STAFF/REPRESENTATIVES: Ralph Dimarucut, Steve Hill, Hasan Yousef, Mario Reyes

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Joe LaCava called the meeting to order at 8:30 am

NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Suzanne Ledeboer, a member of the Normal Heights Community Planning Group, shared her concerns with the state of the sidewalks in the city.

COMMITTEE COMMENT

Ileana Engel and other committee members requested clarification on the date of when the final committee meeting will be held

CITY STAFF COMMENT

CITY ATTORNEY COMMENT INFORMATION ITEMS

ITEM 1 – Welcome and Introductions

ITEM 2 – Recap: What improvements have already been made?

Chair, Joe LaCava, shared some of the progress in improving the Utility Undergrounding process, including the addition of community meetings to better include the public in the process and that the City hired a dedicated Public Information Officer for the program

ITEM 3 – Legend: Above ground Utility Infrastructure and what it does

David Moty requested for SDG&E to provide pictures of the company's utility infrastructure uncovered for the committee

Ian Stewart from SDG&E acknowledged that the language in the key they shared could better benefit the committee if it was described in a less technical language

Members of the committee requested for the information to be added to the City's UUAG website

ITEM 4 – Roundtable discussion: Potential Action Item

Chair, Joe LaCava, requested Councilmembers Gloria and Emerald to request the City Attorney's office to look into the legal rights the city had to use a portion of the surcharge funds to provide an incentive for homeowners to grant easement for their property to be used to hold utility boxes

A representative from SDGE shared the process SDGE uses to determine where utility boxes are located.

City Staff joined SDGE in explaining the process to the committee

Vicki Granowitz suggested that the City needs to approach the community earlier in the process to provide the community with a "heads up" of the project. It was suggested that a representative from the city attend a planning group meeting to share with the group that the project was going to be happening in their community and should also provide a date of when the first community meeting would be and what the community could expect at that initial meeting.

Chair, Joe Lacava, shared that notices should continue to be given to home owners, and after which representatives from the city can go to the planning group and share that "you should have received a notice..."

ITEM 5 – Roundtable discussion New Ideas/Solutions: Discussion Item

Public Comment: Don Taylor of 4062 Hilldale Rd, San Diego, CA 92116 spoke in favor and requested that engineers and the city also consider in a neighborhood even wants to underground at all. It would also be helpful if communities can get an estimate on the number of boxes that will be added early in the process so they can better decide if they want to proceed or not. And to consider using alleys in neighborhoods where this would be a possible option. Don Rosencrans spoke in opposition and suggested that the committee continue to focus on undergrounding all of the utility boxes.

Committee members suggested the use of Channel 24/CityTV to better inform the public of the undergrounding process through a PSA

Chair, Joe LaCava would like to revisit the idea of better utilizing alleys in the process as well as discussing possible aesthetic guidelines with the committee in future meetings

Ileana Engel, would like to come to an agreement between all of the agencies as to what the goal of undergrounding is. Is it for aesthetics, safety, reliability, etc.?

David Moty would like to discuss the relationship between boxes and graffiti in the near future.

MEETING ADJOURNED TO NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Friday, October 17, 2014
Meeting was adjourned by Chair, Joe LaCava at 10:25 am.