

Utility Undergrounding Advisory Committee

Joe LaCava, Chair

Minutes

Friday, December 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

Bobby Johnston

Ian Stewart, SDG&E

Ileana Engel, Cox Communications

Joe Gabaldon, Time Warner Cable

Ignacio De La Torre, AT&T

Breandan Lee, AT&T

CITY STAFF/REPRESENTATIVES: Molly Chase, Hasan Yousef, Mario Reyes, Tim Graham

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Joe LaCava called the meeting to order at 8:31 am

NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Earlene Thom, Normal Heights resident, commented on the undergrounding program as a whole and question about option out of the program.

COMMITTEE COMMENT – No comment.

CITY STAFF COMMENT – No comment.

CITY ATTORNEY COMMENT INFORMATION ITEMS

ITEM 1 – Welcome and Introductions

Chair LaCava welcomed the committee and stated that a lot of progress had been made on both the community and the utility side. He stated that we have crafted these documents based on the utilities willingness to understand the impact on the neighborhoods. He then asked the utility companies for a list of technical advisors to refer to in the final report and read an email from a constituent that was positive about their undergrounding project.

ITEM 2 – Action Items (Developing Consensus, Design Options, Process and Flowchart)

The committee made updates to the red line strikeout. Hasan indicate changes that needed to be made but overall supported the documents. Joe Gabaldon stressed the importance of voluntary easements but raised concerns about cost added for private easements. Chair LaCava then asked for clarification of the difference between SDG&E and utilities. Joe Gabaldon stated that per the franchise agreements cable companies can't pass throughout the cost and they do not get reimbursed for undergrounding. Ileana Engel stated the impact to cable companies and that Cox has signed a side agreement to participate in the program but it is not part of the state franchise agreement. Cox does not receive surcharge program and does not pass through anything to their customers. Ian Stewart added that the concern with paying for things from surcharge money is that there is only one bucket of money for undergrounding and as you pull from that ti becomes more difficult. Chair LaCava reminded the committee that they city is at this time not interested in paying fair market value for the easement. It is important to inform people of the difference between SDG&E and the cable companies and that there are no new costs. Bobby Johnston asked if this committee was only applying to surcharge programs. Hasan indicated it would apply to all undergrounding projects. Vicki Granowitz stated she wanted the community o understand that this is not a process without an end to which Don Taylor added that there has to be an option to get smaller pieces of equipment.

MEETING ADJOURNED TO NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Friday, January 16, 2014
Meeting was adjourned by Chair, Joe LaCava at 10:05 am.