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CULVER CITY BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
CULVER CITY BICYCLE AND
PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

October 24, 2024
6:00 P.M.

Call To Order & Roll Call

The special meeting of the Culver City Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee was called to order at 6:01 P.M. in the Patio Room at City Hall and via Webex.

Members Present: Dorothy Sadd, Chair
Jack Galanty, Vice Chair
Marvin Campbell, Member
Joel Falter, Member
Carolyn Libuser, Member
Travis Morgan, Member
Dane Twichell, Member

Absent: Greg Maron, Member
Hunter Salem, Member

Staff Present: Alicia Ide, Public Works Management Analyst

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Pledge of Allegiance

Meeting attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Community Announcements from Members

None.

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Updates from Subcommittees/Delegates/Members

None.

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Items from Staff

Alicia Ide, Management Analyst, discussed upcoming City Council meetings with agenda items relevant to the BPAC; she announced the State of the City event on November 20; and she asked that anyone who could not make the next BPAC meeting on November 21 to let her know.

Dorothy Sadd asked that Members keep cell phone use and comings and goings during the meeting to a minimum.

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Public Comment - Items NOT On the Agenda

Chair Sadd invited public comment.

The following members of the public addressed the Committee:

David Coles noted that the agenda link was different in email than the agenda posted on the website; asked that the BPAC agendize a conversation with Public Works regarding traffic calming on National; discussed the pedestrian fatality at National and Wesley; other incidents over the last 18 years; car driver fatalities in Culver City and in nearby Los Angeles; and he asked to see ideas on traffic calming to make the street safer.

Jessica Barker was called to speak but was not present.

Mary Daval indicated wanting to speak on a different item.

Eric Shabsis discussed ongoing safety issues with the bus/bike lanes along Venice Blvd; difficulty making a right hand turn onto Venice Blvd without putting a cyclist in peril or being able to see a bus coming around the parked cars; people that could get hurt when turning right; unintended consequences of the changes; and he asked that the issue be addressed noting that he was not suggesting that lanes be removed.

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Receipt of Correspondence

Alicia Ide, Management Analyst, indicated distributing correspondence received including a comment about bike lanes.

Chair Sadd reported that photographs of kiosk issues in Santa Monica had been received and she asked that everyone review them.

MOVED BY MEMBER MORGAN, SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR GALANTY, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED (ABSENT MEMBERS MARON AND SALEM) THAT THE BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECEIVE AND FILE CORRESPONDENCE.

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Consent Calendar Items

Item C-1

Approval of Minutes for the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Regular Meeting of September 19, 2024

MOVED BY MEMBER CAMPBELL, SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR GALANTY AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED (ABSENT MEMBERS MARON AND SALEM) THAT THE BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2024.

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Action Items

Item A-1

Discussion Regarding Potential Installation of Digital Wayfinding Kiosks in the Public Right of Way

Alicia Ide, Management Analyst, introduced the item; discussed materials distributed to Committee Members that are available to everyone through the upcoming October 28 City Council agenda; the purpose of the meeting to provide advice and a recommendation although such has not been requested by the City Council; the timeframe to submit information for inclusion in the packet to the City Council; and the ability of Members to speak at the City Council meeting either individually or as a Committee representative.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding developing a Committee response to items relevant to BPAC; the primary purpose of the meeting to prepare for the City Council meeting on October 28; wayfinding; mobility; the importance of receipt of comment from each Committee Member; adding to the conversation; the open-ended discussion on how the Committee wants to advise the City Council; and the Committee request for a presentation and for the request to provide input.

Chair Sadd read guidelines for making comments and invited members of the public to speak.

The following members of the public addressed the Committee:

Jessica Barker was called to speak but was not present.

Mary Daval expressed appreciation for the opportunity to speak and for comments from the Committee; indicated that she had not realized that additional information was available from the City Council agenda; reported providing input at a community meeting; proposed a trial period with the ability for the community to provide feedback; accepting community input regarding placement; allowing the City the right to move the kiosks; changing infrastructure; the draft RFP (Request for Proposals); and she suggested a provision for a minimum amount of revenue received from the kiosks.

Eric Shabsis indicated representing a IKE, a respondent to the RFP; discussed understanding community needs; facilitation of community engagement; the deployment bonus for Culver City when the first kiosk is installed; minimum guaranteed revenue stream; the proposed revenue share for Culver City; City directed content; unsold inventory; guaranteed annual programming time for use by Culver City; annual amount dedicated to local businesses; the commitment to work with community organizations; providing wayfinding kiosks; misinformation disseminated; he stated that the kiosks do not store personal data or provide surveillance of any kind and there is no cost to the City for installation; he clarified that he is a consultant for IKE and had been retained to help with community and stakeholder engagement; discussed years spent engaging with the community for several different projects; and work with the Culver City Education Foundation.

Discussion ensued between Mr. Shabsis, staff, and Committee Members regarding length of time for public speakers vs. for project representative presentations, and identifying Mr. Shabsis as a project representative and therefore not a member of public with a time limit.

Eric Shabsis, IKE representative, discussed letters of support submitted by local organizations; local organizations that declined invitations for dialogue; presentations to various City bodies; clarification that the kiosks will be installed on the sidewalk where it is wide enough to accommodate the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) pathway; previous installations across the country; coordination with Public Works departments in each city; the public right of way; community involvement; purview of the mobility committee and community to be involved in the process; ineffectiveness of kiosks that block the path; the intent to facilitate wayfinding; the advertising component that provides a revenue share to the City; and the kiosks as showcasing what Culver City has to offer.

Jessica Yas Barker, IKE representative, provided background on herself; discussed the competitive bidding process; international events; the sidewalks in Los Angeles that are not dynamic or engaging; street furniture; being mindful about not cluttering sidewalks; placement in high pedestrian volume zones; maps, wayfinding; integrations; transits; micro-mobility; designated applications to identify bicycle resources; apps customized by Culver City; raising awareness of local events; language translation; free Wi-Fi available; creating engaging space; streets for everyone; other California cities with IKE kiosks installed; skeptical cities; thoughtful integration with the community; strict privacy laws; anonymized data collected; voluntary participation; type of content, advertising, and capabilities; she clarified that there are no cameras in the kiosks in California; and she indicated that they would abide by city rules.

Alicia Ide, Management Analyst, clarified that members of the public were not part of the discussion process of the Committee.

Discussion ensued between IKE representatives, staff, and Committee Members regarding billboards in other cities; the larger cities that the kiosks are already located in; the carve out for kiosks; advertising that generates revenue for

the cities allowable on an interactive tool for the public good; percentage of the time the kiosk is used in an interactive way; lack of usage data available at the meeting, but the need to make a decision at the meeting; changing images displayed; percentage of images that are Culver City-based; local vs. national advertising; geolocation; providing an authentic local experience; highlighting local businesses; information displayed as driven by Culver City; functions available on phones; concern with driver distraction; the kiosks as a concierge for the neighborhood; placement of the city or neighborhood name on the kiosk; providing a more customized experience; non-sponsored content that is geolocated; clarification that Culver City does not have to pay for the kiosk; and content management; creation of the technology by IKEA; the ability of Culver City to request content creation from IKEA; prioritization; kiosk management and maintenance; removal of kiosks if the process is unsuccessful; minimum number of kiosks in order to have the program be financially viable; relocation rather than removal of kiosks; length of time to recoup costs; payment of revenue to the City starting in year one; clarification regarding what moving kiosks would cost the City; maintenance teams hired; damage; vandalism; replacement kiosks; 24-hour response to issues at no cost to Culver City; lack of definitive evidence that the kiosks are causing driver distractions; the static images that flip at a slow rate; redactions from the report; concern with competitors undercutting the offer; revenue status; reliability of payments by IKEA to cities in the past; the revenue share for Culver City; deployment of the first fifteen kiosks with the ability of Culver City to request additional kiosks; updates to map data; transit data; use of Open Source Data; business turnover in Culver City; wayfinding; coordination through Economic Development; receipt of updates from the general public; lack of control by Culver City; amount of advertising on the kiosks vs. wayfinding information; customized apps available from Culver City to the public; and keeping the focus of the discussion to items that pertain to the jurisdiction of the BPAC; slides encouraging people to interact with the kiosks; the interactive tool once the screen is touched; available wayfinding features; the eat and drink app; helping people understand what businesses and services are around them; the ability to share information to your phone; kiosk placement; sidewalk width; ADA law; availability of electricity; and potential locations identified.

Committee returned to public comment and the following members of the public addressed the Committee:

Mark Galanty provided background on himself; discussed trends that come and go; concern with real estate and safety issues; revenue from the number of people that use the kiosks and how long they are used; the importance of keeping the sidewalks clear; people who want to use the open space of sidewalks to make money; reduced safety with placing items on sidewalks; the goal to get eyes on screens; concern that money does not add up over time; thinking ahead to when the next company buys IKE; the competition for attention; data miners; long-term goals; and the actions of Santa Monica to put revenue over public use and public safety.

Michelle Weiner discussed the large billboards on the Westfield Mall; updating the sign ordinance; the carve out for kiosks; the long-time policy in Culver City to keep public space free of advertising; proposed locations of the kiosks; the amount of sidewalk space taken from pedestrians; concern with potential expansion if promised revenue is realized; the proposed Wesley and National location; the fact that 75% of the screen time would be used for advertising; concern that people most affected by the kiosks hear about the project last of all; back room dealing once the deal is formalized; and she proposed making a request for transparency to the City Council.

Eric Shabsis, IKE, interjected that they had asked to make an earlier presentation to the BPAC.

Jessica Yas Barker, IKE representative, clarified that the only presentation made outside of the City Council was made to the Planning Commission; responding to inquiry, she clarified the role of Andrew Weissman; she discussed RFP requirement to not do outreach to the City after the RFP was submitted; and the work of the consultants.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding; meeting goals; development of a point of view to share on the jurisdiction of mobility; concern with use of space in the public right of way; contract awarding and management; removal of kiosks if there are too many issues; the long-term contract; mobility; the rights of all pedestrians and cyclists; concern with obsolete technology taking public space meant for pedestrians and conveyance; the history of Culver City as being in opposition to billboards;

concern with degrading the quality of life and extraction of future value; ensuring that the location and look of the kiosks matches the look of Culver City; the uniqueness of Culver City; prioritizing bicycle, pedestrian, and transit information, especially in proximity to transit; location as dictating what is shown on the screen; liability concerns; issues in Los Angeles where the kiosks were revoked and covered up with a traditional billboard; infrastructure that is going in for the purpose advertising; a billboard to be utilized for wayfinding; ensuring intentional placement; and concern they will not be used if they are placed everywhere without consideration.

Further discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding competing needs for the area from the curb to property-line; the sidewalk as the refuge for pedestrians; increasing shade, seating, and trashcans; support for kiosks at bus shelters; restaurant usage of the sidewalks; use of the space for a money-making venture; the minimal ADA requirements; quality of life; placement; and support for guarding greenspace and allowing BPAC to have a say in placement.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding challenges with visibility; tradeoffs with location; weighing pros and cons of the kiosks; lack of demand for the kiosks; the minimal amount that would be added to the City budget; concern with process; lack of engagement or input from the public when making changes to right of way in Culver City; the accelerated timeline for the project; lack of transparency; the process for bringing in scooters; outreach and lack of response to the RFP; history of the effort; the Transit Visioning Study in 2018; visibility concerns; finding a win-win solution by placing the kiosks by bus shelters; size of the proposed kiosks; lack of options presented; the RFP process; advocacy of the issues by Dan O'Brien; the change made to the zoning law before the RFP; the proposal vs. the RFP; and concern with the length of the contract and the large differences in the bids.

Jessica Yas Barker, IKE, asserted that other companies that do bus shelter kiosks have more limited features; she discussed making the kiosks feel like a Culver City tool; she asserted that their strength was in software development; and she indicated that the bids were far apart because the other company was asking Culver City to pay upfront costs.

Eric Shabsis, IKE, stated that Culver City had invited bidders in August 2023 and he discussed efforts to engage with the community.

Jessica Yas Barker, IKE, discussed the work put into the response; and research they did into other companies.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding process for putting projects out to bid.

Eric Shabsis, IKE, discussed the RFQ (Request for Qualifications) put out in 2022; length of the process; efforts under the City Council prior to the pandemic; consideration by the Economic Development Committee; actions of the City of Berkeley; and additional information than what has been presented.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding a reminder about the focus of the meeting; typical bidding procedures; benefits to businesses in the area; driving foot traffic; mitigating transparency concerns by letting the BPAC have input in determining placements; providing options for placement and for features associated with each kiosk; support for providing bus information on the kiosks; people who have difficulty using their phones; people from other countries; acknowledgement of pros and cons; whether enough benefit is being provided for the public space; providing input on risks and opportunities in areas tied to mobility; concern with overstepping the bounds of the Committee; other issues BPAC has weighed in on related to use of the public right of way; the previous position BPAC took on restaurant seating in public right of way; rushing the item through before the upcoming election; concern with City Council procedure; and the inability of the public to see the RFPs until three days before they are voted on.

Eric Shabsis, IKE, stated that he was asked for the information from the City Council and the typical RFP process was followed.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding items that are decided without Committee input; appreciation for the input; clarification that the entire reason for the meeting was to craft a position from the BPAC on kiosks; determining a representative to present to the City Council; Committee consensus that the BPAC have involvement on placement; guaranteed transparency; concerns

with the overall process; proving valuable so the City Council wants to remand issues to the BPAC for input; prioritizing issues through a lens of mobility, transportation, wayfinding, and use of the sidewalk; having the authority to participate; Committee purview; concern with public awareness about a decision that will affect public right of way for the next ten years; acknowledging that the City Council is likely going to move forward and offering to help; public comment heard over many years; and the fast process after the item was reintroduced.

Further discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding agreement that the Committee respectfully ask to participate in the process for determining placement as part of their purview, and the feeling that the BPAC should not get into other points.

Eric Shabsis, IKE, stated that public right is way under the purview of the Public Works Department; he discussed the contract with Culver City; multiple jurisdictions within Culver City; City determination of who is involved in the process; support by IKE for inviting the community and stakeholders into the process; interest expressed by Business Improvement Districts (BIDs); and past experience indicating that when stakeholders are involved in projects, they are more successful.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding concerns that would be addressed by the Public Works Department; involvement of the Economic Development Department; potential involvement by the Transportation Department; Public Works as likely lead department; involvement of the City Council and the City Manager.

Eric Shabsis, IKE, discussed neighborhood involvement in the Higuera NTMP (Neighborhood Traffic Management Plan).

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding agreement that the Chair address the City Council under Reports from Committees to express Committee consensus that location choices come back to BPAC for Committee and public input, including images of problematic installations in other cities that illustrate what can go wrong; purview of the Public Works Department.

Jessica Yas Barker, IKE, stated that photographs included in the RFP response are an inadequate way to provide perspective;

discussed strict triangle of visibility laws; ADA requirements and kiosk accessibility; thought put into the process; and concern with using photos as proof that kiosks are unsafe.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding the example in Santa Monica; ensuring the City Council understands that there are legitimate concerns; reminding the City Council to look out for pedestrians and wheelchair users; the role of the BPAC; keeping the message positive; collaborations with Public Works; highlighting bad decisions elsewhere; providing a public forum; presentation of the images; providing balance by providing examples of successful installations; and use of images to illustrate why the issue should return to the BPAC; proposed images to be used, and clarification that the BPAC is not presenting solutions but is requesting involvement with Public Works to work on options for placement to address high pedestrian areas and visibility concerns.

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Item A-2

Reconsideration of Formation of One or More Ballona Creek Bike Path Ad Hoc Subcommittees and Appointments Thereto

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding ensuring that everyone has a role and a voice on the BPAC; consideration of having multiple subcommittees related to Ballona Creek; ongoing and special projects versus maintenance items; projects such as expansion of the bike path, an additional entry from Ince with the possibility of a bridge, and refurbishment between Duquesne and Syd Kronenthal; and support for having multiple subcommittees.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding clarification that the expansion was not a Culver City project; a suggestion to have one subcommittee that deals with projects and one subcommittee focused on other issues such as safety, general maintenance, mobility challenges, etc.; annual formation and dissolution; number of people on each subcommittee; Member willingness to serve; support for the betterment of the multi-use path; concern with pedestrian safety on the bike path; motorized vehicles; the feeling that there are more pedestrians than cyclists; future agenda items; allowing everyone to have a role; the

ability for Members to address issues whether or not they serve on a particular subcommittee; reconsideration of subcommittee membership; concern with people being focused on their personal interests; the job of Committee Members to serve Culver City; ensuring that everyone on the BPAC has a subcommittee assignment; and clarification on ad hoc subcommittee objectives and length of terms.

MOVED BY MEMBER FALTER, SECONDED BY MEMBER CAMPBELL AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED (ABSENT MEMBERS MARON AND SALEM), THAT THE BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

1A. DISSOLVE THE BALLONA CREEK BIKE PATH AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE; AND,

2A. CREATE A NEW BALLONA CREEK BIKE PATH PROJECTS AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE FROM OCTOBER 24, 2024 UNTIL COMPLETION OF THE BALLONA CREEK BIKE PATH SUSTAINABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY PROJECT WITH MEMBERS FALTER AND TWICHELL SERVING; AND,

2B. CREATE A NEW BALLONA CREEK BIKE PATH MOBILITY AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE FROM OCTOBER 24, 2024 UNTIL JUNE 30, 2025 WITH MEMBERS CAMPBELL, MORGAN, AND SALEM SERVING.

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Public Comment for Items NOT On the Agenda (Continued)

Chair Morgan invited public comment.

Alicia Ide, Management Analyst, reported that no requests to speak had been received.

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Member Requests to Agendize Future Items and Report to City Council

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding clarification that the report to City Council was discussed and agreed upon in Item A-1; agreement to provide photos to staff in time to be displayed at the City Council meeting; items to agendize; updating collision data from 2018; identification and mapping of other dangerous intersections in Culver City; agreement to request updated information during an agendized discussion of safety at the intersection of Wesley and National; regular updates from

subcommittees that provide information on the Bike Path at each meeting; motorized vehicles on Ballona Creek Bike Path; enforcement; electric motorcycles; the multi-use path; having a pedestrian discussion; appropriate staff to include; and inviting the Culver City Police Department (CCPD) to the discussion.

Committee consensus was achieved to agendaize the following items for discussion: safety at the corner of Wesley and National; and safety of pedestrians on Ballona Creek Park to Playa Trail

Alicia Ide, Management Analyst, discussed other items previously agendaized for future meetings including the Safe Routes to School event; bike parking for events; general use of sidewalks, equipment, and other uses of sidewalks; focusing on safety and consultation with CCPD; receipt of an update on the TriSchool Safety plan; the new Daylighting Law and plans by Culver City to comply.

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Committee Requests to Speak at Upcoming City Council Meetings

This item was covered during Item A-1 with consensus that Chair Sadd would present the BPAC request to be consulted on placement of kiosks under Reports from Committees at the October 28, 2024 City Council meeting.

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Items from Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Members/Staff (Continued)

None.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 9:32 P.M., the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee adjourned to November 21, 2024.

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Alicia Ide
SECRETARY of the Culver City Bicycle and Pedestrian
Advisory Committee
Culver City, California

APPROVED

Dorothy Sadd
CHAIR of the Culver City Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory
Committee
Culver City, California

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that, on the date below written, these minutes were filed in the Office of the City Clerk, Culver City, California and constitute the Official Minutes of said meeting.

Jeremy Bocchino
CITY CLERK

Date