

Storm Water Management Advisory Board

Minutes

from meeting held on Tuesday May 21, 2024

Present: Nefi M. Garza, Suzanne Brennan Scott, Rodolfo Munoz, Kelsey Ann Krueger, Debbie Reid, Jennifer Ramos, Peter Onofre, Bernardino N. Villaseñor, Roger Andrade, Bianca Maldonado, and Patrice Melancon.

Absent: John Gilbert Hafernick Jr.

Staff: Robert Reyna, Victoria Escobedo, Sabrina Santiago, and Mario Hune

In Attendance: Barbara Wittee-Howell

Minutes for the meeting on April 16, 2024 were approved. Motion by Patrice Melancon and seconded by Debbie Reid.

Nefi Garza, Chair provided a brief history of the Atlas 14 history, purpose, and impact to the affected residents. This is important to keep in mind as we go through the board presentations and begin to review projects and options.

Susan Scott asked how does the board react with the future of Atlas 15?

Jennifer Ramos added the importance of how it impacts the insurance rates.

Staff Presentation

Robert Reyna introduced Sabrina Santiago who led the presentation for Chapter 4, Water Quality. General questions and discussion took place.

Low Impact Development (LID) part of the presentation provided Public Works efforts and incentives to incorporate LID.

Susan Scott asked how many people are taking advantage of the LID incentives? Sabrina replied that maybe one, to her recollection.

Susan Scott asked if it should be reconsidered? Nefi Garza shared that the developer does not really benefit from the incentive, only the final owner.

Rodolfo Munoz added that LID does not work very well and there are limited trades and too many hoops to go through to implement the LID features.

Jennifer Ramos asked how many take advantage of LID that choose to use FILO? Sabrina shared that there are maybe 10 or so and her department tries to advocate for developers to use LID.

Roberto Reyna proposed to add this to a future discussion to review how best to incentivize LID in a future meeting.

Roberto Reyna presented Public Works efforts to address water quality. Street Sweeping, Remember the River Campaign which placed 2nd in the Governor's Award last year. Nefi asked if there were any discussions about increasing the number of street sweeping cycles. Roberto Reyna responded sharing

that staff is looking at how to prove the need for more cycles. Tracking data and seeing what is out there with our current cycles. Storm Water is adding a mini sweeper to address cleaning protected bike lanes.

Debbie Reid share there was a need to do more than just sweep, but also scrape the curb line would be helpful. Roberto Reyna shared that this is a feature that is under consideration.

Bianca Maldonado stated that SAWS does not help with these efforts.

Roberto Reyna agreed and shared that Storm Water Operations is contacted by Solid Waste to clean up hydraulic spills and leaks because of their operations.

Nefi asked if there was enough time to go to Chapter 5 Drainage Issues or hold to the next meeting. The board and staff agreed to move forward.

Victoria Escobedo presented Chapter 5 and covered the types of issues including property impact, street flooding, structural flooding onto the street or other structures.

Nefi Garza asked about priority scoring when these issues are reported to the city. Victoria Escobedo shared that this would be covered in Chapter 9.

Victoria Escobedo continued to cover low water crossings, flood plain issues, maintenance and erosion and regulatory gaps. Roberto Reyna shared that there would be a future discussion about prioritization of these issues at a future meeting.

Victoria Escobedo continued the presentation to cover the issues that Storm Water does not address. Street ponding, property ponding and civil conveyance. Issues for other jurisdictions are also not addressed.

Susan Scott shared that the city cannot cause flooding in another jurisdiction. Roberto Reyna responded that we can send water but not cause adverse impacts. Victoria shared these issues are treated like civil conveyance issues.

Jennifer Ramos asked if there is a master use plan with other jurisdictions. Roberto Reyna shared that we do coordinate with other jurisdictions to address issues.

Bianca Maldonado shared that residents are the main source of identifying problems. The interface between Storm Water and 311 should be improved. Victoria Escobedo agreed and shared that there is not a section in 311 for storm water issues. There are efforts to improve this issue. Until then the public can contact Storm Water Division directly with specific issues. Robert shared that we are getting better at responding to community concerns.

Nefi Garza added that part of the charge of the board is to help staff prioritize issues to be addressed with the limited resources.

Nefi Garza and the board agreed to move Chapter 6 to next month's meeting.

Debbie Reid asked if it would be possible to have alternates for this board. Mario Hune shared that he would investigate this request and reminded the Board that they were appointed by Council, and it may not be possible.

Meeting Adjourned 7:25 pm