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CALIFORNIA



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COMMISSION MINUTES Thursday, August 27, 2020 2:00 p.m.

**Members of the public who wish to speak to the Commission during the meeting must submit a "Request to Speak" form to the Board Secretary prior to the commencement of the public comments for each agenda item of interest. Comments by the public on matters not identified on the agenda, but within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission will be heard during the item designated as "Public Comments Period." The length of public speaking time is two minutes, unless the presiding officer grants some other amount of time.*

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Meeting called to order at: 2:04 p.m. by President **Louie**. Commissioners present: **Marez, DiCostanzo, Garcia, Thomas, Vasquez**. Also present: General Manager Arturo Chavez, Assistant General Manager Edgar Garcia, El Pueblo Staff Darlene Lopez, El Pueblo Staff Ailene Ignacio, and Deputy City Attorney Cheryl Soriano.

1. WELCOMING REMARKS.

Commissioner Louie welcomed those present to the meeting.

2. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM.

Commissioners Alarcon, Collado, and Samarjian were absent. A quorum was established.

3. EL PUEBLO COMMISSION ELECTION.

The Commissioners continued the election process from the previous meeting on August 13, 2020. Ms. Soriano advised the Commissioners that the nomination process would have to be restarted. Commissioner DiCostanzo nominated sitting Commission President Louie and was seconded by Commissioner Marez. Commissioner Garcia nominated Commissioner Vasquez. Commissioner Vasquez seconded the nomination after Ms. Soriano clarified that she could second her own nomination. Commissioner Louie called for Public Comment. At 2:15 p.m. El Pueblo Staff Ailene Ignacio notified the Commission that there was a technical issue with Zoom that would not allow El Pueblo Staff to unmute the public participants.

9. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS. (Taken out of order).

Commissioner Vasquez took the brief pause in the meeting to extend condolences to Commissioner Alarcon on a loss in her family and congratulations to Commissioner Collado on welcoming a baby.

Commissioner Louie tabled the elections and public comment until the Zoom issue could be corrected. He requested that representatives from Metro present to the Commission as planned in the meantime. Ms. Elizabeth Carvajal and Ms. Megan Nangle spoke to the Commission regarding planned improvements to the Los Angeles Union Station Forecourt and Esplanade. Ms. Nangle updated the Commission on the status of the project, stating that they are currently at eighty-five percent (85%) of the design phase. This project includes four (4) separate sites around El Pueblo. The project is being funded through grants from Caltrans. The projects include a raised pedestrian crossing between Union Station and El Pueblo, separated bicycle lanes, extended bus parking, and the conversion of a parking lot at Union Station into a plaza. The public comment period on a proposed addendum to the original proposal recently closed. There were no new significant environmental impacts from the new plans. This project also included traffic pattern changes that were discussed with stakeholders including El Pueblo and the City. Ms. Nangle stated that ten (10) historic lights along the east side of Alameda St. would need to be replaced. She shared that Metro would soon be conducting utility surveys to help inform the project design. These surveys would take approximately thirteen (13) weeks to complete ending in approximately late October 2020. She indicated that there would be occasional directional closures, but that no full closures of any streets bordering El Pueblo. She concluded by sharing with Commissioners that construction was expected to begin in early 2022 ending in 2023. Commissioner Louie stated that this project originated from Union Station's desire to be connected to the surrounding community. He shared that the budget for the project was more than twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000). Commissioner Vasquez inquired as to how the Commission could be actively involved and if there was anything they could do to help expedite their timeline. Ms. Nangle thanked Commissioner Vasquez for her interest and said that Commissioners involvement through participation as public speakers at the upcoming Metro board meeting would be welcomed. She also stated that Commissioners involvement and support of Council District 14 during their leadership transition would be helpful. Ms. Carvajal echoed Ms. Nangle's statements and shared a commitment to keep engaging with the Commission on the project.

Ms. Ignacio updated the Commission on the Zoom technical issues. Having spoken to El Pueblo's ITA representative, Ly Lam, Ms. Ignacio stated that the issue was with Zoom. Ms. Lam had no timeline available for resolution of the issues. Ms. Ignacio stated that the Commission could allow all public participants to unmute themselves, however cautioned that El Pueblo staff would not be able to regulate participation. Ms. Soriano stated that the meeting would be in violation of the Brown Act if there was an inability to hear public comment. At 2:40 PM Commissioner Louie suggested moving forward with the meeting allowing the public to mute and unmute themselves. Mr. Chavez warned that this would go against ITA protocols, but left it to the Commission to decide how to move forward. Commissioner Garcia and Marez agreed with Mr. Chavez and called for the meeting to be adjourned. Commissioner Vasquez reiterated her request for the public to access video of the Commission Meetings and Mr. Chavez informed her that a report on this request was to be presented at the meeting. There were no issues that would require an emergency meeting be held before the next scheduled Commission meeting.

5. ADJOURNMENT.

Commissioner Louie called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Garcia moved and Commissioner Marez seconded. Vote: Louie, Yes; Marez, Yes; DiCostanzo, Yes; Garcia, Yes; Vasquez, Yes. The motion carried. Commissioner Thomas was absent, and Commissioner Vasquez reminded her fellow commissioners that they should announce when they exit the meeting for the record. The meeting was adjourned at 2:44 p.m..