

CITY OF SAN MATEO
Sustainability & Infrastructure
Commission
September 13, 2023
7:00 PM



COMMISSION MEMBERS
Susan Rowinski, Chair
Kimiko Narita, Vice Chair
Sigalle Michael
Pam Rittelmeyer
Clifford Robbins

City Hall Council Chamber
330 W. 20th Avenue
San Mateo CA 94403

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Present: Chair Rowinski, Commissioners Robbins, Rittelmeyer, and Michael. Vice Chair Narita participated after approval of the minutes at 7:10 pm via teleconference.

Absent: None.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Sustainability and Infrastructure Commission Minutes - Approval

Motion made to approve the minutes of August 9, 2023. Motion passed 4-0

Moved: Robbins, Seconded: Michael

Ayes: Robbins, Rittelmeyer, Rowinski, and Michael

Noes: None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Yiwei Tang spoke regarding the Crown Castle permit approval for 729 West Capistrano Way. She requested revocation of the permit for 729 West Capistrano Way and suggested making Crown Castle reapply for the permit at another location due to their misrepresentation. She requested tightening the ordinance and enhancing the approval process to reflect the interests of San Mateo rather than Crown Castle.

Elaine Salinger, Chair of the San Mateo County Bike and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, spoke about making the roads safer for bicyclists. The number of cyclists in San Mateo County has not increased since 2002. There should be greater focus on bike safety. Many bicyclists don't bike because of the near misses. A good source of data is the key to determining where the trouble spots are and suggested looking at data for near collisions instead of just reports showing the collisions. The statewide program, SWITRS, only reports actual collisions and not near-miss data. Her committee is considering starting a pilot program called Safe Shared Streets Video Pilot Program that will allow regular cyclists to video and report near misses to law enforcement, which will then be put on a map that Public Works can use to see the problem areas.

Adam Steffes spoke in support of Yiwei Tang.

OLD BUSINESS

2. Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects Update

Sue-Ellen Atkinson, Principal Transportation Planner, and Nicolette Chan, Associate Transportation Planner, made a presentation to the Sustainability and Infrastructure Commission, acting as the City of San Mateo's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, to receive an update on bicycle and pedestrian projects.

Commissioners asked questions of staff.

Public Comment. John Felder, Elaine Salinger, Robert Whitehair, Max Moutner, Michael Ragan, Mike Swire, Cooper Wong, and David Hunt spoke to the topic.

Commissioner comments included: There are a lot of cost restraints for the City, so making it bicycle safe isn't easy; suggested Cooper Wong, public speaker, email Sue-Ellen about improvements near Aragon High School; continuation of public engagement to address public concern is very important; more funding should be budgeted for the public engagement section; the near miss data sounds interesting; look into the safety issues at Palm and 25th Avenue.

NEW BUSINESS

3. Sustainability Buildings Strategy – Project Update

Andrea Chow, Sustainability Analyst, and Ryan Gardner, Sustainability Program Manager at Rincon Consultants, made a presentation to the Commission to receive an update on the development of “Electrify San Mateo – Building the Future: City of San Mateo Sustainable Buildings Strategy.”

Commissioner Rittelmeyer had to recuse herself for this item due to a conflict with her employment.

Commissioners asked questions of staff.

Public Comment. Annette Bianco, Fernando Peña, Joanne Aiello, Elaine Salinger, Jeff Lamont (also submitted a potential cost range of all-electric conversion as public record), Ricki McGlashan, Robert Whitehair, Teri Whitehair, Michael Ragan, Alex Wagonfeld, Linda Bogue, Larry Ivich, Ted McKinnon, Dashiell Leeds, Pierce Nguyen, Megan Strain, Anjuli Mishra, Michelle Hudson, Claire Shintani, Mike Swire, Jordan Grimes, Bruce Nagel, Perry Gu, and Angelina Soldatos spoke to the topic.

Commissioner comments included: Community outreach to all stakeholders is going to be very important; continue to be transparent and clear on the dates and policy options being considered; concerns about grid liability and working with PG&E; faster analysis on the feasibility of the January 2025 date and, if it is not feasible, can alternative dates be provided; general support of electrification but hopes there can be a stabilization of costs; incentives and rebates are very important but need to be better tracked and easier to access.

REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENT FROM COMMISSIONER AND STAFF

- Andrea Chow mentioned the Bayfront Clean-up, which is Saturday, September 23rd at Seal Point Park starting at 9:00 am. She also pointed out the All Aboard Peninsula family-friendly scavenger hunt event

spearheaded by 350 Silicon Valley highlighting Caltrain on September 23rd starting at 11:15 am on B Street.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjourn: 11:00 PM

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