



City of Fort Bragg

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Meeting Minutes Public Works and Facilities Committee

Wednesday, April 27, 2016

9:00 AM

Town Hall, 363 N. Main Street

Special Meeting

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Committee Member turner at 9:02am.

Present: 2 - Dave Turner and Lindy Peters

ROLL CALL

Staff members present: Public Works Director Tom Varga, City Manager Linda Ruffing, Public Works Project Analyst Crystal Prairie, Planner Scott Perkins.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None to approve at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

- 2 [16-163](#) Receive Report and Provide Recommendation to City Council Regarding Placement of Steps in the Public Right of Way in Front of 144 East Laurel Street

Item was moved to first item on Agenda. Public Works Director Varga gave a brief overview of the staff report.

There was discussion about whether or not there were other areas in town where there were steps that encroach onto City sidewalk. It was mentioned there are some at City Hall, and on Main Street.

The property owner proposed putting hand rails so that there was not a tripping hazard, and proposed that the bench in front of the store next door be moved. There would be only one step, that would be only 12" into the sidewalk. That would require a relocation of a sign and pole. The property owner would be willing to pay for the relocation of the sign. To put the step inside would be a hardship as the office is only a couple hundred square feet in area.

There was discussion regarding the many other stores in town that are not ADA accessible, and the possibility of setting precedent of encroachment onto the sidewalk, which could be a potential issue in the future. There are businesses that are out of compliance with ADA that are open to potential litigation that may request to put a ramp into the sidewalk. This is a unique case. There is currently a 10" rise to get into the building that the property owner is concerned about regarding safety.

Committee Member Peters stated that Council wants to help anyone trying to improve their business as long as it doesn't hurt other businesses.

Items will be handled on a case by case basis for now, if a problem becomes evident, will come back to committee to set a policy.

City Manager Ruffing stated that the Resolution would include the special conditions in order to make it clear that this issue was looked at as a singular case.

Committee recommended that this item go back to Council on the Consent Calendar with their recommendation for approval of the plan as submitted.

This Staff Report was recommended for approval

- 1 [16-162](#) Receive Report and Provide Recommendation to City Council Regarding Use of Electric Personal Assistive Mobility Devices on Sidewalks and Streets in Fort Bragg

Public Works Director Varga gave a brief overview of the staff report.

There was discussion of insurance for individuals on EPAMDs. There was discussion of the insurance policy and having the City as an additional insured on the policy and policy limits. As a general practice, the more an activity is regulated, the more potential there is for litigation.

There was discussion about disallowing use of EPAMDs on Main Street, which would have to include Caltrans as that is a state right of way.

Lynne Baumgartner spoke and made a point to say that San Francisco allows Segways on all bike paths, as she had spoken with someone with the City yesterday. She has come up with alternative routes, such as through the cemetery, up Elm street. Potentially out to the trestle and back (not on the Coastal Trail, but on the other side.) Use Harold Street and go up to CV Starr. Potentially Timberwolf stadium. Looking for safe, educational, and historical route through Fort Bragg. Mentioned that there are Segways all over the world, and it could potentially bring tourists to town who are just interested in riding Segways. She is not interested in downtown as it is congested and narrow. There will be a guide, and a trailing person on the tours.

City Manager Ruffing asked about a new law that took effect in January prohibiting people wearing ear buds while driving. There was discussion that the tour leader would wear a headset with a microphone. Committee Member Peters asked if the headset would cover both ears or only just one. Lynne was unclear as to whether both would be covered. She stated that people would be able to hear traffic even with headset on.

There was discussion about the possibility of licenses and how to regulate individuals on personal EPAMDs.

There was discussion about adding language to the Municipal Code stating that EPAMDs are not pedestrians. This brings up a potential issue regarding using crosswalks and being able to press the button to change the light if there are not cars present in order for the light to change.

Committee Member Peters stated that he felt they should be allowed on bike paths, but not on

sidewalks. There are a lot of bike paths in town. He travels town on his bike quite often. Public Works Director Varga mentioned that it may be appropriate to say that EPAMDs could be used on paths outside of parks, lanes, shoulders and other parts of public streets. Language could be added from the CVC as well.

There was a question about riding into Otis Johnson Park. City Manager Ruffing mentioned that the Segways should be parked at the top, and people could walk into the park.

There was mention of the Chestnut Street Project and if EPAMDs would be allowed. It would not be appropriate when there are school children present. The tours would be scheduled at certain times, in order to avoid this. It is possible to except this trail.

There was a question as to how STOP signs are approached. If there are eight people on Segways they all stop together and then go through as a group.

Lynne has applied to the State Park for a concession, to try and get tours on the Haul Road.

There was a question if a Segway could be "walked" like a bicycle. They weigh about 25kilos and they can be powered by bluetooth, if the stick is removed. They can be parked.

Public Works Director Varga suggested that he have a meeting with Lynne to brainstorm regulations in order to set policy.

There was discussion of employees present taking a tour prior to the next meeting.

Committee recommends disallowing EPAMDs in Central Business District, allowing them in bike lanes and on bike paths. Work out the insurance limits. Have the route plan approved by Public Works Director. Possibly use the Encroachment Permit Process. Run it by the City Attorney and then bring it back to this Committee.

This Staff Report was referred to staff

3 [16-165](#) Receive Report and Provide Recommendation to City Council Regarding Commercial Use of Coastal Trail

Public Works Director Varga gave a brief summary of the staff report.

There was discussion about what is considered "commercial" use. There was a question as to where there was a restriction of commercial use on the trail from the Coastal Commission. There are restrictions to "passive recreational activity."

There was discussion regarding weddings and if the ceremony or reception would be allowed on the trail. It would be limited to the people there, not chairs or anything else, and would not restrict access to anyone else using the trail. Potentially the wedding would be allowed but not the ceremony. Will be necessary to limit parking spaces. No amplified sound. Scott Perkins mentioned what State Parks requires for a wedding as he is currently involved in planning one. It was suggested that the City get a copy of their policy. There was a question about what fees to charge, if any. A service charge would be necessary in order to cover expenses of the permit process.

There was discussion of potentially limiting areas where events could take place on the trail, or to have specific areas that could be "reserved." There was discussion of having larger weddings at the Noyo Center property.

City Manager Ruffing read the covenant from the Coastal Conservancy regarding the Coastal Trail. There was discussion of the Coastal Commission Requirements, which would trigger a Coastal Development Permit, and would need to be approved by the Commission. There are several criteria which need to be met for this.

There was discussion of the Independence Day celebration and Paul Bunyan Days celebration.

There was discussion regarding filming on the Coastal Trail. It doesn't seem reasonable to close down the entire park at any point. Perhaps a specific location could be "reserved" for a length of time. The film industry has brought some important things to town, including money to the community. What would be the appropriate Fee Schedule? The goal is to not be a hindrance.

It was stated that the commercialization of the Coastal Trail is not an option. If a person is required to have a business license, then the activity should be disallowed at the Coastal Trail. There will be no allowance for commercial transactions.

Recommendation was to have staff do additional research, and bring back to this Committee before presentation to the full Council.

This Staff Report was referred to staff

MATTERS FROM COMMITTEE / STAFF

Committee Member Peters questioned when the speed cushions at Cedar would be installed. One was installed yesterday, and the other one is to be installed today.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned by Committee Member Turner at 11:15 am.