



ReBuild Houston Oversight Committee

Meeting Minutes: January 24, 2012

ATTENDANCE AT MEETING:

Theldon R. Branch, III, Chair - **Present**
Ann Lents, Vice Chair - **Present**
Frances Castaneda Dyess, Working Group Chair - **Present**
Dwight Boykins, Working Group Chair - **Present**
Edward Taravella - **Present**
C.P. "Chip" Bryan - **Present**
Honorable Bert Keller, Working Group Chair - **Present**
Gilbert Herrera, Working Group Chair - **Present**
Jeff Ross, Working Group Chair - **Present**
Council Member Oliver Pennington - **Present**

1. Call to Order / Welcome

Chairman Theldon Branch called the meeting to order at 10:13 a.m. The meeting began late due to an earlier meeting in the conference room running over.

2. Approval of the Minutes

A motion to approve the meeting minutes was made, seconded and approved unanimously.

3. Mayor's Meeting with Chairman – Recap

Mr. Branch provided a summary of the next topic and introduced the Mayor.

4. Vision for ReBuild Houston Oversight Committee

The Mayor began by stating she appreciates the committee members' service to the City. She knows that this committee was recently ramped up this past July. The goal has been for the committee members to provide an advisory role to Public Works by asking questions as talented laymen.

Topics addressed by the Mayor included:

- Purpose of visit is to talk to the Committee's working groups to help move you forward.
- Recognition of the new 10 year planning process and some of the difficulties in that transition.
- Committee's first large piece of work ahead as a result of PWE's DRAFT "5 + 5 Plan".

- Drainage Fee revenues and expenses including their allowed uses.
- Moving process along from the Working Group level to the Oversight Committee level for recommendations on the “5 + 5 Plan”.
- Pledge made by mayor to maintain the current 5 year CIP best way possible.
- Recommended changes to CIP will involve discussions with affected district council members and will need their buy-in. Comprehensive dialogue needed with any recommended change.
- Change to the current CIP is a policy decision that will need to go to City Council for approval.

It was asked what the role of Oversight Committee members is during the CIP District Town Hall meetings. The Mayor responded it is the Committee members’ role to let the public know that you are there and serve as their ombudsman.

Mr. Branch made following points during the discussion:

- He will arrange for a meeting with Deputy Director Susan Bandy to discuss reporting. He will invite both Mr. Herrera and Mr. Keller.
- Discussions have been had on the working group level and no formal votes have taken place by the whole Committee but we will be doing this in the near future.

5. PWE’s DRAFT “5 + 5 Plan”

Dale Rudick began by introducing the PWE staff members present which were there to help address the Committee’s questions. Staff members present included: Dan Menendez, Mark Loethen, Carol Haddock and Paresh Lad.

On January 18, the committee members were provided with the DRAFT PWE “5 + 5 Plan” which included a DRAFT FY 2013-2017 CIP plan and the DRAFT “+ 5 Plan” based on Prioritized Needs. The “+ 5 Plan” included 3 exhibits (Strom Drainage, Thoroughfares & Collectors, and Local Streets) with related tables for identified Need Areas. Also, available to the Committee was Version 2.0 of the CIP Process Manual that was posted online. Mr. Rudick stated that staff would not repeat the SWEET demonstration that has been performed in the past. The material presented is a direct product of the SWEET model. It is a DRAFT product that is still evolving and will continue to get better. As stated several times in the past, there are two areas PWE needs the input from the Committee:

- Weighting Distribution for the Need Prioritization
- Funding Allocation by Component

The CIP District Town Hall meetings will likely begin the week of February 13 and will continue to March 1 or later. Mr. Rudick asked the members to plan on attending some of these meetings so they are able to get a good representation of the public comments so that, as committee members, they can respond accordingly with their consensus. PWE is requesting the Oversight Committee's input on the above stated areas shortly after the conclusion of the CIP District Town Hall meetings.

Many questions were asked of staff by the members relating to flood insurance, flooded underpasses, pothole measure vs. PCR, current CIP projects that do not fit in the identified need areas, etc. Council Member Pennington asked if the "5 + 5 Plan" proposal would be in compliance with the ordinance regarding ReBuild Houston. *Update: The question was posed to the COH legal department and it was confirmed the "5 + 5 Plan" process and proposal would be in compliance with the Charter and ordinance.*

Mr. Boykins asked if the Committee could have two meetings in February now that we have this first draft of Prioritized Need Areas. Chairman Branch said we would and will try to schedule the first meeting prior to the District Town Hall meetings commencing. Mr. Branch also invited all members to attend the already scheduled January 30, 2012 Planning and Programming Working Group meeting to be held at 611 Walker in the 20th floor conference room at 9:00 a.m.

6. CIP Sign Prototype

Mr. Rudick distributed two prototypes of ReBuild Houston branded CIP signs that are specific to DDSRF projects (attached). The distinction between the two signs is that when a project is being funded (in whole or in part) by the drainage utility fee there will be a gold banner across the bottom of the sign stating "Your Drainage Fees at Work". Water and Wastewater CIP projects will continue to utilize the current white and blue design.

- 7. Working Group Reports:** Not addressed due to time constraints
- 8. ReBuild Houston Executive Report:** Not addressed due to time constraints
- 9. Old Business:** Not addressed due to time constraints
- 10. New Business:** Not addressed due to time constraints
- 11. Public Comments** – None provided
- 12. Adjourn** – The Committee adjourned at 12.46 p.m.

Attachments

- ReBuild Houston Street and Drainage CIP sign prototypes