

**Infrastructure & Growth Council Committee
Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, February 18, 2009

1:30 p.m.

Municipal Plaza B Room

Members Present: Councilmember Diane Cibrian, *District 8*
Councilmember Jennifer Ramos, *District 3*
Councilmember Philip Cortez, *District 4*
Councilmember Lourdes Galvan, *District 5*

Members Absent: *None*

Staff Present: T.C. Broadnax, *Assistant City Manager*; Roderick Sanchez, *Planning & Development Services Director*; Ted Murphree, *Assistant City Attorney II*; David Garza, *Housing and Neighborhood Services Director*; Ramon Mendez, *Housing and Neighborhood Services Assistant Director*; Liza Meyer, *Office of Environmental Policy*; Lisa Lopez, *Office of the City Clerk*

Others Present: Laura Lopez, *Texas Department of Transportation*; Michael R. Acosta, *Texas Department of Transportation*; Bob McCullough, *CPS Energy*; John Bonnin, *CPS Energy*; Jelynn Burley, *CPS Energy*; Theresa Cortez, *CPS Energy*; Lisa Lewis, *CPS Energy*; Gonzalo Martinez, *CPS Energy*; Rick Maron, *CPS Energy*; Jerri Ann Jones, *VIA*; John Kaznowski, *SAWS*

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Cibrian called the meeting to order.

2. Citizens to be Heard

There were no citizens to be heard.

3. Approval of Minutes for the December 17, 2008 Infrastructure & Growth Council Committee Meeting

Councilmember Ramos moved to approve the Minutes of the December 17, 2008 Infrastructure & Growth Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Galvan seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Consideration of Staff's recommendation on the process for developing an on-premise Sign Ordinance

Presented by Rod Sanchez, Director, Planning & Development Services Department

Mr. Rod Sanchez reported that a Council Consideration Request (CCR) had been received that directed the Planning & Development Services Staff to review the standards for Off-Premise

Signs and determine the possibility of creating new standards consistent with the standards recently adopted by City Council. He spoke to the proposed schedule for evaluating and amending the On-Premise Sign Ordinance and noted that staff had met with the Development Community and agreed to postpone this item. As a result, Mr. Sanchez proposed that a draft Ordinance be brought to City Council in January, 2010. During this time, they will share the draft with key stakeholders and provide them 60 days to provide feedback.

Chairperson Cibrian indicated that it was important to make Councilmember Clamp aware of this request, as he was the author of the initial CCR.

Mario Hune, District 10 Staff Member, indicated that Councilmember Clamp concurred with Mr. Sanchez's assessment and recommendation to bring the issue back at a later time.

In response to Councilmember Ramos, Mr. Sanchez provided a listing of the aforementioned stakeholders to include: Electrical Board; S.A. Conservation Society; Sign Industry; Neighborhood Organizations; Building Owners & Managers Association (BOMA); Chambers of Commerce; Scenic San Antonio; and San Antonio Restaurant Association.

Councilmember Galvan moved to accept Staff recommendation of bringing forward the Digital On-Premise Sign Ordinance in January, 2010. Councilmember Ramos seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Briefing and possible action regarding Utility Graffiti Abatement Plans (SAWS, CPS, TxDOT, and Union Pacific Railroad)

Presented by David D. Garza, Director, Housing and Neighborhood Services Department

Chairperson Cibrian expressed concern regarding Union Pacific Railroad's (UPR) non-attendance at previous meetings and suggested that they author a letter to higher UPR Officials if they are unable to present before the Committee.

Mr. David Garza provided an overview of the request directing City Staff to work with utility companies including CPS Energy, San Antonio Water System (SAWS), Union Pacific Railroad (UPR) and Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) in developing comprehensive plans to abate graffiti on their respective properties infrastructure. He spoke to the Graffiti Abatement Plans submitted and indicated that the update would include: 1) Amount and type of abatement conducted; 2) Response times for addressing graffiti; 3) Outreach efforts; and 4) Proactive strategies.

Mr. John Kaznowski, SAWS, discussed the Abatement Plan for SAWS and highlighted the ideal response for graffiti removal. He emphasized the importance in safeguarding water and spoke of the routine inspections conducted. He discussed preventative maintenance operations and outlined preventative measures taken by SAWS. He also indicated that they were reviewing alternate coatings and cleaners.

Councilmember Cortez expressed appreciation to SAWS for their efforts in eradicating graffiti in the City.

Chairperson Cibrian concurred with Councilmember Cortez and emphasized the seriousness of graffiti abatement.

Mr. Rick Maron, CPS Energy, expanded on the buildings and structures subject to vandalism and outlined the four methods utilized in graffiti notification. He discussed their graffiti abatement process and noted that their target completion time was 2 – 5 business days from receipt of notification. He spoke to graffiti prevention efforts and provided an overview of their service districts and the number of work orders completed by CPS Energy Painters from November 2007 – February 2009.

In response to Councilmember Galvan, Mr. Maron further discussed prevention efforts. Councilmember Galvan spoke of the hours spent in labor and the products used to clean up graffiti and encouraged a more proactive approach to the graffiti problem. She suggested a rewards program and commented that the penalties were not stiff enough. She expressed concern with graffiti in her District and the lack of cameras and police enforcement. She suggested there be changes to the laws and fines assessed for graffiti.

Chairperson Cibrian concurred with Councilwoman Galvan, and asked Mr. Garza to expand on the initiatives implemented by Housing and Neighborhood Services.

Mr. Garza spoke of the abatement efforts they undertake along with their partners, but noted it addressed the symptom and not the problem. He acknowledged that in the last budget cycle, Councilmember Cortez took the leadership to make sure the Graffiti Unit had received additional resources to include cameras. He spoke of the meeting held with the Police Department in order to deliver a draft comprehensive plan on a surveillance strategy. Mr. Garza indicated they were in the process of revisiting the Ordinance related to Graffiti Abatement that would be taken to the Governance Committee, and noted it was a multi-prong approach.

Councilmember Cortez noted that the support of the City Council was important as they continue to eradicate graffiti. It was clarified for Councilmember Cortez that as long as CPS owns the property in the Adams Hill Subdivision, they are responsible for the facility.

In response to Councilmember Ramos, CPS noted that they could not confirm the substations with cameras or surveillance equipment due to security reasons. Councilmember Ramos noted that graffiti was a citywide problem. She stated that she has committed monies for a summer program so that students are engaged in other activities and encouraged that innovative ways be utilized to combat this issue.

Chairperson Cibrian requested a list of improvements from the Neighborhood Services Department.

Mr. Michael Acosta, Representative of TxDOT, confirmed that they have two individuals designated to remove graffiti in Bexar County and on TxDOT signs. He noted the amount of graffiti they have removed since September 1, 2008 and spoke of the problem with paint balls, citing the difficulty in removing this type of paint. He noted the reduction in calls and the usual

response time of 48 hours. He expanded on their proactive measures and commented that it was important for TxDOT to abate graffiti.

Councilmember Galvan spoke of her experience regarding the response time from TxDot and expressed concern that there were only two individuals addressing graffiti on behalf of TxDOT.

Chairperson Cibrian requested that a Graffiti Abatement Plan similar to what CPS Energy created be provided to the Committee. She requested information on how TxDOT expends fund in relation to graffiti abatement for Bexar County and a comparative analysis of other same size counties.

Councilmember Ramos cited the need for a more detailed report and the many complaints that have been funneled through her office.

Mr. Acosta concurred on the need for a more detailed report and indicated he would provide more information at the next meeting.

Chairperson Cibrian thanked staff for their efforts on the City's coordinated plan for graffiti abatement.

6. Briefing and possible action regarding CPS Energy's Efficiency and Conservation Communications Plan

Presented by Robert G. McCullough, CPS Energy Director of Corporate Communication and Community Relations

Mr. Robert McCullough provided an overview on CPS Energy's Strategic Energy Plan, noting that the plan focuses on four key elements: 1) Provide cost-competitive energy; 2) Develop renewable capacity equal to 20 percent of peak demand by 2020; 3) Environmental stewardship; and 4) Emphasis on energy efficiency and conservation as a resource. He stated that CPS Energy was number one in the nation in terms of wind energy capacity and have been communicating conservation and energy efficiency since 1973. In the last year, it was noted that they have ramped up their efforts. He reported their efforts for the 2008 campaign which included email blasts to consumer lists and numerous appearances in local news and other programming. In addition to their public relation efforts and direct mail, he noted there was extensive advertising in broadcast, print and Web media that highlighted ways to save. He added that for the 2009 Campaign, more focus would be directed towards rebate advertising as well as an increase in their Web presence and electronic promotion. He indicated that they were also looking to increase their community outreach to a series of about 20 neighborhood meetings from March through May.

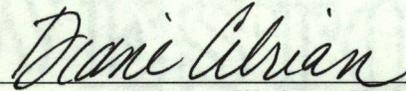
Councilmember Galvan noted the lack of information on the Tree Planting Programs and suggested that it be highlighted more. She spoke of the outreach program where CPS Energy attends various elementary schools and Mr. McCullough indicated there was staff available to make such presentations. Mr. McCullough stated that they were implementing more aggressive weatherization programs that would be shared with the Council in the near future.

7. Briefing and possible action regarding CPS Energy's Large Scale Solar Energy Procurement Plan

Chairperson Cibrian requested that copies of the presentation be provided to the Committee Members but due to time constraints, said item would be presented at the next Infrastructure and Growth Council Committee Meeting.

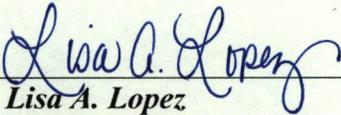
8. Adjourn

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 2:59 p.m.



Diane Cibrian, Chairperson

Respectfully Submitted,



Lisa A. Lopez
Office of the City Clerk