



Town of Atherton
ATHERTON RAIL COMMITTEE
MINUTES
TUESDAY, February 4, 2020
6:00 p.m.
HOLBROOK-PALMER PARK
MAIN HOUSE
150 Watkins Avenue
Regular Meeting

1. ROLL CALL

Committee Members: Scott Lane (Vice Chair), Malcolm Dudley, Jack Ringham, Greg Conlon, Paul Jones, Jim Janz, John Maulbetsch

Councilmember Liaisons: Council Member Cary Wiest

Staff: Robert Ovidia

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS – For items on the agenda.

(This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons wishing to address the Committee on any matter on the agenda that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Rail Committee. State law prohibits the Committee from acting on items not listed on the Agenda.)

None.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 1, 2019

Recommendation: Approve minutes for October 1, 2019

Approval of October 1, 2019 Minutes: Approved

Motion: John Maulbetsch

Second: Paul Jones

Abstained: Jim Janz

4. PRESENTATIONS – None

5. REGULAR AGENDA

5a. Caltrain Station Closure Proposal (30 min.)

The Committee will receive a brief report on the proposal received from Caltrain to close the Atherton Caltrain Station and direction received from Council regarding the proposal. The Committee will have the opportunity to discuss this item. **Not an action item.**

Reference Document: [January 15, 2020, Council Report – Discussion and Feedback Regarding the Caltrain Proposal to Permanently Close the Atherton Station](#)

The Committee discussed the Caltrain proposal to close the station and the Council's

direction to begin working on a Memorandum of Understanding with Caltrain regarding station closure. Some members of the Committee expressed concern regarding the proposed closure and desired additional input in the process.

5b. Peninsula Corridor Electrification Project Update and Discussion (5 min.)

The Committee will receive a brief report on current activities related to Caltrain's electrification of the peninsula corridor. The Committee will have the opportunity to discuss current and upcoming activities as well as related items. **Not an action item.**

Update provided regarding Caltrain activities along the corridor – limited work ongoing in Atherton at this time.

5c. High-Speed Rail Update (20 min.)

The Committee will receive an update on the High-Speed Rail Project including procurement status and anticipated timing of future document releases including Draft 2020 Business Plan and environmental documents associated with the Northern segment. Due to the timing of the public comment periods, the Committee may discuss how comments are to be submitted by committee members and designate a committee member to aggregate comments and work with staff to draft a response letter for consideration by Council. The Committee also may act to authorize a recommendation to Council to formally send the aggregated response letter to the High-Speed Rail Authority.

Reference Document: [January 23, 2020, HSR Northern California Region LPMG Presentation](#)

The Committee reviewed the January 23, 2020 LPMG presentation and discussed current and upcoming activities including the planned release of the Draft HSR 2020 Business Plan. The committee designated a subcommittee comprised of the Chair/Vice Chair and Member Jones to work with staff to draft a response letter for consideration by the Council. Committee Members were advised to forward any comments on the Draft HSR 2020 Business Plan to staff for consideration in the response letter.

5d. Dumbarton Rail Corridor Update (5 min.)

The Committee will receive a brief report on the current status of the Dumbarton Rail Corridor. The Committee will have the opportunity to discuss the Dumbarton Rail Corridor, current and upcoming activities as well as related items. **Not an action item.**

Reference Document: [January 7, 2020, Palo Alto Daily Post article – Funds sought for Dumbarton rail bridge](#)

Member Lane provided an update on the Dumbarton Corridor efforts.

5e. Format of Committee Meeting Minutes (10 min.)

The Committee will discuss the current format of meeting minutes and provide recommendations regarding potential changes for consideration by staff.

The committee discussed the format of the minutes provided and were satisfied with the

additional information provided.

6. COMMITTEE AND STAFF MEMBER COMMENTS

None.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- a. Draft HSR 2020 Business Plan Response Letter – potential special meeting
- b. High Speed Rail Authority EIR/EIS for northern segments
- c. Discussion of Caltrain Station Closure Proposal and Feedback Options
- d. Presentation from High Speed Rail Authority

9. NEXT MEETING – April 7, 2020

10. ADJOURN

Next meeting is scheduled for: April 7, 2020

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