



**City/UCD Student Liaison Commission Minutes
Community Chambers Conference Room
23 Russell Boulevard
Wednesday, January 14, 2009
4:30 p.m.**

Voting Commissioners Present: C. Bonilla, M. Lachowicz, S. Lee (Chairperson), C. Olsen, M. Schmitz, R. Sharp, S. Worker

Non-Voting Commissioners Present: G. Sandy, C. Valencia, S. Winton

Commissioners Absent: I. Carrillo, B. Little, H. Sueoka, M. Sundstrom, M. Carmichael, J. Evans

Council Liaison Present: L. Heystek

Others Present: Bob Weir, City of Davis, Public Works

Roll Call and Introductions: Meeting called to order at 4:30 p.m.

- 1. Agenda** – The agenda was approved unanimously by consensus.
- 2. Minutes** – The minutes of December 3, 2008, were approved, as amended, by consensus.
- 3. Commissioner Communications** – S. Lee asked staff the status of the 3rd and B project. The Council recently directed staff to contact residents for input. Staff will report back project status at the February meeting.
- 4. City Council Communications** – L. Heystek stated former Mayor Julie Partansky past away. Julie conceived the idea of a Dark Sky Ordinance. L. Heystek read an email from ASUCD regarding denial of the city discount on facility rentals to a UC Davis fraternity citing a discriminatory gender policy by the fraternity. The Commission asked staff to research the issue and bring it back to the Commission at the February meeting.
- 5. Public Communications** – none
- 6. Lighting/Safety Issues** – Bob Weir, Davis Public Works Director, summarized the Dark Sky Ordinance. He stated Julie Partansky was the driving force behind the Ordinance. It applies to commercial and city facility lighting. The original objective was to aid Astronomers and Observatories in viewing the night sky. In addition, it reduces light glare. It does not dim the lights, it focuses the light down to illuminate the ground and not other objects. The Ordinance governs light pollution and not the number of lights. The Ordinance went into effect in 1998 and the following year the City started retrofitting city facilities. City Hall was the first to be retrofitted. The Howard Reese bike path and Putah Creek bike path have also been retrofitted. The Public Works Department budgeted \$25,000 per year for

retrofitting, funded with Construction Tax revenue. However, due to budget issues, the funding was discontinued last year.

S. Lee stated he has heard many comments about the lack of lighting in Davis and associated safety concerns. B. Weir stated the majority of lights installed in Davis prior to 2000, are not Dark Sky compliant. If lighting is an issue, it is likely not dark sky related; tree foliage is more likely the issue.

S. Lee stated that some neighborhoods have a lack of lighting. B. Weir stated that Oak Avenue has a history of lighting issues. The Developer did not install any street lights. Most complaints Public Works receives regarding lighting issues is for Oak Avenue. The City has made two attempts to implement a lighting system on Oak. The first plan was to assess the property owners on Oak for the cost to implement the system. The neighbors voted down that plan. The second plan was a 50/50 split between the City and the neighbors. It was voted down also. S. Lee stated many people use Oak Avenue, not just the residents, and asked if permission is needed from the residents to implement. B. Weir stated permission is not needed, unless the City was asking the neighborhood to pay for it. The approximate cost for the lighting system is \$100,000.

R. Sharp asked what other areas of Davis receives complaints. B. Weir stated that no other area receives more complaints than Oak Avenue. Public Works receives more complaints about mis-directed lights (shining in a 2nd story bedroom window) than lack of lighting complaints.

G. Sandy stated that Oak Avenue is a historic area. Residents have owned their homes for a long time. If lighting was added to the area, it should be designed to fit in with the historical nature of the neighborhood.

The Commission discussed the issue of placing a sticker on street light poles to direct people how to report an outage. S. Winton stated the City has 5,600 light poles and UC Davis 4,300 on campus. B. Weir stated they have more problems with people reporting lights out on major thoroughfares than in neighborhoods. Neighborhood lighting is generally reported quickly. New technology for street lights will let the City know when a light is out. The street lights will be self reporting. B. Weir stated that due to City budget issues, some cities are turning off street lights to save money.

S. Worker suggested adding a lighting question to the renter survey.

S. Winton noted the recent City Council goal of: "Identify lighting issues that cause safety concerns and present a plan to the City Council to address those issues." The goal was directed to Community Development and Public Works staff and the City-UCD Student Liaison Commission and Safety & Parking Advisory Commission.

R. Sharp is concerned with limiting our action to Oak Avenue. S. Lee stated it is easier to do one project at a time and Oak Avenue is a current student safety issue.

S. Lee motioned, seconded by C. Bonilla, to recommend City Council direct staff to prepare an Oak Avenue lighting plan.

Ayes: C. Bonilla, S. Lee
Noes: C. Olsen, M. Schmitz, R. Sharp, S. Worker
Abstain: M. Lachowicz
Motion failed.

The Commission discussed forming a sub-committee to address a mechanism to report lights out (website & stickers) and a recommendation to address lighting as a safety issue. The Sub-committee includes S. Lee, G. Sandy, C. Bonilla and S. Winton.

7. Renter's Sub-committee – S. Worker reviewed the renter's survey. All renters in Davis can participate in the survey.

8. Safe Party Initiative Grant Results – The results are not ready for distribution. The item will be rescheduled for the February meeting.

9. Status Reports

-UC Davis West Village project – G. Sandy stated site work will begin in Spring 2009. He also stated that due to State budget issues, construction of King Hall has been placed on hold.

-Student Retail Needs Survey – C. Olsen reported that the Chamber of Commerce completed a survey five years ago which determined students were doing most of their shopping in their home town. The Chamber is not interested in updating the survey at this time.

10. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m. in memory of Julie Partansky.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacey Winton
Administrative Analyst II