



MINUTES

CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH CIAB/PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION MARCH 19, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Rivas called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Macdonald led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present:

Michalski, Rivas, Clifford, Frousiakis, Macdonald

Commissioners Absent:

None

Others Present:

Denny Bacon, Operations Manager

Gretchen Erickson, Senior Administrative Assistant

Joe Fuentes, Principal Civil Engineer

Bob Stachelski, Traffic & Transportation Manager

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

25-224 Approval of February 19, 2025 Minutes

Motion by Michalski and second by Clifford, the Commission voted to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2025, CIAB/Public Works Commission meeting.

VOTE:	The motion carried.
AYES:	5
NOES:	0
ABSENT:	2
ABSTENTIONS:	0

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

DIRECTOR'S ITEMS

Commissioners were invited to enroll in the 2025 Citizens Academy.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Capital Improvement Program update and Beautification, Landscape, and Tree update were not provided due to relevant Administrative Items on the agenda.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

25-217 Main Street Planter Rehabilitation

Denny Bacon, Operations Manager, presented a proposal from a volunteer group to rehabilitate the 14 planters along Main Street, from Pacific Coast Highway to Orange Avenue. The plan includes removing 40 existing Mexican Fan Palms and replacing them with 14 Strawberry Trees (*Arbutus marina*), along with installing new low-lying vegetation. The City will fund the initial tree removal and installation and will be responsible for the ongoing care and maintenance of the Strawberry Trees. The volunteer group will maintain the new low-lying vegetation. This collaborative effort aims to enhance the appearance of Main Street while sharing maintenance responsibilities between the City and the volunteer group. Chair Rivas asked about current status and maintenance of existing trees. Bacon explained the Mexican Fan Palm trees are healthy with large root balls and they are trimmed at minimum once per year. Vice Chair Clifford asked if Strawberry trees will stain or drop leaf litter. Bacon explained there is no anticipated problem with staining and the trees will drop leaves. The trees will have an approximate eight-foot canopy and grow to a height of approximately 15 feet. Vice Chair Clifford asked if there was a market to remove and sell existing Mexican Fan Palm trees. Bacon advised there is not a market. Commissioner Macdonald asked what lighting, if any, will be installed. Bob Stachelski advised there are no lights in the planters at this time and options will be explored for durability, longevity, and maintenance requirements.

Motion by Michalski and second by Clifford, the Commission voted to approve removal of 40 Mexican Fan Palm trees and planting of 14 Strawberry trees.

VOTE:	The motion carried.
AYES:	5
NOES:	0
ABSENT:	2
ABSTENTIONS:	0

25-210 Fiscal Year 2025/26 Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

Joe Fuentes, Principal Civil Engineer, presented the proposed Fiscal Year 2025/26 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), totaling approximately \$55,081,000 across 47 projects. This reflects an increase from the 2024/25 CIP, which included 42 projects totaling \$35 million. Several 2024/25 projects remain under construction, including the Heil Pump Station, Fueling Station Canopy at Beach Maintenance, 11.5 miles of residential street overlays, 12.5 miles of slurry seal streets, and the Admiralty Bridge. Upcoming 2025/26 projects include the City Gym & Pool flooring replacement, Fire Department remodel at City Hall, Drew Park Playground, Davenport Sewer Lift Station improvements, Banning Roundabout and Southeast Corridor improvements, Hamilton

Avenue Corridor improvements, Magnolia Street Corridor Improvements, and Annual Water Main Replacement. Joe explained that the CIP reflects a collaborative effort between Public Works and all City departments to identify and prioritize projects based on available funding and community needs. Chair Rivas asked if Public Works coordinates with the Magnolia Tank Farm and other projects in the southeast area that may impact the corridor projects. Stachelski explained that the City has a general idea of the size and scope of nearby projects and City projects are planned accordingly. Chair Rivas asked if in future meetings a chart or graph could be provided to indicate CIP funds allocated per project and whether projects were under/over budget and approximate timeline for completion. Fuentes advised he will work to create such a document for future meetings. Vice Chair Clifford asked if traffic lanes will be removed as a result of the Magnolia and Hamilton Corridor Improvements. Stachelski advised that Newland Street or Bushard Street may be explored for such treatment.

MEMBER COMMENTS

Commissioner Michalski thanked Bacon and Fuentes for their robust presentations and expressed gratitude to Public Works Department staff for the vast amount of services provided.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:02 p.m.