

**Citizens' Advisory Committee
Power Subcommittee**

Draft Minutes
May 3, 2011

1155 Market Street, San Francisco
4th Floor, Conference Room
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Members

Doug Cain – Chair
Walt Farrell
Winchell Hayward
Stephen Bjorgan
Jessie Buendia

Staff Ben Chan

Members present: Cain, Farrell, Hayward, Bjorgan, and Buendia

ORDER OF BUSINESS

- 1. Call to order**
Chair Doug Cain called the meeting to order at 5:40 PM.
- 2. Approval of Minutes of April, 2011.**
The Committee agreed to approve the April, 2011 minutes in the next meeting.
- 3. Announcements by members and reports on other meetings.**
Winchell Hayward would be out of town in June, 2011.
- 4. Public comments – matters within Subcommittee’s scope, not on today’s agenda.**
None.
- 5. Presentation on LED street lights/Citywide Street Light Plan by Mary Tienken, Power Enterprise**

Ms Tienken outlined the background of the LED street light project and its many advantages. These advantages are: low maintenance, cost effectiveness, high-tech applications such as wireless monitoring to

Edwin M. Lee
Mayor

Francesca Vietor
President

Anson Moran
Vice President

Ann Moller Caen
Commissioner

Art Torres
Commissioner

Vince Courtney
Commissioner

Ed Harrington
General Manager



control lighting only when it's needed, and environmental benefits through reduced power consumption.

San Francisco Water, Power and Sewer plans to convert 18,600 street lights to LED street lights – approximately half of the total street lights throughout the city. The rest are owned by PG&E. The lights in the older part of San Francisco are owned by the City. Neighborhoods such as the Sunset and the Richmond are served by PG&E. The LED conversion program only applies to street lights operated by the City. In addition, some 5,000 decorative fixtures that are installed on the streets are not included in this conversion program.

Mr. Winchell asked if the City has any plan to take over the other half of the operation run by PG&E. Mr. Bjorgan suggested using eminent domain to make it a reality. Ms Tienken said there is no such take-over plan. It's up to PG&E to decide what it should do with its existing street lights.

Conventional, high-pressure sodium bulbs last 3 to 4 years whereas the new LED street light fixtures can last up to 17 years before burning out. Equally important, is the cost savings for reduced labor costs, since the new LED street lights will require much less service.

On their effectiveness, LED street lights are directional, meaning they spread out at a wider angle and the amount of light can reach a greater distance.

Recouping the cost will take 12 to 14 years and the total savings would be about \$16 million, Ms Tienken said.

To ensure reliability and therefore protect city investment, the bidding contract requires at least 7 year warranty or beyond on any system defect in the LED street lights. Some 40 to 50 contractors have shown interest in this project. To support local economy, the Power Enterprise aims to spread out the contract to several companies instead of just one.

Mr. Farrell asked if there was any economic study on such project. He was not sure about the economic payback.

Mr. Bjorgan asked how effective LED street lights would be in deterring crime. Ms Tienken said people would definitely feel more safe on brighter streets at night, although scientific data is not available.

Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm. The next meeting would be held on Tuesday, June 7, 2011.