

INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
5th FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 2008 - 3:00 P.M.

The International Bridge Commission met at the above place and date.

Item 1: Chair Tanny Berg called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Those present were:

Tanny Berg, Chair – D-1 (Rep. Ann Morgan Lilly)
Mike Dipp, Vice-Chair – (Mayor John Cook)
Daniel Barnes, D-4 (Rep. Melina Castro)
Mike Breitinger, D-7 (Rep. Steve Ortega)
Gerardo Camacho, D-3 (Rep. J. Alexandro Lozano)
Analisa Cordova, D-2 (Rep. Susie Byrd)

ABSENT

Blanca Dominguez, D-6 (Rep. Eddie Holguin, Jr.)
Saul Frank, D-8 (Rep. Beto O'Rourke)
VACANT, D-5 (Rep. Rachel Quintana)

OTHERS PRESENT

Josette Flores, Assistant City Attorney
Said Larbi-Cherif, International Bridges Director
Ray Mendoza, International Bridges

Item 2:

Motion made by Mr. Dipp, seconded by Mr. Camacho and carried to approve the Minutes to the last meeting.

AYES: Mr. Berg, Mr. Barnes, Mr. Breitinger, Mr. Camacho, Ms. Cordova, Mr. Dipp.

NAYS: None

NOT PRESENT FOR THE VOTE: Ms. Dominguez, Mr. Frank.

Item 3: Discussion and Action on Presentation of Bridge Management Report.

Item 5 Discussion and Action on the GSA Head House Project at the Paso Del Norte Bridge combined with discussion for Item 3.

Items discussed:

- Ray Mendoza reported on trip to BTA conference in Washington DC.
- Message boards are now placed permanently at PDN and Zaragoza with scrolling message regarding requirements to cross border.

Item 4: Presentation by City Attorney as to the scope of authority of the commission and the presentation of the annual report to Council as required by Ordinance 15748.

Josette Flores, Assistant City Attorney stated that the commission has the authority to present an annual report to City Council. Discussion followed as to what would be placed in report. Items brought up were GSA Head House project, monitor whether GSA would finish project on time, discuss needs of pedestrians, bridge wait times.

Motion was made by Mr. Barnes, seconded by Mr. Camacho and carried that the commission present a report to City Council at the City Council meeting of June 17, 2008.

AYES: Mr. Berg, Mr. Barnes, Mr. Camacho, Ms. Cordova, Mr. Dipp

NAYS: None

NOT PRESENT FOR VOTE: Ms. Dominguez, Mr. Frank

Chair Berg requested that a list of items to present in this report be forwarded from all the commissioners to board secretary Christine Bueno and they be placed in report form and submitted for the commissioners approval.

Item 6: Discussion and Action on Potential Proposals for Shortening Wait Times at the Ports of Entry.

Said Larbi-Cherif reported on trip to Washington DC and stated that federal representatives there requested that in order to shorten wait times, more staffing at the bridges was needed. Current wait times at the bridges are 45 minutes. Mr. Dipp challenged that statistic as his customers tell him that they have to wait up to 2 hours to cross the bridge and that they are submitted to intense questioning. Mr. Dipp stated that due to the hassle of crossing the bridge to shop, most customers will not want to continue crossing the border to spend their money due to the questioning and the long waits.

Item 6: OPEN COMMENT PERIOD:

There were no open comments.

Item 7: Adjourn.

Motion was made by Mr. Barnes, seconded by Mr. Camacho and carried to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Approved as to form:

_____ Secretary