Oakland City Planning Commission

STAFF REPORT

Policy & Procedures Committee

April 29, 2015

Discussion Item #2 "Scheduled Forum"

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

Staff proposes a verbal discussion regarding the creation of a "scheduled forum" at the Planning Commission. Currently the Planning Commission has an Open Forum section of the agenda where interested parties can speak to items not on the agenda for two minutes each. While rare, the request comes up from time to time and it might be appropriate to provide such groups to approach the Planning Commission for longer time periods and provide insight or educational materials regarding a planning or planning related topic. Today staff is looking for a more robust discussion with the Committee as to how a scheduled forum might operate. Staff's initial thoughts would be that "scheduled forums" could start out as a quarterly event and that applicants could make a request to staff to determine if their presentation was suitable for "scheduled forum" or some other venue. Items scheduled would be given about 15 minutes for a presentation and then allow for questions from the Planning Commission. Another option would be to not create a new section of the agenda but allow, at staff and/or chair discretion, a group to utilize the Open Forum section. Staff would require advance notice and would work with the chair to determine how long they'd be allowed and what meeting would be appropriate. Staff would like feedback from the Committee on this.

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