

**CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
PARKING AND PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS COMMISSION
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
June 27, 2013**

A. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Parking and Public Improvements Commission of the City of Manhattan Beach, California, was held on the 27th day of June, 2013, at the hour of 6:30 p.m., in the City Council Chambers of City Hall, 1400 Highland Avenue, in said City.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Stabile, Lipps, Adami, Fournier, and Nicholson.
Absent: None.
Staff Present: Traffic Engineer Zandvliet, Management Analyst Madrid.
Clerk: Kozak.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

06/27/13-1 April 25, 2013

Approved with no corrections.

MOTION: Commissioner Nicholson moved to approve the Parking and Public Improvements Commission minutes of April 25, 2013. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Fournier and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Commissioner Lipps abstained, because he was not a member of the Commission at that time.

D. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None.

E. GENERAL BUSINESS

06/27/13-2 Recognition of Outgoing Chair and Rotation of New Chair and Vice Chair

Chair Adami introduced New Chair Fournier and thanked his fellow commissioners and staff for a wonderful year. Management Analyst Madrid thanked Chair Adami for his service.

Management Analyst Madrid then recognized incoming Chair Fournier and Vice Chair Nicholson and explained the seating rotation to the Commissioners and they changed their seats accordingly.

Chair Fournier started off by thanking Commissioner Silverman (who was not present) for his service for the past six years.

Commissioners Adami and Stabile also thanked Commissioner Silverman for his service to the city.

Chair Fournier introduced the newest Commissioner Mark Lipps.

Commissioner Lipps thanked Chair Fournier and said he looked forward to serving the city.

06/27/13-3 Consider an Appeal to the Denial of Stop Signs on 6th Street at Larsson Street

Management Analyst Madrid introduced Traffic Engineer Zandvliet. Traffic Engineer Zandvliet gave a brief presentation.

Commissioner Lipps asked what all the options are for this issue.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet answered that there were multiple options for this issue but not all of them would be beneficial.

Commissioner Adami asked if any of the residents or business owners objected to the stop sign request, and wanted clarification on the number of years without any accidents reported at that location.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet answered that it was difficult to answer who was in favor of or who objected. He felt it would be better to hear the public comments. He also confirmed that the report states it was seven years that no accidents had been reported.

Chair Fournier asked if the reason the Appellant requested the Stop Sign at that location was for a safety or parking issue. Ms. Julie Brawn responded from the audience that it was for "Public Safety".

Chair Fournier then opened the Audience Participation and explained that there would not be a three minute time limit.

Audience Participation

Alberto Bottene, 508 Larsson St., stated that he felt there are two issues, parking and safety. Mr. Bottene said he was in favor of the four way stop, but does not want the parking spaces removed.

Julie Brawn, 601 Larsson St., resident and appellant, said that her issue is all about public safety, she also stated that she did not want the parking spaces removed. Mrs. Brawn closed by asking the Commission to make it happen.

Bob Stephenson, 400 Anderson St., resident and business owner expressed his concern about slowing down the traffic by installing a stop sign.

Jim Snyder, 1001 6th St., building owner stated he agreed with everything the other speakers have stated. He said he was in favor of the stop sign but not the red curbing, he wanted to keep the parking spaces.

Stan Ralls, 1001 6th St., building and business owner expressed the importance of the four way stop, and wanted the stop sign installed, but did not want the red curbs.

Scott L. Yanctsky, 308 Larsson St., showed a short video he took prior to the meeting. He expressed the need for the stop signs and agreed with other speakers that they did not need the red curbs. He felt that the Commission should approve the stop signs.

Douglas Brawn, 601 Larsson St., said that there were a lot of good points made and that he agreed with other speakers that taking away the parking spaces would not help. He expressed that this is about public safety and the stop sign needs to be installed to avoid any accidents in the future.

Chair Fournier closed the Audience Participation.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Adami said he had never seen such cooperation between the residents and business owners. He felt that it is a good solution to install the stop signs for traffic and public safety.

Commissioner Stabile said that when he read the staff report, it seemed clear to him that under the applicable guidelines, the request did not meet the warrants for four way stops. He visited the location and saw very little traffic, no speeding and felt there was ample parking, so with that and the staff report, he was inclined to uphold the denial of the appeal. However, after listening to all the

comments and the unanimity of opinion concerning the desire to have a four way stop, he had an epiphany and was in support of the four way stop.

Commissioner Nicholson stated that he made three visits to the location and found it quiet, and observed ample parking, so he felt that the staff report made a lot of sense based on the guidelines the traffic engineer had to use. He explained that what persuaded him was the unanimity of opinion on what needs to be done from a safety issue. He also recommended that there should be a warning sign of a stop sign ahead. He said he would support the four way stop.

Commissioner Lipps stated that he supports a stop sign. He visited the location and there were no sidewalks, there were blind spots and with the speed of vehicles coming off of Sepulveda Boulevard, a stop sign is needed for the safety of the neighborhood.

Chair Fournier stated that installing a four way stop is a big deal.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet explained that the city has to be prudent when putting in stop signs because there are advantages and disadvantages that could raise liability issues if there is an accident.

Chair Fournier asked what the city's liability is for installing stop signs.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet answered that the city could be exposed to liability in the event that the stop sign was proven to be the cause of the accident, however, drivers must still obey all stop signs.

Chair Fournier asked what Traffic Engineer Zandvliet feeling was in this particular situation.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet answered that there are many reasons why you would put in a stop sign and many reasons why you wouldn't put in a stop sign, but each case is unique.

Commissioner Adami asked Traffic Engineer Zandvliet if he knew the number of cases of liability to a city due to a stop sign.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet said he did not know of any statistics. He added that liability exposure is not a justification and every stop sign is evaluated on a case by case basis.

Commissioner Lipps asked if there is any notification to the residents when a stop sign is added.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet answered that typically there is temporary warning sign posted when a stop sign is added.

Commissioner Adami stated that public safety is number one. He said that it is a simple solution and in his opinion it is common sense to add the stop sign.

Commissioner Stabile explained that not putting in a stop sign could be a liability too. He said he felt that the Commission should recommend to the City Council to add the four way stops.

Chair Fournier said it is a safety issue and he would be inclined to vote for a stop sign.

1st MOTION: Commissioner Nicholson moved to approve the installation of the four way stop signs on 6th Street at Larsson Street and also put a warning sign before the commercial driveway. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lipps. The motion failed with the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Nicholson and Lipps.
Noes: Stabile, Adami and Chair Fournier.
Abstain: None.
Absent: None.

2nd MOTION: Commissioner Stabile moved to recommend to City Council that four way stop signs be installed at the intersection of 6th Street and Larsson Street. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Adami. The motion passed by the following unanimous roll call vote:

Ayes: Nicholson, Lipps, Stabile, Adami and Chair Fournier.
Noes: None.
Abstain: None.
Absent: None.

F. COMMISSION ITEMS

06/27/13-3 Commissioner Items

Commissioner Adami asked who is responsible to water the privately owned plants on the public property to the west of The Strand. Staff answered that the adjacent property owner who planted them is responsible to water them.

Commissioner Nicholson asked Management Analyst Madrid to give an update on the parking restrictions on Valley Drive. She said that Traffic Engineer Zandvliet had reviewed it, and they had sat down with the Police Department and Staff from the Parks and Recreation Department. They decided to limit the parking on Valley Drive adjacent to the Joslyn Center parking to four hours in approximately 35 parking spaces.

G. STAFF ITEMS

06/27/13-4 Monthly Revenue and Expenditure Reports: Receive and File.

Received and Filed.

Chair Fournier asked for a presentation on where all the money goes from the parking meters and the parking ticket revenue.

06/27/13-5 Staff Follow-up Items

Management Analyst Madrid asked Traffic Engineer Zandvliet to provide a follow up for Manhattan Beach Middle School traffic measures for Herrin Avenue, at 18th and 19th Streets. Traffic Engineer Zandvliet explained that the City Council had reviewed the recommendations passed the resolution to install stop signs and all recommended traffic measures. The City Council also directed staff to conduct a formal traffic safety study of the entire middle school area.

H. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at **8:00 p.m.** to the regular Parking and Public Improvements Commission Meeting on Thursday, July 25, 2013, in the City Council Chambers of City Hall, 1400 Highland Avenue, in said City.