

**CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
PARKING AND PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS COMMISSION
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
August 28, 2014**

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 28th day of August, 2014, at the hour of 6:31 p.m., in the City Council Chambers of City Hall, 1400 Highland Avenue, in said City.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: King, Lipps, Fournier and Apostal.
Absent: Nicholson.
Staff Present: Traffic Engineer Zandvliet, Management Analyst Madrid.
Clerk: Kozak.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

08/28/14-1 June 26, 2014

Approved with no corrections.

MOTION: Commissioner King moved to approve the Parking and Public Improvements Commission minutes of June 26, 2014. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Apostal and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

D. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None.

E. GENERAL BUSINESS

08/28/14-2 Consider a Request for a One-Way Street and Narrowing on Deegan Place Between 14th Street and 15th Street.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet gave a presentation and recommended that the Commission pass a motion to restrict traffic to one-way southbound on Deegan Place and paint temporary bulb-outs at the crosswalk on a trial basis and return with an evaluation after 6 months.

Commissioner Fournier requested clarification from Traffic Engineer Zandvliet regarding why a survey would be necessary and if what was in the staff report highlighted the true safety issue of the Church's request.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet explained that the survey is to get feedback from the community, but that it was not required; and that the City is always looking to improve safety; and that he is not stating that there was an unsafe condition on Deegan Place now, but, there are always ways to improve safety.

Commissioner King asked about the traffic counts and when they were taken; clarification of what a raised crosswalk was; and how long the study would take following the six month trial period and how the project would be funded.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet responded that traffic counts were taken recently so the item could be on this meeting's agenda. He explained that a raised crosswalk can provide a traffic calming effect and helps with visibility. He said he wasn't sure who would pay for the cost but that it could be a shared cost between the City and American Martyrs Church.

Mr. Bob Hodges, Business Manager for American Martyrs Church, gave a presentation on why Monsignor John F. Barry, Pastor of American Martyrs Catholic Church made his request for the one-way street on Deegan Place. Mr. Hodges explained that the Monsignor's serious concern was for the public safety issues on Deegan Place, and the church had first requested bollards for temporary street closures during high pedestrian times.

Commissioner Fournier stated he was confused by the picture of Deegan Place shown in the presentation and asked if it had been presented to the City.

Mr. Hodges answered that it had not been presented to the City and it was a picture of what Deegan Place could look like in the future.

Commissioner King asked why a crossing guard could not be used to help with crossing pedestrians.

Mr. Hodges answered that it would be a full-time position because of all the events that take place at American Martyrs, and he wasn't sure that was the right solution.

Commissioner Lipps opened Audience Participation and asked that each speaker be limited to two minutes because of the large number of people who wanted to speak on this item.

Audience Participation

Tracy Johnson, Manhattan Beach resident, is opposed to the request to make Deegan Place a one-way street.

Leland Dolley, Manhattan Beach resident, felt a six month test for the one-way street on Deegan Place would be a good idea.

Mark Kemple, Manhattan Beach resident, stated that he agreed and supported the proposal because of the safety issues on Deegan Place.

Jodie Kase, 631 14th Street, strongly opposed the closure of Deegan Place or changing it to a one-way street. She stated that a crossing guard would help.

Kenneth Thompson, 720 13th Street, said the request was not about safety because there have not been any accidents in the last seven years; it is about the mansionization of what used to be a small church. American Martyrs needs to be a good neighbor and co-exist with all the neighbors.

Ira Rubin, 628 14th Street, said the request to change Deegan Place to a one-way street will be confusing and an inconvenience to the people who live in and visit the neighborhood. He strongly urged the Commissioners not to make the change.

Jane Dion, 634 14th Street, explained that the pedestrian behavior is the problem and American Martyrs needs to encourage their parishioners to be responsible pedestrians and being a good neighbor is a two-way street.

Michael Ann Otto, 639 14th Street, felt the traffic report was not valid and should not be used. She stated there have not been any accidents on Deegan Place that she was aware of. She said there were other streets and crosswalks going to the church that were less safe than Deegan Place.

Laurel Ulrich, 623 14th Street, said she agreed with the other speakers that American Martyrs was trying to take over the area. She explained there are already traffic issues and changing Deegan Place to a one-way street doesn't make sense and will make traffic even worse.

Michael Lang, Manhattan Beach resident, said American Martyrs does want to be a good neighbor and is sensitive to the issues of the residents in the area. He explained that all American Martyrs wants is to create a safe situation for everyone.

Tony Micu, 5 Laurel Square, said he was for some change to help improve the traffic and safety on Deegan Place, but not making it a permanent one-way street.

John Busby, 603 14th Street, expressed that he was strongly opposed to changing Deegan Place to a one-way street. He felt this request by American Martyrs will create increased traffic and a safety issue for 14th street. He encouraged American Martyrs to be a good neighbor like the residents in the area have been over the years with all the construction and increased size of the church.

Barbara Landon, 720 13th Street, said she was opposed to changing Deegan Place to a one-way street. She stated they are good neighbors and American Martyrs needs to be a good neighbor to them in return.

Andrew Kramer, 624 14th Street, stated most of the traffic is from the local residents and they are very safe and aware of the pedestrians when they cross to go to church. He thought the American Martyrs parishioners should be more aware about standing in the street and blocking traffic.

William Befors, Manhattan Beach resident, said he was opposed to the Deegan Place changes except for possibly pedestrian signs and a crossing guard.

Ed Dion, 634 14th Street, is opposed to any changes to Deegan Place.

Kristi Seth, 9 Laurel Square, said she is against Deegan Place being a one-way street. She explained that the change would cause safety issues for the neighbors. She also commented that she thought there needed to be more disabled parking.

Greg Otto, 639 14th Street, stated he was against making Deegan Place a one-way street. He explained that none of the residents supported this request.

Susan Lamekte, 62014th Street, stated she thought it was more of a parishioner problem than a traffic problem. She recommended a foot bridge over the street for the pedestrians.

Vance Ulrich, 623 14th Street, said he was opposed to the Deegan Place changes and recommended to have volunteers help with the pedestrian crossing and traffic control.

Clarence Brauer, 615 14th Street, said he has lived on 14th street for fifty eight years and the first fifty six years there wasn't a problem with traffic, but the last couple of years it has been impossible to get out at the bottom of the hill. He stated if they changed Deegan Place it would cause residents to have to make two blind left hand turns.

Camryn Connelly, American Martyrs School Principal, explained American Martyrs does want to be a good neighbor and just wants everyone to be safe.

Commissioner Lipps closed the Audience Participation.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Apostol expressed that he would not support making Deegan Place a one-way street, but he would support installing other measures such as lighted or raised crosswalks and a crossing guard to assist pedestrians.

Commissioner King asked Staff if there were any other alternatives looked at other than making the street one-way.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet stated that there are other measures that can be done. He said a ladder style crosswalk or even a raised crosswalk; pedestrian warning signs could be installed; the street could be narrowed; or the construct planters along the parkways to deter crossing at locations where there isn't a crosswalk. Traffic Engineer Zandvliet did express the importance of the shared responsibility between the pedestrian and the driver to be safe at all times.

Commissioner King stated he felt there were other measures that could be taken before the street would be changed to a one-way-street.

Commissioner Fournier thanked the residents for coming to the meeting and being involved in the process. He expressed that safety is number one and felt that this street was probably one of the safest streets in Manhattan Beach with the amount of people that cross it. He said in checking the past history of the street it was safe. Commissioner Fournier felt pedestrian awareness is always paramount to signage. He explained that the impact to the community was not justified and he would not support the request. He said he agreed with Commissioner King and thought there were other measures that could be taken.

Commissioner Lipps agreed that Deegan Place should not become a one-way street. He explained that it would create so many more issues on other streets. He said he agreed with all of the other Commissioners comments and ideas on the other measures that could be taken before the street would be changed to one-way. Commissioner Lipps closed by saying he was opposed to the request and then asked if any of the Commissioners were ready to make a motion.

MOTION: Commissioner King made a motion to deny the request to change Deegan Place to a one-way street. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Fournier.

Ayes: King, Lipps, Fournier and Apostal.
Noes: None.
Abstain: None.
Absent: Nicholson.

MOTION: Commissioner Apostal made a motion to have Staff come back to the Commission with alternative solutions. Commissioner Apostal requested the Community and Church have some involvement in the process. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Fournier.

Ayes: King, Lipps, Fournier and Apostal.
Noes: None.
Abstain: None.
Absent: Nicholson.

F. COMMISSION ITEMS

08/28/14-5 Commissioner Items

Commissioner Lipps requested that the question about changing the start time of the PPIC meeting from 6:30 pm to 6:00 pm be placed on the Agenda for the next meeting.

Management Analyst Madrid explained she would have to check with Director Thompson to verify the protocol for that request.

Commissioner Fournier asked about how long it was going to take for all of the new City street replacement signs to be completed and if the design was the same.

Management Analyst Madrid stated that the design was the same and said she would check with Public Works on when it would be completed.

Commissioner Lipps asked if the old white monument signs in the tree section were being replaced.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet said that the City was not replacing those monument signs, but, if a neighborhood wanted to sponsor one, they could do so.

Commissioner Lipps asked if the neighborhood wanted to sponsor a sign, would they have to go before the Commission or the City Council.

Staff stated that the request could be submitted to Public Works.

G. STAFF ITEMS

08/28/14-6 Monthly Revenue and Expenditure Reports: Receive and File.

Received and Filed.

08/28/14-7 Staff Follow-up Items

Commissioner King asked if the parking spaces and the 10-minute sign on Rosecrans were done yet.

Management Analyst Madrid stated they had been completed.

Commissioner Lipps thanked Staff for having the curb painted red on Ocean Ave.

Management Analyst Madrid reported that the Sepulveda Blvd. No Parking restriction was approved by the City Council and would be forwarded to CalTrans; and the Ardmore Avenue and Flournoy Road appeal was approved by the City Council. She stated some of the approved improvements have been completed. Management Analyst Madrid and Traffic Engineer Zandvliet explained there were still some items not yet completed but they were in process. Staff said they would report back to the Commission with the follow-up on those items.

H. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at **8:26 p.m.** to the regular Parking and Public Improvements Commission Meeting on Thursday, September 25, 2014, in the City Council Chambers of City Hall, 1400 Highland Avenue, in said City.