

**CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
PARKING AND PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS COMMISSION
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
June 22, 2017**

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 **22nd day of June 2017**, at the hour of **6:32 p.m.**, in the City Council Chambers of City Hall, 1400 Highland Avenue, in said City.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Delk, Paralusz, Longhurst, Chairman Lipps.
Absent: Nicholson.
Staff Present: Erik Zandvliet, Lt. Andrew Harrod.
Clerk: Karen Arguelles and Angela Soo Seilhamer

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

06/22/17-1 May 25, 2017

MOTION: Commissioner Delk made a motion to approve the minutes without any changes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Longhurst.

Ayes: Delk, Paralusz, Longhurst, Chairman Lipps.
Noes: None.
Abstain: None.
Absent: Nicholson.

D. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Chair Lipps opened Audience Participation (3-Minute Limit).

There was no Audience Participation.

Chair Lipps closed Audience Participation.

E. GENERAL BUSINESS

**06/22/17-2 West Marine Avenue Neighborhood Traffic Management Study
Initial Findings**

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet summarized the staff report, pointing out that the unnamed alley between Marine Avenue and 21st Place and west of Blanche Road is one

of the remaining alleys that have not been vacated, acquired or converted to pedestrian only access.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet explained the purpose of tonight's meeting was to gather input from the residents and said it was an iterative process.

In response to a question from Chair Lipps, Traffic Engineer Zandvliet provided three options regarding the alley: first, leave as City right-of-way and install bollards to close it off for a play/walk area; second, landscape and turn the alley into pocket park with a center walkway; third, vacate and sell the land to the adjacent property owners or a third party, whomever bids the highest.

Commissioner Delk asked about alley width to which Traffic Engineer Zandvliet replied it is 15' wide.

Chair Lipps asked what the residents on either side think of pocket park idea. Traffic Engineer Zandvliet said he will let the residents provide their own input.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet said that the Fire and Police Departments do not have a critical need for that alley.

Commissioner Paralusz asked if the alley is the only form of egress. Traffic Engineer Zandvliet said no, there are no garages that access the alley.

Chair Lipps opened Audience Participation.

Audience Participation

Andy Jurkowski, 700 block of 25th Street, said he was concerned about safety and questioned the study's methodology, such as why the study was not done on a weekend and also noted the counters may cause people to slow down during the study. His concerns are threefold: 1) safety issues such as speeding and not stopping at stop signs, particularly at 25th Street and Marine Avenue; 2) dangerously high traffic volumes, including construction vehicles that accelerate wear and tear on the street; and 3) quality of life. He further added Marine Avenue is used as a cut-through street and that traffic should be diverted to other more major thoroughfares.

In response to a question by Commissioner Paralusz, Mr. Jurkowski recommended putting a blockade on Agnes Road to keep traffic on Valley Drive. He said software mapping systems such as Waze app are causing people to cut through and increase the traffic problem. He suggested adding bike lanes to Marine Avenue.

Patricia Monahan, 653 Marine Avenue, stated they analyzed data and did their own test. She believed that 25mph was actually too fast especially near the narrow alley where kids could be running out. She said the residents go 20mph.

Mike Bohannon, 649 Marine Avenue, said the volume of traffic will probably not change, so we must find other ways to address the issue. Marine Avenue is the way most people in the area get to the beach. He added that many drivers do not stop at the intersection of Flournoy Road and Marine Avenue.

Commissioner Paralusz asked Mr. Bohannon to clarify his recommendation.

Mr. Bohannon believed that people who are going 30mph do not know they are going into an area without sidewalks. He put his own speed bumps out there to make people aware the environment has changed. He explained the speed bumps are only about 1.5" high and have not caused a problem for emergency vehicles. He preferred not to have speed bumps, but wants to avoid any tragedies.

Chair Lipps said Traffic Engineer Zandvliet has a toolkit of traffic calming ideas that are available.

Larry Auffrey, 721 Marine Avenue, questioned some volume and speed numbers on the map in the staff report. He said people do not stop at the stop sign and are not going 20mph.

Commissioner Delk asked if speed limit on 21st Street is 15mph. Traffic Engineer Zandvliet confirmed that the speed limit 15mph, and it is 25mph on Marine Avenue.

Curt Rethmeyer, 751 Marine Avenue, said he does not believe there is a significant increase in traffic volume but speeds have increased in 600 block of Marine Avenue. He is in favor of speed humps.

Kyle Miller, 708 Marine Avenue, is concerned about his children's safety and said 9 out of 10 people do not fully stop. He said drivers are going at least 30mph. He was aware of the traffic when moving into the area, but did not expect the rapid increase.

Commissioner Paralusz asked what Mr. Miller recommends. Mr. Miller replied he agrees with Mr. Jurkowski in diverting traffic. He has seen three accidents in the years he has lived there and suggested making the three-way stop sign into a four-way stop sign.

Sean Mason, 400 block of 21st Place, said very few people stop on Marine Avenue when heading east at the intersection of Blanche Road and Marine Avenue. He suggested installing flashing lights, pedestrian reflectors, or adding a little walking area/lane. He said construction also increases traffic volumes. He observed cars frequently parking close to the corner of Grandview Avenue and Marine Avenue. He saw a little girl on a bike almost get hit. The curb was previously not painted red, but was painted after he reached out to Traffic Engineer Zandvliet, though people still park in the red. He supports installing speed humps and red curbs. He said that increased enforcement can also be effective.

Commissioner Paralusz asked if there are curbs everywhere along 21st Street. Traffic Engineer Zandvliet said no.

Dave Foley, 665 25th Street, said a holistic approach is necessary and pointed out 25th Street does not have a yellow centerline stripe in the middle. He is in favor of speed humps, stop signs and more enforcement.

Mr. Auffrey returned to the podium and reiterated importance of enforcement.

Chair Lipps suggested the City should park an empty police car in the neighborhood.

Chair Lipps closed public comment.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet provided additional considerations along with the pros and cons of some traffic measures that had been suggested. Other measures can also be used to change the character of a street to discourage speeding.

Commissioner Paralusz asked if there is anything to be gained from doing further study over the weekend.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet said it would be beneficial to conduct weekend and summertime counts. He further added the City cannot prohibit people from using the navigation apps. He also said newer construction projects are required to have a construction management plan that diverts deliveries and hauling away from Marine Avenue.

Ms. Monahan from the audience asked about neighborhood signs. Traffic Engineer Zandvliet replied he will look into all the possibilities.

Commissioner Longhurst noted the use of rumble strips on southbound Pershing Drive out of Playa del Rey.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet said rumble strips are noisy and would not be appropriate in this neighborhood.

Commissioner Longhurst asked about restriping Marine Avenue to add a bike lane or pedestrian lane, giving it a narrower feel. Traffic Engineer Zandvliet said it can discourage speeding, and added that parking pads also slow drivers down.

Commissioner Longhurst asked about the impacts of parking in parking pads. Traffic Engineer Zandvliet replied that if cars are parked not parked completely on the pad, they can be cited for blocking the lane.

Commissioner Delk asked why there is not a four-way stop sign at corner of Flournoy Road and Marine Avenue.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet said it could be considered, but the City must follow State guidelines, since stop signs are primarily for right-of-way control. Another possibility is to build a small island in the middle of the intersection.

Commissioner Paralusz said cross-gutters are also effective.

Chair Lipps said he takes Flournoy Road route all the time and the problem is not the bushes, but the parked cars. Traffic Engineer Zandvliet cautioned that a consequence of removing parking is the potential for drivers to go faster because there is no side “friction”, and the street seems wider.

Chair Lipps moved onto the next item, as no action was necessary and the item will be continued to the next meeting.

F. OTHER ITEMS

06/22/17-3 Monthly Revenue and Expenditure Reports: Receive and File

MOTION: Commissioner Paralusz made a motion to receive and file Monthly Revenue and Expenditure Reports. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Delk.

Ayes: Delk, Paralusz, Nicholson, Longhurst, Chair Lipps.
Noes: None.
Abstain: None.
Absent: Nicholson.

Received and Filed.

06/22/17-4 Staff Updates

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet provided an update on the Mobility Plan and noted it may return to PPIC if it is changed substantially.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet reported on the Joint PPIC/City Council meeting. He noted that the City Council was not in favor of a Citywide parking program as part of the Mobility Plan, but supported a parking permit system for certain areas. Other items discussed were more Public Works related, such as decorative gas lamps and undergrounding, which may or may not go to PPIC if part of Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) program.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet asked feedback from PPIC about joint meeting.

Commissioner Paralusz said it was constructive.

Commissioner Delk asked if PPIC could form a subcommittee to determine the feasibility of installing gas lamps on Highland Avenue, starting at the North End, and then present a plan to City Council. Traffic Engineer Zandvliet explained the different ways in which the City Council will consider additional Commission work plan items.

Commissioner Paralusz mentioned the stringent process for sunscreen dispensers when she was on the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Chair Lipps asked if the BID would be another way to go through that process. Traffic Engineer Zandvliet said the BID can propose gas lamps and then take it upon themselves to present the item to City Manager instead of going through PPIC or City Council.

Commissioner Delk said the BID has \$500,000 in reserve funds and the North End would probably need 50 lights.

Discussion followed on the gas lamps. Commissioner Paralusz proposed looking into the feasibility of installing gas lamps and request City Council blessing. Traffic Engineer Zandvliet noted there is consensus among Commissioners to move forward with the subcommittee to research feasibility of solar powered gas lights.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet reported on bike sharing program called Cyclehop. The City is looking into a pilot program together with Hermosa Beach and Redondo Beach. Discussion followed on Cyclehop features.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet said City Council removed the Bike Tunnel under the Pier from the Capital Improvements Program.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet provided an update on Vista del Mar lane reductions.

Commissioner Longhurst said 20 years ago he worked with Playa del Rey and an engineering firm that did many of the entitlements. The developer paid a substantial amount of money toward traffic improvements that were never done. He questioned if the City of LA ever said why they were not completed. He continued by saying the triangle portion was bought with the intention of making traffic improvements. He said Culver Boulevard in particular was supposed to be improved because of the Playa Vista development.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet said those are good points that need to be brought up.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet gave an update on the Skechers development along Sepulveda Boulevard, which is about 100,000 sq.ft. of office space, and said staff has worked with developers over the past year to address potential impacts. He explained the review process and potential for PPIC to hear any traffic related items.

Commissioner Delk asked how many new employees will come to the City; Traffic Engineer Zandvliet said about 1,400. There are also plans for an on-site cafeteria and a shuttle service to Downtown to be offered to employees.

Chair Lipps asked about when a Sepulveda Boulevard name change to Pacific Coast Highway will be heard by City Council meeting, and if the PPIC will be involved. Traffic Engineer Zandvliet said he did not know.

Commissioner Longhurst asked how much Caltrans is involved in the name change. Traffic Engineer Zandvliet said Caltrans is neutral.

Chair Lipps said Caltrans has not approved a name change in El Segundo. He said the City can reduce business license fees to help offset the cost that businesses would incur from the name change. He further added that Manhattan Village is in favor of changing the street name.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet provided an update on Manhattan Village Shopping Center expansion project. Chair Lipps asked about the estimated time of completion. Traffic Engineer Zandvliet said it is expected to be completed in 2019 and does not include any changes to Fry's Electronics.

06/22/17-5 Commissioner Items

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet confirmed Commissioners' request to form a subcommittee for solar-powered gas lamps.

Commissioner Paralusz commented she is happy that the mall work has commenced.

Lt. Andy Harrod said the Traffic Division is responsive to the community, but they are still missing one officer. The Police Department recently partnered with Hermosa Beach Police as a team and wrote 60 tickets in six hours. Officers also worked overtime to address concerns in the Downtown and North End areas, and wrote 80 tickets. Traffic Engineer Zandvliet assists them in identifying and addressing hotspots. He said the Traffic Division is making an impact.

Commissioner Paralusz thanked the Police Department for providing prizes at an auction.

G. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at **8:10 p.m.** to the regular Parking and Public Improvements Commission Meeting on Thursday, July 27, 2017, in the City Council Chambers of City Hall, 1400 Highland Avenue, in said City.