

**CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
PARKING AND PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS COMMISSION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
January 24, 2008**

The Regular Meeting of the Parking and Public Improvements Commission of the City of Manhattan Beach, California, was held on the 24th day of January, 2008, at the hour of 6:30 p.m., in the City Council Chambers of City Hall, at 1400 Highland Avenue, in said City.

A. ROLL CALL

Present: Donahue, Gross, Silverman, Stabile and Chair Paralusz.
Absent: None.
Clerk: Pompano.

B. AGENDA CHANGES

None.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 25, 2007

A motion was MADE and SECONDED (Gross/Donahue) to approve the minutes of October 25, 2007.

AYES: Donahue, Gross, Silverman, Stabile and Chair Paralusz.
NOES: None.
ABSENT: None.
ABSTAIN: None.

D. CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

None.

E. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None.

F. GENERAL

1. 26th Street West of Laurel Avenue – Request for Red Curb

Traffic Engineer Zandyliet presented staff's report and recommendations to prohibit parking on the north side of 26th Street from Laurel Avenue westerly 100 feet, with the exception of the parking turnout bay.

Audience Participation

Bill von Behren, 700 Block of 26th Street, voiced his opposition to the installation of red curb, sharing that everyone who lives in the area is against the red curbing and loss of parking spaces. He stated he has never seen or heard of an accident of any nature at this location caused by visibility restrictions or other causes relating to parking and that resident conduct themselves with courtesy and let one car pass when many cars are parked. Mr. von Behren spoke on the negative ramifications of the proposed red curb and asked that the City leave well enough alone.

Jeff Walker, 2600 Block of Laurel Avenue, stated his opposition to the proposed red curb and loss of parking. He described how the parcel was previously, sharing that the newly constructed home makes for a beautiful corner lot and red curb would undoubtedly infringe on the aesthetics of the home.

Barry Cottle, 2600 Block of Laurel Avenue, shared that his family purchased this home after it was built and that he was under the assumption that everything was done according to City Code. He stated that he does not believe red curb is necessary, pointing out that it would de-value his home and the way to address the shortage of parking in Manhattan Beach relates to residents parking their vehicles on the street rather than in their home's garage.

Discussion

Commissioner Gross inquired if the Commission is required to act on this request. Traffic Engineer Zandvliet explained that because the issue was raised and a request was made, the City is now "on notice" to a potential problem in vehicles getting through and can restrict parking as they see fit. He further clarified that the restriction of parking can be done through signage rather than red curb.

Commissioner Donahue stated that he has viewed the area and due to the width of street and low street volume does not believe a restriction of parking is necessary.

In response to Commissioner Stabile regarding feedback from the Police and Fire Departments, Traffic Engineer Zandvliet explained that both department were circulated the agenda item and responded that the City needs to guarantee access.

Commissioner Stabile stated that he would be reluctant not to act on this matter when the Police and Fire Department's response is that it needs to be addressed.

Commissioner Silverman relayed that there is no history of accidents in the area and that this street is not a major through street. He pointed out that the Fire and Police Department's response was not specific, but general in terms of emergency vehicles being able to get through. He shared that he is inclined to support the residents in the area and oppose the installation of red curb.

Commissioner Gross stated that the Commission needs to pay attention to the potential liability to the City by not acting on this request, and that he would support a parking restriction through signage rather than red curb.

Chair Paralusz acknowledged the difficulty in this decision, pointing out the notice of potential liability and the wishes of the residents. She noted that 26th Street is not a major through street which she believes mitigates liability concerns, and that she would rather restrict parking through signage rather than red curb, but is more inclined not to do either. Chair Paralusz commended the residents of the area for caring about their fellow neighbors and for working together to solve issues within the neighborhood.

Action

A motion was MADE (Stabile) to reject staff's recommendation to prohibit parking on the north side of 26th Street from Laurel Avenue westerly 100 feet, with the exception of the parking turnout bay and prohibit parking (via posted signage) on the south side of 26th Street from Laurel Avenue westerly 100 feet.

Motion did not receive a second– MOTION FAILED.

A motion was MADE and SECONDED (Donahue/Silverman) to deny staff's recommendation prohibit parking on the north side of 26th Street from Laurel Avenue westerly 100 feet, with the exception of the parking turnout bay.

AYES: Donahue, Gross, Silverman and Chair Paralusz.

NOES: Stabile.

ABSENT: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

G. COMMISSION BUSINESS

Commissioner Silverman asked that staff look into visibility concerns on Flournoy Road near 30th Street. As a member of the Downtown Business Association, Commissioner Silverman also spoke on parking issues the Association is working on.

Noting the issue brought forth at tonight's meeting, Commissioner Gross spoke on the importance of addressing the impact to parking when new construction is at the design phase, especially for streets having narrow width (less than 40 feet). Commissioner Stabile agreed with Commissioner Gross' comments, adding that potential impacts to parking are predictable at the planning stage and should be addressed at that point. Senior Planner Lackow provided information on the City's policy per Ordinance 2042.

Senior Planner introduced Management Analyst Ana Stevenson,

H. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

KARA POMPANO
Recording Secretary

KATHLEEN PARALUSZ
Chair

ATTEST:

ANA STEVENSON
Management Analyst