

**CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH  
PARKING AND PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
AUGUST 28, 2008**

**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 28<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2008, 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: Adami, Silverman, Gross, Stabile and Chairman Donahue.  
Absent: None.  
Staff Present: Stevenson, Zandvliet.  
Clerk: Weeks.

**C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – AUGUST 19, 2008**

A motion was MADE and SECONDED (Adami/Gross) to approve the minutes of August 19, 2008 as written.

**D. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

**Vern Knutson, 1501 Curtis Avenue**, asked that the stop sign at the corner of Curtis and Peck Avenues be removed, in that it provides a false sense of security for pedestrians because the majority of drivers do not stop.

Management Analyst Stevenson indicated that staff will contact Mr. Knutson to further discuss this issue and that the effectiveness of the stop sign will be further examined.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet advised that the stop sign at the corner of Curtis and Peck Avenues is a standing since its approval included a caveat to examine the effectiveness when the church was rebuilt.

**Paulette Rainey, 224 So. Peck Avenue** asked that Montessori School staff be asked to park in the School parking lot.

Management Analyst Stevenson confirmed that staff will contact Ms. Rainey to further discuss this issue.

## E. GENERAL BUSINESS

### School Area Traffic Study – Pennekamp Elementary School Area Study Initial Recommendations

Management Analyst Stevenson introduced this item.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet presented the staff report. He affirmed that the Neighborhood Traffic Management Plan (NTMP) guidelines were followed in conducting the Pennekamp Elementary School Area Study and that notices of this meeting were mailed to property owners whose homes border the School. Mr. Zandvliet noted the importance of improving traffic circulation near the School and that four-way stop signs at Gates Avenue and Herrin Street have been suggested but, according to the collision history and Stop Sign Warrant Checklist for that location, stop signs in all directions are not warranted at this time. However, red curbing could be installed on Gates Avenue just east and west of Herrin Street to help prevent visibility difficulties resulting from vehicles parked close to the intersection.

In answer to questions from the Commission, Traffic Engineer Zandvliet verified that orange cones can legally be placed at the center lines of school crosswalks to help improve driver awareness of crosswalks, as recommended in Initial Recommendation No. 14 and that, due to construction activity, the stop sign at Curtis and Peck Avenues was previously installed on a trial basis and it will be presented to the Parking & Public Improvements Commission for a follow-up evaluation.

Mr. Zandvliet presented clarification on the recommendations to construct a new sidewalk on the east side of Rowell Avenue between 1<sup>st</sup> Street and Curtis Avenue (No. 6); to paint a white loading zone lane line (on the street, not the curb) on the west side of Peck Avenue from the existing loading zone driveway northerly to 1<sup>st</sup> Street (No. 4); and to paint new school crosswalks at Curtis Avenue and Rowell Avenue on the north and west legs to improve pedestrian safety by raising driver awareness and provide a pedestrian connection to all corners at this intersection west of the School along the suggested route (No. 11). He provided input on the idea of widening the existing loading zone in front of Pennekamp School so drivers can bypass cars waiting to load/unload.

### **Audience Participation**

Chairman Donahue opened the public hearing at 7:03 p.m.

**Karen Hill, 1350 Curtis Avenue**, stated her opposition to Recommendation No. 9 to remove the existing school crosswalk at Rowell Avenue and Gates Avenue on the north leg only, due to her opinion that children will continue to cross there because the majority of classrooms are in that area. She noted problems caused by parents pulling in and out of residential driveways and EDP teachers parking across driveways.

**Joseph Rait, 1357 Curtis Avenue,** commented on the difficulty of seeing children walking/crossing on Curtis Avenue. Because of traffic problems caused by EDP staff parking along Curtis Avenue and making U-turns in residential driveways, he entertained the idea of prohibiting parking there from approximately 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**Michael Taddiken, 1537 Gates Avenue,** suggested installing a sidewalk on the north side of the horseshoe driveway in front of the School office to connect pedestrians to the sidewalk that ends by the dumpster. He voiced his concern that some green space in front of the School would be eliminated with the construction of a new sidewalk on the east side of Rowell Avenue between 1<sup>st</sup> Street and Curtis Avenue, as recommended in No. 6.

**Dale Keldrauk, Principal, Pennekamp Elementary School,** voiced his appreciation of the City's efforts, as well as those of the School's PTA Safety Officer, to address traffic issues near Pennekamp School. He confirmed that the majority of loading and unloading takes place on the east side of the School, except on Rowell Avenue where parents drop off and pick up Kindergarteners and children participating in the EDP. Principal Keldrauk explained that, because there is no staff or visitor parking at the School, drivers are dependent on the adjacent area for parking and, therefore, he disagreed with the idea of restricting parking on Curtis and Gates Avenues. He provided input on the School's continuing efforts to address traffic issues; the speeding traffic on Peck Avenue; the need for a white loading zone lane line on the west side of Peck Avenue to help reduce traffic back up; the idea of widening the lane in front of the School for loading/unloading; the under-utilized crosswalk at Gates and Rowell Avenues; and the difficulty of increasing parking in front of the School, particularly when parents previously resisted the idea of eliminating the play area to provide more parking. He highlighted the need for additional enforcement in the area and related his agreement with the staff recommendations.

Principal Keldrauk supplied input for the Commission on the percentage of loading and unloading on the street versus off the street. He said that, while he agrees with the idea of the School providing a formal program to enlist volunteer and/or staff supervision to assist student loading/unloading at main loading zones (No. 15), this will be difficult to accomplish, but consideration could be given to making parent participation mandatory. He clarified that, unless it is designated as a loading/unloading zone, there will not be a great amount of loading/ unloading in the area adjacent to the School office because staff parks there.

Chairman Donahue closed the public hearing at 7:35 p.m.

## Discussion

The Commission and Traffic Engineer Zandvliet reviewed the staff recommendations. The Commission agreed that a new sidewalk on the east side of Rowell Avenue between 1<sup>st</sup> Street and Curtis Avenue should be constructed in one phase (No. 6).

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet shared information about funding options for this capital project, which would not begin for at least a few years. Because of visibility difficulties caused by cars parked in the intersection at Curtis and Rowell Avenues, he entertained the idea of painting red curbing near that intersection.

Commissioner Adami noted that doing so would eliminate some much-needed parking on Curtis Avenue.

The Commission agreed that the idea of painting red curbing near the intersection of Curtis and Rowell Avenues should be examined in the future, after the new school crosswalks are painted on the north and west legs at Curtis and Rowell.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet advised that an option available to residents is the existing permit parking program for the Mira Costa High School area. However, this is not recommended by staff and is not before the Commission at this time.

Commissioner Silverman observed that safety is paramount to all and that the parents of children attending Pennekamp Elementary School must be respectful of residents living in the area.

Commissioner Gross suggested an additional recommendation as follows: That the City shall work with the School District to add or enhance off-street loading zones with the goal for each school of getting as much loading and unloading as is possible and reasonable off streets. He pointed out that trees on the northeast corner of the School need to be trimmed, as they are blocking the blinking light on Peck Avenue.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet advised that street trees on the opposite side of Peck Avenue are blocking the flashing beacon in the northerly direction.

Commissioner Stabile emphasized the importance of the School working to achieve a program to supervise school loading zones with Police Department personnel or other volunteers (No. 19).

Chairman Donahue entertained the idea of the Police Department hosting a safety conference with community leaders to help coordinate volunteer traffic safety programs at schools in Manhattan Beach.

## **Action**

A MOTION was MADE and SECONDED (Donahue/Stabile) to accept the staff recommendations for the Pennekamp Elementary School, adding a recommendation as follows:

20. That the City shall work with the School District to add or enhance off-street loading zones with the goal for each school of getting as much loading and unloading as is possible and reasonable off streets.

The motion was passed by unanimous roll call vote as reflected below:

Ayes:	Adami, Silverman, Stabile, Gross and Chairman Donahue.
Noes:	None.
Abstain:	None.
Absent:	None.

Management Analyst Stevenson advised that this item will be considered by the City Council on September 16, 2008.

## **F. COMMISSION ITEMS**

### **Parking Meter Revenue and Traffic Violation Revenue Report**

1. Commissioner Gross observed that there was a sharp rise in parking meter revenue in July.

Management Analyst Stevenson explained that the parking meter rates were increased and the Downtown Parking Management Plan is scheduled to be considered again by the Commission on September 25<sup>th</sup>. She verified staff's intent to research parking fines in other cities, as previously requested by the Commission.

2. Commissioner Adami pointed out that the Commission's regular meeting dates in November and December fall on Thanksgiving and Christmas Days.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet indicated that it is standard practice for the Commission to hold one meeting between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

The Commission agreed to meet on December 4, 2008.

3. Commissioner Stabile related his concerns over potential liabilities associated with the Commission's previous recommendation for partial left-turn restrictions on Aviation Boulevard and he asked that the Council be informed of his concerns.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet advised that the Commission's recommendation includes a six-month review and the Council will be informed of Commissioner Stabile's concerns when this item is presented for their consideration.

#### **G. STAFF ITEMS**

1. Management Analyst Stevenson mentioned that the previously-approved installation of painted center medians along Manhattan Beach Boulevard between The Strand and Morningside Drive and on Manhattan Avenue between 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Streets was well received by the Downtown Business Association.

Commissioner Silverman explained that he voted against this because of his desire for input from those affected prior to making a determination; however, after obtaining the desired input, he agrees.

#### **H. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m.