

**CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
PARKING AND PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS COMMISSION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
January 26, 2012**

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 26th day of January, 2012, at the hour of 6:43 p.m., in the City Council Chambers of City Hall, 1400 Highland Avenue, in said City.

B. ROLL CALL

Present:	Vigon, Fournier, Silverman, Adami and Chair Stabile.
Absent:	None.
Staff Present:	Madrid, Rydell and Mason.
Clerk:	Schilling.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. A motion was MADE and SECONDED (Silverman/Adami) to approve the minutes of December 1, 2011 regular meeting with the following amendments;

Commissioner Fournier requested that these changes be made at the top of page 9. He wants the minutes to reflect that he does not feel that the City Council needs to revisit the specifics of the Tree Ordinance and that the PPIC Commission should continue to take on these types of issues.

Chair Stabile made note of a spelling error, should be miniscule. Chair Stabile also asked that the name be changed on page 8, at the top of the page regarding a \$5000 fine, to Commissioner Silverman.

Commissioner Vigon arrived at 6:47 p.m.

D. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None.

E. GENERAL BUSINESS

2. Pennekamp Elementary School Area Follow-up Evaluation

Management Analyst Nhung Madrid introduced City Traffic Engineer Jack Rydell to present on this item.

Traffic Engineer Rydell gave a brief history of the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program that was approved by the City Council in 2002. Traffic Engineer Rydell spent considerable time going over the status of the 18 items that City Council approved in January 2010, as recommended by the PPIC Commission late 2008. He stated what action was taken and what may be needed to improve each situation if warranted.

Traffic Engineer Rydell noted that #5 prohibits left turns coming out of the drop off/pick up zone during peak times on Peck Avenue at Meadows Elementary School. He stated that there is a pole there for the sign but the sign is missing. Traffic Engineer Rydell reported that a sign has been ordered.

Traffic Engineer Rydell also provided the Commissioners with some information on the Federal Safe Routes to School Program (SRTS) regarding Pennekamp Elementary School. When the City applied for a grant last year for the SRTS, Pennekamp was the only elementary school that had opted out of participating in obtaining funds for improving student safety around their school and respective area. Traffic Engineer Rydell was pleased to announce that Principal Mabry, new to Pennekamp this year, was excited about the opportunity to participate in grant applications for State Safe Routes to School (SR2S) grant this year.

Principal Mabry was in attendance at the meeting and Traffic Engineer Rydell expressed that she was very enthusiastic and the school would be well represented as the grant application process moved forward.

Traffic Engineer Rydell indicated that the grant application was due the end of March, 2012.

Commissioner Adami asked if the flashing beacons at Peck Road and 1st Street were working.

Traffic Engineer Rydell responded that he was aware of the problem and was working with the Public Works department to ascertain if the cause was something minor and easily fixed or if the lights would require some major repairs. He remarked that if the beacons did require major repair they could include a request for funding those repairs when applying for the SR2S grant.

Commissioner Adami inquired if the beacons would blink all the time. Traffic Engineer Rydell explained that the beacons would blink only during the

beginning of school and at dismissal time. He said the goal is for drivers to take note of the beacons and if they were on all the time they would soon learn to ignore them.

Commissioner Silverman asked if it would be appropriate for Principal Mabry to come to the podium and answer a few questions.

Principal Mabry emphasized that Peck Avenue is a very busy street and beacons would be a very helpful especially at Peck and 1st Street.

Traffic Engineer Rydell suggested that embedded road way lights at uncontrolled street crossing could be requested as part of the SR2S grant if the school wanted to move forward with that request.

Commissioner Silverman asked Principal Mabry to elaborate more on the improvements. Principal Mabry explained that the drop off/pick up zones are extremely busy and that the random presence of a police officer on sight was a great reminder to parents and motorists that children are present and traffic rules need to be obeyed.

Commissioner Silverman acknowledged that the City doesn't have enough staff to have a presence at each school every day. Principal Mabry expressed her appreciation for the times that the police officers can make a presence at her school.

Commissioner Silverman asked if there had been any complaints from the neighbors about tipped trash cans, vandalism, etc. Principal Mabry wasn't aware of any complaints from the neighbors. She would like to request additional bike racks for the Pennekamp campus and is hopeful that this item could be included in the SR2S grant.

Chair Stabile asked Principal Mabry about Item #14 and why they only encouraged students to walk to school on Wednesday. Principal Mabry replied that she hopes to incorporate walking/biking to school each day in conjunction with the Vitality City Walking School Bus program. She would like to encourage walking/biking/carpooling each day of the week.

Chair Stabile inquired about the success of carpooling and if Principal Mabry had any experience with this item. She explained that she had been involved with getting the carpooling program off the ground at Pacific School but that it takes a couple years to get it going.

Chair Stabile asked about the status of Item #15, a map of preferred routes for walking/biking to school for parents. Principal Mabry confirmed that it was in the works.

Chair Stabile inquired about Item #18, which deals with the possibility of a valet type system for loading and unloading children and getting as much traffic as possible off the streets. Principal Mabry pointed out that she had been at a previous school in another city where this process was successful.

Chair Stabile mentioned that the police department had offered to train volunteers to do traffic at the schools. Principal Mabry would support a large valet program at the school.

Commissioner Silverman had a question regarding carpooling and wanted to return to that subject. He asked if there was a system currently in place to promote carpooling. Principal Mabry said her focus at the present is on biking/walking and once that has been accomplished she plans to move forward with the item of carpooling.

Commissioner Adami commented that he likes the idea of biking especially for the Middle School Students. Principal Mabry reiterated the fact that they would like more bike racks because as you encourage more students to ride their bikes they need to have a place to put them.

Commissioner Silverman again expressed his desire to see more promotion for carpooling. Principal Mabry said she would explore the option.

Commissioner Vigon stated that he thinks it's a great program and much progress has been made. He said the item is still a "work in progress".

Commissioner Adami commented that five years ago there was chaos, now it appears that all is working. He complimented staff for a great job. Principal Mabry expressed her gratitude to the City for working with the schools on this item and said she was happy to be present at the meeting.

Traffic Engineer Rydell explained that the SR2S grant application is due the end of March and that he is optimistic about the application.

Chair Stabile noted that there must be some progress as there were no angry or concerned parents in the audience tonight. He too acknowledges that this is a "work in progress". Chair Stabile remarked that he was happy to see that Pennekamp was on board this time for the SR2S grant and thanked Principal Mabry for attending the meeting tonight.

Action

A motion was MADE and SECONDED (Adami/Vigon) that the PPIC Commission presents a recommendation to City Council that the traffic safety measures installed are effective, they are supported by Pennekamp Elementary School and area residents, and should be made permanent.

AYES: Vigon, Fournier, Silverman, Adami and Chair Stabile.
NOES: None.
ABSENT: None.
ABSTAIN: None.

F. COMMISSION ITEMS

1. Commissioner Fournier requested information about the cost of parking at a parking meter and the breakdown of a parking citation.

Management Analyst Madrid responded that she would seek information from the Finance department.

A brief discussion ensued among the commissioners regarding the acceptance of credit cards at the parking structure meters and if there were any other parking options for them on the nights that the meetings took place.

Management Analyst Madrid explained that the IPS meters on the streets ran on solar power and were not an option for the underground parking area at City Hall.

Commissioner Adami asked if it might be possible to reserve parking places for the commissioners on the night of the meetings as there are times when the lots are full or they don't have enough change on hand along with the fact that they have no idea how long the meeting will last or how much time they will need on the meter.

Management Analyst Madrid stated that there are two reserved spots for official parking upstairs and in the lower lot.

2. Commissioner Silverman requested confirmation of the amount of the last SR2S grant received by the City.

Traffic Engineer Rydell and Management Analyst Madrid both stated that it was \$490,000.

3. Chair Stabile inquired about the action Council had taken regarding the Yucca Trees. Management Analyst Madrid offered to email the information to him in the morning.

Chair Stabile also mentioned that he had walked by the Birkenfeld's Eucalyptus tree and it didn't appear that it had been trimmed last month as the homeowners had stated it would be. And if it had been trimmed did it meet with staff's satisfaction.

Management Analyst Madrid confirmed that the tree had been trimmed and that staff had taken photos after the trimming and staff was satisfied.

4. Chair Stabile asked if the request to have any documentation regarding an item to be agendaized given to the commissioners in advance was added to the applications.

Management Analyst stated that the language had been added to the applications and send that to him by email as well.

G. STAFF ITEMS

1. Management Analyst Madrid noted that the CIP discussion scheduled for a special meeting on February 16, 2012 had been cancelled. She announced that the regularly scheduled meeting will be held on February 23, 2012 and the CIP discussion will be moved to a date in March.

H. ADJOURNMENT

The Meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m. to the Regular PPIC Meeting on Thursday, February 23, 2012 at in the City Council Chambers of City Hall, 1400 Highland Avenue, in said City.