

**CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
PARKING AND PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS COMMISSION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
March 27, 2012**

A. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Parking and Public Improvements Commission of the City of Manhattan Beach, California, was held on the 27th day of March, 2012, at the hour of 6:33 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, Arndt and Finton.
Clerk:	Schilling.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. A motion was MADE and SECONDED (Silverman/Fournier) to approve the minutes of February 23, 2012 regular meeting as written.

D. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Frank Wattles, P.O. Box 3514, Manhattan Beach, CA – wished to express his gratitude to the PPIC Commissioners for the manner in which they handled the situation with his Yucca Trees and to confirm that he is following the instructions he was given in reference to the trees.

Chair Stabile inquired about the status of the lawsuit Mr. Wattles had submitted against the City.

Mr. Wattles responded that there remains the possibility of Declaratory Relief which would include the court's interpretation of the City's Ordinance 7.36 in the event that Council revisits Ordinance 7.36 as was suggested by Mr. Wattles and the PPIC Commission then there would be no reason to continue with the Declaratory Relief. If Council takes no action to amend the Ordinance in question, the court will continue its investigation. Therefore action is pending.

Chair Stabile stated it was his understanding that the lawsuit would be dismissed if Mr. Wattles was able to keep his Yucca Trees.

Mr. Wattles remembered having a discussion regarding the lawsuit but if the Ordinance is changed the lawsuit would be dismissed. Mr. Wattles added that there are a number of residents in the community who have expressed an interest in the modification of Ordinance 7.36.

Commissioner Fournier recalled what was said and has concerns that this could become a much larger issue. He too agreed with Chair Stabile that the lawsuit was dismissed once Mr. Wattles was permitted to keep the Yucca Trees. Now Commissioner Fournier stated that he is unclear as to the reason for the law suit.

Chair Stabile explained that there was a question regarding the Ordinance and whether or not a tree/landscaping that existed prior to the adoption of the Ordinance could remain intact. He went on to say that the PPIC Commissioner planned to ask Council for clarification. He added that the preliminary injunction had been denied by the Court citing that Mr. Wattles lacked evidence.

Commissioner Fournier asked that Mr. Wattles include the neighbors north and south of Highland Avenue and suggested that he take a broad look at the issue.

Mr. Wattles said he hoped to do so.

E. GENERAL BUSINESS

Review of Proposed Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

Management Analyst Nhung Madrid introduced City Engineer Steve Finton to present a Power Point Presentation to the Commission addressing the 2012-2013 Capital Improvement Plan.

City Engineer Finton addressed the Commission and stated that he would present an overview of the CIP for the next five years, focusing primarily on the 2012-2013 Fiscal year. He explained that the City hosted a special Council Meeting on February 28, 2012 to discuss the Work Plan and the CIP. After meeting with Council a five year forecast was prepared and presented to Council on a draft basis at the March 14, 2012 Council Meeting. Since that time the Public Works department has reviewed the proposed CIP with each of the Commissions and that is why the presentation tonight. Public Works is scheduled to present the CIP to Council at the April 3, 2012 Council Meeting for adoption.

City Engineer Finton explained that there are a total of 53 projects itemized in the five year plan with a ticket price of \$78 Million. He plans to focus on the 23 projects scheduled to be completed during the 2012-2013 Fiscal Year for the cost of \$21 Million. He went on further to explain that the projects will be grouped based on whether or not they are funded or unfunded.

Commissioner Silverman asked City Engineer Finton to explain in detail what his job description entails. City Engineer Finton was happy to explain the specifics of his job responsibilities which largely include the Capital Improvement Plan.

Commissioner Silverman followed by asking where the projects come from. City Engineer Finton responded that some are mandated by the State or Federal Government, others are based on judgment and review of the City infrastructure and routine maintenance and some are based on Council Recommendation.

Commissioner Adami asked if the Sewer Communication was designed in-house. In response to this question City Engineer Finton stated that the City hires consultants for these projects who work under the oversight of City Staff.

Chair Stabile asked about the \$12 Million unfunded portion of the Storm Water Project.

City Engineer Finton explained that this was an unfunded mandated project. A discussion ensued among the Commissioners and City Engineer Finton regarding the type of infiltration system the City planned to use and if it were similar to the one Hermosa Beach had recently completed. The Commission had concerns about not only protecting the water but the sand on our beach.

Public Works Director Jim Arndt said the City was looking at several options. He said the ideal place would be under the sand between the pier and 40th Street. He also noted that there is a potential grant that could cover half the actual cost of the project. If not funded it would mean a cost of \$5 - \$6 per household.

Chair Stabile asked to confirm if this were to be accomplished this fiscal year which Public Works Director Arndt responded no.

Commissioner Fournier wanted to know when the City planned to bring this plan to the residents for discussion.

Commissioner Adami stated that the most crucial item was the Waste Water.

Public Works Director Arndt assured the commission that it would not have a large impact on the water level.

Commissioner Silverman reiterated that the commission did not want to see the sand become a dump.

Commissioner Fournier emphasized his concern that this will become an item of public scrutiny and concern.

City Engineer Finton added that the filtration project currently in process on the Veterans Parkway was funded by the State and was experimental.

Commissioner Fournier asked if the City could identify a successful project somewhere in the State that could be used as an example.

Director of Public Works Arndt explained that the Hermosa Beach project though a smaller scale, could be considered a test pilot.

Commissioner Vigon inquired about the deadline of the TMDL for implementation.

Public Works Director Arndt suggested that this infiltration system could treat all sorts of bacteria and toxins and also solve the problem of drainage at 28th Street. Both he and City Engineer Finton agreed that the project was most likely ten years out.

Commissioner Silverman cited that it would be like a Hyperion Treatment Plant only under the sand.

Commissioner Adami stated that the Hyperion Treatment Plant is one of the most successful and effective plants in the world.

City Engineer Finton continued with his presentation addressing the Sepulveda Bridge widening project. Design is scheduled to be complete in 2013 with construction starting in 2014. This project is being funded by grants.

The Commissioners had several questions related to this project; the cost of design, will a spreadsheet of cost projections be available and is Cal Trans involved in the project and whether or not the bridge was safe.

City Engineer Finton explained that in 2008-09 the City agreed to move forward with the project at their expense in order to expedite things. It was a low priority project on Cal Trans list. Cal Trans does have some concerns about the seismic standards of the newer part of the bridge being compliant with those set today. Actually the oldest part of the bridge built in the 1930's was safer. However City Engineer Finton reaffirmed the fact that the project was being funded by Prop C dollars.

Commissioner Adami remarked that the materials used today; asphalt and concrete are superior to those used 20 -30 years ago.

City Engineer explained that there is a newer type of asphalt that is quieter and more eco-friendly. The City is trying this material on Valley/Armore. He also reminded the commissioners that funds are coming from a number of sources; gas tax, Prop C and Measure R funds.

Commissioner Silverman asked if costs were taken into account the rising cost of materials such as concrete.

Chair Stabile followed with asking where the funds were coming from.

Public Works Director Arndt reiterated Council's decision with the Trolley project will determine the balance of the Measure R funds so we will just have to wait and see. He stated that the total funds available over the next five years in Regional money amounted to approximately \$91M.

Commissioner Vigon asked about the alleys in the City and if there were any plans to repair them as they are most often used as streets. He noted that they have huge pot holes throughout.

City Engineer Finton replied that the City's priorities are with the streets that are more heavily traveled. He added that the alleys get a slurry seal every seven years and at this time some of the pot holes are repaired.

Commissioner Fournier asked if they had noted more wear and tear on the alleys over the past five – ten years since there has been more traffic and larger vehicles on the alleys/streets.

City Engineer Finton replied that the City is getting more requests to take care of the alleys than they have in the past.

Chair Stabile pointed out an item on p. 17 regarding Pedestrian Safety Improvements; the Strand stairs and asked if there was a completion date established.

City Engineer Finton noted that the item is going to City Council on April 17, 2012.

A brief discussion ensued when Commissioner Vigon inquired about the timing of the project taking place during the peak summer months. City Engineer Finton explained that the project could be phased in to avoid any large impact to summer beach goers.

City Engineer Finton continued with his presentation addressing the facilities throughout the City. There is an aggressive plan to repair/upgrade facilities in the amount of \$4,260,000 for FY 2013 and the Commissioners could refer to the spreadsheet on p. 27 of the report for details.

City Engineer Finton remarked that the City would be spending \$1M on crosswalks in the downtown area, concrete replacement and traffic signal poles.

Commissioner Silverman asked how they decided upon upgrading these three items.

City Engineer Finton said that much was driven by maintenance schedules.

Commissioner Silverman suggested that the City work with the Downtown Business Professional Association (DBPA) as they would support improvements to the downtown area. He expressed the desire for Manhattan Beach to become more of a destination – spruce up downtown.

Director of Public Works Arndt implied that the City would most likely welcome a partnership with the DBPA and would relay the message to City Council.

Commissioner Vigon inquired about an overall design plan/theme for the downtown area to ensure that a destination is created, something like Carmel instead of Santa Monica. Director of Public Works Arndt stated that an architectural theme is something that could be considered for downtown now and brought forth to City Council.

As a member of the DBPA Commissioner Silverman shared that this was discussed at their last meeting and the DBPA was considering putting together a presentation for City Council.

Commissioner Fournier asked if the Cultural Arts Commission would be involved. Director of Public Works Arndt agreed that they could be involved with Civic art pieces.

Chair Stabile questioned the idea of a traffic circle at 15th and Valley/Ardmore and how this would impact pedestrians at this busy motorist/pedestrian intersection.

Public Works Director Arndt and City Engineer Finton agreed that this would be a challenging project should they move forward with it.

Management Analyst Madrid shared that there is an application for a grant to do community workshops and drafts for a roundabout at that location. City Engineer Finton added that there is a Greenbelt Master Plan for Veterans Parkway was included in that. There is \$100K for non-motorized transportation available each year for items such as cross walks, bike lanes, etc.

Commissioner Adami inquired about the implementation of diagonal crosswalks in the downtown area at Manhattan Beach Boulevard and Manhattan Avenue. City Engineer Finton announced that it had been looked at and there were pros and cons. It would include delays for motorist and that might not provide an effective traffic flow.

Director of Public Works Arndt added that the City Council is looking to put \$2M toward the CIP fund each year moving forward to cover costs of aging facility replacements and repairs.

Commissioner Silverman asked about p.27 and if the plan included bike racks, bike signage, etc. To which Director of Public Works Arndt responded nothing is off the books at this point. Commissioner Silverman asked if there was a long term plan for our City and how they hoped to see it in 25 years or so.

Chair Stabile asked if there were some coordination between the Bike Plan and the City's plan for major improvements so efforts aren't being duplicated. Director of Public Works Arndt pointed him to p. 27 and also noted that once the facilities assessment is completed there could be a change in the \$2M that Council wants set aside each year.

City Engineer Finton replied to Commissioner Adami questions regarding the total number of square footage the City owned in public facilities stating that it was 171,000 square feet incorporated in 37 buildings. Finton went on to say that the main priority is the reconstruction of the Pier improvements and those are ready to begin.

Commissioner Silverman noted that a lot of good work can be accomplished when a lot of good people come together and perhaps the City could look at coordinating volunteers.

Commissioner Vigon cited the LMB projects throughout the year and the success of things such as "Rock the Clock". City Engineer Finton suggested it might be feasible for the community to take on a minor project.

Commissioner Adami pointed out that the improvements made at the Botanical Gardens were the results of students and residents of the community coming together. He added that they could use some coverings over areas of the garden to protect folks during the rain.

Commissioner Silverman noted that the Rotary was involved in donating the bricks that were used in the Botanical Garden.

Chair Stabile requested confirmation of the amount needed for the projects projected for FY2013 in the amount of \$213M which was confirmed by City Engineer Finton stating that the City has unfunded projects each year as well.

Commissioner Vigon asked for clarification of the Planning Commission's role with jurisdiction over these items. City Engineer Finton replied that they just have oversight over the General Plan.

Commissioner Vigon reiterated his earlier suggestion that the City exercise the opportunity to partner with the DBPA and design and implement a theme for the area.

Public Works Director Arndt stated that the City Council approved the funds for the water and sewer a couple years ago. He also wanted to caution the Commissioners that though these items are funded this year a lot of costs could arise for projects in future years.

Commissioner Vigon recommended that the City look into doing some partnerships with companies, vendors and individuals at the intersection of Valley/Ardmore and Manhattan Beach Boulevard to landscape the area and get rid of the wood chips. He views it as an eye sore and if people are willing to make a donation to improve the area perhaps the City could put a plaque in place acknowledging their donation. He suggested something like "adopting" a piece of the green belt.

Public Works Director Arndt remarked that it would be addressed in the Veterans Parkway Master Plan.

City Engineer Finton acknowledged the idea about “adopting” a piece of the green belt as suggested by Commissioner Vigon and Commissioner Adami was also in support of the idea.

The Commissioners thanked City Engineer Finton for a thorough and well done presentation.

F. COMMISSION ITEMS

1. Commissioner Adami asked why the parking signs on the structures in the City were placed so high. He finds them difficult to see and requests that they be lowered.

Chair Stabile reminded the commission that the sign design and location was agreed upon by the PPIC with the Downtown Parking Plan.

Management Analyst Madrid stated that some of the signs had been lowered and that Chair Stabile was correct, noting that this was a plan that was approved by the PPIC.

2. Chair Stabile noted that since the City has initiated a No Smoking ban on the Strand there has been no compliance and he is not aware of any signage or public education on the ban.

Public Works Director Arndt confirmed that there is signage posted on the trash cans along the Strand as directed by City Council three to four months ago.

Chair Stabile and Commissioner Adami both walk the Strand daily and have not noticed the signs.

Public Works Director Arndt replied that Council asked for the signage to be kept low.

G. STAFF ITEMS

1. Management Analyst Madrid shared with the Commissioners the status of two grant applications that the Traffic Division is currently working on. One is for the Traffic roundabout at the intersection of Valley/Ardmore/15th St, and the second one is for another Safe Routes to School Grant. Both require a ten percent match from the City, which was presented to them at the March 20, 2012 City Council Meeting.

2. Management Analyst Madrid said that the parking meter evaluations on Parkview were complete. The section of the street between the Manhattan Beach Country Club westerly to the Village Drive were being removed and the Smart meters from the area were being relocated to the El Porto Parking lot. All other meters on Parkview Avenue were to remain for 120 trial period.
3. Management Analyst Madrid thanked the Commissioners who attended the Traffic Commissioners Workshop in Buena Park on March 17, 2012.
4. Management Analyst Madrid provided an update on the Aviation Boulevard Preliminary Engineering Study. She stated that due to the need for further traffic and parking analysis and that they City is letting Redondo Beach take the lead on this item and more information would be available in June.

H. ADJOURNMENT

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m. to the Regular PPIC Meeting on Thursday, April 26, 2012 at in the City Council Chambers of City Hall, 1400 Highland Avenue, in said City.