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**CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
PARKING AND PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS COMMISSION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
June 28, 2007
(DRAFT)**

A. The Regular Meeting of the Parking and Public Improvements Commission of the City of Manhattan Beach was held on June 28, 2007, at 6:38 p.m. in the City Council Chambers of the City Hall, 1400 Highland Avenue.

B. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Donahue, Paralusz
Members Absent: Silverman
Staff Present: Rosie Lackow, Senior Planner
Kara Pompano, Recording Secretary
Erik Zandvliet, Traffic Engineer

C. COMMISSION REORGANIZATION AND CEREMONIAL ITEMS

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 24, 2007

A motion was MADE and SECONDED (Donahue/Paralusz) to approve the minutes of May 24, 2007.

AYES: Donahue, Paralusz
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

2. RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING COMMISSIONERS

Senior Planner Lackow read Certificates of Recognition to former Commissioner Mike Lang and Outgoing Commissioner Gary Osterhout.

Chairman Lang thanked his fellow commissioners and members of staff for their hard work, and conveyed his appreciation for the opportunity to serve the Commission and the City.

3. REORGANIZATION AND WELCOME OF NEW COMMISSIONERS

Senior Planner Lackow informed the Commission that per the City's Municipal Code, the Commissioners who have served the longest, and next-to-longest without being Chairperson, shall be designated Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson respectively. She announced that Commissioner Paralusz will serve as Chairperson and Commissioner

1 Donahue as Vice-Chairperson. Senior Planner Lackow then introduced new
2 Commissioners Paul Gross and Gary Stabile who were seated with fellow
3 Commissioners Paralusz and Donahue, and stated that Commissioner Lester Silverman
4 was unable to attend tonight but will be in attendance at the next meeting.
5

6 **E. CITY COUNCIL AGENDA**
7

8 Traffic Engineer Zandvliet reported that the City Council continued the proposed
9 installation of “Pedestrian Countdown Signal” indications in all directions at the
10 intersection of Manhattan Beach Boulevard at Redondo Avenue, as recommended by the
11 PPIC. The issue was continued to the July 17th City Council meeting in order to obtain
12 more information and allow opportunity for a formal presentation on the matter.
13

14 **F. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**
15

16 None.
17

18 **G. GENERAL**
19

20 **1. Petition Request for Painted Crosswalk on Highland Avenue at 7th Street**
21

22 Traffic Engineer Zandvliet presented staff’s report and recommendation to approve the
23 request for a marked crosswalk with crosswalk warning signs on Highland Avenue at 7th
24 Street on the north leg.
25

26 **Audience Participation**

27 **Marti Padilla, 600 Block of Highland Avenue**, voiced her support for the crosswalk
28 and expressed kudos to the neighbors who took the time to make this request. She talked
29 of the fast pace of traffic on Highland Avenue and asked that the speed trailer and
30 increased police enforcement be designated to the area.
31

32 **Discussion**
33

34 Commissioner Donahue stated his support of the crosswalk.
35

36 Commissioner Gross relayed his support, sharing that the greatest benefit is that it will
37 provide a safer access for children.
38

39 Commissioner Stabile conveyed his support of the crosswalk, noting the sound reasons
40 put forth in the petition along with absence of any opposition.
41

42 Chairperson Paralusz noted her agreement with staff’s recommendations for the
43 crosswalk, and applauded the petitioner for participating in the process and bringing this
44 issue to the City’s attention.
45
46

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2 **Action**
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4 A motion was MADE and SECONDED (Gross/Stabile) to approve the request for a
5 marked crosswalk with crosswalk warning signs on Highland Avenue at 7th Street on the
6 north leg, as recommended by staff.
7

8 AYES: Donahue, Gross, Stabile, and Chairperson Paralusz
9 NOES: None
10 ABSENT: Silverman
11 ABSTAIN: None
12

13 **2. Request for Street Light Removal at 516 Ardmore Avenue**
14

15 Associate Engineer Gamboa presented staff’s report on a request from the property
16 owner/resident at 516 Ardmore Avenue asking that the new standard concrete streetlight
17 not be installed at this particular location because she believes this streetlight is
18 unnecessary due to the number of existing streetlights in the immediate area.
19

20 The Commission held discussion with Associate Engineer Gamboa clarifying that there is
21 little flexibility in where the new streetlight poles will be installed, as the goal is to have
22 uniform coverage; that there are a total of 13 streetlights averaging 3 lights per block and
23 spaced at an average of 150 feet (min. at 107 ft, max at 186 ft.) in this area; that the glass
24 cover can be replaced with the newer version so as to avoid a back flash; that there is a
25 minimum and maximum illumination level to meet at intersections; and that the current
26 lighting configuration has been in place since the mid 1950’s.
27

28 **Audience Participation**
29

30 **Vera Nason, 500 Block of Ardmore**, stated that she submitted this request because she
31 does not believe this street light is necessary, as there are two other poles on the street
32 which adequately give quality light. She shared that she has just spent a considerable
33 amount of money on removing the utility poles, and that it is not fair to have a new pole
34 go in its place and block her views.
35

36 **Discussion**
37

38 Commissioner Donahue shared that he finds difficulty in making a decision on this
39 request as he is torn between public safeties versus a resident wanting a view.
40

41 Commissioner Gross stated his concern with the amount of distance that would result
42 between streetlights if this pole is not replaced. Referencing the City’s potential for
43 liability due to “dark spots”, he indicated that he does not see compelling reasons to not
44 replace the street light.
45

1 Commissioner Stabile stated that he can emphasize with Mr. Nason, as he too has a
2 similar situation. He relayed his concern however with the safety issues of a potential
3 “dark spot” as the distance between lights that would result (if the street light is not to be
4 replaced) would be greater than the average distance between lights. Commissioner
5 Stabile concluded that he will reluctantly oppose the request.

6
7 Chairperson Paralusz agreed with Commissioner Donahue on the difficulty of this
8 request. She stated that due to safety issues and the fact that the distance that would
9 result if the streetlight were not to be replaced would be greater than the average distance,
10 she too will reluctantly oppose the request.

11 **Action**

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14 A motion was MADE and SECONDED (Gross/Stabile) to deny the request for streetlight
15 removal at 516 Ardmore Avenue.

16
17 AYES: Gross, Stabile, and Chairperson Paralusz
18 NOES: None
19 ABSENT: Silverman
20 ABSTAIN: Donahue

21 22 **3. Request for Street Light Addition at 919 Johnson Street**

23
24 Associate Engineer Gamboa presented staff’s report relative to a request from the
25 property owner/resident at 919 Johnson Street asking that a new streetlight be added to
26 the existing utility pole located on the east side of Johnson Street (mid block between 9th
27 and 10th Streets) to provide better illumination in this immediate vicinity of their
28 neighborhood.

29 30 31 **Audience Participation**

32
33 **Brenda Osborne, 900 Block of Johnson Street**, shared that she submitted this request
34 because the 900 block of Johnson Street is extremely dark at night, which leads to
35 potential problems with pedestrian/traffic safety and increases the possibility of burglary.

36
37 In response to Commissioner Gross, Ms. Osborne stated that she received a supporting
38 petition signature from everyone who was home to answer the door.

39
40 **Rob Osborne, 900 Block of Johnson Street**, provided a brief history on the layout of
41 the block, explaining why the streetlight is necessary and will make the area safer. He
42 explained that his property (at the corner of Tenth and Johnson) has an unusual
43 orientation because when re-subdivided years ago, the shape of the lot was changed and
44 the lot front was re-oriented to face Johnson instead of Tenth Street. This is different
45 from other neighboring corner lots which have their short side facing a numbered street,
46 which is where the utility poles with lights are typically located.

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Discussion

Commissioner Stabile indicated his support for the streetlight, pointing out the significant support from the neighborhood and the fact that no one has opposed. He shared that he is a little concerned about the setting of a precedent, but understands that the Commission will consider each request separately.

Chairperson Paralusz conveyed that she is not concerned with a possible precedent due to the uniqueness of this location and the fact that the Commission’s policy is to review each request on a case by case basis.

Action

A motion was MADE and SECONDED (Donahue/Stabile) to approve a request for a streetlight addition at the 900 Block of Johnson Street.

- AYES: Donahue, Gross, Stabile, and Chairperson Paralusz
- NOES: None
- ABSENT: Silverman
- ABSTAIN: None

H. COMMISSION BUSINESS

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet reviewed procedures and protocol of the Commission.

Chairperson Paralusz welcomed new Commissioners Gross and Stabile.

Commissioner Stabile shared that he found tonight’s meeting very interesting and complimented staff for their quality of work on the matters brought before the Commission.

I. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.