

Veterans Parkway Landscape Master Plan Workshop #2: Thursday, March 11, 2013

The City of Manhattan Beach is developing a Landscape Master Plan for Veterans Parkway. Three community meetings are being held to gather ideas and input from the public. The first meeting was held on Monday, March 11th and meeting information can be found on the [Going Green](#) website. The second meeting fell on Thursday, April 11th and was very well attended by the public, with over 75 people present to learn about and comment on the Veterans Parkway.

The City's Environmental Programs Manager, Sona Kalapura, opened the meeting and stated the meeting goal to review how comments from the first meeting were incorporated into the draft design guidelines. The consulting team, Mia Lehrer + Associates, then began their presentation with the goal of the project, review of the findings from the first meeting, comments to address questions and considerations submitted, and then a review of the landscape concept for the Veterans Parkway.

The goal of this project is to: Create a landscape master document that will guide future improvements, maintenance scheduling, and donor policies for the Veterans Parkway. Jeff Hutchins from Mia Lehrer addressed several comments that fall outside the scope of this Landscape Master Plan project, but do have needs that overlap with use of the Veterans Parkway. These comments included issues the Mobility Plan project will address, such as crosswalks and traffic along the Valley/Ardmore corridor, and bike paths. The consultant noted that other comments dealing with active uses of the Veterans Parkway will not be considered at this time, as City Council has specified the Veterans Parkway as a passive use space. The consultant also addressed some comments received on the ice plant, particularly the misconceptions surrounding its use for slope stabilization or noise abatement. Ice plant is an invasive species and threatens native vegetation. It is a fast growing ground cover, with shallow roots, that depletes the soil of nutrients.

Astrid Diehl from Mia Lehrer presented a "braided parkway" concept for the Veterans Parkway, which entails three "strands": plants, experiences, and landscape elements. Details on these concepts are available in the presentation posted on the [Going Green](#) website. As part of the braided parkway concept, the consultants gave an overview of the plant palette and the process for selecting new plants on the parkway, including a decision matrix and succession plan. They also reviewed the experiences that people come to the Veterans Parkway for, and how those could be enhanced with different landscape elements such as seating or signage.

Questions and comments from the audience were taken, but members were directed to note their comments on the large-scale maps on the wall. Those comments can be viewed on the maps posted on the [Going Green](#) website. The consultant also reiterated that the scope of the project is not to develop detailed planting plans, but to create a concept and put a process in place to guide future landscape improvements to the Veterans Parkway.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 2nd to review the final concept plans. Meeting information will be available on the City's Going Green website at www.citymb.info.