

**CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
PARKING AND PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS COMMISSION
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
January 22, 2015**

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 22nd day of January, 2015, 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: King, Lipps, Nicholson, Fournier and Apostol.
Absent: None.
Staff Present: Traffic Engineer Zandvliet, Lt. Harrod
Clerk: Kozak.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None

D. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Chair Nicholson opened the Audience Participation (3-Minute Limit)

Antoinette Gill, 3605 Oak Ave, explained that the change to the left hand turn signal at Manhattan Beach Boulevard and Redondo Avenue was very confusing and asked the Commission to have it reviewed and reverted back to the way it was.

Chair Nicholson and Traffic Engineer Zandvliet stated that the traffic signal would be reviewed.

Chair Nicholson closed the Audience Participation.

E. GENERAL BUSINESS

**01/22/15-1 Consideration of an Encroachment Permit for a Gas Company
Communication Pole on 8th Street East of Rowell Avenue**

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet gave a summary of the staff report and recommended that the Commission approve a motion for the approval of the Encroachment Permit for a Gas Company communication pole on 8th Street east of Rowell Avenue.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet introduced the Gas Company representatives, Shaun Baptiste and Daisie Sanchez, who gave a presentation on the location of the communication pole and how it would be maintained.

The Commissioners had a few questions for the Gas Company representatives and had a brief discussion.

Chair Nicholson opened the audience participation.

Audience Participation

Gary Kucker, Manhattan Beach Resident, asked if the Gas Company communication pole would be a hazard to people or cause any interference or interruption to cell phones or wireless devices.

Shaun Baptiste the Gas Company representative answered that it would not cause any interference or interruption to cell phones or wireless devices, and it is very safe technology.

Chair Nicholson closed the audience participation.

MOTION: Commissioner Lipps made a motion for the approval of the Encroachment Permit for a Gas Company communication pole on the south side of 8th Street approximately 200 feet east of Rowell Avenue, by the City Council. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Fournier.

Ayes: King, Lipps, Nicholson, Fournier and Apostol.

Noes: None.

Abstain: None.

01/22/15-2 Request for All-Way Stop Signs at 8th Street and John Street

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet gave his presentation and recommended that the Commission approve a motion to recommend that the City Council adopt a resolution to install stop signs in all directions at the intersection of 8th Street and John Street.

After a few clarifying questions, Chair Nicholson opened the audience participation.

Audience Participation

Melinda Bath, 881 8th Street, said she was not in favor of the stop signs or against them, but she asked that there be more evaluation before anything is done.

Amanda Luftman, 853 9th Street, explained that just that morning she and her eight year old daughter almost got hit by a truck that was not breaking any laws, but the driver just could not see them. She said they take the "Walking School Bus" route on

John Street every morning. She ask the Commission to please approve the four way stop at 8th Street and John Street to keep the street safe and help preserve the charm of the neighborhood that encourages people to walk to school, jog and ride bikes.

Charlyn Naylor, 872 8th Street, stated that she was at the meeting to support the four way stop signs.

Ron Kripalani, 815 John Street, said he is strongly in favor of both stop signs because of the restricted sight lines and speeding.

Jim Keller, 808 John Street, said he is strongly in favor of both stop signs at John Street and 8th Street and at 9th Street and sees no negative impact to anyone.

Maurice Suh & Kate Suh (Daughter), 865 8th Street, explained that it is not just a sight line problem, but a safety issue as well because of the speeding cars. A speeding car had hit his house. He felt there is no need to spend money on a traffic study. His young daughter Kate asked for the stop signs.

Kristy Jones, 864 11th Street, said she wanted to add her support for the stop signs and felt they are needed for the safety of all the children that use that "Walking School Bus" route.

Chair Nicholson closed the audience participation.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner King asked Lt. Harrod of the Manhattan Beach Police Department how John Street became a designated "Walking School Bus" route.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet answered and explained that when the "Walking School Bus" route on John Street was reviewed, there were different factors used, such as traffic volume, sidewalks and where the crossing guards were located.

Commissioner Lipps explained that there is a sight line issue as well as a safety issue and he is in favor of the stop signs.

Commissioner Apostol agreed that there is a sight line issue and a safety issue to even see the stop signs.

MOTION: Chair Nicholson made a motion to recommend that the City Council adopt a resolution to install stop signs in all directions at the intersection of 8th Street and John Street. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Apostol.

Ayes: King, Lipps, Nicholson, and Apostol.

Noes: Fournier.

Abstain: None.

01/22/15-3 Request for All Way Stop Signs at John Street and 9th Street

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet gave his presentation and recommended that the Commission approve a motion to recommend that the City Council adopt a resolution to install stop signs in all directions at the intersection of John Street and 9th Street.

Chair Nicholson opened the audience participation.

Audience Participation

Katrina Boren, 853 9th Street, asked that the stop signs be posted to help keep someone from getting hit by a car, because it is hard for drivers to see pedestrians coming over the hill.

Steve Boren, 853 9th Street, stated he was strongly in favor of stop signs at John Street and 9th Street to keep pedestrians and vehicles safe.

Chair Nicholson closed the audience participation.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner King said in his opinion the traffic conditions didn't warrant stop signs. He thought that the large hedge and a parked car were the problems with the sight visibility.

Chair Nicholson said there still may be a need to trim the bushes on the corners even with stop signs in all directions.

Commissioner Lipps commented that there is a need to slow down the traffic though our neighborhoods and stop signs will calm the traffic.

MOTION: Chair Nicholson made a motion to recommend that the City Council adopt a resolution to install stop signs in all directions at the intersection of John Street and 9th Street. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lipps.

Ayes: Lipps, Nicholson, and Apostol.

Noes: King, Fournier.

Abstain: None.

01/22/15-4 Request for All-Way Stop Signs at Valley Drive/Oak Street/35th Street

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet gave his presentation and recommended that the Commission approve a motion to recommend that the City Council adopt a resolution to install stop signs in all directions at the intersection of Valley Drive/Oak Avenue/35th

Street, including temporary realignment of the south and west approaches on a trial basis.

Chair Nicholson asked Traffic Engineer Zandvliet if he had any conversations with the residents of the senior center.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet answered he had not but he could if necessary.

Commissioner King asked how many units were in the senior center and if there had been any discussion with the property manager.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet answered there are 45 units, and he had not spoken to the property manager but they were notified through mailed notice.

Commissioner Apostol asked about the costs to realign the intersection both temporarily and permanently.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet provided estimated costs.

Chair Nicholson opened the audience participation.

Audience Participation

Megan Aldred, 3400 N. Valley Drive #10, explained that it is very dangerous to get out of their driveway onto Valley Drive and at certain times of the day they cannot even go out. She stated that there have been several accidents and just the other day. They almost got hit by a motorcycle that was going too fast. The driver started yelling at them. She asked the Commission to install the stop signs for the safety of all of the residents on Valley Drive.

Dan Constant, 2811 N. Valley, Neighborhood Watch Block Captain, commented that he thought the information on this intersection was well presented by Traffic Engineer Zandvliet. He said with all the visitors driving through their neighborhood, the City needs to slow down the speeding traffic for the safety of the residents and their vehicles. He explained that cars have been hit, multiple side mirrors have been knocked off and his own car was totaled. He supports the recommendation and suggested that City should re-stripe the bike lane because the way it is now it is unsafe, and add some lighting and illuminated stop signs on Valley Drive.

Pattie Izzo, 2815 Valley Drive, said the narrow bike lane and the speeding cars are a safety problem for the residents. She said she is terrified to even get in and out of her car for fear of being hit.

Gary Kucher, Manhattan Beach Resident, stated that if a stop sign is placed at that location, it would create problems for Walnut and Elm Streets due to people cutting through to avoid the back up from the stop signs. He stated he thought there needed to

be more study about the potential impacts on other streets, and he is against any four way stop at this time.

Antoinette Gill, 3605 Oak Ave, stated she was in favor of the four way stop to help slow down traffic.

Mara McPhee, 3403 N. Valley Drive, explained that the four way stop is needed because it is so dangerous with the cars speeding down Valley Drive.

Shawn Jensen, 3119 N. Valley Drive, commented that his car and his neighbor's car had been hit by speeding cars and his neighbor's car has had more than one side mirror damaged. He stated he was in favor of anything that would help slow down the speeding cars and make the street safer.

Chair Nicholson closed the audience participation.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Fournier explained he did not want to take any action on the item because he agreed with the resident that said the stop signs would increase the traffic problems for other streets and he felt those neighbors should be able to weigh in on the decision making process. He suggested the senior center issue should be a separate issue and would like to do something to make the senior center exit safer, but, he wasn't sure what could be done.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet said he looked at senior center exit and there wasn't much that could be done because of the way the exit aligns with Valley Drive. He added that the changes would be on a trial basis to see how they worked.

Commissioner King commented that he agreed with Commissioner Fournier on not making a decision on the item for all kinds of complicated reasons.

Commissioner Lipps agreed that the bike lane is not correct and is squeezing the traffic. He said he would like to see what a temporary traffic calming solution would do.

Chair Nicholson felt with all of the safety issues at the senior center exit and all of the parked cars being hit by speeding cars, he could not just do nothing. He stated that some kind of temporary traffic calming needs to be done.

Commissioner Apostol said he agreed that something needs to be done and complimented Traffic Engineer Zandvliet on the creative temporary solution he came up with.

Lt. Harrod of the M.B. Police Department stated he thought the temporary solution was a good idea and if there were any other safety issues that came up during the trial they could be evaluated.

MOTION: Chair Nicholson made a motion to recommend that the City Council adopt a resolution to install stop signs in all directions at the intersection of Valley Drive/Oak Avenue/35th Street, including temporary realignment of the south and west approaches on a trial basis of six months. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lipps.

Ayes: Lipps, Nicholson, Fournier and Apostol.
Noes: King.
Abstain: None.

F. OTHER ITEMS

12/04/14-5 Monthly Revenue and Expenditure Reports: Receive and File.

Received and Filed.

12/04/14-6 Commission Items

Commissioner Fournier stated he was very unhappy with the Mobility Plan Report that the consultants gave the Commission. He said he thought there was a lot of important information missing in the report, such as time lines and cost analysis.

Commissioner Fournier felt the cost of \$150,000.00 was too high for what the consultants provided. He explained he wanted to share with the other Commissioners that he had expressed his feelings to the City Council.

Commissioner Lipps said he had spoken with the City Manager on how the Mobility Plan Report was so generic and the cost was too high.

It was the consensus of the Commissioners that the Mobility Plan Report was too generic and not specific to Manhattan Beach. They felt the cost was too high for what they were provided with from the consultants.

12/04/14-7 Staff Follow-up Items

Commissioner Lipps asked about the status of the 6:00pm start time for the future PPIC Meetings.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet answered that the item is still going through the approval process.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet invited the Commissioners that had not already taken the Traffic Commissioners Workshop to attend on Saturday, March 14, 2015. He said he would encourage the Commissioners to attend the class.

Commissioner Apostol and Commissioner King stated they would be interested in attending.

Commissioner Fournier complimented Traffic Engineer Zandvliet on the great job that was done at Ardmore Avenue and Flourney Road.

G. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at **9:18 p.m.** to the regular Parking and Public Improvements Commission Meeting on Thursday, January 22, 2015, in the City Council Chambers of City Hall, 1400 Highland Avenue, in said City.