

**CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH  
PARKING AND PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
June 25, 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 25th day of June 2015, at the hour of 6:32 p.m., in the City Council Chambers of City Hall, 1400 Highland Avenue, in said City.

**B. ROLL CALL**

Present: King, Lipps and Fournier.  
Absent: Nicholson. One vacant position.  
Staff Present: Traffic Engineer Zandvliet.  
Clerk: Kozak.

**C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**06/25/15-1 May 28, 2015**

Approved with no corrections.

**D. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Chair Lipps opened the Audience Participation (3-Minute Limit).

**Lee Barr, Manhattan Beach Resident**, asked why there were four Library Parking Only parking spaces for low emissions vehicles, when there are not any dedicated Library only parking spaces for other vehicles. He stated that there are four electric vehicle charging and parking spaces in the lower level of the City Hall parking lot too, and asked if those spaces were free and have the two hour parking limit like all the other parking spaces. He felt it isn't fair to give special treatment for low emissions vehicles. He commented that the signage is confusing and needs to be easier to understand for drivers.

**Tom Howatt, 2404 Pacific Avenue**, thanked the Commission for instituting the changes on Pacific Avenue and the greenbelt. He explained that the drag racing and speeding going south has stopped. He said he and his neighbors applaud the Commission for doing the right thing and making the neighborhood safer.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet explained that those four low emission vehicle parking spaces were required as part of the LEED certification when the Library was being built.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet said he would investigate if the Low Emissions Vehicles parking spaces could be relocated to the charging stations in the lower level of the City Hall parking lot if they qualified, or closer to the front of the Library. He stated that staff could make the changes if they are allowed, and asked the Commissioners if they all agreed to have staff handle the issue administratively and report back to the Commission with the results. He also said he agreed with Mr. Barr that the signage needs to be clear for what vehicles are allowed to park in those spaces.

The Commissioners agreed with Traffic Engineer Zandvliet recommendations and asked that he report back to them with the outcome.

Chair Lipps closed the Audience Participation.

E. **GENERAL BUSINESS**

**06/25/15-2 Consider a Request for All-Way Stop Signs at Pacific Avenue and 23rd 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 Pacific Avenue and 23rd Street.

Chair Lipps opened the Audience Participation.

**Audience Participation**

**Helen Onusconich, 2405 Pacific Avenue,** stated there has been more than one car totaled in front of her home because of cars speeding down Pacific Avenue. She explained it is not safe for her to pull out of her driveway because of the speeding cars. She asked the Commission to approve the stop signs for safety.

**Akiko Maeda, 804 23rd Street,** explained she really didn't like the thought of having a stop sign, but in this case she felt it was really needed for safety. She said when she tries to pull out of her driveway, the large trees that have grown over the years block her view to see the oncoming cars. She stated she didn't want to see the trees cut down and felt the stop signs would help.

**Marcie Pettigrew, 2400 Pacific Avenue,** expressed that she was in favor of the stop signs. She said that drivers on Pacific Avenue pick up speed because of the hill and that creates a safety problem.

**Stephanie Resley, Manhattan Beach Resident,** felt that putting in stop signs was not addressing the problem because speed was the issue. She thought that speed bumps should be used not only on Pacific Avenue, but on other streets where drivers are speeding though the neighborhoods. She explained that she doesn't like speed bumps, but they do slow cars down.

**Tom Howatt, 2404 Pacific Avenue,** said there is a speeding issue on Pacific Avenue. He explained cars pick up speed because of the hill, which makes it very difficult for the residents to get out of their driveways. He said safety is the issue and he doesn't want to see anyone get hurt. He asked the Commission to approve the stop signs.

**Ron Adams, 2310 Pacific Avenue,** stated a stop sign is needed at the location because of the speeding and he was in favor of the stop signs.

**Robin Chancellon, 2206 Pacific Avenue,** said she was in favor of stop signs on Pacific Avenue and 23rd Street, and was pleased to read that the staff report recommended the approval of the stop signs. She asked the Commission to approve the stop signs because the traffic and speeding is getting worse, and it is a real safety issue.

**Moon Bae, 2314 Pacific Avenue,** explained she had always been concerned with the traffic on Pacific Avenue but now with the speeding she has a problem pulling out of her driveway. She asked for stop signs at Pacific Avenue and 23rd Street.

Chair Nicholson closed the Audience Participation.

### **Commission Discussion**

Commissioner King said there was no mention of any accidents at the location in the staff report, and asked if speed bumps would be appropriate on Pacific Avenue.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet explained that not all accidents are reported to the City by the people involved for various reasons. He said that because of the grade of the hill on Pacific Avenue, speed bumps would not meet the criteria and wouldn't be recommended. He said a speed awareness sign may help drivers slow down when they see how fast they are going.

Commissioner Fournier explained to the audience that stop signs are not the remedy used for reducing speed, and then asked Traffic Engineer Zandvliet to explain why.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet explained there are advantages and disadvantages to stop signs. He said some of the disadvantages are noise, pollution and the possibility of rear end accidents, but in this situation the stop signs are justified because of the limited visibility issue.

Chair Lipps said he drove to Pacific Avenue and 23rd Street and watched the traffic. He observed some residents trying to back out of their driveway, which at times was dangerous because of the sight line issue. He stated he thought there is a safety

issue at the location, and felt stop signs along with a speed awareness sign will help change driver habits to slow down. He said he is in favor of the stop signs.

Commissioner King asked if by adding the stop sign at Pacific Avenue and 23rd Street, would it cause drivers to take other streets.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet said it could create some additional traffic but nothing very significant.

Commissioner Fournier commented that he agreed with what Chair Lipps said and is in support of the stop signs, but asked if staff could look at the possibility of removing any stop signs that may not be needed within the immediate area.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet said if the stop signs are approved for Pacific Avenue and 23<sup>rd</sup>, he would do a follow up speed survey for the street segment between 23rd Street and Marine Avenue and provide a follow-up status report.

Chair Lipps stated he is in favor of any type of traffic calming measures in neighborhoods to help slow down the drivers who are speeding through them.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Fournier made a motion to recommend that the City Council adopt a resolution to install stop signs in all directions at the intersection of Pacific Avenue and 23rd Street. The motion was seconded by Commissioner King.

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

### **06/25/15-3 Review Parking Restrictions and Enforcement on Ocean Drive**

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet gave a brief explanation and recommended that the Commission discuss the current parking restriction and enforcement practices along Ocean Drive and provide staff with direction.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet stated that Lt. Harrod of the M.B. Police Department and Parking Enforcement Officer Dawson were in attendance and would be available should the Commission have any questions or need clarification.

Chair Lipps opened the Audience Participation.

### **Audience Participation**

**Timothy Hogan, 605 Anderson Street**, gave a brief presentation along with photos of where he received his ticket. He explained that he did finally get the ticket dismissed by the California Superior Court. He said he was coming back to the

Commission as recommended by the Judge who dismissed his ticket to ask the Commissioners and the Traffic Engineer to establish guidelines or measures, so in the future, people parking on Ocean Drive will have a better understanding of where they can and cannot park.

Mr. Hogan requested a fair and consistent enforcement policy be put in place on Ocean Drive. He also suggested that better signage would be helpful.

Chair Lipps closed the audience participation.

### **Commission Discussion**

After extensive discussion between the Commissioners present, Traffic Engineer Zandvliet, Lt. Harrod and Parking Enforcement Officer Dawson, it was agreed by all that sometimes the parking enforcement practices are not always clear on Ocean Drive. The Commissioners gave direction to staff to paint a white line on the west side of Ocean Drive to clarify how far out onto the street parking is allowed, use red lines where parking is not allowed, and post better signage so people will understand where they can and cannot park. They explained that this will help Parking Enforcement Officers enforce parking enforcement more fairly for the residents and visitors who park on Ocean Drive, and to provide a clear path for the Police, Fire, Paramedics and any other emergency vehicles to perform their life saving jobs.

#### **F. OTHER ITEMS**

##### **06/25/15-4 Monthly Revenue and Expenditure Reports: Receive and File**

Received and Filed.

##### **06/25/15-5 Commission Items**

Commissioner Fournier asked what Traffic Engineer Zandvliet's relationship is with Caltrans when it comes to changing traffic signal light timing.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet explained that he and staff are the stewards for the citizens to take their concerns, suggestions and complaints to Caltrans. He stated his relationship is with the Caltrans staff, whom he can ask about making changes but they have the final decision on the changes within their jurisdiction.

Commissioner King asked if Traffic Engineer Zandvliet could check why the pressure plates at Rosecrans Avenue and Highland Avenue are not working to trip the signal when cars are wait waiting and there are no cars coming in the other direction.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet said he would look into it and report back with the information.

**06/25/15-6 Staff Follow-up Items**

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet reported that the Valet Parking Plan would be going to the City Council on July 7, 2015.

**G. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at **8:44 p.m.** to the regular Parking and Public Improvements Commission Meeting on Thursday, July 23, 2015, in the City Council Chambers of City Hall, 1400 Highland Avenue, in said City.

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