

**CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
PARKING AND PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS COMMISSION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 7, 2006**

A. The Regular Meeting of the Parking and Public Improvements Commission of the City of Manhattan Beach was held on December 7, 2006, at 6:37 p.m. in the City Council Chambers of the City Hall, 1400 Highland Avenue.

B. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Donahue, Osterhout , Paralusz, and Acting Chairperson Seville-Jones

Members Absent: Lang

Staff Present: Robert Osborne, Management Analyst
Kara Pompano, Recording Secretary
Erik Zandvliet, Traffic Engineer

C. AGENDA CHANGES – None.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 28, 2006

Commissioner Seville-Jones pointed out three minor modifications on Page 1.

A motion was MADE and SECONDED (Osterhout/Paralusz) to approve the minutes of September 28, 2006 as amended.

AYES: Donahue, Osterhout, Paralusz, Acting Chairperson Seville-Jones

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

E. CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

Management Analyst Robert Osborne reported that the City Council approved the request for a street light at the intersection of 14th Place and Ocean Drive and the PPIC's recommendations for traffic modifications at the Civic Center/Valley Drive. Implementation of the Pacific Elementary School Area Study recommendations was continued to a later date to allow for additional dialogue with the residents and school representatives.

F. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None.

G. GENERAL

1. Robinson Elementary School Area Study – Initial Recommendations

Noting the City Council's delayed implantation of the Pacific School Area Study recommendations to allow for more dialogue with the residents, Commissioner Osterhout questioned if this issue should be tabled to allow for same. Traffic Engineer Zandvliet stated that there will be an additional opportunity for the residents to review and provide input on these recommendations before it goes to City Council.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet presented staff's report and recommendations to implement the following initial circulation improvements at Robinson Elementary School area:

1. Replace missing or non-standard traffic and school area signs.
2. Concentrate traffic and parking enforcement around the school campus on a regular basis.
3. Paint school crosswalks and markings on an annual basis.
4. Add a new "Student Loading Zone 7:45am to 9:15am, 2pm to 3:15pm School Days Only" on the east side of Morningside Drive between the school turnout and Francisco Street to the south.
5. Add a new "Student Loading Zone 7:45am to 3:15pm School Days Only" on the north side of Francisco Street adjacent to the kindergarten gate.
6. Post "NO LEFT TURN" signs from southbound Morningside Drive into the Robinson School loading turnout.
7. Post "RIGHT TURN ONLY" signs out of the Robinson School loading zone onto Morningside Drive.
8. Paint new school crosswalks on the south and west legs of the intersection at Morningside Drive and 1st Street.
9. Paint new school crosswalk on the east leg of Francisco Street at Morningside Drive.
10. Install stop signs and school crosswalks in all directions at the intersection of Morningside Drive and 2nd Street.
11. Install "NO PED XING" signs on the east and west legs of 1st Street at Vista Drive.
12. Encourage the school to start a formal program to enlist volunteer and/or staff supervision to assist student loading/unloading at main loading zones.
13. Encourage the school to implement a formal student car-pool and walking incentive program for both parents and students.
14. Encourage the school to create a new on-campus student loading area in the staff parking lot along Francisco Street.
15. Prepare Suggested Routes to School map for distribution to parents.
16. Encourage the school to distribute parking and traffic safety handouts regularly throughout the school year.
17. Conduct crossing guard study at 1st Street and Morningside Drive.
18. Conduct crossing guard study at Francisco Street and Morningside Drive.

The Commission held discussion with Traffic Engineer Zandvliet regarding the staff parking lot on Vista Drive, jaywalking concerns, the proposed stop signs at the

intersection of Morningside Drive and 2nd Street, removal of parking spaces to aid visibility, street sweeping and the shortage of short-term visitor parking.

Audience Participation

Noting that he is 33 year resident and former Planning Commissioner, **Richard Ackerman, 400 Block of 1st Street**, complimented staff on the thorough staff report. He talked of the serious traffic congestion that occurs daily on 1st Street which is intensified by the large SUVs and parking on both sides of the street. He suggested that restricted parking be implemented on the south side of 1st Street between Morningside Drive and Valley Drive. This situation is a disaster waiting to happen and makes exiting from ones garage quite a challenge.

Stephen Johnson, 500 Block of 2nd Street, commended staff for their report and voiced his concern with the intersection at 1st Street and Ingleside Drive. The northeast corner of Ingleside Drive is sloping and drivers roll through stop sign. He suggested a choker be installed to slow down traffic and assist pedestrians crossing the street.

Vikki McMahan, 800 Block of 9th Street, spoke on staff's recommendations for the area, stating that she disagrees with the findings on the usage of 1st Street, Ingleside Drive and Vista Drive as she and many others use it. She stated that the Francisco Street lot gates are locked at 8:15 a.m. and are not used by kindergarteners, and that Morningside Drive needs "No Pedestrian Crossing" signage. She also voiced support of new Student Loading Zone on the east side of Morningside Drive, but noted that the recommended hours need to reflect the modified Wednesday school schedule.

Discussion

Commissioner Osterhout thanked the residents for their input and indicated that he supports 99% of staff's recommendations. He would like to hear more input from the residents regarding the proposed stop signs on Morningside Drive and 2nd Street, as it is important to note the amount of time when school is not in session and that stop signs may not be necessary. Commissioner Osterhout questioned if the removal of a parking space is a better solution to improve visibility. He also noted that he is not in favor of "No Pedestrian Crossing" signs due to the problem with police enforcement.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet stated that staff's justification for the stop sign relates to driver and pedestrian safety, limited visibility and high pedestrian volume.

Commissioner Donahue stated his support for the stop signs at Morningside Drive and 2nd Street, and that he is absolutely against removal of any parking spaces in the City. He does not support "No Pedestrian Crossing" signs as they provide no benefit and just "clutter" the area.

Commissioner Paralusz voiced her support of the stop signs at Morningside Drive and 2nd Street, adding that she believes removal of a parking space may increase visibility and

actually increase driver speed. She stated her support for “No Pedestrian Crossing” signs, as these measures will be reviewed in six months and a final determination can be made on whether or not this signage acts as a deterrent. Commissioner Paralusz also inquired if closing the gate on 1st Street and opening the one on Francisco Street would help the traffic congestion on 1st Street.

Acting Chairperson Seville-Jones questioned staff on the possibility of extending the length of the proposed loading zone on Francisco Street, and on closing the gates at Vista Drive. In regard to a resident’s suggestion on restricting parking on the south side of 1st Street, she stated that it is too soon in the process to take away parking. These measures will be reviewed in six months at which time modifications or additional measures can be considered. Commissioner Seville-Jones stated that the proposed measures should alleviate traffic congestion on 1st Street, and that she will support the street sweeping modifications, the stop signs at Morningside Drive and 2nd Street, as well as the remainder of staff’s recommendations.

Action

A motion was MADE and SECONDED (Paralusz/Osterhout) to approve staff’s initial circulation measure items 1 through 18, with a modification on item 5 to address the modified Wednesday school schedule, with the exception of items 10 and 11 (to be voted on separately), and with the addition of the following three measures:

19. Request the City of Hermosa Beach to modify street sweeping restrictions to avoid conflict with school hours.
20. Post a street sweeping restriction on the east side of Morningside Drive, adjacent to the school.
21. Work with the school to explore pedestrian improvements to encourage use of the pedestrian access gate at Ingleside Drive.

AYES: Donahue, Osterhout, Paralusz, Acting Chairperson Seville-Jones
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

A motion was MADE and SECONDED (Donahue/Paralusz) to approve measure #10.

10. Install stop signs and school crosswalks in all directions at the intersection of Morningside Drive and 2nd Street.

Commissioner Osterhout reiterated his opposition to the stop signs.

AYES: Donahue, Paralusz, Acting Chairperson Seville-Jones
NOES: Osterhout
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

11. Install “NO PED XING” signs on the east and west legs of 1st Street at Vista Drive, on a temporary basis.

Commissioner Donahue shared that although he is not in favor of the signs, he will support their installation for a six month basis.

Commissioner Osterhout warned that in this sort of thing the signs never end up coming down. If this situation is serious enough consideration should be given to placing a physical barrier to prevent pedestrians from crossing.

Commissioner Donahue stated that he opposes any type of physical barrier.

Acting Chairperson Seville-Jones commented that she too believes a barrier is too extreme and although she doesn't like sign pollution, she would support the installation for safety purposes.

A motion was MADE and SECONDED (Paralusz/Seville-Jones) to approve circulation measure item 11.

AYES: Donahue, Paralusz, Acting Chairperson Seville-Jones
NOES: Osterhout
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

At the request of Acting Chairperson Seville-Jones, a brief discussion was held on the possibility of installing No Pedestrian Crossing signage on Morningside Drive adjacent to the drop off area. It was decided to revisit this issue at the six month review.

2. Consideration of Removal of Marked Crosswalk - Sepulveda Boulevard at 14th Street

Traffic Engineer Erik Zandvliet presented staff's report and recommendation to remove the existing painted crosswalk and install “No Pedestrian Crossing” signs across Sepulveda Boulevard at 14th Street.

In response to questions from Acting Chairperson Seville-Jones, Traffic Engineer Zandvliet explained that staff's recommendation is from a safety standpoint and is based on the high traffic volumes.

Audience Participation

None.

Discussion

Commissioner Paralusz indicated that she lives near this area and is in support of staff's recommendations.

Commissioner Osterhout stated that he is not in favor of the "No Pedestrian Crossing" signage, as there will no longer be a crosswalk.

Acting Chairperson Seville-Jones commended the residents who brought this request forward as this location poses such a safety issue. She agrees with the crosswalk removal but questions the need for the "No Pedestrian Crossing" signage and how it differs from other locations.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet explained that as this location had a crosswalk originally and the markings will be faded, the "No Pedestrian Crossing" sign is appropriate. The City could be open to some legal exposure if there was no sign.

Commissioner Seville-Jones stated that if the reason for the sign is because there used to be a crosswalk, she will support it. She would ask that the sign be installed for a limited time – to make pedestrians aware that the crosswalk is no longer there. She does not support the signage for an infinite amount of time as this location is not distinguishable from other locations throughout the City.

A motion was MADE and SECONDED (Paralusz/Donahue) to approve staff's recommendation to remove the existing painted crosswalk and install "No Pedestrian Crossing" signs across Sepulveda Boulevard at 14th Street.

AYES: Donahue, Osterhout, Paralusz, Acting Chairperson Seville-Jones
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

H. COMMISSION BUSINESS

Commissioner Osterhout talked about the School Board's meeting regarding surplus property and his concerns relative to the impact of future decisions on traffic. He commented on the Downtown Traffic Study and questioned why a traffic impact time of 7:00 is being used as he believes a 5:00 time is more accurate. Traffic Engineer Zandvliet responded that 7:00 was used per City Council's direction.

Commissioner Osterhout suggested signage be installed to make drivers more aware of the upcoming left turn lanes going westbound at Rosecrans Avenue at Sepulveda Boulevard. Traffic Engineer Zandvliet responded that this intersection will be changing in the near future to accommodate the new plaza.

He also spoke on the intersection at 15th Street and Highland Avenue, with Traffic Engineer Zandvliet responding that the intersection is also scheduled for modification.

Commission Osterhout lastly talked on the Environmental Impact Study underway at Manhattan Village and how additional issues can be addressed.

Management Analyst Osborne noted that additional issues relative to the Grandview Elementary School Area Traffic Study will return to the Commission in January.

I. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.