

1
2 **CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH**
3 **PARKING AND PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS COMMISSION**
4 **MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**
5 **April 26, 2007**
6 **(D R A F T)**

7 **A.** The Regular Meeting of the Parking and Public Improvements Commission of the
8 City of Manhattan Beach was held on April 26, 2007, at 6:35 p.m. in the City
9 Council Chambers of the City Hall, 1400 Highland Avenue.

10
11 **B. ROLL CALL**

12
13 Members Present: Osterhout, Paralusz, Seville-Jones, Donahue

14 Members Absent: Chairman Lang

15 Staff Present: Rosie Lackow, Senior Planner

16 Erik Zandvliet, Traffic Engineer

17
18 **C. AGENDA CHANGES**

19
20 None.

21
22 **D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 22, 2007**

23
24 The following changes were requested by the Commission:

25
26 Page 2, General Business, line one: delete colon after the word “to”.

27 Page 2, Audience Participation for Grandview School item: first paragraph, line three -
28 add a comma to “parents” to indicate possessive and in the second paragraph, line two -
29 add an s to the word “believe”, and in line five, after the word “and” - add the word
30 “that”.

31 Page 6, Audience Participation for Taxicab stand item, fifth paragraph, ninth line: add the
32 word “Sushi” after “Fusion”.

33 Page 7, Discussion, third paragraph, eighth line: change “Commissioner” to “Commission”.

34
35 A motion was MADE and SECONDED (Paralusz/Osterhout) to **APPROVE** the minutes
36 of March 22, 2007, as amended.

37
38 **AYES:** Osterhout, Paralusz, Seville-Jones

39 **NOES:** None

40 **ABSENT:** Chairman Lang

41 **ABSTAIN:** Donahue

42
43 **E. CITY COUNCIL AGENDA**

44
45 Senior Planner Lackow reported that on April 17, the City Council approved the
46 Commission’s recommendation to establish a Taxicab Stand in the 1100 block of
47 Morningside Avenue on a trial basis.

1
2 **F. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

3 None.

4
5 **G. GENERAL**

6
7 1. **Request for Stop Sign, Loading Zone and Crosswalk: Peck Avenue at Curtis**
8 **Street**

9
10 Traffic **Engineer Zandvliet** presented the Report. He stated the Montessori School of
11 Manhattan Beach at 315 South Peck Avenue is requesting stop signs and related
12 crosswalks to be installed in all directions at the intersection of Peck Avenue and Curtis
13 Street. The school request is due to the school’s concerns but also would be part of a
14 traffic safety plan the school is required to prepare due to a construction project approved
15 for the neighboring church site. Mr. Zandvliet stated Staff is recommending against the
16 installation of any new stop signs at this location, but does recommend that the City:

- 17
18 1. Install a school crosswalk with high visibility markings and signs on the south leg
19 of Peck Avenue at Curtis Street
20 2. Post “24-Minute Parking 8am-9:30am, 1pm-4pm, School Days Only” parking
21 restrictions on the west side of Peck Avenue adjacent to the Manhattan Beach
22 Community Church property.
23

24 **Mr. Zandvliet** provided details of his engineering analysis which, in addition to site
25 visits and discussions with the school, formed the basis for this recommendation. He
26 noted this request did not meet any of three basic warrants for a stop sign including
27 minimum traffic volumes, collision history and potential for increasing motorist delays.
28 The recommended crosswalk would be similar to others in this area, and the extension of
29 the existing 24-minute green loading zone will help operations at the school and lessen
30 congestion.
31

32 In response to questions from the Commission, **Mr. Zandvliet** noted the following:

- 33 • The green loading area extension would replace between 5 and 6 curb parking
34 spaces. This conversion will supplement the existing school parking now allowed
35 in the church parking lot during the upcoming construction project.
36 • The time limits for the loading zone could be decreased, with concurrence from
37 the school.
38 • The church construction will replace some existing temporary buildings and may
39 last up to two years. The west church parking lot is the most appropriate and
40 shortest walking distance for the school staff and should remain open as much as
41 possible during construction.

42 **Audience Participation**

43
44 **Jay Golida** spoke on behalf of **Manhattan Beach Montessori**. He clarified that there is
45 no on-site staff parking presently but that the church is obligated to provide 27 spaces.
46 He also stated that the Mira Costa High School parking lot typically fills up early and
47 therefore is not available to the Montessori School. The school would accept a narrowing

1 of the time frame applicable to the loading area on Peck Avenue from between 1:00 and
2 4:00 pm (as staff recommends) to between 2:00 and 3:30 pm. He emphasized that the
3 stop sign is desired because the school believes there is a serious safety issue that it will
4 address. He requested that the Commission “think outside the box” and consider all
5 possible safety enhancements including warning lights, signage, etc.

6
7 **Paulette Rhaney, 224 South Peck Avenue** for 18 years requested that a new stop sign
8 **not** be installed because it may create undue noise impacts for residents. She suggested
9 that a temporary stop sign be utilized, similar to what she has seen at Pennekamp
10 Elementary School, and/or a crossing guard. She noted that Peck is heavily used on
11 weekends for parking for Little League and other activities.

12
13 **Mr. Zandvliet** noted that Pennekamp School has been funded by the City for a crossing
14 guard and the school has been asked by the City and Police Department not to use a
15 temporary stop sign, as this is not legal under state traffic laws. In response to a
16 question from **Commissioner Osterhout**, **Mr. Zandvliet** explained that a volunteer
17 crossing guard could be useful if properly trained and sanctioned.

18
19 In response to a question from **Commissioner Seville-Jones**, **Mr. Golida** stated that the
20 request is based on the concern for safety for both school children (typically escorted by a
21 parent) as well as the parents.

22
23 **Rhonda Knudson, 1501 Curtis Avenue**, stated she thinks a new stop sign is not
24 warranted and will create more noise.

25
26 **Michelle Sipl**, a teacher at the **Montessori School**, echoed Mr. Golida’s comments and
27 emphasized that the children crossing Peck are little and jay walking is occurring due to
28 the limited on-site parking. A crosswalk especially is urgently needed.

29
30 **Traci Sell, 2849 Sonoma Street, Torrance**, is a teacher at the school and a mom, and
31 noted one problem is that drivers often just don’t stop for someone in a crosswalk.

32
33 **Tim Moore, 831 Prospect, Hermosa Beach**, stated that the teen drivers using Peck (due
34 to proximity to the high school) tend to accelerate and this creates a safety problem, and
35 cited the example of Hermosa Beach which has installed stop signs along Prospect
36 Avenue to control traffic.

37
38 **Jay Golida** presented a recent press release from the Manhattan Beach Police
39 Department regarding school traffic safety and this was passed to the Commission.

40
41 **Mr. Zandvliet** responded to public comments, noting that it is the responsibility of
42 pedestrians to enter a street safely and often drivers cannot see a pedestrian. In making
43 his recommendation, age was a significant factor. The parents or adults accompany the
44 school children across the street because they sign in/out their children and this makes the
45 operation safer. **Mr. Zandvliet** also responded to **Commissioner Osterhout** that there
46 have been no requests for resident parking permits in this area even though this area
47 qualifies for resident permits.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Donahue suggested looking into having a crossing guard and a crosswalk as recommended by Staff.

Commissioner Paralusz suggested accepting the Staff recommendation for a high visibility crosswalk and appropriate signage and the extended green loading zone but with a more limited pm time frame (possibly 2:00 or 2:30). She is not in favor of a crossing guard at this time but this should be reviewed at a later date.

Commissioner Osterhout echoed **Commissioner Paralusz’s** comment but added that he would consider a resident parking permit petition if submitted. He also noted he was persuaded that a crossing guard may not be needed at this time due to the fact that parents were accompanying the children. He encouraged the school to continue to work out solutions.

Commissioner Seville-Jones added she was in general agreement with all previous Commission comments and thanked all parties for coming and participating. She agreed that drivers in the area may be young and that traffic volumes are increasing but noted also that Peck Avenue does have good visibility. She voiced concern that the church construction project will add more impacts for a temporary period and encouraged the school to be watchful of those impacts.

Action

A motion was **MADE** and **SECONDED** (Paralusz/Osterhout) to:

- 1. **APPROVE** Staff recommendation number 1 as stated in the report, to install a school crosswalk with high visibility markings and signs on the south leg of Peck Avenue at Curtis Street, and;
- 2. **APPROVE** Staff recommendation number 2 with revision, to post “24-Minute Parking 8:00am - 9:30am, 2:00pm-3:30pm, School Days Only” parking restrictions on the west side of Peck Avenue adjacent to the Manhattan Beach Community Church property.

AYES: Donahue, Osterhout, Paralusz, Seville-Jones
 NOES: None
 ABSENT: Chairman Lang
 ABSTAIN: None

2. Review of Proposed 2007 – 2008 Capital Improvement Program.

Dana Greenwood, City Engineer gave a report explaining that as part of the budget process, Capital Improvement Projects are brought before this Commission for review. He stated it would be appropriate for the Commission to discuss the projects recommended for funding, and review or discuss any other projects that are on the spreadsheet provided with the report.

1
2 **Discussion**
3

4 **Commissioner Osterhout** noted that he considered the CIP (Capital Improvement
5 Project) listing to be a report to shareholders (citizen/taxpayers) and he felt a great deal
6 more information/details should be provided to the Commission with this report for this
7 to be a more meaningful review. He suggested that the City follow the reporting
8 principles (but not necessarily the accounting) of the "modified approach" of "GASB 34"
9 or Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 34. Under that approach,
10 he believes the City would be required only to identify the minimum condition in which
11 an asset is to be maintained, measure and report on the system's condition on a periodic
12 basis, and then allocate resources so that the condition minimums are exceeded.
13 **Commissioner Osterhout** felt that Commissioners and residents need a frame of
14 reference to form opinions on whether the budget plans meet community objectives.
15

16 **Mr. Greenwood, City Engineer**, provided information regarding the way the Public
17 Works engineering assesses the capital infrastructure programs, and emphasized that
18 Staff accesses a lot of information including (but not limited to) prior master plans, input
19 from Public Works field crews through their work, and citizens. He explained some
20 capital programs briefly, including residential street maintenance/slurry sealing, water
21 and sewer system upgrades, and sidewalk repair. With respect to the latter, Mr.
22 Greenwood noted that the upcoming Strategic Plan may change the way sidewalk
23 repair/improvements are evaluated.
24

25 The Commission discussed, concurred and concluded the need for more detailed
26 reporting was an issue they should bring up with the Council as well as clarification of
27 their role in this process. One opportunity would be the annual meeting between the City
28 Council and the PPIC.
29

30 **I. ADJOURNMENT**
31

32 The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.