

**CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
PARKING AND PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS COMMISSION
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
May 30, 2019**

A. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Parking and Public Improvements Commission of the City of Manhattan Beach, California, was held on May 30, 2019 at the hour of 6:01p.m., in the City Council Chambers, at 1400 Highland Avenue, in said City.

B. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

C. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Franklin, Longhurst, Delk, Lipps, and Chair Paralusz
Absent: None
Staff Present: Traffic Engineer Erik Zandvliet
Clerks: Drew Teora and Fel Cortez

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

05/30/19-1. Regular Meeting - April 25, 2019

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (Delk/Longhurst) to approve the minutes with no changes.

AYES: Franklin, Longhurst, Delk, Lipps, Chair Paralusz
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

E. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Chair Paralusz opened Audience Participation (3-Minute Limit).

Scott Kida, a city resident, had concerns about street parking, specifically on Marine Avenue (429 Marine Avenue). He said a portion of the curb has been painted green and only allows for 5 minute parking between 8:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. There are no signs explaining the reason for this parking restriction and he believed that it is a very valuable space, due to a high demand for parking between residents and construction in the area. **Traffic Engineer Erik Zandvliet** explained that the green curb is what the City uses in lieu of a blue curb for an accessible space, due to the strict requirements that would have to be implemented to install a blue handicap spot. The adjacent resident had requested and qualified for an accessible space in the front of their home, so the City painted a green curb with a 5 minute parking zone (handicap placards are exempt from the time restriction) to provide accessible parking to the residence. **Traffic Engineer Zandvliet** stated that the City can check if the resident is still eligible and further confirm that the space is being utilized properly. He will follow up with the green curb resident and Mr. Kida. **Commissioner Franklin** asked for clarification about green curb regulations/violations and discussion followed.

Steve Murillo, a resident/business owner at 1147 Highland Avenue, stated he is concerned about the intersection at 12th and Highland Avenue. He believes it is becoming dangerous and has seen near misses of pedestrians crossing Highland Avenue. He asked that the Commission consider improving the crosswalk at that intersection, possibly with a flashing beacon. **Traffic Engineer Zandvliet** stated that this location would be included in the Citywide Pedestrian Crossing Enhancement Study.

Jeff Bugge, a crossing guard at Meadows Elementary School, stated that there has been a delay in getting crosswalks repainted after the City streets were repaved. He stated that people are running the stop signs, due to this. Residents are also concerned about the flashing warning light at the top of the hill next to Meadows Elementary, which has not worked in 15 years. He stated he was concerned about the safety at the intersection of 17th Street and Meadows Avenue and recommended new flashing stop signs there. Residents have asked him why the City is not putting these new flashing stop signs at the crosswalks in front of schools. Jeff inquired if the City can require the construction company expedite the repainting process.

Chair Paralusz responded that she has personally witnessed many people running the same stop signs. She believes it is unacceptable that these crosswalks are still unpainted, and noted that the City has not given a timeline of when these lines will be repainted.

Jeff Bugge commented that parents have been asking about the possibility of another crossing guard at 17th Street and Meadows Avenue due to the absence of stop signs.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet responded that the City believes that the striping contractor should have completed with all striping already, and has informed them to complete it without any more delay. Mr. Zandvliet noted that striping should not be installed on new pavement for at least 10-14 days because the asphalt has not cured. Mr. Zandvliet explained that the flashing stop sign installations were part of three grants received by the City, but Meadows Avenue and 17th Street were not included in those grant applications. He also said that funds for crossing guards may be cut in the next City budget, so it is unlikely that the City will add more, but it could potentially relocate existing guards to other locations. The school would have to initiate a request for a new crossing guard to begin an evaluation.

Commissioner Longhurst stated that there are similar striping issues near Pacific School. **Traffic Engineer Zandvliet** confirmed that those locations will be striped at the same time.

Discussion followed regarding potential solutions for dangerous intersections with unpainted or less visible crosswalks, such as temporary “stop signs”, street work occurring over summer to accommodate school season, and getting the Police Department more involved.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet stated that in the future, staff will modify construction contracts to include important performance requirements to restore striping. He also emphasized that crossing guards can put a cone in the middle of crosswalks to increase driver awareness of pedestrian crossings.

Jeff Bugge said he believed it would be a good idea to have more Police Department presence to aid in calming down those locations when striping is missing. He also inquired about the possibility of using the yellow child-shaped warning signs at each stop sign. **Traffic Engineer Zandvliet** clarified that those can only be used on private property.

Commissioner Franklin inquired about the flashing beacon on Meadows Avenue at the top of hill in front of the school. **Traffic Engineer Zandvliet** stated that the beacon is used as a general warning for the school itself, and is on a timer.

Chair Paralusz closed Audience Participation.

F. GENERAL BUSINESS

05/30/19-2. Discussion of Work Plan Topics for Upcoming Joint Session with Parking and Public Improvements Commission/Planning Commission/City Council

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet explained that this is the Commission’s opportunity to discuss what long-term plans or projects they want to be a priority for the following year. The items compiled here will be discussed at the June 19th Joint City Council/Planning Commission/Parking and Public Improvements Commission meeting. He noted that last year the Parking and Public Improvements Commission did not hold a Work Plan meeting due to lack of quorum. **Traffic Engineer Zandvliet** also provided further late attachments, which included extra information regarding existing Work Plan items and topics that have come up in the past. The current Work Plan items came from City Council direction.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet summarized existing Work Plan items as follows:

1. **Mobility Plan Update** – This Plan was approved as the “circulation element” of our General Plan, and this Commission will review specific projects related to the Plan in the future.
2. **West Marine Neighborhood Traffic Management Plan** – This item will be returning to the Commission as a follow up item after a second round of measures are implemented.
3. **Citywide Pedestrian Crossing Evaluation Study** - This is a combination of a CIP item to determine where to provide additional pedestrian access to the Veterans Parkway and a study to prioritize potential enhanced crossing treatments at locations throughout the City.
4. **Sepulveda Initiatives** – The City is conducting a study to update parking requirements for commercial areas pursuant to direction given by the City Council during the Sepulveda Corridor Initiatives Study.
5. **Telecom** – The City is developing an ordinance to establish regulations related to telecommunications facilities.
6. **Shared Mobility Devices** - The City currently has a moratorium until March 2020 to prohibit shared mobility devices until such time that the Commission and City Council can review and approve regulations on bike sharing and e-scooter services.
7. **Downtown Parking Management Study Update** - The previous study was done in 2008, and an updated will be initiated to evaluate existing and proposed parking management strategies in the Downtown area, such as merchant parking permits, available customer parking, demand pricing, app based smart parking, curb management, etc. and providing recommendations to the City Council.

8. **Additional Smart Car Spaces/Half Car Spaces** – The City is evaluating the feasibility of adding more small car parking spaces in the Downtown area, including the potential for parking two small cars (including mopeds and motorcycles) in one full size space. This item could be included in the Downtown Parking Management Study Update.

Items discussed from 2017 Work Plan meeting:

1. **Underground Utility Districts** - Public Works is starting to reactivate these districts, having already started with two in El Porto and is discussing an additional two areas with the residents. This item has been taken over by Public Works.
2. **Gas Lamp Street Lighting** – This item would consider enlarging the area served by gas lamp lighting and whether it's compatible with the City's goals to go with 100% renewable energy.
3. **Scramble Crosswalks at Manhattan Avenue** - This item would consider converting the standard crosswalks at traffic signals in Downtown to scramble-type crosswalks, where pedestrians can cross in any direction during an exclusive pedestrian phase. A brief discussion followed regarding benefits and challenges of these types of crosswalks, especially during various seasons of the year.

Discussion followed regarding the potential for roundabouts at Valley Drive/Ardmore Avenue and 15th Street.

The Parking and Public Improvements Commission suggested new Work Plan items and discussed the following:

1. **Electric Vehicle Charging Stations** – The Commission recommended a study to determine if there is a demand for more EV charging stations at public parking facilities, in addition to City Hall. This could be a great addition to the City's 100% renewable energy goal and there is a potential to receive grant funding. Important aspects of the study would include locations, pricing, charging the public for usage, etc.
2. **Energy Emergency Preparedness Policies and Plans** - The Commission recommended the development of policies and plans for the City to be prepared to continue normal municipal operations in the event of a "blackout" or temporary energy outages. The Plan would include the use of backup generators to use in disaster situations, the ability to keep key businesses operating through a resilient communication network, providing residents with emergency equipment and medical supplies, etc.
3. **Downtown and Citywide Hardscape and Landscaping Update** - The Commissioners noted that some areas in the City are looking "old" and need to be updated; **Traffic Engineer Zandvliet** confirmed that some of the existing improvements are 30 or more years old.
4. **Explore Citywide Public Transportation Options** - The Commission expressed interest in looking into funding and/or encouraging a public or private "mass transit" option for the City, similar to the Downtowner, to help reduce car congestion, provide a service to residents/businesses, and encourage a social component. Further suggested topics to be incorporated into this item include potential routes and destinations, cost to the City and public, advertising, potential risk, opportunities to collaborate with businesses, etc.

G. OTHER ITEMS

05/30/19-3. Monthly Revenue and Expenditure Reports: Receive and File

Received and Filed.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet explained he is working on a comparison of parking meter revenue before and after the most recent change in meter fees.

05/30/19-4. Staff Updates

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet provided updates on the following:

1. "Curb your Tires" signs and "2/3 hour" parking meter signs are being added in appropriate places by Public Works
2. The Manhattan Village Shopping Center development:
 - Urban Plates is under construction,
 - New parking lot areas and entrances/exits are being constructed,
 - New steak house is proposed at the old Wells Fargo location,
 - South Deck Parking Structure almost at full height and will hold about 300 cars,
 - Macy's is now vacant with potential use for multiple tenants on separate floors,
 - New shops to be built on Cedar Way, as well as new landscaping, lighting, paving, etc.

Chair Paralusz inquired about the parking structure design. **Traffic Engineer Zandvliet** confirmed that concerns on the design are being addressed, specifically that three walls of the parking garages are lined with shops, so residents will only be able to see bits and pieces of the actual structure. Some structures are also being set back from the street and will be partially concealed by various businesses.

05/30/19-5. Commissioner Items

Commissioner Delk inquired about a new beacon pole placed in the sidewalk at 36th Street and Highland Avenue. **Traffic Engineer Zandvliet** confirmed that the location of the installation was incorrect and the Engineering Division is working on fixing it.

Commissioner Delk also voiced concern about the overall cleanliness and graffiti in the parking structure at Highland Avenue and Rosecrans Avenue. **Traffic Engineer Zandvliet** will follow up with Public Works about maintenance and a potential paint job.

Chair Paralusz inquired about the status of the handicap ramp at the corner of Rowell Avenue and Marine Avenue. **Traffic Engineer Zandvliet** responded that he does not know the status at this time, but will follow up. He explained that the ramp will be reconstructed, and the curb and gutter will have to be reshaped.

H. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at **7:21p.m.** to the Joint City Council/Planning Commission/Parking and Public Improvements Commission Meeting on June 19, 2019, in the City Council Chambers at 1400 Highland Avenue, in said City. The next regular meeting will be on June 27, 2019 at 6:00p.m. in the City Council Chambers at 1400 Highland Avenue, in said City.

/s/Kathleen Paralusz
KATHLEEN PARALUSZ
Chairperson

/s/Drew Teora
DREW TEORA
Recording Secretary

ATTEST:

/s/Erik Zandvliet
ERIK ZANDVLIET
Traffic Engineer