

**CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
PARKING AND PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS COMMISSION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
May 24, 2007**

A. The Regular Meeting of the Parking and Public Improvements Commission of the City of Manhattan Beach was held on May 24, 2007, at 6:35 p.m. in the City Council Chambers of the City Hall, 1400 Highland Avenue.

B. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Donahue, Paralusz, Acting Chairman Osterhout

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Rosie Lackow, Senior Planner
Kara Pompano, Recording Secretary
Erik Zandvliet, Traffic Engineer

C. AGENDA CHANGES

None.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 26, 2007

A motion was MADE and SECONDED (Paralusz/Donahue) to approve the minutes of April 26, 2007.

AYES: Donahue, Paralusz, Acting Chairman Osterhout

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

E. CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet reported that City Council did not concur with the Commissioner's recommendations and approved the request for stop signs at Peck Avenue at Curtis Street.

F. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None.

G. GENERAL

1. Petition Request for Protected Left Turn Arrows at the Intersection of Manhattan Beach Boulevard and Redondo Avenue

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet presented the Staff Report and recommendation to not install a fully protected left turn arrow configuration, and to install “Pedestrian Countdown Signal” indications in all directions at the intersection of Manhattan Beach Boulevard at Redondo Avenue.

Audience Participation

Marc Reede, 1601 Curtis Street, addressed the Commission relative to their submitted petition requesting that the City install fully protected left turn arrows in the eastbound and westbound directions on Manhattan Beach Boulevard and Redondo Avenue and prohibits U-turns at the same intersection. He spoke about many close calls he has witnessed and talked of an accident which involved vehicles colliding on a sidewalk that held 50 children just minutes earlier. Mr. Reede explained that the vehicles in the westbound direction are speeding, and are being cut off by drivers making the eastbound to northbound movement at an intersection with high pedestrian crossing, pointing out that the reason for this request is solely based on the safety of the children.

John Weiner, 9th Street, voiced his support for the requested measures, stating that a countdown signal may actually create more of a hazardous situation by motorists trying to beat the clock. He urged the Commission to support the petition measures as it provides an opportunity to increase safety and he doesn’t see any “down side” to doing the turn protection.

Christopher Smith, 1550 Curtis Street, relayed an experience he had driving through this intersection which involved children crossing through intersection right along with the vehicles. Sharing his concern for the safety of the children, he asked that the Commission support the petition.

Lloyd Kaplan, Manzanita Street, stated his support of any measure that will make the intersection safer. He spoke on the number of young, inexperienced drivers who travel this area and whose perception of speed is not at the level of an experienced driver and can make this intersection even more dangerous.

Discussion

Sharing that both of his children attended Manhattan Beach Middle School and that he is well aware of this intersection, Commissioner Donahue stated that he believes the most effective tool in dealing with this situation is educating children on being safe pedestrians. He shared that he is not sure if a red arrow would have prevented the referenced accident, and that the necessary guidelines for the requested measures have not been met. As such, he relayed his support for the staff recommendations.

Commissioner Paralusz stated her agreement with Commissioner Donahue's comments, and that she believes the installation of the requested measures could actually create other problems. She indicated her support of staff's recommendations and the need for increased police enforcement.

Acting Chairman Osterhout acknowledged his concern with the safety of the intersection especially with large SUV's, construction vehicles and young pedestrians. He stated that although he likes to abide by staff's recommendations, he is compelled by the issue of safety and would be in support of the resident's petition requests.

Action

A motion was MADE and SECONDED (Donahue/Paralusz) to approve staff's recommendations to only install "Pedestrian Countdown Signal" indications in all directions at the intersection of Manhattan Beach Boulevard at Redondo Avenue.

AYES: Donahue, Paralusz, Acting Chairman Osterhout
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

H. COMMISSION BUSINESS

Commissioner Paralusz mentioned a section of sidewalk on 1st Street and the west side of Meadows Avenue that is completely interrupted by a homeowner's landscaping.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet responded that staff will look into the matter of right of way and act accordingly.

I. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.