

**MANHATTAN BEACH
OUTDOOR DINING TASK FORCE
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
MAY 1, 2023**

A. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Director Talyn Mirzakhonian called the meeting to order at the hour of 9:00am.

B. INTRODUCTION OF STAFF AND TASK FORCE MEMBERS

Director Mirzakhonian introduced the following staff members present at the meeting: Jaehee Yoon, Jana Dartois, Erik Zandvliet, and Angelica Ochoa.

Senior Planner Jaehee Yoon welcomed everyone to the meeting and went over how to navigate to the City's outdoor dining webpage.

Self-introductions were made by each task force member, including alternates who were in attendance:

Joseph Ungoco – Planning Commission
Bob DaGiau – Parking and Public Improvements Commission
David Archer – Chamber of Commerce
Maureen McBride – Chamber of Commerce
Jill Lamkin – Downtown (DBPA)
Jim Burton – Downtown resident
Mike Simms – North MB (BID)
Kimberlee Kelly – North MB resident
Don Ziss – Commercial (MVSC)
Harout (Harry) Ashikian – Commercial (Non-MVSC)
Paul Mullin – At-large resident
Bridgette Goodman – At-large resident
Faith Lyons – At-large resident/business
Peir Serota – At-large resident/business
Audrey Judson – At-large resident/business

Kristin Sistos – Alternate – Planning Commission
Carol Perrin – Alternate – Downtown resident
Michael Cohen – Alternate – North MB resident
Brenda O'Leary – Alternate – At-large resident
Loretta Rafferty – Alternate – At-large resident
Rachel Vandenberg – Alternate – At-large resident/business
Gerry Morton – Alternate – At-large resident/business

C. DISCUSSION

Senior Planner Yoon provided an overview of the task force roles and responsibilities, followed by Traffic Engineer Erik Zandvliet, who spoke on the chronology of the temporary outdoor dining program. Task force members raised questions related to fiscal impacts of the temporary program on loss of public parking revenue and increase in sales tax. Staff responded that it would be analyzed as part of the consultant's work in the future.

Senior Planner Yoon presented several items to consider for the long-term outdoor dining program with additional information on the California Coastal Commission, as a majority of the outdoor dining was and will be within the coastal zone.

Senior Planner Yoon continued to state that City staff is working with the California Coastal Commission by holding bi-monthly meetings to discuss the work plan effort and seek guidance. In addition, City staff is also working on retaining a consultant for specialized areas such as design and engineering, community engagement, environmental review, parking studies, and fiscal impact studies.

Program Scope

Senior Planner Yoon presented two program scopes for discussion by the task force in determining the scope of the program development.

Task force member Maureen McBride spoke on using a 3-prong approach and asked about necessary street infrastructure and building codes. Staff responded that it will be discussed over the next several months and how today is a general meeting to gather input.

Task force member Jim Burton spoke on the Coastal Commission's involvement.

Task force members Bridgette Goodman and Peir Serota inquired about San Diego's outdoor dining program and its applicability to Manhattan Beach. Staff responded by noting that San Diego's program was recommended as a reference by the Coastal Commission to study and we can choose certain elements from the program to guide our program development.

Task force member Mike Simms commented that private property outdoor dining is a great opportunity as you do not have to use public property.

Task force member David Archer commented on the Sepulveda corridor.

Task force member Bob DaGiau asked about the governance of the committee and if there will be a chairperson elected. Staff responded that there will be no chairperson and meetings will be facilitated by staff.

Task force alternate member Carol Perrin commented that the scope of the program should be broad and satisfactory to everyone.

Task force alternate member Brenda O'Leary commented that the temporary program worked and should be used as a starting template with a phased approach.

Director Mirzakhanian commented that the overall consensus appeared to be that we should address both public and private property in the program scope, and reiterated that we want to hear from everyone, what everyone thought worked, and what did not work with the temporary program.

Visioning

Senior Planner Yoon asked task force members to discuss in three groups on what words they would use to describe the identity of Manhattan Beach and how they envision that identity reflected in the design/operation of long-term outdoor dining.

A representative from each group highlighted the following: community, family-friendly, open air feel, loves its visitors, resistant to change, a welcoming small town feel, jewel of South Bay, connections/connectivity, active, outdoor communal space, and roof deck.

Public comments were made to keep Manhattan Beach, Manhattan Beach and what is good for Manhattan Beach can be different for different areas of the city. That Manhattan Beach is uniquely balanced and it is critical to try and maintain that balance. That we should revisit the Downtown Specific Plan and raised concerns with using consultants on the outdoor dining program.

SWOT Analysis

Task force members continued to discuss the City's SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, threats, and opportunities) as it relates to outdoor dining.

A representative from each group highlighted the following:

Strengths – Temporary outdoor dining proved that outdoor dining added value and character to the City, enabled people to have a different view, gave residents a place to go during COVID, reinforced connectivity, created a vibrant energy in public spaces, activated businesses, and saved restaurants.

Weaknesses – Manhattan Beach is small and landlocked, sidewalk congestion, parking challenges, trash, bugs, birds, noise, hours of operation, restricted ability to park and visit other businesses, physical limitations, lack of cohesive design and ability to create something unique for each business that is still cohesive, and dining decks opening at night which impacts other businesses where parking is limited during decks' non-operating hours.

Opportunities – Reconsideration of how we use all of the spaces that we have available including parking, chance to resolve parking issues and improve traffic flow as well as pedestrian environment, outdoor dining increased visits to downtown and the north end, increase in revenue, opportunity to keep up with the competition, use of parklets, seasonality, a chance to use space efficiently, ability to micro-define areas or location (i.e., side, roof, etc.), can utilize existing encroachment areas.

Threats – Coastal Commission, lack of vision, overcrowding, changing character, not having outdoor dining may drive visitors to areas with outdoor dining, structure of the decks, impact on downtown and El Porto residents, safety, visibility issue for non-restaurant businesses, trash, cleanliness, not having the opportunity for outdoor dining, and access.

Director Mirzakhania pointed out one issue that was not mentioned thus far which is that during heavy rains, a residential property in El Porto flooded due to a dining deck that diverted the drainage pattern and emphasized proper engineering is important.

A member of the public made a comment on how the SWOT analysis needs to happen per block and for each side of the street.

D. NEXT STEPS

Senior Planner Yoon briefly went over future agenda items and presented options for the next meeting date in May, which was decided by the task force members as May 30 from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM.

E. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting concluded at 11:03 AM and the next meeting will take place on May 30, 2023 from 1:00 to 3:00 PM in a location to be determined.