

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: SUZANNE LERNER <slernerla@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 11:21 AM
To: List - City Council
Cc: SUZANNE LERNER
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MB Outdoor Dining Program Development

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor, Mayor Protem, City Council Members and staff

I am addressing again the issues surrounding increasing Outdoor Dining.

After reviewing the deck created, there are major issues happening right now downtown that have not been addressed. These issues need to be considered seriously by City Council and staff before dining is increased permanently or any more suggestions are made, like changing all encroachments to commercial use and increased dining capacity.

Manhattan Beach is a city where downtown businesses, downtown residents and residents from the rest of manhattan beach live, work, play, eat, go to the beach, enjoy the city, walk around downtown. I believe that this Program should consider potential and current impacts on existing downtown residents.

We have continual daily issues surrounding lack of access to alleys due to trucks consistently blocking alleys downtown. Multiple times a day, the 9th av alley is blocked by trucks, vans parked in NO PARKING zones... completely blocked from entering the alley
And in the alley itself where cars cannot get by the trucks.

If you work from home and Live downtown, all you hear all day long are trucks.

Truck fumes creating pollution high noise levels, traffic. Try pulling out of one of the alleys onto manhattan avenue to get an idea of how dangerous it is with trucks double parked or blocking alleys and/or line of sight. Dirty sidewalks and trash bins - City Staff and budget is being used to clean sidewalks and trash bins - are we considering this in the budget?

Sidewalks from 10th to 9th place always dirty. (Excluding david slay who cleans his walks every day) with more dining and intensification, it will only get worse.

Adding more capacity will only continue to exacerbate problems like this.

“Recommended Program Scopes

Creating of permanent bulb-outs with street furniture and landscape/hard scape improvements for other business uses or public use.”

Who decides business or public use?

LOCATIONS

It appears they are recommending use of the walk street commercial corners.

Does that include the public encroachments?

Very concerning to any downtown resident.

This will directly impact our way of life.

Sidewalks - Concerned about ADA - already difficult to walk by some establishments.

I live next to an 4 encroachments on 10th street.

This task forced is considering making all encroachments on 10th street and others long-term commercial use? (With a review after 5 years?)

We already know what the impact will be.

Reminder of MBMC Section 7.26.170(B) prohibits long-term commercial use of walk streets. This happened over 12 years ago with City Council voting 5-0 in favor of keeping these encroachments for public use.

PUBLIC benches are utilized by guests./visitors of Manhattan Beach.

Which includes visitors who are not dining at restaurants, but want to sit, put on their shoes, watch the view, rest, have something to eat from take out.

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

#1 - amendments to MBMC

Where are discussions re impacts to downtown residents and fiscal implications to our city budget before changing municipal code?

A suggestion:

These recommendations directly impact downtown residents.

Would appreciate if staff would have time to interview many of the residents who will be impacted by these ideas.

Downtown residents recommend the city review this Task Force Plan to help identify the overall impacts created for downtown and create a solution....

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully

Suzanne Lerner

124 Tenth Street

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Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: Carol Perrin <cplaw28@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 9:48 AM
To: jburtonMB@smalltowndowntown.org
Cc: List - City Council; Bruce Moe; Talyn Mirzakhanian; Erick Lee; City Clerk; Suzanne Lerner
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Blocking of public streets - City Council Mtg 09/05/23

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This is the e comment I sent:

Dear Mayor and Council Members, At the last meeting of the Outdoor Dining Task Force there was discussion of all the problem issues currently either not being satisfactorily addressed or not having a sufficient impact to alleviate the existing problems downtown of the: delivery trucks blocking streets, deliveries at unacceptable times, the lack of mobility for vehicles and pedestrians, the noise, the excessive trash and filthy streets, among other issues. These are very serious problems occurring while there is no outdoor dining. So how can the City even contemplate additional density and capacity until these problems are handled under our current less extreme conditions? And additional ongoing and pro active enforcement by the City must be taken into account and a part of any increased density, since all these current problems will be on steroids. How will the City manage to pay for this? Thank you, Carol Perrin

On Tue, Sep 5, 2023 at 8:07 AM <jburtonMB@smalltowndowntown.org> wrote:

Mayor Montgomery, Mayor Pro Tem Franklin, and Members of Council,

I am writing to once again remind Council and City Staff that we have continued on-going issues with blocking public streets and alleys with delivery vehicles. The current desire for restaurants to increase occupancy, add dining space in the public right of way, and expand areas of allowable alcohol sales will only further degrade the current situation without direction from Council. We need measures to protect residents from proposed intensification of use related to blocking public streets.

Downtown residents need the city undertake actions separate from the Outdoor Dining Task Force that develops an understanding of the overall impact from blocking public streets and identify measures that can be implemented to reduce impacts to a level below significance. The problem is not unique to restaurant issue. The blocking of trash vehicles has recently become an issue with on-time trash picks. A few images from last week are attached herein but, at any point during any day of the week, images like these are extremely common.

Respectfully,

Jim Burton

(310) 376-8939

--

Carol Perrin

cplaw28@gmail.com

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: jburtonMB@smalltowndowntown.org
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 8:07 AM
To: List - City Council
Cc: Bruce Moe; Talyn Mirzakhian; Erick Lee; City Clerk; Carol Perrin; Suzanne Lerner
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Blocking of public streets - City Council Mtg 09/05/23
Attachments: IMG_20230902_132022.jpg; IMG_20230901_161049.jpg; IMG_20230901_124142.jpg; IMG_20230901_112551.jpg

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Respectfully,

Jim Burton
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General

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CA 92685
USDOT 151282



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STOP

NO
PARKING
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STOP

THE
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EXPERIENCE

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: Gary Osterhout <garyosterhout@verizon.net>
Sent: Monday, September 4, 2023 6:31 PM
To: List - City Council; List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item 10 - Consent - Design Services - Sand Dune, Etc

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Councilmembers:

I am strongly opposed to this item:

- It doesn't belong on Consent
- It is woefully short on details, accountability, and transparency as to the Sand Dune Park design.

There is no articulation or governance about what is to be design or the parameters applicable to the design. While the report and attachment discuss that community meetings were held, there is no summary of what consensus developed as the design work, and when and how that was developed. For the most part, any input from the community was silo'ed in individual conversations, subject to misinterpretation, forgetfulness or plain disregard by those charged with accumulating this information.

Prior park discussions always involved plenary sessions of the community, where everyone was aware of where there was consensus, or could benefit from a novel idea or approach. You have sacrificed this component of the process and community development.

There is mention of a "survey" yet no survey details have seen the light of day.

There is no governing document on how the design should conform to the desired use of the park. As such, you can bet the initial design will conform to whatever Park and Rec staff want it to be, and what is easiest for them and Public Works. Don't tell me this is just a working design that can be changed later--I've been around too long to know otherwise.

There should at least be articulated that the design must conform to that which is primarily supposed to be a neighborhood park. It should emphasize that the design should engender a welcoming sense of place. The use of the park and dune as a workout facility should be extremely de-emphasized, with the emphasis on a place for kids to enjoy, not adults.

The "artistic" fence should be discussed so everyone has an idea what is proposed. Integrating art work into a fence is something I have to see to believe, and to me there is no such thing as an aesthetic fence.

In respect to the fence, there is no direction as to color or height or placement. During the last park iteration, the fence was supposed to be placed at the break where the slope hit the level, but P&R changed that administratively. With the fence in that position, you wouldn't have the lame excuse of "traffic" preventing grass from being grown between the playground and dune. To me, a four-foot

fence will keep people out as effectively as a 7 foot fence, and be less ugly. If even a fence is needed.

Speaking of the playground, at the last "community meeting" out of whole cloth the Volz group shows up with designs for a "tot lot." The playground component had never been previously discussed. Volz says P&R told them that the playground was to be developed as a tot lot, and would not include equipment for older ages. Yet people were asked to vote their choice of design as a tot lot, with no alternatives. Back when the City first re-designed the playground in the late 1990s, there was supposed to be equipment also for older ages. Somehow, though, between the last community meeting on the topic and when it was installed someone got to P&R to change to a total tot lot. I believe the impetus was to try to limit the attractiveness of the park, something that has now been brought under control and would be an unnecessary concern.

To me, this playground needs to include equipment for older ages. The equipment just installed at Grand View is a great example of multi-age equipment, and would easily fit in the existing Sand Dune playground footprint. This type of thought then makes the park inviting to neighborhood kids for a longer time, to give them that "sense of place." The nostalgia for the old equipment like the merry-go-round is no longer there, and we need to provide more--particularly if school playground equipment becomes inaccessible during non-school hours.

Further, the entry to the dune should be configured to be placed at the north side of the park, and there should be shrubbery all around the fence (or just outside the concrete area) to mask the fence and make it less gulag-like.

Finally, I hope the "design work" also takes into account the problems cited at the last community meeting by one resident who complained that because of a lack of lighting and enforcement, that people are parking their cars on Bell north of the park for all sorts of undesired activity, leading to noise and trash--including used condoms. Curious what Lesser and Franklin have done about this since the resident said she complained frequently to no assistance (besides of course, Franklin's saying that this is a problem that will involve numerous city department to solve).

I bring up that Bell Avenue situation because that sort of activity was cited the last time we had big Sand Dune Park discussions. At the time, I brought up that this activity had nothing to do with the Dune, and everything to do with it being the first street east of Highland with free parking and limited lighting. Yet, with that ignored, that problem seemed to be the motivation for all the draconian rules and current physical configuration.

Point being to the above that yesterday's problems are not today's, nor are yesterday's problems likely to recur (given that Herschel Walker will no longer be working out on the hill and attracting mimics). Recall that until the last minute, the last time the dune was being discussed, the council had indicated support for closing down a good part of the dune to preserve the neighborhood nature. We should all be on the same page as to what we want from this park BEFORE design occurs. You have not made sure the basics are being attended to.

Thank you for your consideration,
Gary Osterhout

P.S.: I believe providing a open \$100K design work approval is totally inappropriate. This just results in things like the Polliwog library annex being pre-emptively designed without prior community approval. It doesn't take much time for staff to come to the council to bring the funding and the project to be funded to the light of day.

P.S.S.: The Veterans Parkway running path still needs some leveling. Lesser--go look at the truck tire gouges from 8th to 6th, and tell me these are just "passive use", dog diggings and shuffled chips that you bought into 8 years ago. If the city is going to run trucks on this path, then the city can also make sure it is maintained for the purpose for which it exists.



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