

**MANHATTAN BEACH  
OUTDOOR DINING TASK FORCE  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
December 12, 2023**

**A. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Director Talyn Mirzakhanian called the meeting to order at the hour of 1:03pm.

**B. ROLL CALL**

The following task force members were present at the meeting:

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)  
Paul Mullin – At-large resident  
Bridgette Goodman – At-large resident  
Peir Serota – At-large resident/business

Harout (Harry) Ashikian (Commercial, Non-MVSC), Faith Lyons (At-large resident/business), and Audrey Judson (At-large resident/business) were absent from the meeting.

**C. WALK STREET TARGETED OUTREACH**

A summary of the walk street targeted outreach was presented by Senior Planner Jaehee Yoon, including the scope, form, and results of the effort, in which a majority of the participants opposed the concept. Due to lack of support, the idea of utilizing select walk street commercial corners for outdoor dining will not be pursued. Instead, select walk street commercial corners such as those immediately adjacent to commercial uses, may be considered as part of the greater public realm development that the task force recommended for the program to cater to non-diners and the general public.

**D. OUTDOOR DINING: LONG-TERM VISION**

Senior Planner Yoon presented the main purpose of the program development, which is to seek a balance between resident's quality of life and outdoor dining opportunities. Subsequently, a long-term vision was introduced to the task force that can potentially achieve the program development goal, while also considering the community input received thus far.

Specifically, the long-term vision involved permanent sidewalk widening and reconfiguring of on-street parking spaces in Downtown and North Manhattan Beach. A Q&A session with the task force ensued to further discuss the proposed long-term vision as follows:

- The feasibility of sidewalk widening without reducing the width of the streets, which is made possible due to the extra road width we have in certain areas that are not being fully utilized.

- The number of additional sidewalk dining seats that can be accommodated, which is roughly between 14 to 20 seats per establishment.
- If there would be requirements to remove chairs and tables from the sidewalk after close of business and where they will be stored, in which there can be some flexibility built into the program depending on the location (i.e., sloped or flat terrain) and the task force's recommendation.
- How removing sidewalk dining areas for community events is counter intuitive when there is more demand for dining.
- The design of the sidewalk dining areas, which will be based on the task force's recommendation.
- The establishments that may have the opportunity to utilize the widened sidewalks will be limited to Eating and Drinking Establishments per the task force's previous recommendation on program scope.
- The locations of the proposed sidewalk widening areas, which will be along parts of Manhattan Avenue, Manhattan Beach Boulevard, and Highland Avenue.
- The difference between the robust sidewalk dining areas that will become available compared to that existing today and the temporary on-street decks during COVID.
- Financial implications associated with the sidewalk widening, which will be part of the consultant's analysis.
- The proposed sidewalk widening and its impact on creating dedicated bike lanes, which would be difficult; albeit the City will continue to provide shared bike/vehicular lanes.
- The possibility of additional sidewalk widening based on the need by the Eating and Drinking Establishment in the future, which could be further explored at that time.
- The Coastal Commission's initial feedback on the concept which was well-received and how the Local Coastal Program amendment scope may be narrowed.
- The status of parking lot 3 feasibility analysis and anticipated completion. Feasibility analysis is expected to be completed in fall 2024.
- The short-term vision for outdoor dining until the long-term vision is implemented: The consensus among the task force was to focus on fixing the issues we have now such as delivery trucks, trash, and so forth without a stop-gap to avoid any confusion and further help mitigate issues in the long run.

## **E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was passed (unanimous) to approve the minutes from the October 24, 2023 task force meeting. (Due to a lack of quorum at the start of the meeting, approval of minutes were considered at a later time.)

## **F. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Five comments were received as follows:

- It is difficult to make any decision for the short or long-term without knowing the financial impacts. Widening sidewalks and making permanent other improvements to allow for 15-20% increase in seating capacity may not be worthwhile. Is glad to know that commercial use of walk streets will not be pursued as it would have been a big cultural change.
- Supports the long-term vision of widening sidewalks.
- Good to know that existing parking spaces will not be reduced by the long-term vision but we also need to consider how additional parking will be provided with an increase in occupancy. Adding 15-20% more people on sidewalks can change the look and feel of Downtown.

- Supports the idea of sidewalk widening but we should consider regulations that ban e-bikes on sidewalks as wider sidewalks may result in more e-bike riders/issues on sidewalks. Director Mirzakhonian noted that the City Council has taken action to address e-bike issues, especially with enforcement, which has had a positive impact on the illegal and improper use of them.
- Thanked the task force and staff for taking commercial use of walk streets off the table. The City should keep the focus away from walk streets and bear in mind that there are a lot of residents along walk streets, most of whom are affected by activities in Downtown.

## **G. TASK FORCE DISCUSSIONS**

### **Defining Outdoor Dining**

The task force revisited the definition of outdoor dining and concurred with the experiences listed within; however, they agreed that the areas in which outdoor dining occurs should be refined based on the long-term vision. Staff noted the suggestion to further refine the definition of where open air “al fresco” dining will occur as follows:

Open air “al fresco” dining on public and private property, in which the experience:

- Allows for opportunities to enjoy the pleasant weather and scenic ocean views
- Promotes a sense of community and interaction with others
- Enhances the ambiance of the small town character of Manhattan Beach
- Balances community vibrancy with residential quality of life

### **Public Right-of-Way Improvements**

Task force members were asked to discuss elements that should be included as part of the public right-of-way improvements and any special considerations that should be incorporated into the program. Based on discussions, the following suggestions were made:

- Provide a limited number of fixed, permanent street furniture with durable materials such as stone benches
- Maintain a distance between the trash cans and benches due to overflow of trash and related odor
- Avoid umbrellas in the right-of-way as they are likely to cause maintenance issues
- Include landscaping to provide shade
- Build raised planters to prevent landscaping from being trampled
- Ensure improvements are appropriately scaled to the size of the area with cohesive design
- Allow unobtrusive amplified music in the background
- Install low-level decorative lighting
- Have removable bollards along the street for safety when the area is closed off for events
- Install good neighbor signage that outlines hours of use, responsibility of users, etc.
- Prohibit e-bike chargers but allow bike parking facilities
- Abandon the current tile pattern in the City where new pavements are necessary

Director Mirzakhonian commented that bike infrastructure will have to be included to gain the Coastal Commission’s support and that the suggestions by the task force will help serve as a menu of options to choose from, depending on which right-of-way area is being developed.

### **Noise/Vehicle Loading**

Task force members were asked to discuss regulations for live outdoor entertainment and amplified music on private property and the public right-of-way, as well as creating a new provision for vehicle loading hours as part of this effort. Below is a summary of discussions that ensued:

- Live outdoor entertainment and amplified music creates a nice ambiance. Therefore, it should be allowed with set parameters to properly regulate and permit these activities. Based on a vote to amend relevant chapters of the Municipal Code to either allow it with permits or prohibit them altogether, 10 out of the 12 members present were for and two were against the idea as it will be difficult to enforce without specific regulations in place. Staff noted that they will conduct more research to suggest relevant mitigate measures and address enforcement issues related to such noise impacts.
- While there was consensus on creating some limitations on vehicle loading hours, such as before 11am on weekends to avoid congested streets, it is difficult to recommend a timeframe as operating hours are different for every establishment. Staff noted that they will conduct further research and present options to the task force for consideration at the next meeting.

## **H. ADJOURNMENT**

One additional comment was made by the public suggesting that the task force consider how delivery hours can be difficult to change for smaller establishments compared to larger ones.

As task force meetings have been going over two hours, staff suggested that the task force meetings be extended an additional 30 minutes moving forward.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:09 p.m. to January 23, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. at the Manhattan Beach Library Meeting Room.