

**MANHATTAN BEACH
OUTDOOR DINING TASK FORCE
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
January 23, 2024**

A. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Planning Manager Adam Finestone called the meeting to order at the hour of 1:03pm.

B. ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken and the following task force members were present for the meeting:

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
Kimberlee Kelly – North MB resident
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

Joseph Ungoco (Planning Commission), Mike Simms (North MB-BID), Don Ziss (Commercial-MVSC), and Harout (Harry) Ashikian (Commercial_Non-MVSC) were absent from the meeting. Kristin Sistos, alternate member for the Planning Commission, was participating on behalf of Joseph Ungoco.

C. PREFERRED PROGRAM VISION: CONCEPTUAL PLAN

Senior Planner Jaehee Yoon provided a recap of the preferred program vision, first introduced to the task force at the December meeting, with additional information on the components of the conceptual plan. Staff noted that not all areas identified for public realm developments scattered throughout the conceptual plans will be improved; rather that staff would like the task force to provide input on which areas to focus on for potential hardscape/landscape improvements based on the menu of options created by the task force at its December meeting.

Traffic Engineer Erik Zandvliet presented the conceptual plan, which included various segments along Manhattan Avenue, Manhattan Beach Boulevard, and Highland Avenue in Downtown and North Manhattan Beach. The following were discussed and noted between staff and the task force during the presentation:

- A template can be created in the future to be replicated in other parts of the City if the same concept is proposed for permanent sidewalk widening.
- The conceptual plan will concentrate on establishments that have an interest in the preferred program vision and those that have immediate potential for a robust sidewalk dining opportunity while minimizing loss of on-street parking.
- Based on the proposed parking reconfiguration, there is no net loss of parking in North Manhattan Beach and a gain of one additional parking space in Downtown. However, the

conceptual plan does not take into consideration any additional parking demand generated by outdoor dining which will be analyzed by the consultant team to seek parking solutions and alternatives.

- The outdoor dining area would be limited to the frontage of the establishment and sidewalk widening would allow an additional 7 or 8 feet clear path of travel for pedestrians.
- The plan does not propose to widen the entire length of the sidewalks.
- Some left or right turn pockets have been removed where the traffic volumes were low and which would not have a significant impact on traffic.
- If an establishment had the opportunity to utilize private property for outdoor dining, sidewalk widening was not considered in the conceptual plan, unless the street segment had room for potential widening.
- Turning radius for large vehicles were considered and reflected in the conceptual plan.
- An establishment's commitment to outdoor dining may be a factor considered in widening the sidewalk or it may be done if there is a greater public benefit from the City's viewpoint. Especially, along flat terrain where wider sidewalks can provide flexible uses when sidewalk dining is not in use by the establishment during certain hours of the day.
- The City will prioritize which areas to implement first in an effort to save costs and build efficiently by phasing the construction activity.
- Equity issues should be considered as not all Eating and Drinking Establishment are offered the same robust sidewalk dining opportunity.
- Efforts can be made to locate public-serving amenities near non-Eating and Drinking Establishments.
- Time-based parking meters/zones can be considered to help with parking issues for non-Eating and Drinking Establishments.
- Bike racks should be considered as part of the public "furnishing" areas, which was renamed to public "flex" space instead for clarity by the task force members.

D. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Six comments were received as follows:

- The owner of Uncorked noted that while commercial use of walk streets is no longer being recommended, requested that special consideration be given to the walk street along 10th Street because it does not immediately abut residences. She stated that her preference for outdoor dining would be on the walk street area rather than the sidewalk in front of the establishment.
- Supported creating additional public-serving amenities and spaces near the beach and The Strand.
- Questioned why commercial use of walk streets is still open for discussion when it was off the table at the last meeting. He also stated that amplified sound and live entertainment are not necessary for outdoor dining and are a nuisance. In regards to the conceptual plan, he asked how the City will deal with additional traffic generated from outdoor dining when it is already an issue; who will pay for the improvements; and why public seating areas are needed when The Strand and beach are close by for those opportunities. He expressed concerns with an increase in trash, noise, and loitering at these public spaces,.
- Thanked the task force for their effort and expressed how she really enjoyed the temporary outdoor dining program as it created a friendly, nice space for everyone.
- Concerned that certain Eating and Drinking Establishments are not included in the conceptual plan, noting that they should be provided the same opportunity for outdoor dining in the public right-of-way.

- Opposed the idea of commercialization of walk streets as the City should protect the character of Downtown, recognizing that outdoor dining on walk streets will not be compatible with people who walk up and down the walk streets.

The task force requested that staff consider revisions to the conceptual plan to include sidewalk dining opportunities for other Eating and Drinking Establishments located on the same streets already under consideration. They also asked staff to further investigate opportunities for the walk street adjacent to Uncorked.

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was passed to approve the minutes from the December 12, 2023 task force meeting.

F. TASK FORCE DISCUSSION

Live Outdoor Entertainment and Amplified Music

Senior Planner Yoon provided an overview of provisions related to live outdoor entertainment and amplified music on private and public property, including how other jurisdictions are regulating these matters. Comments were made pertaining to this topic by the task force, summarized as follows:

- One of the biggest factors in creating a sense of place and community is outdoor music, as the entertainment aspect makes people feel connected. For example, there were some restaurants that hired live carolers as a form of entertainment during the holidays. A suggestion was made that the task force should consider establishing limitations and conditions to regulate the activities rather than a complete prohibition.
- Live entertainment is perceived differently depending on where it is located and whether the outdoor dining area is immediately adjacent to the restaurant versus across the sidewalk.
- Regulations should be created that can avoid what a lot of people do not want and in a manner that is enforceable by the City, as amplified sound, even from inside a restaurant, can sometimes be heard more than 200 feet away.
- The public is already exposed to live amplified music which is a problem.
- Live outdoor entertainment and amplified music will create problems if it happens all the time.
- Currently, complaints related to noise levels are not adequately addressed. As such, an enforceable mechanism should be built into this program that can be implemented with ease.

With the task force's consent, a public comment was received recommending that live outdoor entertainment should not be allowed unless it is acoustic music and that regulations should be established to limit noise/sound to a certain decibel level in order to avoid sound spilling out onto the streets.

As more time was necessary amongst the task force to discuss regulations for live outdoor entertainment and amplified music, staff noted that the task force discussion questions will be sent out to the task force after the meeting. Staff will then compile responses and present them at the next task force meeting in order to facilitate a productive discussion.

Vehicle Loading

Senior Planner Yoon provided an overview of City provisions related to vehicle loading hours, along with other jurisdictions' regulations. Comments from the task force suggested that the time of day is not as much of a concern as location, noting that identification of specific locations for

loading may be the solution we should seek. The challenge would be that the City has areas without sufficient space to designate for loading but that should not mean zero enforcement.

Due to time constraints, staff noted that task force questions regarding vehicle loading will also be sent out separately after the meeting for the task force's input so it can be compiled prior to the next scheduled task force meeting.

G. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m. to February 27, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. at the Manhattan Beach Library Meeting Room.