

ROUGHLY EDITED COPY
MANHATTAN BEACH CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
REMOTE BROADCAST CAPTIONING
TUESDAY, A5 F7 < '% ž&\$&(

* * * * *

This text is being provided in a rough draft format. Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART) is provided in order to facilitate communication accessibility and may not be totally verbatim record of the proceedings.

* * * * *

CITY OF MANHATTAN
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 2024

MAYOR FRANKLIN: We're going to going to reconvene to open session, and we have an announcement from closed session, and we have an announcement from City Attorney Quinn Barrow.

CITY ATTORNEY: Thank you, mayor. Pursuant to the Brown Act the Government code sections 54956.9(d)(e)(1) and 54957 City Council in the closed session discussed the two items identified on the agenda. The City Council gave direction. There was no other reportable action taken.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Great. Thank you. So, welcome to the city council regular meeting for March 19, 2024. And we're going to have a pledge led by this wonderful young man over here, Andrew Atkinson. So, Andrew, if you could come down, please. Oh, you know what you're doing with the microphone.

Andrew Atkinson: I do.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Okay. So, there's your flag.

ANDREW ATKINSON: Is it on?

MAYOR FRANKLIN: I think, well, go ahead and try it. Just say hi.

ANDREW ATKINSON: Hi?

MAYOR FRANKLIN: I think it works.

ANDREW ATKINSON: I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Great job. Terrific. Oh, Andrew. No. I want to ask you a couple of questions. Alright. So, what school do you go to?

ANDREW ATKINSON: Pennekamp.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: And what grade are you in?

ANDREW ATKINSON: 2nd grade.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: And do you like it?

ANDREW ATKINSON: Yes.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: What's your favorite part about school?

ANDREW ATKINSON: Math.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Math. Wow. That's incredible. And just while we were talking over there, I learned that you're just about to go on a great adventure. Where are you going to be going to?

ANDREW ATKINSON: Australia.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Australia. That's amazing. It's a long way away. Well, we have some things for you here. We'd like to, mom and dad, do you want to come up? You want to stay there? So

I have your picture taken. And then Mayor Pro Tem Howorth has a special city pin for you.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: I do. Does he have any teachers or principals here?

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Nope. Okay. Just parents. We actually, met when I was walking, handing out information about measure m b. And you were gracious enough to, you and Andrew were in the garage and you were tinkering on something and we had a nice conversation.

ANDREW ATKINSON: We had a project?

MR. ATKINSON: Yes we we're working on your project.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Yes. Oh, so we had a great conversation. So there is a city pin.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: City pin. Like, just like we wear. See? It should be like that.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: And then we also want to give you the certificate of recognition from my colleagues here on city council and recognizing you, Andrew Atkinson, for leading the city council and the community in the pledge of allegiance. So, we thank you so much. We wish you a safe trip and bring me back some wallabies or something. Right? Okay. Thank you so much. Oh, no. We're going to get a picture here.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: Let's do it like this. Go ahead. Okay. Move that chair out.

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: Here we go.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: Thank you. There we go. Thanks. Thank you. Alright. Everyone up here.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Perfect. That's nice.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: Got it. Okay. Thank you so much. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: Is there another one?

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: I think there is something now. Looking great.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: We got one more. And then we're going to move to the ceremonial calendar.

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: Roll call, sir.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Oh, I'm sorry. Roll call.

CITY CLERK TAMURA: Councilmember Lesser?

COUNCILMEMBER LESSER: Here.

CITY CLERK TAMURA: Councilmember Napolitano?

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: Here.

CITY CLERK TAMURA: Council member Montgomery?

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: Here.

CITY CLERK TAMURA: Mayor Pro Tem Howorth?

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: Here.

CITY CLERK TAMURA: Mayor Franklin?

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Here. And we're going to, move to the ceremonial calendar, and we are going to welcome Evelyn Schmidt back to council. We want to thank her for donating a very special photograph that she took during the storm, during the recent storms. We found out that Evelyn has been to Australia. And for those of you that go down to the beach quite often, you'll see Evelyn down there with her camera and her friends and everything, and she's quite the photographer. And how long have you been doing it? Not long.

EVELYN SCHMIDT: About 15 years since I retired from teaching. This is my fun thing to do.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Oh, wonderful. So did we get, so that's the photo that you gave to city council, and we have it in our city council office right upstairs.

EVELYN SCHMIDT: I have to see it.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: You'll have to see it. Right? And then, I think we got one more. We got a little surprise for you. So do you want to describe that?

EVELYN SCHMIDT: That's, recently, I was up in Canada for the northern lights and this is what I came back with. It was a really fun trip. It was a very difficult trip for an 85-year old lady carrying two cameras in the pitch black over the snow and trying to take pictures, but I did it and I loved it.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Oh, that's great. It's a stunning photo. Yes. And you've just reminded me that I have yet another bucket list item, you know, place to go to.

EVELYN SCHMIDT: It's something you really should see, and you have to see it through a camera because it, if I looked at that with my naked eye, it would be gray. And it's through the camera that you actually see the colors.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Wow.

EVELYN SCHMIDT: So get your iPhone out and start taking pictures.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Okay. Great. So what we want to do is we want to want to recognize your generosity with us and give you a city pin.

EVELYN SCHMIDT: Oh.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: My pleasure.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: And then a certificate of recognition. So my colleagues and I, do hereby appreciate photographer, Evelyn Schmidt, in recognition for her pier photo gifted to the city council on February 6, 2024.

EVELYN SCHMIDT: I really appreciate it.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Great. Well, we do too. Thank you so much. So we'll get a picture here. Okay. Here. We'll put you in.

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: Prove you were here with us.

EVELYN SCHMIDT: Okay.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: We'll get a picture.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: A picture with the back.

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: You got it.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: What's next? Okay. Wait. Wait.
We got it. Okay. There we go.

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: Pose.

MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR LOOMIS:
Awesome. Everyone look here.

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: You got it?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: One more.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Okay. Thank you. Mayor Pro Tem asked,
Howorth asked, what's next? Where to next?

EVELYN SCHMIDT: Okay. Next. Well, I'm going this
October. I'm going to go to Ethiopia to take pictures of a tribe
in Ethiopia. And I'm really looking forward to that because I,
my favorite thing is to take pictures of people.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Oh, that's wonderful. That was
Ethiopia.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: You need an assistant? Because
I can carry those cameras.

EVELYN SCHMIDT: Okay.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: Okay.

EVELYN SCHMIDT: It's a deal.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: Alright.

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: That's his job.

EVELYN SCHMIDT: I need a Sherpa.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: There you go. Well, anytime.

EVELYN SCHMIDT: Thank you.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Thank you so much. Safe travels.

EVELYN SCHMIDT: Alright.

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: We have more wall space.

COUNCILMEMBER LESSER: Thank you Evelyn.

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: Thank you for coming in.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You bet.

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: Appreciate it. I told them we have more wall space in City Hall.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: What a great gem. Great people.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Yes. I saw that photo and I just wanted to bring it in. And is it the veterans, Martha? The veterans? Okay. And at this time, we'd also like to recognize any US military veterans that might be with us here in the audience. If you could just go ahead and stand so we can go ahead and acknowledge you, and thank you. Thank you very much for your service. So moving on, we're looking for the approval of the agenda and waiver a full reading of the ordinances. We have a motion to accept by Councilmember Montgomery, seconded by Councilmember Napolitano.

CITY CLERK TAMURA: Motion passes 5-0.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Thank you. And now we come to the city council and community organization announcements of upcoming events. You have one minute.

LIBRARY MANAGER MURRAY: Hello. Good evening, Mayor and Members of the Council. My name is Josh Murray. I am here on behalf of Manhattan Beach Library. On Wednesday, April 3rd, from 3 to 3:30 PM, children ages 5 to 12 are invited to join us at the library for an art activity demonstrating the effect of a solar eclipse. On April 8, 2024, a total solar eclipse will cross parts of Mexico, the United States, and Canada. A total solar eclipse happens when the moon passes between the sun and the Earth at such an angle that the moon completely covers the sun and blocks out its light. Join us at the library for an art activity, demonstrating the effect of a solar eclipse and participants will take home with them their very own solar eclipse glasses, while supplies last. Again, this program is designed for children ages 5 to 12 and will take place on Wednesday, April 3rd. Registration is available currently on our website, lacountylibrary.org. And I thank you for your time.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Great. Thank you, Josh. Anybody else? If you're going to come on down, you can come down and wait in line and, you know, be seated right down here. So we can just go one right after the other one.

AVA MOORE: Good evening, Mayor and Members of the Council. My name's Ava Moore and I'm here on behalf of Mira Costa High School. I'm thrilled to announce that our upcoming spring dance happening this weekend, called Vegas Night and Silent DJ, is going to be a blast with a casino theme where everyone gets to dress up in cool costumes. We've got lots of fun planned including casino games spread out across the gym, including fun prizes you can win. We're also switching things up with having a silent disco instead of just having music blasting from speakers. Everyone can wear headphones provided by our awesome DJ that will play music. You can switch between songs and it's quite funny seeing everybody dancing in silence when you take them off. We've already sold around 300 tickets and we're hoping for even more last minute guests. We are super excited for this upcoming event and hope it boosts our school spirit.

RILEY CAMPION: Hi. I'm Riley Campion also here on behalf of Mira Costa High School. We are also currently doing scholar quiz at Mira Costa. In scholar quiz, teams of 4 go against one another 1 by 1 in a competition of knowledge. Each member of each team has a flag and when they think they know the answer to a question, they can raise their flag. Whoever raises their flag first gets to answer first in the opportunity to win points for their team. There are 64 person teams, so that's 250

plus competitors in Costa Scholar quiz. This is in a bracket style single elimination tournament, and the questions cover diverse academic disciplines as well as pop culture trivia and current events. Any students or faculty are allowed to watch the scholar quiz competitions, and they usually take place at lunch in classrooms around campus. The span of the tournament is from yesterday, March 18th, to Friday, March 22nd, with final titles on the morning of Tuesday, March 26th.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Thank you. I volunteered to be a reader. It was a lot of fun and also intimidating. Those questions were difficult.

MIA LANGSTEIN: Hi. My name is Mia Langstein. We also had a basketball tournament last week. It was really fun. It was 3 on 3 competition, and anyone who wanted to play could play. So we got a lot of participation, which was fun to watch. Comedy sports versus ASB also did a match a couple of Fridays ago. I played in the match on ASB's team. We didn't win, but it was close. Juniors are also doing state testing. Last week was English, and this week is history. There was also, a lot of band events going on, including the evening of elect eclectic ensembles. There's also a choir concert going on tonight. Midterms are this week as third quarter ends, and KTLA News actually did a feature on our school recently and they featured cheer, badminton, drama, the jazz band, and link crew. And then

there's also some other fun sports stuff going on. Our boys' volleyball team is playing Mater Dei today and on Friday, there's the big Loyola game. So if anyone wants to go support, it'd be super fun. Yes. Thank you.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Thank you.

LATRICE MCLAUGHLIN: Good evening. My name is Latrice McLaughlin, and I'm with Kinecta Federal Credit Union. I'm here tonight representing the Manhattan Beach Chamber of Commerce as the current board chair. I'm here tonight to invite you and the community to our annual State of the City address this Thursday, March 21st at 5 PM at The Shade Hotel. We are excited to partner with the city to provide these updates to the community and will hold a chamber mixer directly following the event. Since space is limited, so we recommend registering on the chamber's website, manhattanbeachchamber.com. Thank you.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Great. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: Anybody we know going?

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Oh, that's this Thursday.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: Are you ready?

MAYOR FRANKLIN: This Thursday. Anybody else? Community announcements? Colleagues?

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: You've got one.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: No, you've got --

MAYOR FRANKLIN: So, I have one. We want to recognize our Chief Johnson, who was awarded the law-enforcement achievers award from the Southern California Chapter of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives. So, Chief, please stand. Okay. So we move on. Anybody?

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: You're good.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Okay. So we move on to public comments, and I need to make an announcement. It has come to our attention that people have been disrupting city council meetings in other cities with anti-semitic or racially based comments through zoom. Such comments are disruptive and interfere with the people's business, and are not within the subject matter jurisdiction of the city council. I'm instructing the city clerk's office to mute any speakers who attempt to disrupt the meeting with anti-semitic or derogatory comments based upon race, gender, or other protected categories. So members of the public can come down and make a public announcement. You have 3 minutes.

ALAN KIRSCHENBAUM: Good evening, Mayor Franklin and City Councilmembers. I'm Alan Kirschenbaum, a resident of Manhattan Beach. Tonight, you have three items regarding art on your agenda with the combined items having been allotted two hours. My concern is what a vote by you constitutes tonight. Are you deciding whether the staff and arts commission followed your

directions and intentions, or are you personally deciding what is good versus bad art? If you're deciding whether the staff and arts commission followed your directions and intentions, your decision making should be pretty simple and not consume a lot of time. You got the minutes from prior meetings, and there's always video if the minutes are unclear. If you're deciding what's good art for the city, I have to question why. I can't imagine any voter in the city voted for you based on your reputations for artistic criticism. Staff in the arts commission are part of the community, and so have a pretty good idea of the community's overall taste. I doubt you want to substitute your personal taste for the community's taste, so why try to decide on good art for the city? If you do decide to vote on good art to avoid complaints, please rest assured that no matter what is decided, there will be complaints. It's the nature of art to be thought provoking and communicative. You could vote on a still life of mom, apple pie, and the American flag, and people will still complain it's too plain vanilla. So tonight, please look at these items in terms of whether or not the arts commission and staff followed your directions and intentions. Let's save your time for other matters affecting our city. Thank you.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Thank you, Mr. Kirschenbaum.

JOHN ALLEN: Hello, everyone. My name is John Allen. My wife and I live with our family in the, at 1330 Voorhees Avenue,

which is just north of Mira Costa school campus. First, I've heard that flattery gets you everywhere, so I want to thank the councilmembers for their service to the community and to taking up very important topics, including undergrounding utility assessment districts. And I'm going to save us hopefully 30 seconds or a minute on this, so I'll give you a gift as well. I want to thank also our senior engineer, Jeff Yauca, who's been amazing to us during the process, learning more and educating us and helping my neighbors and I to make decisions as well as the city manager, Bruce Moe. On behalf of my neighbors, I'm here to request and encourage your support to form a UUAD encompassing the 16 parcels owned by the 12 homeowners along the south side of the 1300 block of Voorhees Avenue. By my tally, 94% of the parcel owners or 15 out of 16 of the parcel submitted were in support for forming a UUAD. I'm not positive, but I'm pretty sure that sets an official record for the city in terms of the survey. And I believe that that support will continue forward with the UUAD petition as well as the ballot vote. We'll establish records for each of those as well. In part, our neighbors overwhelming support reflects the fact that underground and utility lines isn't just a matter of aesthetics in our area of Manhattan Beach, rather somewhat unique to our 1300 block of Voorhees Avenue. 10 out of 12 of the homeowners have lived with the utility lines actually parsing the

properties because there were adjacent lots that were merged or still separated but owned by one homeowner. In other words, the utilities aren't just parsing the property, just that property, but in some cases, the actual homes, the physical structures that the neighbors live in. And not only has that obstruction inhibited property development, it does pose an elevated danger to the residents on the street. In fact, you'll remember the deluge of atmospheric rivers that we got around this time last year, the power lines and some of the utility lines were actually downed in two of our neighbors' homes or in the backyards of their homes. So given these factors, among many others, we're seeking and encouraging the councilmembers to approve the support for our survey and to move us forward to the UUAD petition and the ballot vote. And we hope that the city will actually prioritize and expedite our project advancing the approval and the construction processes as soon as possible. I didn't save you any time, but I appreciate yours. Thanks so much.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Thank you. You owe us.

WAYNE POWELL: Good evening, honorable Mayor Franklin and distinguished Councilmembers, Wayne Powell, board trustee for the LA County West Vector Control District. I'm here to give a really quick report, an annual report. As you know, Vector Control is responsible for prevention and control of disease

bearing insects, namely bees. Well, actually, I won't talk about bees separately, but mosquitoes and ticks. Mosquitoes, especially localized mosquitoes, carry West Nile virus and the Zika virus, and ticks carry Lyme disease. So the problem with mosquitoes is standing water. That's an ideal breeding ground. And as you know, we've had lots of rain and it's going to be more significant as we approach the summer months. So for residents, it's requested to basically get rid of any standing water that you have on your property because that's usually the breeding ground and causes most of the problems. Now, I mentioned aggressive Africanized bees and they're just, they're actually more than just a nuisance. People can die. People who have severe allergic reactions can actually die from that. So that is another significant risk. And, of course, the district is responsible for abating bees responsibly. Now, one thing I want to recommend is if you have bees on the outside of your property, please don't call the fire department or the police department or even, you know, public works because all they will do is contact Vector Control. So if you have bee swarms, please call Vector Control at 310, and the phone number is 915-7370. And if you want more information about this subject, you can go to the website, which is lawestvector.org. Thank you.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Thank you, Wayne. Anybody else? If you could please, just come on down if you plan on speaking. It'll

save a little bit of time. Alright. No. It's my fault. I didn't announce it.

TERESA EVERSON: My name is Teresa Everson or Terry Everson. I live on Homer Street next to Robinson. I actually hadn't planned on speaking, but since the undergrounding did come up. When the survey came out, I talked to neighbors in that little section where we're so close to Hermosa, that'd be south of First Street. On our street, on Homer, most were no's. I talked to most of the people in the little block on Francisco, and they were no's. Longfellow, I think there's three or four houses. One no and a couple of people didn't answer. So my informal survey had about ten no's, one yes, and there were three rentals I wasn't sure of and four unknowns. And basically, what we're hoping since most of us do not want it underground, since we're the little area right adjacent to Hermosa, if the people north of First Street, First and North want to do the underground and maybe just leave us out because we're right there by Robinson and close to Hermosa, and most of us don't want it. So just FYI.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Great. Thank you, Terry. Anybody else in chambers? No. We got one more.

PETE SKAKEN: I just wanted to follow that because my name is Pete Skaken. I live in Ardmore, near Ardmore and Pacific, and this is, again, regarding the undergrounding. And

I'm a hard no, and it's because I don't know what this gentleman's situation is, but mine is that the power lines have never been a problem in this area. There's never been - I am going to be 67 years old next month, and I've lived about 60 of those years in Manhattan Beach, and I've never had a problem with the power lines. The power lines do not block my view. I don't even know they're there until this comes around. And the other thing is that I know this city is changing, but there's still some of us in here who are not rich, and just being told that you're going to have to fork over \$100,000 because somebody wants a view. You know, that's just incredible to me. Now, I haven't taken any polls. I just talk to people in the neighborhood, and most of the people who are like me have been there for a while don't see a need in this. And it's just, as I said, I don't know where the city falls on this. I know you're supposed to be neutral, but it seems to me that the city is falling on the side of the people who want underground. Now, as I said, the city's changed. When I was younger living here, it was working class pretty much, people who worked in the defense industry and around that. And then around the late 1980s, people, more wealthy people started to move in. Everything changes. Bungalows left. Mansions went up. And the thing is that this undergrounding thing came up probably, I remember, in the early 90s when my father was still alive, and I talked to him

about it. At that time, it was estimated to be about \$6,000 per lot, something like that. We said, probably better to happen now when everybody can afford it. But it kept getting pushed back and pushed back. And then every few years, it comes back like one of those movie monsters that you kill, and it just keeps reconstituting itself. And coming back, and the price is higher and higher and higher. Some of us, you know what, I can liquidate my savings account. I can liquidate a retirement account. But it's just not that easy for something I don't see as absolutely necessary. Really quickly, especially at this time with inflation, we have a story in the paper about the power bills are going up. Edison has got a 20 percent increase approved. This is not the time. My time is up.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Okay. Thank you for your time.

PETE SKAKEN: I'm against it with extreme prejudice.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Great. Thank you. You have an opportunity to vote.

LIDA SANDERA: I didn't plan to talk, but now hearing what is being said, I want to talk. I live my name is Lida Sandera. I live at 465 26th Street. That's just around the Vista Drive, and all my neighbors wants to take it down. I have people coming from Europe visit, and when we, I drive them Vista Drive, they are saying, is this America? They can't believe it. All those lines and all those, it's just really like, not today. And

next to that, in our blocks, the electricity is constantly off. I don't know why, but I am always afraid of earthquake. What it would do with all those poles, if they will fall, they will go directly on the houses. Thank you.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Okay. Thank you, Lida. Anybody else?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Have you already talked about the...

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Public comments is we're in public comments. Okay. Nobody left in chambers? How about online?

ASSISTANT CITY CLERK ALVAREZ: Lucia LaRosa Eames.

LUCIA LAROSA EAMES: Hi. Can you hear me?

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Yes. We can.

LUCIA LAROSA EAMES: Hi. So my name is Lucia LaRosa Eames, and I am a resident of Manhattan Beach. And my comment is about the consideration for a model to be designed by the task force in cooperation with LA County, LA versus hate group. And I think that, you know, this initiative has good intention, and given that we have had issues of anti-Semitism and anti-Black racism in Manhattan Beach. But I have two comments. One is that, particularly for anti-Semitism, I am concerned that we are putting anti-Semitism and deluding anti-Semitism in the context of hate, while we need to recognize that anti-Semitism is more than a matter of hate or personal prejudice. Prejudice is anti-Jewish racism. And it can operate in multiple ways. And it's not

just hate or hostility, but also bias. It can even be unintentional, and can express in stereotypes, in coded language, in conspiracy theories. So I recognize that murals are an important form of public art. But public art doesn't have to be only murals, and doesn't have to be necessarily visual. It can be in other forms. Like performances, dances that engage more the community, the entire community, not just the few students that will participate in these murals. And I hope that the city considers an extended campaign to fight anti-Semitism in our town and in our school district. And use those funds for other forms of art that can actually educate about anti-Semitism. And especially the current form, the modern form of anti-Semitism, which is commingled with the demonization of the city of Israel. And for example, it can be a book club, or it can be a performance, or a concert, or like other activities that engage an entire community, and that educate the community about the Jewish culture and the Jewish history. Thank you.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Great. Thank you, Lucia.

ASSISTANT CITY CLERK ALVAREZ: There's Peter Sombart.

PETER SOMBART: Can you hear me?

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Yes

PETER SOMBART: Okay. I have a concern and a question. When I moved here in 1997, my block was assessed for an underground utility construction and completion. I'm wondering

if people who have either already rebuilt their houses in an underground utility assessment district, or they've already gone through construction for an underground utility, will they be getting whatever they call it, an exclusion, or will they not have to participate in a new underground utility district? Thank you.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Thank you.

ASSISTANT CITY CLERK ALVAREZ: There's no additional request.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: No additional requests. Okay. So we will close public comments and move on to item H, the consent calendar. Do we have a motion to accept items two through nine on the consent.

COUNCILMEMBER LESSER: Motion to approve.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Motion to approve by Councilmember David Lesser and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem, Amy Howorth.

CITY CLERK TAMURA: Motion passes. 5-0.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: So now we'll move on to general business. And item number ten, consideration of community mural proposed by the organization Task Force in partnership with LA versus Hate, a coalition led by LA County Commission on Human Relations, Parks and Recreation Director Leyman.

PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR LEYMAN: Good evening, Honorable Mayor, members of the City Council. Ailyn Stewart, our Cultural Arts Manager, will be presenting this item.

CULTURAL ARTS MANAGER STEWART: Good evening, Honorable Mayor, members of the City Council. As Mark mentioned, I'm Ailyn Stewart, and I will be presenting this item today. So this item came to us while the RFP request for proposals was out for all of the murals. It originally went to the Cultural Arts Commission, and they felt that while this item was not necessarily perfect for the mural locations and that round of murals, it was nevertheless an interesting item. Further on down the line, City Council did ask us to go ahead and come back and bring this item back for review. So here we are. Thank you. Okay. As was mentioned in the staff report title, Task Force is a company. They are a marketing agency whose job it is to promote various endeavors. In this case, they are promoting L.A. vs. Hate, an organization put together to combat hate and educate people about acceptance and tolerance. In 2018, Task Force with L.A. vs. Hate had a project called the Summer of Murals, and these were some of the murals that they created. These are all what we kind of refer to as community murals, meaning they're not proposing an actual image. They're proposing a concept. So for the most part, this was done in communities that were either marginalized or had experienced some sort of

negative interactions. So in this case, this is a mural in El Monte. It's called Come Walk With Me, and it celebrates the diversity particularly of Latin American culture. This is a mural in the Pico-Robertson area, and this celebrates the Jewish community. And this is one in Long Beach celebrating the LGBTQ plus community. Because Manhattan Beach didn't have quite as much of an anchor, if you will, Task Force proposed doing an overall anti-hate or acceptance mural with just a positive message of embracing each other and living peacefully together. This is the process that Task Force is proposing. They are proposing roughly a seven-to-nine-month process during which they will hold several community workshops. They are proposing specifically reaching out to MBUSD and asking them to put them together with about 150 students who would then meet in three 50-up-to-50-person groups to get feedback about how is it that we can be more tolerant of each other. They're also proposing multiple workshops that those students can undergo to, again, learn about tolerance and other things. And from that, they would then make a recommendation on several artists that they have on their roster. Those artists would make proposals of artwork that would be done digitally, and then the community, as well as eventually city council, would choose which artwork, which piece that would be selected. If selected, this project would also need a location. Staff did reach out to MBUSD, and

they felt that they did not have a location that was appropriate for this. However, they were interested in working. If this project were approved, they would help us to connect with those students. So some possible locations are the two walls. You can see one in red, one in blue on the parking lot just right outside here. There's also this wall that's kind of staggering down. Any part of it could be utilized for this. There's this wall just on the, what is that, the south-facing side of the police station. You can do the upper portion that you can kind of see in red, or the lower portion in that cyan color. This is tough to see on this image, but these are two staircases that you can see behind the tennis courts, and kind of by ceramics. So if you were to do a mural similar to what we've just awarded to Charles Bragg with the sea lion, where the mural is just on that vertical edge of the stairs, that way you're not causing a slip hazard. So you can only see the mural if you're kind of looking up the stairs. We also have a brand new building with Fire Station Number 2. So there's a couple of opportunities of flat space there. This is the west side, the west-facing wall. We know that Big Pool is in question in terms of what we're doing with it, so this is kind of a wild card out there. We know that that might not be, but we're starting to run out of walls, so I just put together all the walls that are possible. It's tough to see in that image, but what's outlined is the wall on

the restroom. It's kind of curved, so that's a possible location, very highly visible. You could do either of these walls over at Heights. Nice thing about this is this is also where a lot of kids, teens congregate, so they would be able to see the work that comes out of this project. Or the other side, again, this would be the, if I've got my cardinal directions right, I think that's the south-facing wall. As well as this wall, which we've talked about before. This is the wall next to the skate spot. It's a very long, kind of narrow wall. The only thing with this particular location is we would have to discuss the ownership of the wall because it is adjoining Northrop. And that is it on our presentation. Staff recommends that you discuss and provide direction. Also with us is a representative from L.A. v. Hate, in case you have any questions directly for them.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Okay, fine, thank you. Colleagues, any questions? Councilmember Lesser?

COUNCILMEMBER LESSER: I have one. Thank you for that presentation. What I've read in the proposal is a great deal of facilitation, outreach, engagement with our community, but I'm a little bit confused about the selection process. I've read how there would be a proposal of three different artists that would be brought to council along with their bios, that would be recommended by task force as well as, I guess, the Commission on

Human Relations. I'm a little bit uncertain, though, about the final proposed design and what role council would have with regard to that design, even presuming that we can find a place for it.

CULTURAL ARTS MANAGER STEWART: Absolutely. Assuming that this went forward and council was interested in this, we would have to schedule it in such a way that this item would be able to come back to council for council to see those proposals that the artists generate and ultimately vote on which one they would like. I'd like to also add one more thing that I neglected to mention. You mentioned the outreach. A lot of this work, again, will be done by the school district because it is their students that are going to be involved with this. So, hopefully, they will assist. I mean, staff will have to assist with this as well, but in terms of outreach, we're hoping the school district will be able to be of assistance.

COUNCILMEMBER LESSER: Great. Thank you. Thanks.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Okay. Mayor Pro Tem?

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Just a couple of questions. In talking about the involvement at the schools, it says, invite up to 150 high school students to participate in a three-step process, and then it says the L.A. County Commission on Human Relations will provide three workshops for students. Are they three separate workshops?

CULTURAL ARTS MANAGER STEWART: Yes.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: Okay. That's what I thought because at one point it sounded like you were saying, well, they divide those 150 kids up into three, but they're three separate workshops.

CULTURAL ARTS MANAGER STEWART: Correct.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: Okay. How much interaction or interfacing have you had or have they had with the district?

CULTURAL ARTS MANAGER STEWART: Staff has reached out to the district. We asked them, first and foremost, if they were interested in, for example, just taking over the project and sort of running with it, if you will, and they felt that they could not absorb this budget, and they also did not have a spot for this mural. However, they thought it was a great idea to involve their students, so they were willing to assist in the liaising between task force, city, and students.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: Well, I mean, in the conversations, I think at first it was, is there a space that the school district has? And the school district said, no, we don't have a space. And when you asked or they asked, do you think your kids would want to participate, were they told the degree to which, hey, it's three different classes on facility, on the premises, here's the subject matter, and, you know, were they told the extent of the involvement?

CULTURAL ARTS MANAGER STEWART: We did forward the proposal to them, and we did discuss it with them. They, Yes, they were amenable to it.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: That's, huh, okay. That's it.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Anything else? Okay. Councilmember Montgomery?

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: Thank you, Your Honor. I have two quick questions. Those of you that asked about where this came from, it didn't come internally. This came from a task force. A creative marketing agency for the L.A. County Commission on Human Relations. So it was not homegrown, first and foremost. Second, the cost, \$65,000 to \$80,000, who's paying that?

CULTURAL ARTS MANAGER STEWART: The task force has asked is for city council to pay that from the public trust fund.

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: Of course they are. They want us to pay.

CULTURAL ARTS MANAGER STEWART: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: Of course. And the term, if council were to agree on this after we gave \$65,000 of our money, how long are we agreeing to this? In other words, suppose the mural goes up, how long are we to keep it there?

CULTURAL ARTS MANAGER STEWART: Well, it would then become part of the city's collection.

[At 6:56 PM, the City Council recessed in order to troubleshoot an audio problem in City Council Chambers. At 7:09 PM, the City Council reconvened with all City Councilmembers present.]

MAYOR FRANKLIN: And apologies, we've had audio issues for the last five minutes before we stopped. So some questions were asked. Do you have some information from that time?

CULTURAL ARTS MANAGER STEWART: I will do my best to summarize the last five minutes. Please remind me if I miss anything. So I believe some of the questions that we had a chance to discuss and answer is we talked to Chief Johnson regarding the number of hate incidents and the type of hate incidents. And it looks like there were fewer than 10 that Chief Johnson was able to recall off the top of her head. And they typically centered around graffiti and some anti-Semitic messaging as well as some kind of more general racism messaging. I also wanted to confirm slash clarify that while we did send, while staff did send this proposal to the district to briefly review, we did not discuss in detail exactly what, how much involvement the district would have or the schools would have outside of pushing the proposal out to those who might be interested. So we didn't discuss, for example, the curriculum

that's proposed in these workshops or the need for classroom space for these workshops, et cetera. So those points have not been addressed. We're not sure if the district has the bandwidth for that yet. We just didn't have a chance to discuss. Was there anything else that I missed?

MAYOR FRANKLIN: I think that's sufficient. Yes. And Mayor Pro Tem Howorth, you said you wanted to ask a question.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: No. I'm good now. I got it clarified. Thank you.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: You got it clarified? Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LESSER: Can you then summarize what is the value added that the task force would bring to this project given that we as a city have created our own works of art? What is the benefit of bringing in the outside group for their fee to create this project which includes community engagement here?

CULTURAL ARTS MANAGER STEWART: So, mainly it would be that the community engagement would be facilitated by task force employees, contractors, as opposed to, for example, staff. They are, in a sense, acting as a project manager on a project like this. So rather than having staff propose the curriculum and find someone to teach the curriculum, in this case, task force is the one doing that.

COUNCILMEMBER LESSER: Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Okay. Any other questions, comments, or questions? Okay. Okay. Thank you. We'll open it up to public comments. And each speaker may speak up for two minutes. And if you spoke about this item before, you can't speak again.

MICHAEL JENKINS: Council, Michael Jenkins, 45-year resident mayor. It's indicative of the times we live in that you started tonight's meeting with a caution about people calling in over Zoom using racial epithets and hatred, hateful language, a phenomenon that's been occurring in city council meetings around the state. The incidents of hate crimes have risen 18% last year in L.A. County, spiked dramatically nationwide. We see white supremacists and neo-Nazis brazenly marching in city streets. Is there hate? Yes, there's an epidemic of hate in this country. Mayor, is there hate in Manhattan Beach? Sure, there's hate in Manhattan Beach. The incidents of graffiti have been well-publicized, anti-Semitic graffiti on our school grounds multiple times. How about racial epithets being thrown at cheerleaders from Culver City during a Mira Costa Varsity football game? Is that hate? Sure, it's hate. We have hate. Is it worth \$65,000 to have a community dialogue about what we can do about eradicating hate? I think that's money well-spent, honestly, and it results in a mural, enhances our urban art landscape, so much the better. We have a mural proposal tonight for a shark. I've got nothing against sharks. But as between a mural that sends a

message against hatred that makes the city of Manhattan Beach a leader among communities, sending that message to the world, this is a community that doesn't tolerate hate. This is a community that is for being together. I'd say it's a good investment. I support it. I hope you do, too.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Great. Thank you, Mr. Jenkins.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: Mr. Mayor, nothing to mic. I've got another text that the people at home are hearing everything times three.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Like an echo?

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: Are you saying that's a bad thing?

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: Not when I speak, Steve.

CITY MANAGER MOE: If I can offer a solution here, I just spoke with the IT manager about that, the director, and he suggested if people are hearing more than one stream, please close their browsers and open up a new stream. And that should solve it.

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: Okay. Okay. Okay.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: Thank you. I'm sorry to be, you know, I don't like to get too... Yes. Yes. Thank you. So close the browsers and reopen it again?

CITY MANAGER MOE: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: Jeopardy music while we're doing this.

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: Where were we?

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: Public comment.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Public comments.

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: What else? How about on the old Zoom?

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Should we just get some sort of...

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: Well, I think there's...

ASSISTANT CITY CLERK ALVAREZ: There are people on Zoom. Do you want me to call the first one through Zoom?

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Yes. Okay. Well, go ahead.

ASSISTANT CITY CLERK ALVAREZ: Heather Kim.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Cannot hear you.

ASSISTANT CITY CLERK ALVAREZ: She muted herself.

HEATHER KIM: Hello? Can you hear me?

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Yes.

HEATHER KIM: No. Hello?

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: Yes.

HEATHER KIM: Okay. Great. Okay. Okay.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Excuse me. Excuse me, Ms. Kim. Can you hear us? That's also important. Now, can you hear us all right?

HEATHER KIM: Yes. Yes. I can hear you now. Yes.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: I'm sorry. So if we can reset the clock and...

HEATHER KIM: I can't hear you.

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: It's like we're in a VISA commercial. We're trapped.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: I'm sorry, Heather. Try again.

HEATHER KIM: Okay. Can you hear me now? Hello?

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Yes. We can hear you. Okay.

HEATHER KIM: Okay. I'm going to try it now. Okay. Okay. No need to virtue signal. All this manufactured hate is nauseating, not to mention expensive. As representatives of the citizens of this town, you all have been entrusted to make good choices that reflect on what the community wants, and this is not it. Not to mention, this is fiscally irresponsible. It's just that...(Inaudible)

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Ms. Kim. Ms. Kim, Heather?

HEATHER KIM: What?

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Just maybe slow down a little bit, and the last 30 seconds, we couldn't hear you. It came in and out.

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: It's her signal.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: It's her signal, probably, yes.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Can you try again?

HEATHER KIM: I don't know what there is. Stay safe.
I'm still here.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: You're cutting in and out. Go ahead
and try it one more time.

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: I can see the man with the
moon.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Are there are there any more?

ASSISTANT CITY CLERK ALVAREZ: She left the meeting.
She'll probably be back then. Probably try to reconnect.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: We'll come back to you, Ms. Kim.

ASSISTANT CITY CLERK ALVAREZ: So we have, Hildy Stern.

HILDY STERN: Hello, Mayor Franklin and council
members. My name is Hildy Stern, and I'm a 30-year resident of
Manhattan Beach. I'm sorry that I'm not there in person, and I
hope you can hear me. I just got a weird message. I wasn't sure
what that was. I'm sorry I'm not there in person. I was feeling
really under the weather. I didn't want to share that with
everybody in council today. So, I did want to speak on this. I'm
very glad that you've brought this forward. And you heard my
comments weeks ago when I asked to bring this forward. And I'm
very happy that you're recognizing that this, too, could fit
into your priority to bring public art to our community. We've
seen some beautiful scenes, nature scenes, contemporary
geometric art, and lots of representations of what already

exists naturally in our community, like our pier, our lifeguard huts, the waves and the ocean. But this project, and like all other proposals, has come in from an outside entity under the request for proposals, and then in other iterations, to be another opportunity to bring a meaningful artistic representation to Manhattan Beach. So, this is an opportunity to create something that's really impactful, and actually uplifting imagery, as the proposal notes. This project could provoke contemplation, conversations, and self-reflection. Its intention is to create a vision for an inclusive and welcoming future. And if you look at the images from the Summer of Solidarity program, which was just completed this past summer by LA vs. Hate and Task Force, you'll see really uplifting, beautiful images that are embraced by the community. This isn't a negative image that would be not supportive. These are beautiful, uplifting images that I think we would really benefit from here in Manhattan Beach. This is a wonderful intention, and I hope that you will support it.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Great. Thank you, Hildy.

ASSISTANT CITY CLERK ALVAREZ: We have Heather Kim again on the call.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Okay. Heather, let's try it again. Heather? Can you go over to Hildy's house?

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: Bring people together.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: Oh, man.

ASSISTANT CITY CLERK ALVAREZ: So, I'm not showing that Heather is accepting the prompt for the audio?

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Heather?

HEATHER KIM: I'm here. I'm here.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Oh, there we go. Okay.

HEATHER KIM: Okay. Okay. So, I'm sorry about that. I don't know what I said.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: You're doing fine. Go ahead.

HEATHER KIM: Okay. So, this was my 1159 a.m. public comment. No need to virtue signal. All this manufactured hate is nauseating, not to mention expensive. As representatives of the citizens of this town, you all have been entrusted to make good choices that reflect on what the community wants, and this is not it. Not to mention this is fiscally irresponsible. This is not Venice. This is Manhattan Beach with a very different vibe. This mural by very existence insinuates that we are racist and intolerant. Do you guys actually believe that to be true? We've got, you know, thugs brazenly walking around without any cares in the world, not neo-Nazis, but the truth doesn't fit the narrative like those of Jussie Smollett. Murals make sense in some urban settings where they prevent vandalism and graffiti, but this is not it. You are diluting the anti-Semitism and hate and intolerance are obvious things that our community does not

align with, and having this visual image does not change the few people who actually might be super hateful. And there is a lack of tolerance for diversity of opinion and thought in this community. So it's kind of like, you know, I don't know. If you had like a big Trump sign out there, you know, with mag all over it, well, is it going to be welcoming and intolerant of that? No, this is really dumb and unnecessary. We shouldn't be spending money on this, okay? You're trying to make something that is not even there. You're trying to create a problem that's not even there. Let's canvass and move on to other issues that really affect the quality of our lives every day. Thank you.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Alright. Thank you, Heather.

ASSISTANT CITY CLERK ALVAREZ: There's no additional request on Zoom.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Okay. On that, we will close public comments. And Councilmember Napolitano?

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: Thank you. I just want to start by, I guess, addressing or dispensing with this idea that Council is not equipped to make decisions regarding art. We make those decisions. In fact, that's what happens at Councils. You make decisions. Commissions make recommendations. They don't make decisions. They make recommendations for Council to consider and either accept or reject or modify. I appreciate what the speaker was trying to say. That, obviously, is coming

from a certain viewpoint. The idea that commissioners, because they live here, represent the community, a lot of folks seem to forget Councilmembers live here, too. That is one of the requirements. We have to live here. Yes, we live here. And I think that in terms of direction, decision-making, as far as making decisions go, as elected officials, we're representing the community in the decisions. Again, selecting commissioners that make recommendations to us. As someone who has an art... Is anyone here a mechanical engineer? Is anyone here a finance director or anything like that? I happen to have a degree in fine art. I have been in shows. I've won competitions. Does that make me better than any of you to choose it? No. You're here to choose art like everything else, every other decision we make. As to what each one of us feels is best for the community. So, I just want to put that out there because we've got a lot of other decisions regarding art tonight, too, and that applies across the board. The idea that we can just rubber stamp whatever is brought to us, anyone who thinks that hasn't met the five of us up there. So, we're going to do what we feel is best for the community. We appreciate the recommendations of our commissioners, but they're not the final call. Counselors, having said that, you know, with regard to this, I'm open to suggestions here, but I'll tell you why I voted to bring it back the last time was because we specifically... I wanted to bring

it to the district where, frankly, you called manufactured hate. I don't know what that means. I know that we've had some real incidents on our school campuses. And to me, the school campuses really are where this belongs. School district apparently can't find a blank wall across all their campuses to put this on there. Okay. Maybe it's too involved for the kids, this, that, and the other. I don't know. We put it forward to them. We had our ad hoc committee meeting. They said, thanks, but no, we don't have the place for it. It's not something that we're interested in doing. So, okay. That, though, to me, was why I brought it back. I'm interested to hear what my colleagues say about any place in the city. But, you know, as far as where incidents have taken place, what we should do about it, to me, the mural is more appropriate there at the schools. The city has taken on a number of initiatives against hate. We've been part of this task force across South Bay. We've got the MB United Against Hate. We've got lots of different things that we're doing, which, to me, are more dynamic in trying to address. We've had past incidents where, of course, we've come out together as a community and held vigils and everything else. So there's no lack of concern or effort in addressing it. A lot of it still has to take place at home. But to the extent that we can, in terms of putting together a mural, again, I think it's more appropriate at the schools. They don't want it. If anyone

has a greater suggestion here, I'm open to it. But that's why I brought it back to begin with. Thank you, Your Honor.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Okay. Thank you. And Mayor Pro Tem?

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: And I was going to add some context, because I think Steve and I both wanted to bring it back, after we had said no to it during the work plan. And I wanted to bring it back. First of all, former Mayor Stern asked me to, you know, she thought that there wasn't enough information in the staff report that we saw at that time. And so I said, fine, bring it back. And I have no problem bringing something back that I voted on. So now we have more information. And I'm all for community engagement. And that's a piece of this that I really appreciate. And it should be said that there's no amount of hate crime that's okay. Right? Less than 10, that sounds great. Except if you're the person who's, you know, been a victim of that. Right? And when we say graffiti, that's still a hate crime. That is actually, you know, when you see some of the graffiti that's been perpetrated, I guess. You know, it's not just graffiti. It's not just a gang sign, which is still unacceptable. So first of all, let's start from that premise. And I think we all agree with that. That there's no acceptable amount. And I also want to, like Steve, so much of this was centered around the schools. So in our ad hoc, we talk about it. And when this proposal came forward and we got the full agenda,

you know, I talked to folks at the schools. And, you know, they didn't understand everything that was being asked of them. So they haven't weighed in on this at all. So much of this depends on them. I will say that their most recent hateful, hateful incident was anti-African American graffiti. I'll just say that. Really awful stuff. You know, spray painted on a wall there. And the way the school community responded was so appropriate. The school community had a sit-in in solidarity with the black students who had been a victim of that. It was an organic and also really appropriate statement of this isn't okay here, right? And I want us to be able to say that every time something like this happens. So I have a problem with the piece about with the schools. And so much of it is involving the schools. And I don't know that the schools are asking for additional curriculum and content on cultural, historical, critical thinking on all of this. So that's where I'm coming from at this. Well, and the last thing I would say is the group task force admitted that there wasn't a critical anchor here in this community. Like there was in Pico, Robertson or other areas where, okay, here we're going to do something on anti-Semitism. Here we're going to do something on Latino culture or conflict there. And they really couldn't find that. So they picked this topic for us. And I don't think it's really something that is so well-defined. So that's where I am right now.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Councilmember Montgomery?

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: I think we're all trying to figure out what to do here. I want to summarize it the best I can. I think both Steve and Amy kind of hit around the edges here and I'll kind of go right in the middle of it. The first part of it is the money. Those of you who don't think that art is subjective, we can agree to disagree all you want to. What you can agree with, disagree with, is the fact that money is not subjective. Not \$1, not \$65,000, not \$80,000. Here's someone talking about the fact that Edison got approved 20% rate. That should wake everybody up. That's number one. Number two, the fact that school districts, I don't see school districts buying anywhere here. I kick this right back to them and say, look, this is really what we're trying to do with you as our partner. Supposed to be our partner. There has to be space to do this somewhere in the school district. And you're buying with students. So far, that's zero. The idea, I think Mike brought up community dialogue. I'm more in favor of community dialogue interactive. That's your goal? Why not town hall like we're doing with the Mayor of Public Safety? You want people to interact with you? Have a town hall meeting, not a piece of art. That doesn't do it for me. No one's ever called me and said, hey, the artwork you have is really interactive. I want to talk to you about it. Never happened in 16 years of council. So our

ducks aren't matching up here. And I think Amy said it better. The task force is outside. They couldn't find a critical anchor. So they made a general description. So we'd all fit under it. That doesn't work for me. So yes, the Chief gave us her best numbers. This is what's happened. We're not oblivious to it. We don't like any of it happening. But to draw us in a target and say that you don't really fit our main delivery. I know that we're going to create a general item for you. That's even worse. So don't try to squeeze us in. You know, a peg doesn't work for us. I think the duplication of effort, as the Mayor mentioned, at Bruce's Beach is important to talk about. Some of you were actually here in 2020. And we know what it was like here. And 21. And 22. And look what's happened with Bruce's Beach. The Chief dedicated the plaque at Bruce's Beach. And what we're doing there with the artwork. We're doing so much that we never thought of before. Because the times have changed. We get that. But it doesn't mean it's never ending. We come to Council for every single thing you want to do. And say this is going to help. This is going to help. This is going to help. Then it never ends. So I think that's a process we're going through now. All of us. None of us feel comfortable here with the solution presented tonight. So my proposal is sending this back to ad hoc. To the school district. Look, we need buy-in from you. One. Property. If that's not an agreement, fine. School district kids

buy-in. Number two. As the Mayor pointed out, they are so busy. My niece is busy. All of us are busy. They can't even get a day out there without taking piano or violin or horseback or sports. We're not going to do this. And don't say it's on the City to drive this forward to our Parks and Rec people. That's not going to happen. So my motion would be to continue this item until ad hoc. Have a chance to go back to school district. Get buy-in one way or the other. Then bring it back to Council. I'll stop there, Your Honor.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Okay. Great. Thank you. Councilmember Lesser?

COUNCILMEMBER LESSER: I'm more receptive to this piece. Because I am concerned about the incidence of hate in our community. What was referenced is that there's been less than ten in the last year. That is problematic for a community of our size. And the types of incidences that we're experiencing in our schools should be upsetting to everybody. It should be upsetting to all of us. This is not satisfactory to be living in a community without our being more proactive as leaders to try and address that through all different forms of media, of art, of opportunities to try and bring our community together. I welcome a public art initiative that would be welcoming, as was mentioned, by a former mayor, Stern, inviting, inclusive. I just see some problems with this specific proposals that have been

referenced by my colleagues. Including the fact that start with this being inclusive of 150 high school students, up to 150. When, as was mentioned, high school students are busy. And moreover, to the extent we don't have a partnership yet with the school district, which would be the core part of this proposal for engagement with our community, that needs to be settled first and foremost. Second, where would we put it? I'm not entirely pleased with the opportunities presented, because there really aren't any good spaces appropriate for this type of mural. But there could be others. I would say it was a reference to Bruce's Beach. The L.A. County Fire Department Lifeguard Administrative Building on its east side, it's a county property, and the county proposes to be a partner with us. They have blank walls there. The walls themselves would not be suited for a mural. It would have to be something that would be attached to those walls. But that could be something that would be explored, and it certainly would be an appropriate place for it. But it's questions of logistics along those lines that raise questions for me, as well as the cost. So I would be supportive of the motion. I see that there has been a motion made. But at a minimum, this has to start with a partnership with our school district, particularly if this is going to be based on work being done by high school students who already are carrying heavy loads. So I'll stop there for now.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Great. Thank you. Councilmember Napolitano?

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: Just to say that I agree that of the areas identified, I don't think any were appropriate. What are we really going to get for putting a mural like this on a parking structure? I just don't see that as a center of critical mass going by and recognizing. That's why I still think it's more appropriate at the school and to hit folks where these incidents are taking place. As far as the county commission or county building goes, well, I think we could kick it back to the county in general. Supervisor Mitchell can spend some discretionary money to put that out there if they choose to. I'm not going to tell the county what to do with their building. But other than that, I don't see this coming back to the ad hoc, though. At this point, I think it's a discussion point for the next school year. We've got three months left. There's finals. There's dances. There's lots of activities. I don't see the kids taking this up now or the school district in the homestretch before school gets out. I think it's June 13th.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: I'm going to take the opportunity to speak. I agree. Just one, incidents of hate has just got to be a horrible thing for whoever that's directed at and for the people that witness it. In fact, I believe I got accurate information that there were six events in 2023. Four of them were on school

property, four out of the six. The majority were on the school property, which coincides with a lot of what was discussed here. It should be a school solution. Were they not perpetrators for school-age children? I don't know because it wasn't reported that way. Two of them were anti-Semitic. One of them was anti-LGBTQ. One of them was anti-black, and two of them were anti-white. There's a mix there. It means that work has to be done. It shouldn't be ignored, but I don't also think that it requires a \$65,000 solution when there's so many services that are offered. We saw ALCOVE from Beach City's Health District that's directed at school-age children. It's an after-school program where they can go and find security there and can be helped. Mira Costa itself and the school district itself has counseling for these kinds of things. In terms of the stated goal, which was a vision for the future of Manhattan Beach in solidarity, the school district is going through that. They're going through a quite laborious process with their diversity and cultural studies program. They're experimenting with how it meets the ethnic studies requirement from the state. But students will be exposed to that, and it will be required, and it will probably be tested and graded. They're going to see this. They're going to see what's important. They're going to learn these lessons through there in classrooms that they're walking to every day versus somewhere where this mural could go, and they could see

it. The really terrific thing is that our police department are taking full measures to catch the purveyors of hate and to follow up on these crimes. They don't always lead to results, but at least the people who are thinking of perpetrating know that our Manhattan Beach Police Department is going to meet it with full force and investigate with full force. So that's good to know. I mentioned before the Bruce's Beach art, the plaque and the art. I mean, that's not only just acknowledging and reconciling and apologizing for what happened in the past, but also to be uplifting. I mean, I see people there all the time. It's a very calming and I hope restorative and helpful process for them. We've been going through quite a while and actually are spending \$350,000 through the Public Art Trust Fund for some sort of artwork there to, again, further that message. And then also, I've said this before, is just look around Manhattan Beach. I mean, go downtown on the weekend or any day. Go to the beach. Just take the people that are walking on the pier and you look at it at any point in time. And it's all people there that are respectfully of each other, helping each other, being with each other, respecting each other. I mean, that's the Manhattan Beach that we live in. That's the Manhattan Beach even that visitors come to. It seems like that's what they want to seek because that's why they're coming here. And those are tens and tens and tens of thousands of interactions. And life is not

perfect. Six incidences that require police follow-up is not acceptable, but life is not perfect. And I think we do a very good job of following up and I think we do a very good job of just providing a welcoming place for people to come and enjoy. Clean air, the ocean, water, playing, biking, running, playing volleyball, everything like that in a very inclusive environment. I want to also, I'll support sending it back, but I want to make a suggestion. Mayor Pro Tem and I, Howorth and I were at the Neptunian Club this weekend on Sunday and there was an art contest for MBUSD students. And you've got to admit, it was remarkable artwork.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: I do admit.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: I mean, first of all, I was extremely intimidated because I can't draw. I know we have to make decisions about the art, but I am not artistic. But just amazing pieces there, thoughtful, thought-provoking. I would suggest that we even find amongst our very own students in Manhattan Beach Unified School District a piece of art that we can promote and use as a mural. And that will give it texture from Manhattan Beach and a connection to Manhattan Beach. So I would probably suggest that to any action of the Ad Hoc Committee going forward. But I'm going to go ahead and second Councilmember Montgomery's motion.

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: What is the motion? I haven't heard the motion.

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: My motion is to send this item back to the Ad Hoc School District. Number one, if they can't find a spot for a location on the school district property, then how about get student buy-in? Have them join this project. Right now, that's a big zero.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: So, let me address that. And I also know the comments, but I mean, they can't find a spot. They said emphatically.

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: They being?

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: The Ad Hoc, I mean, the district staff and the school board representatives. To get student buy-in, you'd almost have to advertise for applications and then get the applications. And I don't think you would do that if they're saying, you know. I don't know that that makes sense.

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: I think we give them a chance to say no.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: Okay, another chance. That's okay. I mean, obviously, we get to vote on that. Can I make a comment or another comment?

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Sure, Yes.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: You know, you sort of sparked an idea for me, Mr. Mayor. You know, and this money, we have a public art fund. So, there's that. For me, it's not about the money. But I wonder if we couldn't create some sort of art contest, right? That's a legacy event that happens every year that maybe deals with, you know, topics maybe such as this. Or if we couldn't take some of this money or allocate money in the future. You know, we talked about Bruce's Beach. And we all in this room and probably everyone watching tonight really, really know now of the history. But the schools don't have any way to really teach that very well. You know, everyone says, well, just teach it. It's easy. You know, you need a little curriculum packet. And you need it per age group. And you need, like, field trips. And you need to find time in the, you know, maybe we pay for that to be created. And we, you know, using the incredible resources that the committee, the task force came up with. You know, that would be meaningful. And that's only related to Bruce's Beach. So, I can hear other comments. But I'm talking about ongoing efforts like that. You know, asking the Jewish community, what is it that would make you feel safe? You know, asking the African-American community. Asking and, you know, because communities do this. West Hollywood has a Jewish community safety plan. African-American safety plan. Very low cost. Very simple. I, you know, so those are my final thoughts.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Okay. Councilmember Napolitano?

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: Thank you. I don't know where that sends us, Mayor Pro Tem. At this point, I'm not getting any sense of support for going forward. If I get the sense of support, let's go back and put it to the schools again. They already said no. I don't see the point of asking again. They're not Gascogne. Nobody? All right. We're going to be turned down so many times. But, you know, without support for this, if there is this idea to come up with something else, I say just let's come up with something else and bring that back under other council business and let this just go.

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: Your honor, can I go back to that? I think if you move the council and the ad hoc committee that the school district would say no to locations, the student buy-in is also crucial to that second piece. But I like Councilmember Lesser's idea that since we can't find a spot, and the district can't find a spot, why not their own L.A. task force look at the lifeguard building, which is county-owned, and say, look, it's your building. It's your task force. Why don't you put it right in your own building? Which gets more views than any artwork we have in our city. People walking by the Stranded Bay, double within doubles what you'd see anywhere else in the city. Why don't we go back and ask them? Hey, perfect spot. You want a solution? Here's your solution.

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: Maybe we should let the coalition ask them.

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: Yes.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: Well, the coalition is in power. Are we empowering the coalition?

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: It's not a city building. The coalition can go ask L.A. County to do something.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: They can do whatever they want. They're not a city organization. Right.

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: And they can talk to the county about the county building. I'm fine with that. Unless you want to make a request of the county to do this on the county building.

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: What's your idea about finding one of the students to do your artwork?

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: I mean, no, that's a different... I agree with Steve. That's a different thing altogether. Remember, the Cultural Arts Commission said this doesn't fit the scope of our RFPs. This is not appropriate as the mural project as stated. It could be something in the future. It could be this proactive piece. So we're sitting here really... Oh, there goes my screen. We're trying to make this work. Sorry, my screen's doing things. And, you know, it might be too... It might not work.

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: Why don't we just suggest that we ask the county to find it, to approve the Lifeguard Building Task Force. The coalition can talk to them, and we step out of it.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: I mean, that'd be fine. But then who's going to pay for it? But then they pay for it.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: They pay for it.

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: Right? They have money. The county has plenty of money.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: I mean, that's the other thing. Why is this county... They do have this money, right? And then if the county was paying for it, residents of El Segundo and Hermosa could participate as well. We could open it up beyond Manhattan Beach. Which they would like to participate.

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: I agree.

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: So no motion needed here. I'll withdraw my motion. Yes. And ask that we can ask the Task Force Coalition to ask Advisor Mitchell if they would consider putting their artwork up on their own building at a lifeguard station. And to Amy's point, maybe invite Hermosa and El Segundo as part of that process too. We step out of it.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: And just to clarify again, the Arts Commission forwarded the other murals for approval. This one was not part... It was deemed, I looked at the staff report,

inappropriate as a response to the RFP, but to consider for proactive vision future projects.

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: So a question, Your Honor. Do we... Is that just direction of the staff? We don't get a vote on this, do we? Just send a letter to Advisor Mitchell regarding the lifeguard building.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: And paying for it.

CITY ATTORNEY BARROW: Direction's fine.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Okay. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: I'm good.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Moving on. To item number 11.

Consideration of location and cost for the Shark Mural. We have four mentions. Shark Mural. By artist Eric Snyder and disbursement of up to \$65,000 from the Public Art Trust Fund. Parks and Recreation Director Leyman.

PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR LEYMAN: Good evening, Honorable Mayor, members of the City Council. Ailyn Stewart will also be presenting this item.

CULTURAL ARTS MANAGER STEWART: Good evening, everyone. So let's see if this works. Yep. So just as a reminder to everyone as to how this item got to us, this mural was originally proposed for the police department slash fire department wall facing the post office. However, City Council felt that it was not appropriate for that location and asked

staff to come back with other locations where this piece might be more appropriate and might find a better home. So we looked around at different walls and different possibilities and put together a presentation of what might be available. One thing to keep in mind on a piece like this, and this also came from the artist. I spoke to the artist as well via email, is that this piece really works, if you will, when it is very large. It has to be kind of larger than life. Otherwise, you're just sort of looking at a fish in a window. A lot less exciting. And one of the things that may be sort of tough to realize at first is what makes this piece physically work is that there's a very large cast shadow from the shark. This shadow, and you can see it kind of in this image, takes up about a third of the height of the piece. So whatever location you choose, you're losing a third of it to the shadow. Otherwise, it won't look like this 3D piece. So one of the locations that staff were asked to explore is the wall on the parking lot. So we've mocked it up both on the left and the right side of the wall. Certainly on this side of the wall, it is petite. Again, going backwards, it can be done a little bit larger here. It's a good surface for painting. This is, again, a special piece where it needs a much more flat surface than a lot of other murals because it's so detailed. Otherwise, it just won't look like a 3D shark. So here's option 1A and option 1B, are these two locations. We then started to

get a little bit creative because, again, we're running out of large, flat, clean walls. So here's another option on the side where the shadow could then be painted onto the sidewalk. So that's a space where we can kind of... So you can see the shadow is on the sidewalk. And I apologize, I was mocking these up rather quickly, so they're not the best mock-ups. Also to keep in mind is that there are other artworks that are literally visible from the same location as this one. So you'll see that some of the locations that we just saw for L.A. vs. Hate are not present here because, again, they're just too small or too narrow. So another option would be for Fire Station 2. It's got kind of this balcony element that you can see on the left, and then it's got a larger site on the right. Another thing to keep in mind, particularly with this mural, is whereas with other murals we can kind of work around elements like building numbers or lighting fixtures or windows and things like that, with this one, because of the 3-D effect, it doesn't really bode well when you disrupt that 3-D effect with a lighting fixture. And on the image on my right, there actually is a lighting fixture and the building number that's in the way. The Cultural Arts Commission's recommendation was either one of these two sites. So this is the west-facing wall of the new Fire Station 2. And so if you were to put the shark on the left side, closer to Manhattan Beach Boulevard, that's what it would look like.

Again, there's a window kind of in the way. And if you were to put it on the right, it would look roughly like this. You can kind of avoid the window that's there. But something to keep in mind, there's also a brand new tree that's just been planted right in front of it. So maybe that could be...

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: A tree shark. Freshwater tree shark.

CULTURAL ARTS MANAGER STEWART: Right, it's a tree shark. Again, we're not sure what's happening with Beg Pool, but it'd be fun. Jaws. Pool.

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: Learn how to swim.

CULTURAL ARTS MANAGER STEWART: For some of these locations...

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: I hope they don't turn it off.

CULTURAL ARTS MANAGER STEWART: For some of these locations, we may want the artist to maybe refine the design. Something to keep in mind. Again, we're literally taking something that was designed for one location and kind of superimposing it onto other locations so the artist may be able to fine-tune it a little bit. And those are all of the locations we identified as viable. Please discuss and provide direction.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Okay. Council, questions?
Councilmember Montgomery?

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: Thank you, Your Honor. And on Location 2, the difference in Location 2 size versus Location 6, I mean, pretty ironic. You put a pool, a shark, next to a pool. You got to be thinking what that does when you see that right in front of your face. But outside of that irony, what about the size difference? Is there just the way it looks here in the Photoshop?

CULTURAL ARTS MANAGER STEWART: Sorry. Location 2...

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: Versus Location 6.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: So the parking lot, right before the parking lot.

CULTURAL ARTS MANAGER STEWART: So if you're looking at this wall in the parking lot, the shadow can be on the ground, which still gives you that 3D effect.

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: Size of the actual artwork there versus Location 6 size?

CULTURAL ARTS MANAGER STEWART: It would actually probably be potentially a little... I didn't go out there with a tape measure. That wall is about 6 feet tall. The Begg pool is probably closer to 8 or 9 feet tall. So it would be about the same size, except the shadow would probably have to go on the building. I don't think there's... Let me take a look. I don't think there's enough sidewalk space that you could put that

shadow... This is just zoomed out. You're just standing much farther away from it.

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: That's it. Thank you. Nothing further on, Your Honor.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Okay. Councilmember Napolitano?

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: Well, I was wondering about the water tower. But the other option would be Peck Reservoir or our water treatment tank. Our freestanding water treatment tank there. That's certainly big enough or tall enough. It'd have to wrap around.

CULTURAL ARTS MANAGER STEWART: I have not looked at that location. I'll be honest.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: Circular?

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: Yes. It's a... Well...

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR LEE: You're talking about block 35?

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: Yes, the water treatment, the copper-colored...

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR LEE: The ground level one.

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: Yes. The new one that we have, the water treatment that we have next to Peck Reservoir now.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: The filtration?

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: Yes.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR LEE: I understand what you're saying.

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: Do we have... Yes. You can see that from Big Field pretty well. We don't have anything growing in front of that, right?

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR LEE: Not yet. I'm not sure where the landscaping plan is right there. Certainly, if the Council wants to put art there, we could explore that. I would say that the ground level reservoir at Block 35, we've got a project to demolish and replace that uses the CIP, so I would say that's probably not a good idea.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: That's a funny idea.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Okay. I'm going to go ahead and ask a question. The surface area of that beautiful, gorgeous, brand-new Fire Station 2 is it... You said that the Manhattan Beach Boulevard facing would not be suitable.

CULTURAL ARTS MANAGER STEWART: Well, I mean, you can see it in the two mock-ups. It's not the largest.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Okay. And then Location 5C and D, that is its west wall facing that side street.

CULTURAL ARTS MANAGER STEWART: Correct. Which you can't see, so if you are driving east on Manhattan Beach Boulevard, both sides, especially because there is no vegetation

right now. I mean, the little trees that have been planted are just very, very small.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Okay.

CULTURAL ARTS MANAGER STEWART: So it is visible.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: And people would see that and maybe be distracted on their way.

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: Be distracted from looking at their phones.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: I'm trying to find a picture of a water tank.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Okay. And then we've got the Begg pool. Okay. No more questions for me. Anybody else? Okay. We'll open it up for public comment. Anyone here to make a comment about it?

GARY MCCAULEY: Well, I hope that everybody got a chance to read my lengthy email. Gary McCauley. Good evening. I just want to say about the shark mural. I'm having a real hard time reaching even any understanding why we're doing a shark mural in Manhattan Beach. I mean, we're next to the ocean, but sharks are not really a thing in this community, honestly. We've had one incident with a shark in over a hundred years, and yet we're doing a lunging shark, leaping out at everybody. And we're considering putting it on the east side, way away from the ocean, on the side of a fire department? I mean, that just has

no, that makes no sense to me at all. Why are we putting a shark mural on a fire department? The fire department is the fire department. It deserves a little more respect than a novelty mural. And that's what we're putting up with this 3D mural. So please consider finding some better location, some more appropriate location for a shark mural on the side of the fire department. The fire department is the fire department. And the building, as the mayor pointed out, was beautifully done. I don't think that the architect, when he built when he designed this thing, had anything in mind that it was supposed to be a platform for a cute mural. It's a lovely building. Don't stick a shark on it. Find another spot for it. Even Begg Pool is a better location, honestly. Although I do kind of like your suggestion, Mr. Napolitano. Thanks very much.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Thank you, Gary. Anybody else? Martha on Zoom? Oh, I'm sorry.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can you put it inside the pool?

MAYOR FRANKLIN: That would look good.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: That's a great idea.

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: We want them to come back for their second lesson.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Thank you, Mr. Joseph. Okay. Okay, Zoom?

ASSISTANT CITY CLERK ALVAREZ: Heather Kim.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Go ahead, Heather.

HEATHER KIM: Yes, I just find all the proposed placements to be pretty inappropriate. I think the best place would be at the aquarium, for instance. You know, where the aquarium is facing inland, or wherever there is some open space. That seems like the most appropriate place for this. Putting it on our new fire station, I think it's just distracting for drivers. It doesn't make a lot of sense, as the previous commenter made. I don't understand the point of trying to pick up every piece of wall in our city to adorn it with this, you know, murals and all this art. Like, I don't understand what the point is. And I think it's a very well done piece by the artist. He's obviously very talented, but this is something that belongs more like at Universal Studios or Long Beach Aquarium or something like that. It's not, it doesn't make sense to do it here in Manhattan Beach. So, I oppose this project altogether. However, if it must be painted somewhere, let's talk about doing it at the aquarium. That makes the most sense to me. Thank you.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Great. Thank you, Heather. Anybody else?

ASSISTANT CITY CLERK ALVAREZ: There's no additional request.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Okay, we'll close public comments. So, councilmembers? Colleagues?

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: I'll start us off.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: MTM?

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: I think it's a great project. Whimsical idea. The aquarium wouldn't work because it's a round structure. Same with a water tower, unless you do a circular the whole way. But of the two, I do think it's pretty funny, the Begg pool. You can't really see it unless you go to the pool every day. But on the Civic Center one, it's west side. Civic Center parking lot. People go to the Farmer's Market. They're going to see it. Go to the garage on your weekend. It's a safe location. You're not driving by 30 miles an hour looking at your phone. All of a sudden, it's dark in front of you. Of all the safe places to put it to, the fire department doesn't need it. Trees are blowing in the way. It's the wrong spot. So, of all the locations, I'm at 13th Street. Facing west, the sidewalk next to the Farmer's Market makes the most sense. And enter to the parking garage. Anna, could you show that spot again for me? 13th Street Civic Center faces west.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: This one. And where's the valley?

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Oh, that one. Yes.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: Then there's the other one.

CULTURAL ARTS MANAGER STEWART: Location 2 on this one.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: In the entrance. On the entrance.

CULTURAL ARTS MANAGER STEWART: To the parking garage. Yes, next to the tile piece. I'll pull it up as soon as the PowerPoint is done.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: It's a little crowded with that, but it is a great location.

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: Yes, because people are going to walk by and see it.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: I love the shadow on the sidewalk.

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: Shadow's classic. Classic. You know, you've got to make it... That one. There you go. That's the one. Location 2. That's it. Thank you, Your Honor. Okay.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Councilmember Napolitano?

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: Thank you. You know, I don't know where we lost our whimsy along the way, but I'm not opposed to it either. And having things out of place to me is fine sometimes. This is not an offensive thing. You know, when we talk about having to cover every square inch of every building in Manhattan Beach with murals, we've got about probably more than 20,000 structures in Manhattan Beach. I think we've approved 15 murals. Maybe 20 at the tops. So I don't think we've

been inundated yet. I think we want to be careful of putting too many too close together. You know, if we're talking about a place to put it, I'm looking at the one... What is this one? 1B. Location 1B. Except, instead of squeezing in above the doors to whatever those are, I suppose they're air conditioning units or something, why not move it to the left where you have a full wall there without the doors?

COUNCILMEMBER LESSER: That's the other one.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: That's the other one.

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: That's 1A.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: 1A.

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: Okay, then let's do 1A. I'd favor 1A. The problem with the other one, the west-facing one to me, is that it's right next to the tile mural. That's a little bit too crowded there for art. Let's spread it around. That's fine.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Okay. Councilmember Lesser?

COUNCILMEMBER LESSER: I think the piece is fun. I love the shadows. I love the whimsy of it. I like it when it's on a larger scale. I just don't like any of these locations. I can't get beyond the symbolism. I just don't see it. I don't see it here. I would not be in favor of moving forward at any of the proposed locations.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Okay. Mayor Pro Tem Howorth?

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Well, I do think sharks have something to do with Manhattan Beach. I was mayor when there was a shark on a line and closed the pier for a minute. Probably shouldn't have done that, turns out. I really think about and we now know that around the pier is actually a shark nursery. They are definitely a part of our culture now. They might not have always been. I like this mural a lot and I want to have it. I agree that location two, well also because it's big and it's right there it loses something because it's next to that other piece. I think it would be fun if location 1B could it be moved I don't think it will work because it won't be large enough but if it was to go right above the entryway so as you're driving in it would be like, wait, what? What?

MAYOR FRANKLIN: There's a big sign there.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: So I would go with location 1A but I definitely am in favor of this and would want to do this and I really did like the idea, although I don't think it works visually on the round part of like the water tank or the water tower, because I that might mess up the 3D effect, although maybe not. There's an awful lot of visual weight in having it related to something water based. And if Begg Pool, if Begg Pool or but I don't want to put money into something at Begg Pool, because I still believe that we're going to knock it down. So,

but it'd be hilarious when kids would love it if it was there.
But so I'd go with 1A.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Okay, great. I'll bring this home. I don't think that every blank space has to be covered. We have so much natural beauty in the city. This is again, I mentioned earlier about how many people come here. It isn't because of the murals on the walls. In fact, they're probably a detriment to someone coming here and wanting to get away from clutter. And someone's interpretation of whatever, just because there's a blank spot. On the side of this very building, though, that's very appropriate. You know, Beau Bridges photograph of it's a beautiful photograph of the pier there and it's a great spot for it. It fits there, everything. It's not coming at you. It's drawing you in. There's nothing and that's what good art does. It draws you in. I sort of know that. This doesn't draw me in. And I don't want to get melodramatic here. I was hearing on the radio earlier today, someone was interviewing or talked about his meeting, the fellow who wrote the screenplay for Jaws. And we all know Michael Pritchard wrote the novel. I don't even remember the guy's name of who wrote.

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: Peter Benchley.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Peter Benchley, sorry.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: Here.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: So that was our generation of the really scary. I mean, is everybody going to admit here that they jumped out of their seats when that head came down and the like, and they were scared of that shark? People have said that they remembered that the rest of their lives and it affected their beachgoing habits and things like that. Now, we look at this and we go, ah, okay, you know, it's Bruce the mechanical shark. But it could be traumatic. I have, you know, a nine year old, seven year old and a four year old grandkids. Okay, I think that they would kind of, maybe the nine year old would think it'd be okay. But the four year old who's inquisitive might not be so enamored of it and might be a little more reluctant to go into the ocean, which we're just now having him explore. So I voted this down on the fire station because I just didn't think it was appropriate. I just don't think it's an appropriate piece of piece of art. Perhaps you might have room on your home that we could arrange to get it painted there. But I'm just going to, I don't think any location will work. And I'm just going to vote no. So do we have a motion?

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: So I'm, I appreciate your comments. And you know, that's, we get to disagree. Although I think Macy could handle anything.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: But that's, she's a nine year old.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: Okay. So I make a motion for location 1A Civic Plaza parking lot wall for this mural. That's been seconded by you, right?

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: Yes.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: So we have a motion to accept the mural on location 1A Civic Plaza parking lot wall by, what happened? Oh, by Mayor Pro Tem Howorth and seconded by Councilmember Montgomery.

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: Yes.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: See, I'm afraid. I'm all--

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: Flustered.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: I'm all shook up.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: Maybe we can get Spielberg down here then.

CITY ATTORNEY BARROW: The maker of the motion, that's also to allocate the funds?

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: Yes, it is.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: Second.

CITY CLERK TAMURA: Motion passes, 3 to 2.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Okay, can we just take a quick break?

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: Sure.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: 8:14 for back at 8:20. That good enough?

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: Yeah.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Okay

ASSISTANT CITY CLERK ALVAREZ: Mr. Mayor, we're live.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Thank you. Welcome back. We're ready to proceed with item 12. Consideration of authorizing advertisement of the Wayfinding Phase 1 Vehicle Parking and Pedestrian Sign Improvement Project for construction. And we have Public Works Director Lee.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR LEE: Good evening, Honorable Mayor, members of the City Council. This evening, City Engineer Katie Doherty will give the presentation.

CITY ENGINEER DOHERTY: Good evening, Mayor Franklin, Honorable Members of the City Council. I'm here to request authority to advertise the Wayfinding Phase 1 project primarily and also to discuss the street color signs for the pro-mounted street identifiers. So the last time I have a quick timeline, this whole effort began in 2014. That's when the city decided to pursue a unified signage program for the city. In 2017, the beach classic design was selected. In 2019, the Wayfinding Master Plan was approved. 2023, we approved some edits to the Master Plan. These came about as a result of a constructability analysis that we had done on the plans and identified some things that weren't quite consistent. So we came back with those edits in 2023. Since then, we have reengaged Silver Perkins, the

original designer, to incorporate those changes. We're back now having incorporated all of the comments we got last year and also to discuss the street sign color. So the last time we were here was July 18th, 2023. The five motions that were made at that meeting were confirmed that we were going to stick with the Spartan MB font for all the signs. We are using the pier symbol that matches our logo. Versus the pier symbol that was originally proposed and all of the street identifier signs will be double-sided. We were directed to include directory signage in the downtown area and North Manhattan Beach business districts in this phase one project, which has been included. We were directed to do like-for-like sizing as much as possible, not increase the size of signs if we didn't need to, and not to implement any of the large monument signs until those designs were brought back to city council. So those have been removed from this plan set until we bring those back. And last was that the previous actions were not a project under CEQA. So the phase one scope is primarily for parking signage in the business areas. They are identifier signs and offsite directional signage to get to the parking structures. So here's a quick image of what is included. I'll note that the large, it's labeled A03, bottom left, it says lot two on it. That is not being included. That was a very tall 12-foot sign --

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: Where's the shark mural?

CITY ENGINEER DOHERTY: --that was previously proposed. So those have been removed. And also the facades that were proposed for the parking structures, the image is cut off, but it had a surfer on it. That is not being implemented. But the signs that are above where it says lot three, sorry, bottom right, where it says lot four, that will be done, just not the facade behind it. So in total, the project will install 82 new signs and remove 123 existing signs. So for the street sign color, this is specifically related to the pole-mounted street identifier signs within the neighborhoods. The overhead signs on the larger collector streets will be white, illuminated white signs. But the discussion here is whether or not we want to stick with what's white, which is what's identified in the master plan, or entertain the blue color. So we can have that discussion after my presentation. Oh, here we go. So our recommendations are to allow staff to advertise the phase one project, which is for parking-related signs in the business areas, and to discuss and provide direction on the street name signs for the neighborhoods. That concludes my presentation. I am here for questions.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Okay. Great. Mayor Pro Tem Howorth?

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. If you go back to the last, page five, the street sign color. It's amazing

to, what was this, back in 2014? So many, things take a while, folks.

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: Ten years, we're still talking about colors and street signs.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: I know it. Anyway, and part of that's on me, because I know that after we had talked in July, I kind of, I came back and I said, hey, I have this epiphany about like the smaller street sign, or the numbered, the signs, the pole signs, you know, sticking with sort of that original design. Um, so where it says 12th Street, the picture of the 12th Street sign, are we proposing to replace that with the blue sign in the right hand illustration?

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: What do you mean by original design with the shoe symbol on top?

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: Yes, I'm, let me ask my, Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: Well, I'm trying to understand what you're asking about same design.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: So I am asking if, so there's two images on this page. One is a photograph of the 12th Street sign, which is, you're calling it the shoe.

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: Well, right, because I'm talking about the symbol up top. Are you talking about replacing that symbol with our new logo? Or are you talking about keeping that symbol?

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: I'm going to ask that very question. You can let me finish.

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: Well, it's a choice. It's not a, it's your choice. Which one do you prefer?

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: Let me get there. First, I want to, I need to ask a question. What the heck? I need to ask a question. Yes, kids, kids. My question first, before I get to my preference, is on the right, you have a blue sign that says Highland Avenue. Are you talking about replacing signs like 12th Street with just a blue square sign? Or a rectangular sign? Or are we, are you thinking, or are we still going to use, first of all, the shape of the current sign that's on 12th Street? So I need to understand that first. I'm going to give my opinion on the logo something.

CITY ENGINEER DOHERTY: My understanding of the motion was that we would, instead of using the white sign on the Highland options, it would be not using the white one, but using the blue one instead on the Highland options. I put the 12th Street one there just for visual reference of what's out there now.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: Okay. But so my, so my preference would be, so my preference would be to use the original, so I'm going to say shape because that the 12th Street sign, you know, has the ball belt, if you will, on the top. And

then instead of the sun, I would put our logo there. I just, I like that. And the reason, well, I can, I can, I'll give more comments during, after public comments. But so that, first of all, it's a clarifying question. They're saying, no, the signs on like the little streets would be just the blue simple rectangle with the logo and the white lettering. And I'm saying, hey, I still sort of like these other, and the reason was, you know, somebody had given my son a graduation present with our street and it was cut like that. And it was like, that's iconic. Whereas the blue rectangular, no one's going to give graduation presents of just like rectangular with that on it.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Was that a question?

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: No, it was a comment.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Alright. Councilmember, are you finished?

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: Yes, I am.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Okay. Councilmember Napolitano?

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: I'm going to interrupt you though.

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: I'm trying to figure out what the question is. I mean...

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: There was a question.

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: How can you match my kid's graduation present? No, I mean, what I'm trying to figure out, what blue are we talking about? Do we have an example of the blue that people have said we should do or go back to?

CITY ENGINEER DOHERTY: The blue identified in the master plan is closer to the one that's shown on the Highland sign on the right. That's the blue that's proposed as part of the master plan.

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: Okay, because that looks kind of greenish to me.

CITY ENGINEER DOHERTY: That might be the screen.

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: And so people who, I don't know, because that's why I asked. Because people who went ballistic over the fact that we're not using blue anymore, now that we would use a different blue, people are going to be upset about that. I mean, so I guess my comment at the end of my question is, if absence makes the heart grow fonder. Every three years, this comes back to me. I like it less and less. I don't like the font anymore. I don't like the color anymore. I don't like anything about it anymore.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Actually, I have myself up next, and I just have a quick question. What was found? I wasn't on council nine years ago. What was found as the reason to remove the shoe design? Again, the iconic shoe design.

CITY ENGINEER DOHERTY: My understanding was to update it to the new look, the new logo, the new branding for the city.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Okay.

CITY ENGINEER DOHERTY: And make it consistent, since there's so many varieties of signs around the city.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: I'm going to go ahead and ask one more. In the blue slash green, because it looks bluer on my printed one.

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: That's your left. It shows blue. There.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: So that logo in the blue Highland Avenue sign, is it just monocolored? It's just blue on white? You don't have any --

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: White on blue.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: White on blue. You don't have any of the sunset or anything like that in our current logo?

CITY ENGINEER DOHERTY: That's correct. Yes, that's how it's currently proposed.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: And is there a reason for that? Why you can't do that on the blue --

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: Money.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: --like you can on the Highland? On the white one?

CITY ENGINEER DOHERTY: Not a specific reason. I think that's the way the graphic designer chose to show it. But we could explore that as well, putting color in the logo.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: I'd kind of like to see that, because we do have that.

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: I agree.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: Yep.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Right? Okay. And Councilmember Lesser?

COUNCILMEMBER LESSER: Let me confirm the most immediate issue before council this evening is whether or not staff can go out to bid for signage for the vehicle parking phase one of the vehicle parking and pedestrian sign improvement. Is that what staff most immediately needs with regard to moving forward on wayfinding signs?

CITY ENGINEER DOHERTY: Yes, that's correct. And to clarify, these specific signs are not included in the phase one. They're in a future phase of implementation.

COUNCILMEMBER LESSER: With regard to this more immediate question, I think it's slide number four. I had a question. Is the proposal to go with this white background signage for our parking structures mutually exclusive of our street signs? In other words, could the signage for our parking structures be the inverse of the blue signs if there's a council majority that wants blue signs? And just have a white sign

consistent with the palette that has been selected that's white and has the blue. So then it's reversed for street signs?

CITY ENGINEER DOHERTY: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LESSER: Thank you.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Yes. Anybody else? Comments?

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: Not a chance.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: The shark on the sign. Sorry.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: So we will. That's an idea. Let's open it up to public comments.

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: Ray's here.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Can you beat your last one of two words?

RAY JOSEPH: I know. Right? Let me tell you one of my favorite things about the signs in the South Bay. It's easy to figure out what city you're in. The blue signs are Manhattan. The brown ones are Hermosa. The green ones are Redondo. And since a lot of our city lines aren't necessarily straight and they zigzag a little bit, it's nice to have that differentiation. So when you're driving, you can figure out which side of the street, you know, that side's Redondo, that side's Manhattan. This side's Hermosa, that side's Manhattan. So just nice to have signs that are clearly different than our neighboring cities. Thank you.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Okay. Thank you. Anybody else?

Chambers? How about Zoom?

ASSISTANT CITY CLERK ALVAREZ: Heather Kim.

HEATHER KIM: Yes, I really hate the new signs that are up now. The white ones. Honestly, I think it's a safety issue. When they first came up, I had a hard time adjusting to it and like being able to even read the signs. And my daughter, who took a very, very basic like design course in high school, said, yeah, that's a really awful design because the color, that white color should not be the background color like that. And maybe it was something to do with the font as well. I'm not sure. But anyways, she commented about how poorly designed it was. So then I thought maybe I'm looking at it through like we're Asians. So maybe Asian people look at it differently. So I asked like white people and my white friends were actually saying the same thing. Yes, these signs are horrible and they're really hard to see. So I find that it's just a safety issue. And when something's not, you know, broken, why are you going to mess with it? I vote to bring back the original blue, normal, you know, very iconic, as someone said, Manhattan Beach street signs. They were easy to read and they were beautiful. And we just need to bring it back. We're trying to, you know, make it look cool and stuff. And it doesn't look cool. And it's hard to see. Thank you.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Thank you, Heather.

ASSISTANT CITY CLERK ALVAREZ: We have Jim Burton.

JIM BURTON: Mr. Mayor, members of council, my two cents. I would agree with, I guess, the last two colors. But I like the original. I like our current blue signs. However, I'm not going to be upset if the council votes to change it to a different color. I'll live with it. But my two cents is I like the original and certainly have enjoyed the colors and going from one city to another here in the South Bay. Thank you.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Alright. Thank you, Jim.

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: Changing the color scheme.

ASSISTANT CITY CLERK ALVAREZ: There's no additional request.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Okay. So we'll close public comments.

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: I'll start us off, Your Honor.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Observations. Questions?

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: Thank you. I remember I wasn't here in 14 along with Steve and Joe. But I watched it from the sidelines. Actually, other cities went to white on the main thoroughfares because they are more visible to blue. I'm not the expert that Eric is, a traffic engineer, or a police chief, or a fire chief behind me, telling the whites more visible. That's, I like that white theme on our main thoroughfares. Clearly visible. I don't care if the sun is in

your face. You can still see the white, more than you can see the blue. On the secondary streets and the residential streets, I think the blue, whether you go with, Councilmember, Mayor Pro Tem Howorth's, blue with a shoe sign or not, that's fine. But the main streets are white. It's definitely clearly visible. Whether you want to change the font around? Then we'll talk about it three years from now. But we've done this 10 years talking about street signs. We need to get off the dime here and make a decision and stick with it one way or the other. But I'm making a motion to approve the phase one section of this. Approve the advertising and the wayfinding phase one vehicle, parking, pedestrian sign program. And then council can discuss the second phase about color scheme after that. Thank you, Your Honor.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Okay. Mayor Pro Tem Howorth?

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: Thank you. Well, I've seconded your motion to approve the phase one. And phase one, you'll notice is the white background. I too am for just talking about the future, if you will. The white signs that we have currently been putting up on the major thoroughfares with the multicolored logo. And I know exactly what you mean, Steve. I like the font less and less, but I'm living with it. I'm fine with that, especially. So leave that. I think at a minimum, the street signs for the, I don't know what we're calling them, should be

blue. They should be the original blue, I think. And I like Joe's idea of maybe a multicolored logo. That would be, I'd accept that. I still prefer the shoe design with the blue and maybe the logo instead of the sun. But I would, and I don't know if we're deciding that today, but white and at a minimum blue. And there you go.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Okay. Councilmember Napolitano?

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: Thank you. I think there's still a problem with the font and the sense that it is not narrow enough, as we heard at a prior presentation, to fit all the names of some of our streets on there as efficiently as they have in the past. The problem with the blue versus white, there are cities that have white street signs. Beverly Hills is a good example of that. They're black and white. For Mr. Joseph, Redondo has chosen now to go blue.

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: There you go.

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: So they have changed their color for their street signs going forward to blue. So we're not going to be original in that sense. Doesn't mean we can't keep blue for ourselves. I'm fine with that. I do not think that we should start mixing and matching more than one logo though. The whatever logo, which is not consistent on every street sign on our longer residential streets that's on there now, I believe should be replaced with our new city logo in color. Whether it's

the shape of the street sign, I can only guess that there might be an added cost because it's two pieces of metal bound together rather than one rectangular piece that you can have back and forth. I don't know what the cost difference is there. I'm imagining there is some.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: Great point.

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: Can I also ask about time frame?

CITY ENGINEER DOHERTY: I think it would be minimal. They're cut from one solid piece of metal. So they're just cut out that way. It's not two pieces that are put together.

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: It's not on both sides because there's a gap in between them.

CITY ENGINEER DOHERTY: You mean the double-sided part of it? I think they'd both be double-sided.

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: No, the current ones that are there now.

CITY ENGINEER DOHERTY: Okay. I'm not sure I'm following.

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: The 12th Street sign, if you look at that, they're this thick because they're hollow.

CITY ENGINEER DOHERTY: Between, right. So there's another sign on the other side?

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: Right.

CITY ENGINEER DOHERTY: Right. I think that would be the case, no matter the size.

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: The new signs would be?

CITY ENGINEER DOHERTY: Would be the same.

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: The same?

CITY ENGINEER DOHERTY: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: There'd be two sides.

CITY ENGINEER DOHERTY: Yes, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: As it was presented, it looks like it's one with just print on both sides. One piece of metal.

CITY ENGINEER DOHERTY: Yes, those images were actually for a one-sided sign. And at the last meeting, we decided to do double-sided. So they will look more like what you're describing.

CITY TRAFFIC ENGINEER ZANDVLIET: Good evening, Mayor and members of City Council. I'm Eric Zandvleet. Going way back when, those street name signs were double-sided on two plates. They were porcelain, or they are porcelain.

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: Right.

CITY TRAFFIC ENGINEER ZANDVLIET: And that's why they had to be two pieces of metal. Now we don't use that anymore.

It's one sheet of metal, double-sided printing, and then it's attached to the pole.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Okay.

CITY TRAFFIC ENGINEER ZANDVLIET: And I think there's value in having the old signs when we resell them, because they're classic.

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: You can keep the shape, but I don't want to have multiple logos. I think we've chosen one logo that should apply across the city, rather than doing it here, there, and other places. If you want blue, whatever.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Councilmember Lesser?

COUNCILMEMBER LESSER: I'm supportive of the measure, but I just need to make a couple observations, if I could. I was on Council along, with Councilmember Howorth, over 10 years ago when we started down this road. Sorry for all those that have had to suffer through this. The idea was to try and come up with a color palette to have some sort of simplification of our signage throughout our city. To make it clear, to make it easier, because we had multiple different kinds of signs that needed to be updated. About five years ago, I think it was observed that our blue color, in the palette that we sort of arrived at, looked a great deal like another city, Santa Monica. Thus, we wanted to come up with something else. So we went, as I recall, towards something of a, quote, beach theme, I think it

was called, with the white. Problem was, I was one who was not in favor of going white. I appreciate the blue. I really value it. I think it does provide distinctive character to our community. So what I'm looking to do here is to give Public Works Department direction with regard to what they most seek, which is to update the signage, as was stated earlier, for our parking lots and it's part of the motion. And the motion has already been made. So I will be supportive of the motion to move forward and still retain the blue for the street signs and we can put our new logo on it. That's it.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Councilmember Montgomery?

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: Katie, just one question for you. You mentioned about the cost difference. What about timing difference?

CITY ENGINEER DOHERTY: For rolling out the new signs?

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: Yes.

CITY ENGINEER DOHERTY: That is slated for a couple years out to roll out these signs. I want, I can't remember the five-year CIP right now, but I think it's 2028.

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: Perfect. One year for a three-year time frame.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: I want my sign.

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: Thank you, Your honor.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: So I only wish we had not mentioned the value of the old signs because now that will be opportunistic for Metlox pottery collectors. Coming in and stealing our signs. And we're three years away from replacing them. So my question is this. Well, I should have asked the question, but can we do the new logo, because I agree with Councilmember Napolitano about the logo, on the blue, but in the shoe pattern?

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: Thank you.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Where the sun is.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: Yes. That's what I want.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Where the sun is now.

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: You mean, you still want the shoe underneath?

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: It's not a shoe.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Well, I mean, they're calling it the shoe, but- -

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: We can take out the shoe.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: - -that's supposed to be a wave. You can take out that wave. It's supposed to be a wave, I believe.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: It's sun, sand, and sea, right?

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Yes.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: Right. So you could take out the sand and the sea and just have the logo.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Right. Of the 12th Street, on the 12th Street sign.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: On 12th Street.

CITY ENGINEER DOHERTY: Can we do that? Yes. Absolutely.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: And put the color logo in there.

CITY ENGINEER DOHERTY: Put the color logo in there. Yep.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Okay.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: Love that compromise.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Alright. So okay.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: It's a shape, so it's an iconic shape, but the logo is the same.

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: I mean, if we're going there, we can make it whatever shape we want. We can put the logo on the end of a rectangle and have a complete, like, because Santa Monica has theirs up top in the middle, a circle on top over their street sign. I mean, right? We can make it whatever shape we want.

CITY ENGINEER DOHERTY: Yes, absolutely.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Keep the iconic. But anyway, so we're not deciding that today.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: We don't have to decide that, but we could give direction. But I like where we're going.

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: Wait for three years.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: That's right.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: And then as far as phase one scope for the parking lot identification, I'm okay with that. But just to confirm, we're not going with the A05 down at the bottom there on slide four, and we're not going with the A14?

CITY ENGINEER DOHERTY: Correct.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Okay. Okay, those are my thoughts about it. So, Councilmember Montgomery, if you could just restate your motion.

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: Yes, my motion is to authorize the advertisement of the wayfinding phase one vehicle, parking, and pedestrian sign improvement project.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: And that's what I get.

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: For construction bids.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: And give direction as far as you... about the logo on the...

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: I don't think we gave direction.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Original design? Friendly amendment?

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: Sure.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: If we even need it. But if we could just see a mock-up of the 12th Street sign with the new logo replacing the sun. And you can do it one with the wave and one without the wave.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: I like that. He drew it. Eric's already done it.

CITY ENGINEER DOHERTY: Can you confirm the font?

MAYOR FRANKLIN: I'm sorry. What?

CITY ENGINEER DOHERTY: Can you confirm the font, please?

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Well, the font on the new, right? Is that what we wanted to go with? That new font? Yes, not the 12th Street font. But - -

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: Highland. Spartan.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: The font on the two Highlands.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: Spartan. Spartan MB.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Spartan. Spartan MB. Spartan.

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: We're going to be able to squeeze everything in with Spartan? Yes, see, that's what I'm saying. That's what I'm saying.

COUNCILMEMBER LESSER: Is there an alternative proposal?

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: I don't know.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: What's our longest street name?

CITY ENGINEER DOHERTY: Manhattan Beach Boulevard.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: Just change the letting.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Well - -

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: I accept the friendly amendment.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: So, okay. So, let's vote, please.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: They could always, sorry, go ahead. It's okay.

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: You have three years to correct this.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: I got three years to correct it. I got two years.

CITY CLERK TAMURA: Motion passes 5-0.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: It's fine. I'm moving to Italy.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: How about we make it for the Olympics? Okay. Everything is geared to the Olympics.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: Oh, so we have the Olympics logo? Oh, sorry, just kidding.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Thank you. Thank you, Katie. Okay, moving on to item number 13. Item number 13. I lost my time here. Item nine. Oh, poor hard-hitting. Resideration of 15 sculptures. Recommended by the Cultural Arts Commission to lease, purchase, or commission. Parks and Recreation Director Leyman, this is your night.

PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR LEYMAN: Good evening.

Honorable mayor, members of the city council, Ailyn Stewart, our Cultural Arts Manager, will be presenting this item as well.

CULTURAL ARTS MANAGER STEWART: Good evening, everyone. So, just a friendly reminder of how this item comes to us. City Council gave staff and the Cultural Arts Commission to explore, if you will, the world of sculptures and what was possible, what was available. We had a very broad spectrum of things to take a look at, so we did our best. And we would love to hear your direction on which direction you would like to further go. The first thing I wanted to go over is before we start commissioning or purchasing or leasing things, we need to know where to put them. So, here are some options of where we have in the city that we could install artworks. So, on this slide, you're seeing Civic Plaza option A, and it's a bit tough to see on this screen, but essentially what we're proposing, and we will have to, for many of these locations, we'll have to work closely with Public Works and Community Development as well to see if it's feasible to put things in there, if there's weight restrictions, things like that. But essentially what used to be that black round fountain, which is now a planter, you could put a piece in the center of it so that the base of it is surrounded by the plants that are currently there, so that's an option. Civic Plaza option B, you can see the arrow there. We all remember the

Puff of Wind sculpture that stood there for quite some time, so that's the option that we're proposing, that's a spot that we're proposing. Additionally, again, in Civic Plaza option C, that black now planter, which used to be a fountain, you could put one piece in the center, you could put three pieces, one in each one of those squares, those are some possibilities. And then on the right side, you see that planter next to where the checker, you know, chess checker tables are, so another planter option. Another possibility would be the lawn in front of the library, one thing to note on that, that is county owned, so if that option were to be considered, we'd have to work with the county. And another option, which is sort of tough to tell the difference, but again, the planter with vegetation right in front of that beautiful Bow Bridges mural, so you can see where the arrow is pointing kind of farther back on that right. Walking away slightly from Civic Plaza, right next to, right in front of the pier restroom, there are three little tiny pedestals, they're about two and a half, three feet by three feet. I'm not sure exactly when or why those pedestals were installed, but something could go atop of those, again, we'd have to work with Public Works to see what sort of a load they could bear, but they exist. Oops, I apologize, going backwards, the commission also felt that there was plenty of room on the green belt somewhere, not necessarily identifying a precise

spot, but somewhere on the green belt, a piece could be installed that would not be obstructing the view or another way obstructing the use of the space. In front of the art center, the lawn area that's there, that's kind of frequently been considered for artwork, so that's an option as well, and then there's a section right on the, so at Manhattan Heights, there's a corner where you're seeing the arrow that's not very well utilized. We actually did double check also with the rec program to make sure that that wouldn't be in anyone's way. One thing to consider about that location is because of the number of participants that are there, this would have to be a pretty strong piece because it would certainly invite some interaction. And then the other locations were considered, so on the left there, you're seeing the Waterwise Parkette, that's the area off of Artesia, it's that little tiny triangle, and we did have several pieces there in the past. Most recently, that's where Dragon Tail originally was, where it had some reflection issues, and then afterwards, there was that giant flower that was there as well. So there's already a concrete pedestal that's there that can bear quite a bit of loads, so it's ready made. And another location that the commission considered was around the water tower. There's just a lot of open grassy area, and perhaps something could be incorporated somewhere there, again, without taking away usable space. So those are some of the options that

they considered. We also took briefly, and it's not in the PowerPoint on purpose, we very briefly took a look at the location by El Porto Beach. We know that in the past, there's been quite a bit of controversy as to whether or not to put anything or rehabilitate that little section of grass there. So there's only really one artwork that we were proposing for, or the commission recommended for that site, which is a very, very low profile artwork that would not in any way visually impact the area, because we know the residents there are very concerned about the...

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: That's county property too, right? We would need their approval?

CULTURAL ARTS MANAGER STEWART: No, I believe it's a city property.

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: A triangle?

CULTURAL ARTS MANAGER STEWART: A little triangle parquet. Okay, we will double check, and if it's county, then we'll have to work with them.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: East of the bike path is us?

CULTURAL ARTS MANAGER STEWART: I was under the impression that it was city owned.

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: It's County, we've looked at that before to do things through Parks and Rec.

CULTURAL ARTS MANAGER STEWART: Okay, I will double check.

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: Anyway.

CULTURAL ARTS MANAGER STEWART: Okay, certainly. So if that's something that council felt strongly about, we will absolutely do more due diligence. So the commission really worked well together to bring forward anything that was ready made available, where things could be purchased, et cetera. This is an artist named Pedro Vialta. He's from New York, and he makes these seashell pieces. These particular ones are made out of rebar. If we were to commission something, they would have to be made out of stainless steel or something else that would be appropriate for a marine environment. In this case, with the pieces the way they are currently, the price would be approximately \$15,000, although we did not inquire as to whether there would be a cost difference with stainless steel. And one of the options that the commission considered for this would be, for example, on the three little plinths that are next to the pier where one could sit on each one. I think they also considered the lawn in front of the library. Next, we have Anthony Howe. And Anthony is in Orcas Island, Washington. This piece is already created. It would not be commissioning. You would be purchasing this piece, although commission, I'm sure, is possible. This piece is \$185,000. It's a rather large, tall

piece. It's about 16 feet tall. It's called Disco, and the commission was thinking of having it somewhere, either possibly on the Strand or in the Civic Plaza. There were also some conversations earlier on in the process to possibly engage Polliwog Park, although we know how impacted that space is. So that's why that note about Polliwog is still up there. Next, we have an interesting piece. This came to us by way of Hamara Goldstein. As we know, Hamara has long been involved in the arts in the city of Manhattan Beach. This is a piece that she currently owns by Rico Eastman, and it is a piece that she has proposed to donate to the city. It would come with no acquisition cost, but of course, as for any of these pieces, we would have to consider the installation cost, and for all of these pieces or any that would be approved, we would follow the new model that we've adopted, starting with Bruce's Beach, where we will work with other city staff, including public works, community development, building safety, engineering, etc., to make sure that these pieces are installed appropriately. So we would have to count the amount of money, if you will, that those logistics take up, including permitting, engineering, specs, etc. But this piece, other than those considerations, this is a donation. Next up, we have a piece by, I apologize for pronunciations, Jorge Blanco, I would assume, from, and this, he is from Florida, and he makes these sort of whimsical, aluminum

powder coated pieces, and the piece that the commission was mostly drawn to was this bicyclist. In this case, you can see it's kind of more tabletop size, but he could be made bigger, this artist also does commission, and their idea was to put it somewhere closer to the strand, again, possibly on one of those three pedestals, or something else. At this scale, you can see that this piece is somewhere in the \$40,000 to \$50,000 range, we would have to explore if we wanted it in a different scale, larger, smaller. This is an artist who actually has artwork on view currently at the art center, name is Brittany Ryan.

Brittany is in Laguna Beach, and she specializes in figurative sculpture. So, up at the top, you can see one of her pieces that's a bronze of a beach goer, and down at the bottom, you can see a commissioned piece that she did of several slightly larger than life hikers for Laguna Beach. So, this is not a specific piece that the commission is proposing, this is more an artist that could be engaged to have a conversation with and see what could be created specifically for Manhattan Beach, much like the work that she did for Laguna Beach. So, there's no budget at this point, because we're not sure how big or small something would be. Next, we have Alex Weinstein. We've seen Alex's work before, he does these very serene, calm ocean pieces, sometimes they're painted, and sometimes they're this sculpted work. And so, this is the section in El Porto that Alex was thinking of,

again, in terms of a very calm, peaceful spot, having one of these abstract pieces of ocean, if you will, that are both a sculptural piece, but you could also sit on it, or you can use it as a little table or something like that. And that's why the commission considered this piece for that location, is because it is so low profile that hopefully there would be less concern about it. Next, we have a piece by Jan Hoy. She is an artist from Whitby Island, Washington. We have a lot of Washingtonians in this selection. This piece is \$25,000, it's corten steel, and there's a few places where it could go if selected. Next, we have Jeremy Guy. This is a rather substantial size artwork. You can see it's almost nine feet or so, and this particular piece both is shaped as an abstract heart, and it's titled Murmuration. Murmuration is a pattern in which birds fly, and it's made out of a composite granite material. The artist is able to make it out of other materials and other sizes as well. This one has, as it currently stands, is about \$70,000. Next, we have Duo by David Hostetler. This is a very interesting piece. David lived in Ohio, however, he is deceased. Despite having been deceased and no longer with us, his studio actually still owns the molds to his pieces. This is a bronze piece. Bronze pieces all, some, will have a molding technique. You would not be getting a piece that was somewhere else and relocating it. You would be commissioning a new piece that comes. There's a

couple of different sizes that is available from David's original molds. The budget for that would be somewhere between \$60,000 and \$100,000, depending on the size and the patina. This is a piece by Aristedes Dimitrios. We're not, we couldn't get the artist's location for this one, and the proposal is for it to possibly be in Civic Plaza at that location where the Puff of Wind boat used to be, and it's \$55,000, and I think this piece is six feet tall. Also of note, you'll see a few of these pieces, including this one right now, are shown in water, with water features, or in some sort of a fountain-like environment. For all of our sculptures, the commission is recommending not having a fountain or a water feature. Just, we all know why. There's drought. So when you're seeing the water feature, just kind of ignore that. It's just, it's for, just to see the artwork, not the water. This is an artwork by David Bryagian, and David makes these very abstract flower, floral-like pieces. Commission thought it would be really interesting to have one of these, perhaps depicting a California poppy, maybe in that California poppy orange, or something along those lines. And this piece is between \$10,000 to \$20,000. Next, we have Lyle London. He's from Tempe, Arizona. We're not sure on the budget on this piece. It's another bronze piece. And then we have Archie Held. Again, this is another piece that's shown as a fountain. We would not have it as a fountain. It's about 12 feet

tall or so. Again, not sure where this artist was from. I believe the commissioner was thinking of this piece also in the Civic Plaza somewhere. We have Shane Darke, and Shane is another working, well-recognized artist, and he creates these kind of abstract pieces that are reminiscent of nature, or coral, or trees, or something to that effect. This piece is \$100,000, and it's about 11 feet tall or so. And there's other pieces that could be commissioned as well from Shane, if that's something that we're interested in. And then last but not least, this one is maybe being brought to you slightly prematurely, but we did want you to see it. This is an artist from Holland, so I know we're going a little bit far away, but this artist actually travels all over the world, and what she does is she creates what she calls the lace fence. So she has a manufacturer that she works with that's able to weave chain-link fence into these just really fantastic shapes. So what she does is she typically travels to different places. She's done one of these in Australia, and this one's not in Australia. This one's, I think, in New York somewhere. And so the one in Australia was really interesting. She worked with local children and asked them to draw pictures of their local flora and fauna. Then she took those pictures, she actually translated them into traditional lace-making weave techniques, and then her factory that she works with weaves them as you would weave thread and lace. So

really, really very interesting way of working, and this artist is very used to working internationally. That's why we considered an artist from so far away. And as you can probably imagine, we would be suggesting this for Sand Dune. We know in the past City Council has been interested in creating a more artistic, more beautiful fence for Sand Dune Park when that is ready for it, when that is redone. So this is something that could be considered for that location. Of course, it could be considered for any other location as well. That is all we have for you tonight. We would love your direction on how you would like for the Commission to proceed.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Great. Questions? Mayor Pro Tem Howorth?

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I have, I think, three specific questions. I would like to comment, though, before we begin that this is a really great, this is in the years that I've looked at all of this, this is really such a terrific selection. So kudos to you, Eilen, and kudos to the Commission. This is very exciting. All right. My first question would be with the Rico Eastman piece. And I understand it, you know, Homera, you know, is willing to donate it. And obviously, we'd have to take into consideration the cost of installation. I'm wondering, is there, this one, you know, I try not to get too hung up on this. And we have a risk management department,

but it looks very, a little sharp edge. I guess the question is, let's say we all fall in love with some of these pieces. Do we run these through risk management? Do they, so that happens?

CULTURAL ARTS MANAGER STEWART: We will ask risk management and see if they have any huge concerns with these. But that said, some artworks are climbable. It's understood that one is not supposed to climb the artwork. So I think that becomes kind of a mitigating factor for liability issues. But we will absolutely double check with risk management.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: Okay. Question number two, and one of our residents asked this question too. So some of these are for purchase, and especially where the artist is deceased, I can imagine they're probably not, we probably can't lease them, right?

CULTURAL ARTS MANAGER STEWART: Correct, yes.

But are some of them that say they're for purchase able to be leased?

CULTURAL ARTS MANAGER STEWART: Potentially, we did not reach out to every artist with those questions, just not to get the process going. But potentially, but if an artwork is already created, then potentially.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: And just two more quick questions. I mean, are you, is there a limit? I mean, money, it's money. But is there some number that you're trying to get

to? Okay. And then the last question I have, on the location slide that showed Civic Plaza E, Civic Plaza F, I'm just going to say that that tree, those trees that are on that lawn of the library, I actually thought they were sculptures at first. When you look at the shadow, so A, interesting, but B, I hope that those aren't in danger of, they don't look well. And I don't know if it's something we have to ask. Well, it's winter, but I, you know, Ann, you know, but let's talk to risk management in the county about that too, just saying. All right, thank you.

CULTURAL ARTS MANAGER STEWART: Check with our arborist.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: All right. Yes, we have an arborist. Okay. Thank you.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Councilmember Lesser?

COUNCILMEMBER LESSER: Eilen, what is the current balance of our public arts trust fund?

CULTURAL ARTS MANAGER STEWART: There's about \$1.6 million in the public art trust fund, and roughly \$570,000 of that has not been allocated.

COUNCILMEMBER LESSER: So that's what I was confirming. So the amount that we have to work for, because you answered Mayor Pro Tem Howorth's question, the amount that we have to work with is up to, including potential projects such as the Bruce's Beach.

CULTURAL ARTS MANAGER STEWART: The Bruce's Beach has already been allocated.

COUNCILMEMBER LESSER: Already been allocated, but we have up to, can you repeat that number one more time?

CULTURAL ARTS MANAGER STEWART: Roughly \$570,000.

COUNCILMEMBER LESSER: Okay, and the question was already asked. Even though the direction was to look at purchasing pieces, because there was an indication from staff that it was difficult to find pieces that were available only for lease. In fact, there might be some flexibility here to lease pieces. Is that right?

CULTURAL ARTS MANAGER STEWART: There could be, yes. We will look into it once we get clearer direction on which specific pieces to approach.

COUNCILMEMBER LESSER: Okay. In addition to further assessing some of these pieces for safety, as was indicated, because kids have a way of climbing on these sculptures, I wanted to also confirm whether weather was a consideration, because I just wonder how some of these pieces are going to hold up if they were placed approximate to the strand with the sun, with the moisture from the air and other things.

CULTURAL ARTS MANAGER STEWART: Absolutely, and so that's why on some of these, for example, on the seashells that originally are, or typically the artist makes them from rebar, I

would not recommend getting those in rebar because they would constantly be rusting and they would eventually disintegrate. So if you were interested in, for example, the seashells, we would have to commission the artist to make them out of stainless steel or some other material that would be more durable. Most of the rest of the pieces, they are already out of, from a material that's more resilient. So it's either stainless or bronze.

COUNCILMEMBER LESSER: Okay. Finally, with regard to location, I was wondering if view was taken into account. I can recall a prior council came up with the grand idea of spreading art around the community, including on our Veterans Parkway. And of course, we heard from residents that were not too thrilled. So with regard to the height of some of these pieces, I'm just wondering if interference with views were taken into account, because I just heard some recommendation of some locations that might well engender a less than loving appreciation by some residents who have views presently.

CULTURAL ARTS MANAGER STEWART: Absolutely. The commission did both. We both, I encouraged them to think about the views, but there were a few instances in which they felt that the piece was strong enough to where maybe we can consider it, despite the fact that it's maybe a little taller and possibly, you know, is this a piece we want to take a risk on or something to that effect. But that's also why, for example, for

that El Porto little parkette, we're only proposing such low profile pieces because we know there, for sure, the view was a huge discussion.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Thank you. So colleagues, I wanted to make a suggestion. Due to the extensiveness of this agenda item, considering 15 pieces, locations, everything like that, and we're facing two lengthy agenda items, is perhaps could we just get a form, an evaluation form or a selection sheet that could help us organize all this information and then give us homework so we can go back and then bring it back on another day? Or do you feel like we can...

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: I'm ready to go.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: You're ready to go.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: I'm open to whichever. I'm open to your idea. I'm open to proceeding.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: I just didn't know how.

COUNCILMEMBER LESSER: So I would propose, I'm receptive to your proposal, but let's first hear if there's any public comment and then hear what our colleagues might have to offer and then we can make that choice.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Okay. Okay. That sounds good. Great. Okay. We'll open it up to... Well, actually, I have a question. I also saw on the Goldstein piece, the sharp edges there. If the

Alex Weinstein piece on slide number 13, if it is on county land, can we explore them paying for it?

CULTURAL ARTS MANAGER STEWART: I suppose we could.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: And the other thing too, there's an awful lot of things that are made in bronze. Bronze is very popular for the wrong reasons. So we might want to get some feedback on alternate materials if that's available.

CULTURAL ARTS MANAGER STEWART: Bronze is a very durable material that lends itself well to this climate. And this is a difficult climate for outdoor structures. So when anchored appropriately and with some of these pieces weighing in the tons, one would have to work quite a bit harder to obtain it for their own use.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Okay. Well, I mean, we saw the Jackie Robinson statue, like sawed off at the ankles and carted off. Okay. And I think that's... The lace fence, a lot of fences rust. Did you discuss with the artists how to prevent rust?

CULTURAL ARTS MANAGER STEWART: We did not. We didn't reach out to every single artist, again, not knowing what council would be interested in. We can and absolutely will reach out to them if that's something that council is interested in pursuing it. However, it is made by the same manufacturer that manufactures regular chain link fences. So that same material

that is made for outdoor, permanent or long-term use is what is used here.

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: It's usually galvanized.

CULTURAL ARTS MANAGER STEWART: Yes, I believe it's galvanized steel.

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: Yes, I think part of the whole decision making is artists saying how long it can last.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Yes. Great. Okay. Thank you. So let's open it up for public comment. Please, anybody here have any questions?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: First of all, after serving on the hometown fair for eight years and running kid country, I would be cautious where on the green belt you place things because that would interfere with the fair. And it's also, I've noticed things that were placed there, it makes it harder for people to lay out kid country and all that. So just along those lines. The other thing I've noticed is over at Live Oak Park where the memorial is for the police officer and it's got the helmet there. I've seen people put trash in the helmet and just like... So if you do the shells, just think of all the stuff people are going to throw in it. I would refer to the police of all the stupid things they've seen and the stupid things that people do. Or if you look at, what was it, Sixth Street Bridge where all the people are climbing all over. Think of how people

are going to do things. Are they going to do selfies in front of them? Is that going to cause a dangerous situation? But just try and think of the stupidity of what people do in picking locations and the items that you put up there. So don't cause any problems.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Thank you. Anybody else?

GARY MCCAULEY: Council, Gary McCauley. I trust you've had a chance to read my lengthy email. But I just want to... So rather than rehash all the things that I've written to you previously, I just want to emphasize... I understand that when people look at an art piece, they bring their own interpretation to it. And oftentimes, one really doesn't know what the artist had in mind. But in this particular example, the duo sculpture by David Hassepler, we know what that sculpture was made for. And it was made specifically, it was commissioned to honor a fellow named Dan Galbraith, who was a real estate developer in Ohio and a partner with Donald Trump in his hotel and tower. The piece was commissioned by an architect, Philip Johnson, by Donald Trump, and by Dan Galbraith's daughter, Luzanne Galbraith, to honor Don Galbraith, the real estate developer. That's the story of this piece. And now, I just don't see the connection to Manhattan Beach out of that. Now, you may bring your own interpretation to looking at the piece, but on top of everything else, and now I know that it's not going to be moved

from New York, where it's currently next to the Trump Tower. It's actually a piece that is manufactured at request. It's one of a series. There's a lot of these things around. In fact, online, I found out that you can get your own, I don't know, 16-inch desktop model of it. So, I just don't see why we would want this piece. This is not a jewel for Manhattan Beach. This is just a random piece of art dedicated to somebody else. Thank you.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Okay. Anybody else in chambers?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'd love to speak.

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: She a commissioner?

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: She's on the commission.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Oh, Yes.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: No. We don't.

COUNCILMEMBER LESSER: Unfortunately I don't think so.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Yes, I don't think so. Can someone on the Cultural Arts Commission speak?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's your policy.

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: No.

CITY CLERK TAMURA: No.

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: No.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: No? Okay.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: It's not our practice.

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: They had their shot when they met - -

COUNCILMEMBER LESSER: For members of the public who might be listening, the question is whether a member of a commission that made the recommendations that are before council can speak to council, and I think we have a handbook for commissioners that says no, and the reason is that they have an opportunity to speak in the commission, at the commission, as part of the recommendation, if I understand that correctly.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Okay. Thank you. Online? Zoom?

ASSISTANT CITY CLERK ALVAREZ: Heather Kim.

HEATHER KIM: Hi. Admittedly, I did not actually get to see every single piece presented tonight, but I think something that comes to mind is the sculpture that we have at Polliwog, or the Metlox. You know, those things are kid-friendly, and I don't know if the intention was to actually climb on these pieces, but you can, kids do, and it's not that big of a deal. I do worry about the other ones that I saw, some of them have, you know, very sharp edges. Are we going to put, like, a thing around it so that people don't actually go up to it, and, you know, touch it, climb it, whatever. So, I think we have to be really careful about, you know, what kind of sculpture art we put up here in Manhattan Beach, and, you know, sometimes people ruin it for other people, so I can't have nice things, and can't just trust

that, you know, this artwork will be treated with respect. So, just be careful of that when you're deciding, but, you know, my comment still stands from the other art stuff that we've discussed tonight. You know, it feels like, visually, overwhelming with, like, clutter. If there's a point, there's a fine line between, you know, beautiful artwork that can enhance a place, and then too much of a good thing, you know? So, you got to kind of have to walk that line, and I think just because we have money doesn't mean we should spend it all. So, that's my opinion on this sculpture part of the arts. Thank you.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Great. Thank you, Heather.

ASSISTANT CITY CLERK ALVAREZ: There's no additional request.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Closing public comments. Councilmember Napolitano?

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: Thank you, Your Honor, and just want to take a moment to recognize Eilen Stewart here. Our arts manager, this will be her last meeting, we understand. So, it is not an easy job. You have to deal with us and a whole lot of other people. You've done a great job these last several years, and so I just want to give you a recognition and appreciation for all that you've done here in Manhattan Beach, and wish you best with your endeavors going forward. That said, I'm going to go kind of in reverse here. I think the locations

can be chosen, frankly, after the art pieces are chosen. So, I'm going to defer on the art pieces, or the location, rather, with the caveat that I don't really like the Civic Center. I think things just get hidden and lost in the Civic Center. I'd rather push this out in other parts of the community and not spread it apart, not clustered in one area. Everything seems to get put into the Civic Center. We've had art there plenty of times before. We've got the Peace Pole. We've got other things there. So, turning to the art itself, I appreciate the choices here that have been brought before us. They said it couldn't be done, the commission. They did a great job, commission, in bringing forward a number of different pieces here. Doesn't mean I have to agree with all of them, and I don't. So, I'm going to skip over the clamshells. I'm not looking at that one. The Anthony Howe piece.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: Can you go slower? Anthony, sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: One after the other there. Anthony Howe, it's just, you know, I'm not going to put that much into one piece. So, nice piece, could go somewhere, but \$185,000, I see other things I'd rather put before that. I appreciate the Riccio Eastman piece. I understand the sharp edges thing. I mean, I guess we should put warnings on knives

that they're sharp. But, you know, where we put this, I think location will help keep this - -

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: So you like this piece?

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: - -out of harm's way. I like this piece. I would go forward on this piece. The Jorge Blanco piece, I like that. And I say I like that because I was also, as Eilen said, that it could be this or one of his other variations.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: Yup.

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: But as an art, you know, as a theme of art here, I appreciate Jorge Blanco. I would go with that. Brittany Ryan, same thing. I think there is a place in Manhattan Beach, you see in a lot of different communities, a life sculpture sitting on a bench, standing somewhere. I think that would be good here. Mr. Weinstein's piece doesn't do it for me. I'm going to skip that one. Jan Hoy, I like this piece. I think it does evoke a wave. I think we could find a place for that. So I like that. Jeremy Guy piece, I like that.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: Wait, wait, wait.

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: To Mr. McCauley's point, David, my understanding of this was that there are other ones. I mean, to me, these two look like they ate something they didn't like. But that said, well, it's a well-known artist. OK, that's a joke. Put that aside, though. I think the point was that there

are other pieces that we could choose from. Now, whether we do that, I'm interested in seeing them. I'm not interested in this piece going forward. Not interested in the Dimitrios. I like the David Boyajian piece. I think the price is right. But I think that we're not just buying art for price. But again, this is something whimsical. I could see this easily in one of our parks or other green space. Same thing, Lyle London. But I think I'd go with the other first. So not interested in the Archie Held. Shane Dark, Yes. But I worry about that one in terms of if there's any graffiti, how we're going to clean that up. The lace fence, that's something I really, given all the caveats of weather and durability. But if we could do that, do it over in Sand Dunes, that is something that I think we could do in a lot of our parks, in a lot of our spaces for these fences that we have now, which are ugly, can be beautified through this. So those are my choices. Thank you, Your Honor.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Okay. Thank you. Mayor Pro Tem, Amy Howorth, you're up.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: Okay and I'm just, I agree with you that let's look at the art that we're interested in first. And I hope someone's keeping track of this. I'm trying to.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: I am.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: Yes, I'm trying to.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: The lace fence.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Are you going backwards?

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: I am, because that's how the papers ended up.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Number seven. You can't go to slide seven, but that's okay. I mean, okay.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: Sorry, folks.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: I will accommodate you.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: Thank you so much. But I really, I heard an emphasis from you, Steve, that that's something you're really interested in, and I am too. I think that's really incredible. I like the David Boyajian piece, too. Oh, I like the Shane Dark. I really love that. It's expensive, though. It looks like it might be a little bit fragile. But I would, I would say for me that would be a tier two or, you know, want. But Lace Fence is a number one for me. Okay, so go to the back to the next. Okay, I'm not interested in Archie Held. I'm looking at so I like Lyle London. I liked OK, but maybe that was number two for me. Keep going. I'm following now. They're going back.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: No, no, no. I just want to I'm trying to keep it just like number one choices.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: Okay. David Boyajian. I liked a lot.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Yes.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: OK, that would be a number one. Yes, it's OK. You know, Dimitrios. Nay, OK. So I appreciate what Steve was saying. We could find another piece. I mean, he's not just from Ohio. He's from Athens, Ohio. So I'd be interested in looking at it.

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: Oh my goodness, sorry.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: Super important. But he is a well-known artist. I appreciate the resident who spoke. But so I would be interested in looking. But it's not my top. Keep going.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: So should I vote it?

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: I mean, I'm giving it like it's my number two. I've got ones and twos.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Okay.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: Okay.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: You keep track of your twos.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: I love Jeremy Guy. I love the memoration, the heart. It's very Palomo Picasso. Okay, keep going. I like this a lot.

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: Can you say the name of those?

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: I'm sorry. Jan Hoy. I'm not that interested in the Alex Weinstein. I appreciate what he's trying to do or she's trying to do. But I don't love it so much.

So Brittany Ryan, people tend to like these kinds of figurative works. And they're very well done. So I would be interested in pursuing a Brittany Ryan. I'd be number one. Jorge Blanco, like Steve said, maybe. Although bicycles are interesting. So yes, that's a number one for me. Rico, I'd be interested. Number two for me. I loved this, but it is expensive. It takes up everything.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Name?

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: What? I'm sorry. I'm looking around.

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: Just so I know what you're doing.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: No, no, you're, that's fair. Anthony Howe.

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: Okay.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Yes. Anthony Howe.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: But I don't think it's, I love it. But I think we can do more with the other pieces. So it's not for me. And I'll give, I like the clamshells of Pedro Vialta. And I think they would be great down there by the Strand. And I think they'd be very fun. But I sort of love those. So we, that's where we part there, Steve. But I love those. So that's a number one for me.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: But Pedro's a one?

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: Pedro's a one. Okay. And I'll keep, I'll write down my one.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Who is next?

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: He left the building.

COUNCILMEMBER LESSER: He left the building. In full disclosure, I've had a little, I had a little bit of jet lag. I'm seven hours ahead. I'm happy with the choices. Mr. Mayor, you earlier suggested that we have this come back with some chart where we can order them. I think for members of the public, I would say that we're not planning to do all of these pieces. The idea was to solicit proposals. And the commission did its job presenting pieces to us. And staff did its job in indicating potential locations. I'd welcome another crack at this with perhaps including the items that have been mentioned by at least my two colleagues. And perhaps you have some others to add, Mr. Mayor.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Okay. That's understandable. I'll go ahead and go through. And then we'll have our colleague, Councilmember Montgomery, go through it as well. All right. Starting with Pedro Villalta. That's a no. Anthony Howe, that's a no. Rico Eastman. I want to honor. Yes, well, we'll go with Rico Eastman. I just see cut knees and stuff, hopefully. I'm not enamored with Jorge Blanco. To me...

CULTURAL ARTS MANAGER STEWART: Mayor Franklin, on Rico Eastman, what were your thoughts on Rico Eastman?

COUNCILMEMBER LESSER: Your verdict?

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Yes. Jorge Blanco, no. Brittany Ryan, I hope she's not listening. But I see this all over the place, all over the world. It's overdone, I think. And then just too, I just see problems with it. Not just theft, but also vandalism and things like that.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: I think it's a good point that you brought up about the bronze. That's a great point.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Alex Weinstein, no. Jan Hoy, to me, this looks like it's what we have already in Polliwog Park. So that's a no for me. The red circle or something. Jeremy Guy, you know, I put a comment here because they said it was a flock of birds twisting and circling. But we don't have birds here that do that. I mean, we have seagulls, and they just kind of like go around.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: We do. Don't we?

MAYOR FRANKLIN: But they're, not that I've seen them out and about a lot. But I see these on the nature show, and it's pretty cool. But we don't have those breeds of birds, it appears.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: Look, it looks like a heart.

Come on.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: The heart, again, that's kind of derivative. Anyway, not for me.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: What do you have against love?

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Oh, now I have things against love.

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: Keep going.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: I love my wife, whose birthday it is today. But sorry, Nancy.

COUNCILMEMBER LESSER: You're busy dealing with the weighty issues of city business.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Go ahead and eat the cake without me. David Hostetler, no. Aristides Dimitrios, that's going to be a great ladder for the kids. No. I do like David Pugaggio. That I like. So I just think, did it mention, commission a poppy. Yes, a California poppy and orange. That would be nice. I'm a little concerned about the kids climbing it as well. Does anybody on Lyell London, do you see a bird on the top that looks like a pelican?

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: Sure. I see a person taking a bow or a curtsy.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Yes. And it says ocean theme.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: Oh.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: And I love the pelicans, as I've mentioned before, even though I don't like them painted on the bathroom wall. But I'm trying to decide.

CULTURAL ARTS MANAGER STEWART: The title of the artwork is Ocean Dancer.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Is Ocean?

CULTURAL ARTS MANAGER STEWART: Ocean dancer. It is meant to be a human.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Ocean Dancer. No. Archie Held, no. Shane Dark, no. Lace Fence, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LESSER: So Mr. Mayor, I think you just chose three of the group.

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: Were you for the fence?

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Yes. Love the fence. So for me, just to recap, it's Rico. It's David. Poyajan. And the Lace Fence. And while you were out, Councilmember Montgomery, we were talking about, because David Lesser is suffering from jet lag, maybe you go ahead and make your picks, if you're quick. And then we will come back as a homework assignment and bring back our choices. He could then add in his choices. And then we can decide on locations.

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: You guys got the speakers in the back. Do work.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Oh, okay.

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: But thank you for the recap. All right, mine's just quick. Pedro Velalto, start with him first. That's a no.

CULTURAL ARTS MANAGER STEWART: Wait. Sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: Going in the order. The order of the presentation. No reverse order. Nothing. I'll write down the rule book. Pedro Velalto, no. Anthony Howe, no. Too expensive. I do accept Rico Eastman's donation. Condemnation from Eric Golting. That's fantastic. But with the cost to install it, it shouldn't be a secondary thought. So yes, on Rico Eastman. Yes, on Jorge Blanco. I think it's whimsical. Brittany Ryan, I think I see, like you said, I think too much of her art. I see which is good for her, but not good for us. So no on Brittany Ryan. No on Alex Weinstein. Yes, on Jan Hoy. I like that. I like Jeremy Guy. David Hassler, again, suffers the Ryan concept. Too much of the same artwork. So no on David Hassler. Not about politics, Gary. I don't like repetitive art anywhere in the world. So no on David Hassler. Our city's Demetrius. Of course, a fellow Greek guy. I like that one. Regardless of the pointed edges, folks, we can find things in the city that are pointed. How many of you live with a red dog in Metlock with a sharp edge on the paw? Seriously, we can't cover everything. You can round it off best you can, but you cannot make everything

safety compliant on every single issue. They can round it off best they can. We're not going to worry about that one. That's a yes.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: So Aristides?

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: Aristides, yes. Yes, on Lloyd-Eugene. David Bajayan. Boy Eugene. Yes, on Lyle London. Yes, on Archie Held. No on Shane Dark. On Lyle London, you talked about the pelican. It was called Ocean - -

CULTURAL ARTS MANAGER STEWART: Dancer.

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: Ocean Dancer?

CULTURAL ARTS MANAGER STEWART: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: I didn't see pelican in there or birds with all due respect to Albert Hitchcock. I didn't see that. I didn't see that. But yes, on Lyle London. Yes, on Archie Held. No on Shane Dark. Yes, for sure on the Lace Fence because it's creative and one of a kind.

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: Nothing brings out the snark on council like ours.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: I'm sorry, and Lace Fence?

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: Yes, on Lace Fence because it's one of a kind.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: We're all big yes, on the lace fence.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Okay.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: Yes. They all are. Yes.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: So that gives four of our votes. And do we need to make a motion?

CULTURAL ARTS MANAGER STEWART: Would you like me to review where you stand with majority of them?

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: We're gonna bring it back.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Yes. Bring it back for David and then also the rest, all of us in location.

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: I think just direction, right? We don't need a motion.

CITY ATTORNEY BARROW: Yes, no motion because it's coming back. It's going to have a list.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: Yes, you have the list. Because I would also like to go back through, like, you know, maybe we could even score it like one through six or whatever, you know, whatever we want. But bring back, you know, on a one-page form so we can grade it that way. I think that'd be great.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Did you also keep track?

CULTURAL ARTS MANAGER STEWART: I did. So would you like to then eliminate the artworks from that score sheet that it seems like the majority is not interested in? Or would you like to see everything come back?

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Well, why don't you put them on the bottom with no votes?

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: Yes.

CULTURAL ARTS MANAGER STEWART: Okay, so we'll kind of put them in order of interest. Okay, we can do that.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Okay, sounds good. So that's number 30. Thank you, colleagues. Item number 14. Consideration of Library Commission recommendations including work plan updates and potential uses of Los Angeles County Library set-aside funds. Director of Parks and Recreation, Director Leyman.

PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR LEYMAN: Good evening, Honorable Mayor, members of City Council, Melissa McCollum, our Senior Recreation Manager, will be presenting this item.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Okay.

SENIOR RECREATION PLANNER MCCOLLUM: Good evening, Mayor and City Council. When I saw the location of this item on the agenda, I knew that I would need to keep this pretty short. So there is more detail in the staff report and I'm happy to expand on any of the areas that you're interested in, but I'll stick to the main points now.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: Oh. Standing up at attention. Okay.

SENIOR RECREATION PLANNER MCCOLLUM: I'm sorry. Oh, I'm sorry. Thank you. There we go. There we go. So the Library

Commission and staff are looking for your direction tonight, specifically on the recommended City Council work plan updates, as well as a request to use \$46,000 of library surplus funding to support expanded programming at the Manhattan Beach Library. And as a reminder for the community, library surplus funds accumulate for the benefit of the Manhattan Beach Library and the community, as property taxes paid into the system by Manhattan Beach residents exceed the cost of operating the branch. And currently there's an accumulated surplus balance of \$11 million. So on to the recommendations. The Library Commission would like to keep two items on the current work plan, story walk and library appreciation events. Both items may be supported with \$2,250 included in next year's Parks and Recreation Department budget. That's the same level of funding as this year. The Library Commission would like to add use of the library surplus to the work plan and make related recommendations moving forward. They'd like to support a new one book, one county community reading program using library surplus funds beginning this year. The new program would debut in the spring and it features multiple library jurisdictions, including LA County Library, the Los Angeles Public Library. And everybody would read and discuss the book Ellie Weather by Maria Amparo Escondon, as well as have several author and other special events planned throughout LA County. So the cost of enhanced

Manhattan Beach participation, which would include a special kickoff with the author in Manhattan Beach, as well as the purchase of additional print and digital books to help increase participation would be \$8,500 as identified by LA County Library. The Library Commission would also like to use library surplus funds to implement a quarterly speaker music series at the Manhattan Beach Library that would be organized and staffed and promoted by LA County Library with advisory input from the Library Commission. This is a return to the model that's been used in the past of allocating library surplus funds for expanded LA County programming at the Manhattan Beach Library. The Library Commission and staff really believe that the strategy is better aligned to the Library Commission mission and it would conserve valuable general fund as well as Department of Parks and Recreation resources. So implementation of the quarterly speaker music series would cost \$37,500 for the first year according to LA County Library. City of Malibu has been using some of their surplus funds in this way or in a similar way since 2013. So again, moving forward with both initiatives, the One Book One County program and the quarterly speaker music series would require use of library surplus funding in the amount of not to exceed \$46,000. Related to your past direction, the Library Commission also supports use of library surplus to improve the care and the management of the historical

collection. So thank you for your earlier action tonight which approved the next phase of that work which is digitization. The Library Commission also supports the use of the library surplus to conduct a cultural library feasibility study in partnership with LA County Library including the exploration of the community maker lab. And as mentioned in the staff report, staff will return to City Council with details regarding project scope and timeline and the cost of the study after additional discussions with LA County Library, the City Council liaison and the Library Commission. The Library Commission also recommends the removal of several work plan items to better align their activities with their mission which is on that slide.

Established by resolution, Library Commission serves an advisory capacity to the City Council regarding library services provided by the Los Angeles County Library System to the citizens of Manhattan Beach. Also, the Commission acts as a liaison between the City and public-private community groups supportive of library services. So keeping that in mind, they would like to remove these items from the work plan, the learning at the library, the Manhattan Beach poetry event, the entertainment series, the photo op event, the book giveaway, and the library awareness program. Author talks which are a key component of learning at the library will continue to be offered at the Manhattan Beach Library and will be facilitated by library

staff. The photo op event will continue as part of future library events if desired by LA County Library, but it would no longer be a standalone event hosted by the Library Commission. This year, the photo op will be part of the Manhattan Beach Library's kickoff for the summer reading program on June 1st. So the Library Commission approved these 2024 work plan recommendations at meetings on November 13th, 2023 and January 8th, 2024. All of these recommendations were approved unanimously with one exception. The vote to absorb the photo op into another event was approved 5-1 by the Library Commission. So in conclusion, staff recommends that the City Council discuss and provide direction tonight regarding the 2024 work plan updates, as well as the use of the not succeed \$46,000 from the library's surplus funds for the one book, one county community read and the Manhattan Beach Library speaker music series. I hope that wasn't too fast. But that concludes my presentation. Happy to answer any questions you have.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Okay, questions, colleagues?

Councilmember Napolitano?

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: You know what I'll save it.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Okay. Anybody else? I just have one question. I needed to have it defined, but can you please define on slide number three, the maker lab?

SENIOR RECREATION PLANNER MCCOLLUM: Sure, sure. So that is an idea of a space where people gather to create and invent things. And it's often filled with all sorts of things, 3D printers and software. There can be tools, there can be craft supplies. And it's just a way, it's kind of similar to the programs that they had in the elementary schools, but at a much higher level and for all ages.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Okay. All right, great. I think that's a good shot for 2024, right?

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: Yes. And you see them at libraries.

SENIOR RECREATION PLANNER MCCOLLUM: I mean, it's common now. It is. There's maker mobiles within the L.A. County library system, but there's a very large community maker lab at the downtown library that's part of the Los Angeles Public Library and then all across the country as well.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: And then on page five, where you talk about the removal, number three, the entertainment series. What was the thinking behind that, removing that?

SENIOR RECREATION PLANNER MCCOLLUM: So the idea is, instead of having it be a library commission-driven event where they do the planning and then also it does take parks and rec resources also. The staff liaisons for the library commission, it is our senior recreation supervisor in charge of older adults

and transportation. And so that support for the library commission and any programs that they are doing comes from that division. And as you know, Joslyn Center is full of activities also. So the idea is, we really do pay L.A. County Library to provide library services with the Manhattan Beach Library to the tune of \$4 million a year. And part of that is also providing programming for all ages. So kids and teens and adults and older adults. And so the commission's interested in more programming for adults, but this would be a way to have the library provide that programming using library surplus money as well as professional library staff to execute a very similar vision to what the commission was trying to do themselves.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Because it was relatively successful, right?

SENIOR RECREATION PLANNER MCCOLLUM: It was. It was, but the library also has lots of music events and are willing to do more, you know, again, with that extra funding that could be provided in this way.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Okay. Great. Thank you.

SENIOR RECREATION PLANNER MCCOLLUM: Sure.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Any other questions? Councilmember Lesser?

COUNCILMEMBER LESSER: Melissa, can you elaborate a little further on the cultural library feasibility study that's

summarized on page three of the staff report that's on page 349 of the council packet? Explain a little bit more of the concept and how broad it could be beyond just the maker space.

SENIOR RECREATION PLANNER MCCOLLUM: Sure. And this is something that we talked about in some level at the October City Council meeting where the council did provide direction to move forward with exploring that idea in part with Councilmember Napolitano's being a liaison with LA County Library and with staff to try to answer your question. The idea of a cultural library would be to provide some basic library services, but it would also serve potentially as a place to store safely the historical collection as well as make it much more accessible, both in terms of displays and in terms of providing access to the digitized collection, additional staff support and volunteer support to make that collection more available. There could be, you know, there could be a public art as part of that. There could be this community maker space. So the idea is to kind of explore those ideas, reach out to the community and see what the community is most interested in and then decide if that is an idea that we should move forward with. Does that answer your question?

COUNCILMEMBER LESSER: It sort of does.

SENIOR RECREATION PLANNER MCCOLLUM: OK.

COUNCILMEMBER LESSER: I mean, this is, I think, something we need, but it is a chicken and egg problem. Where is it going to be? How big does it need to be to capture the desires of the community and more importantly, our needs? As you just indicated, it includes storage. So I'm just wondering, how does this scope of this feasibility study proceed, given that there's these fundamental questions of where it might be, unless that's part of the purpose of this study?

SENIOR RECREATION PLANNER MCCOLLUM: That's exactly the purpose and also why we would come back with that part of the item to talk about the project scope and the timeline and the cost of that study. More conversations need to happen with L.A. County Library. They're very open to this idea and to working with the city, but we even need to talk about the scope of that feasibility study would look like.

COUNCILMEMBER LESSER: How quickly could we get going on this? You indicated a number of conversations are needed, but at a certain point, our surplus continues to grow and I think this is pretty imperative. So how quickly could staff return if there's council consensus on this item?

SENIOR RECREATION PLANNER MCCOLLUM: I'm going to potentially check in with you, city manager, and the part of that is because of the possibilities of different locations.

CITY MANAGER MOE: Yes, and we have discussed several different locations. We've been talking with Beach City's Health District about Adventureplex as a possibility of converting some of that space. Of course, Marine Avenue Park is right there as well. And even the existing Art Center location, which used to be the library, could be considered. So it'll take several months to do the feasibility study, but we can come back to you with that this year.

COUNCILMEMBER LESSER: Last question, colleagues. Thank you for your patience. Does this need to go out to bid, though, for a proposal? I'm just trying to see what we need to do to accelerate this process, which I think will help our community moving forward with this growing surplus and this desire for some additional facility, but a question of where.

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: We're not even close to that.

COUNCILMEMBER LESSER: We're not even close to that. Alright. Thank you.

SENIOR RECREATION PLANNER MCCOLLUM: And it would be in collaboration with L.A. County Library, but...

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Councilmember Napolitano?

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: Yes, quickly. So what is the difference between the items they want to remove in terms of

entertainment series versus the speaker music series support above?

SENIOR RECREATION PLANNER MCCOLLUM: So again, instead of the Library Commission executing the entertainment series, which is what the model is now, - -

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: So that's just it. We're just going to- -

SENIOR RECREATION PLANNER MCCOLLUM: It would be the library doing it,

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: Okay. Alright.

SENIOR RECREATION PLANNER MCCOLLUM: - -but with advice, you know, the Library Commission could provide input on that, but it would be executed by library staff instead of Library Commission and city staff.

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: One question, Your Honor.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Yes. Councilmember Montgomery?

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: Although Senior Recreation Manager McCollum did come to the library, it's the library question I have for you. City Manager Moe, can you confirm to everyone watching at home, waited on bated breath, that the Polliwog Park is not a consideration for a location for the library?

CITY MANAGER MOE: That's correct.

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: I'm sure we've been hearing that.

CITY MANAGER MOE: Yes. No longer for being considered.

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: Okay. Thank you. That's it.

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: That's where the Olympic pool's going.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Okay. Do we...

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: The shark mural to go there, right?

MAYOR FRANKLIN: So public comment? Any comments here in the chamber? Seeing none, how about by Zoom?

ASSISTANT CITY CLERK ALVAREZ: There's no request.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Okay. Closing public comments. Comments, Council, or vote?

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: Yes, Your Honor. I'll jump in. I appreciate this. One thing clear I want to make as we go forward is that these are City of Manhattan Beach sponsored events. They're not commission funds. They're City of Manhattan Beach sponsored events. That said, I do question story walk. When people talk about clutter, there's lots of them out there. I never see anyone reading them, personally. I hope they do, but I don't know that that's something that's been... Anyone's

running back and being... Saying this is... No, it cost... I don't know what it was. \$2,500 or something like that, right? And then the rest of these things together, I think, are around \$46,000. We have an \$11 million surplus. Frankly, I would send this back to the commission and tell them to think bigger. I don't think we're doing enough for... There's a lot geared towards adults. We have one of the biggest story times for kids in the county system. I think we need to do more for kids. We need a coding event, more maker events, kid book reading event, buying the kids' books, talking to the school district, seeing if we can support them in any way, shape, or form with this money in terms of providing books for them to read or a reading thing throughout Manhattan Beach schools that everybody reads. Whatever it is, this is little piddly stuff on the side. I like it, but we have an \$11 million surplus that the county at some point is going to say, no, you can't keep it anymore. This is just a side agreement we have with the county. There's no law that says they have to keep it for us for forever. In fact, there's a sunset already. I can't remember where it is, but it's 30 or 20, 30, 20, 40. But at some point, they're going to say, you're going to generate this money. We're going to spread it through the whole system. Again, not a bad thing, but these aren't big enough, forward-thinking enough things for me when you have \$11 million surplus. I think they should think bigger.

Whatever limits are on this money, work it out, but do more, involve the kids more. You want to bring bigger speakers, bring bigger speakers. We have a speakers event that goes on, speaker series that goes on over at Redondo Beach Auditorium over there. With the money we have, we could have that whole series here in Manhattan Beach at the library if we wanted to. Think bigger. Thank you, Your Honor.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Thank you. Mayor Pro Tem?

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I certainly appreciate those comments. I was going to say, yes, and. I've made a motion to accept their recommendations and I was going to say that I think this Library Commission is actually really kind of focused and trying to do a little more forward things than before, and especially with the, I think it's the Cultural Library Feasibility Study and the City Historical Collection. That's not included in the money. I mean, the \$46,000, I mean, that's definitely still a significant cost. So I think that this particular commission is presenting something to us that is exciting to me. I love the one book, or is it one read, one book, one county. I think that's a very exciting, dynamic program. So I'm going to support this, their support wholeheartedly, 100%, their recommendations, and I think they would love it. I think they, talking about a speaker series, I mean, I know that they would love to get some really

great authors here, and there's someone on the commission who has a direct connection to Pulitzer Prize winning authors. So I'm sure they'd love to follow that charge, but for the time being, I say let's accept these and say do some more. That's my motion. Accept this and do some more.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Okay, Councilmember Lesser?

COUNCILMEMBER LESSER: I'm supportive of the motion. I'm also supportive of Councilmember Napolitano's comments. I want to give staff and the commission clear direction to think bigger. We have funds here. We have opportunities here. One of the reasons I was asking like I was about, questions like I was about the Cultural Library Feasibility Study is we have this opportunity, and as has been indicated, this opportunity is not indefinite, particularly as our surplus grows. So I thank all those that are involved, but I want to think bigger and act with a little more urgency. I was one who questioned what the role of our City Library Commission could be once we built the new library, particularly because our agreement, our MOU, runs between the county and our city manager, but the fact of the matter is there is a role for it to reflect our community and come up with direction consistent with what we've just been discussing. Let's get going, and let's move forward with this initial set of revisions to the work plan and come up with more.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Great, thank you. I too am going to support this. Let's think big, and I'm just sitting here thinking about the irony about what I'm going to say, is let's rebuild the Arts Center at Manhattan Heights and include library services in there, library books, and then you can have a couple of, you can have a second story, and that could also be used by cultural arts. We can have exhibits. I mean, the maker setup would just seem to be great there. I mean, it's set up nicely for workshops in the back. I remember the aforementioned Macy, my granddaughter, when she was four, I enrolled her in an art class there. It was just absolutely terrific. So that's something that we could get rid of the freeze, you know, so you would be happy.

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: Sold.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Councilmember Napolitano. This is a new age. I mean, when we decommissioned that library there, I mean, that was how many years ago? I mean, look what we have now. Look at the sources of information. Look at the consumption of that information. Look at the tools you need to consume that information. And that can all be brought back into that area and bring a lot of life. Also provide another venue for anything you decide to do with the main library. We could go ahead and, you know, have this, have it also at the Eastside library. So something like that, I would recommend. So we have a motion to

accept by Councilmember Howorth and it's seconded by Councilmember Montgomery. I'm sorry, Mayor Pro Tem Howorth and here's your voting screen.

CITY CLERK TAMURA: Motion passes, 5-0.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: So on to number 15. So Councilmember Lesser wants to make a comment.

COUNCILMEMBER LESSER: I do. This item is a consideration recommendation for the prioritization of future underground utilities assessment districts and discussion of the results from the 2023 utility undergrounding survey. I just wanted to disclose that my home is among those homes that would be considered for a future utility underground district in consultation with the city attorney. It's been determined that I can participate in this item because it's not a specific action related to my home, but it's more of a general discussion. And as a result, I will participate in this item. Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Of course. We have Public Works Director Lee.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR LEE: Yes, good evening again. Tonight, Senior Civil Engineer Jeff Fijalka will be giving the presentation.

SENIOR CIVIL ENGINEER FIJALKA: Good evening, honorable Mayor and members of the Council. I too will try to expedite

this to keep this brief. My name is Jeff Fijalka, Senior Civil Engineer, and as Director Lee indicated, I'll be presenting the results to the utility undergrounding survey that was performed in the fall of last year. To give a little bit of background and context for why we performed the undergrounding survey, the city has an undergrounding program that before the year 2010 completed six undergrounding districts. And then between 2010 and 2017, the undergrounding program was put into an unofficial moratorium due to the economic decline. After 2017, the program was revived and the city started to facilitate the formation of new districts again. Since then, we have moved forward districts 4, 12, and 14, and we have districts 8 and 13 currently in design. And as I mentioned, the program was revived in 2017. Since that time, the city has received numerous requests of property owners who have overhead utilities in their neighborhood, requests to be put in line or on a list for utility undergrounding or for consideration for utility undergrounding. We didn't really have a formal way to prioritize who would go first, other than just, you know, who was first on that list or who submitted their request first, but that wouldn't necessarily be feasible or make sense if people were requesting in areas that potentially don't have any viability to form an undergrounding district, you know, for maybe lack of support predominantly or potentially the configuration of the

utilities. So in 2022, when we had about 15 potential districts on the list, staff came before council and requested to perform an area-wide survey to assess the level of interest to help us prioritize that list. So the survey that was created and sent out to property owners is very similar to a survey that was sent out to assess interest in undergrounding back in 2006. The survey was one page front and back. It asked only one question. The question was relatively straightforward. It said, it asked, assuming the estimated cost range is provided below, would you be interested in having your property included in an underground assessment, underground utility assessment district? Property owners were given the option to complete the survey online or to fill out a paper survey and then submit it in person, send it in the mail or scan it and send it in through email. The survey was sent out to approximately 4,200 properties in the areas identified in this map in blue. I realize it's a little bit difficult to see when we show a whole map of the city, but it's, you know, all of these properties in the survey area are west of Sepulveda and predominantly west of Pacific Avenue. And it includes the areas that are in these locations west of those streets, but that are obviously not in a previous undergrounding district or in a district that's currently in design or under construction. So the survey sent out, we received responses to 1,734 of them. That represents about 41% response rate. And as

you can see in the pie chart here, we had about approximately 53% of property owners reporting that they were not in favor of undergrounding and approximately 47% in favor of undergrounding. So as we received all of the survey responses, we mapped them on a per parcel basis so that we could assess the spatial distribution of where there was support and opposition to undergrounding. We then divided up the entire survey area on physical boundaries, such as the Greenbelt, major roadways, utility lines, and there are actually utility configurations to where we could feasibly divide up districts. We further subdivided it according to where we saw concentrations of support or opposition to undergrounding. So trying to bring a given outlined area with a somewhat similar level of support for undergrounding. So on this map, I realize that you can't read all the numbers, but what we're reporting for each of these sub areas or potential districts is the number of parcels, the number of responses, and the percentage of responses in favor of undergrounding. This is showing that same map so that the sub regions or potential districts are divided up in the same way, but here we've indicated with red, yellow, and green relative level of support. So the districts that are potential districts in green over 60 percent support for undergrounding according to the survey. The yellow is 50 to 59 percent and red is less than 50 percent. So as a point of reference to start the petition or

to get an approved petition that will move forward through the district formation process, it requires 66 percent of property owners in support of undergrounding. So the green districts are obviously the ones that are closest to potentially being able to achieve that. One item that I'd like to point out here is that I'm happy to report that the feedback we received in public comment at the beginning of the meeting is consistent with the findings of our survey. Ms. Everson had mentioned that near Robinson or south of Robinson Elementary, her neighbors were opposed to undergrounding. That's actually the one sub area with not a single person responding in favor of undergrounding. We had the gentleman at Ardmore and Pacific who indicated he was opposed to utility undergrounding. That area is red as well with about 48 percent. And then we had a property owner near 26th and Vista. She's kind of on the cusp of a green and yellow area. So we're generally seeing that there are some areas that are more interested in undergrounding and areas that are less. This map is showing those, it's a little bit harder to see on the screen, I apologize. But the green areas are the same green areas from the previous map. So we have seven of these potential districts that have over 60 percent support. And what we're also trying to show here is there's one area outside the original survey area. It's on the west side of Sepulveda, just north of Mira Costa. This is the 1300 block of Voorhees that Mr. Allen had spoke of

at the beginning of the meeting. It's somewhat of a unique situation in that this line of properties on the south side of that block is these properties are essentially bisected by an overhead utility line. So there's quite a bit of support among those property owners. Actually 15 of 16 of them have indicated they're interested in undergrounding. So staff recommendations are to receive and file the results of the 2023 survey, to direct staff to focus new district formation efforts in areas exhibiting the greatest amount of property owner support. This is for the most efficient use of city resources, our design funds, staff time, etc. And third recommendation is to allow subsets of potential districts to move forward if surrounding blocks are not supportive of undergrounding. The city does not have an official minimum size requirement for the district. Edison does, which is only one block or a minimum 600 linear feet for undergrounding. But what we have seen in the city is that nine districts that have previously been approved have been on the order of 100 to 200 parcels. So we're suggesting that the city should maybe think outside of the realm of these larger, you know, dozens or 100 to 200 parcel districts and consider these smaller districts because they may be, you know, in the future some of our only opportunities to continue the undergrounding. The larger areas in the sand section and in the hill section will be undergrounded for the most part after the

completion of the projects that are underway, leaving, you know, smaller pockets. So our proposal is that we would entertain smaller districts, but staff would recommend that we, you know, look when a smaller district is proposed, look around it in each direction to see if there's other blocks that should be and could be included in that district. And if there aren't, you know, move forward with, you know, a district that can be viable at this time. And that concludes the presentation. I'm open for any questions.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Any questions, colleagues?

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: Thank you. Just one question, maybe two, is that, you know, when we go out for this survey, have you provided any kind of sense what the cost could be? And if we entertain these smaller districts, those costs are going to be higher because they're smaller.

SENIOR CIVIL ENGINEER FIJALKA: So on the survey, we did provide an indication of what the potential cost would be. The survey asked, would you be interested with the potential cost indicated? For the entire survey area, we represented the potential cost would likely be between \$30,000 to \$60,000 for the assessment itself, plus properties that have existing overhead connections to that property would incur additional costs for what we call the private conversion, which we indicated would be likely on the order of \$10,000 to \$20,000. We

believe that even in a smaller district, based on discussions with the utility companies, that those costs would be relatively in that ballpark. I mean, they could be a little bit higher, you know, but we have had discussions with Edison, who is, you know, the largest driver of the cost for these projects relative specifically to the Voorhees project. There likely would be some, you know, loss of economies of scale if we're designing smaller districts. But those would most likely be negated by, if we delay a project and don't do it because we can't join 30 blocks together, it's just going to get more expensive in the future. So there should, you know, we're going to potentially lose some money. And remember, the design fees are recouped by the city and passed on to the property owners. So I'm sure property owners looking at the big picture would rather higher design costs to do the project now.

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: They're recouped, aren't they, only if they then approve it on the second vote?

SENIOR CIVIL ENGINEER FIJALKA: Yes, that is correct. That is a good point. They're recouped if this district is successful.

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: When they get the sticker shock, or if there is sticker shock, that threshold might not be able to be met, especially in a smaller district.

SENIOR CIVIL ENGINEER FIJALKA: Very true. So that's why it's important to provide a reasonable estimate up front to avoid the sticker shock.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Okay. I have a quick question. If you take a look at the universe of the districts that have approved, was it by an overwhelming margin? Was it close? I mean, can you sort of draw? I'm just seeing where we could take ones that are on the cusp and put them into, maybe with some effort, make them sign up, or not make them sign up, but they vote to sign up.

SENIOR CIVIL ENGINEER FIJALKA: Are you suggesting something like campaigning or lobbying of the property owners?

MAYOR FRANKLIN: No, I mean, just what was the overall percentage? Was it 72%?

SENIOR CIVIL ENGINEER FIJALKA: District 4 in the South Hill section with 167 properties, I believe at the Prop 218 final ballot, it was about 74%. Districts 12 and 14 in El Porto were in the mid-60s. Keep in mind at that hearing, it's 50% plus one. It is not 66%, but potentially in the future, it could go to that.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Okay, got it. Thank you. Public comments? Ray?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes. I would love to have undergrounding. If you're looking at smaller districts, typically what you're supposed to be doing is where you can put

the tension lines for the poles. So there are logical places to cut into smaller districts because if you remove all the wires, then they have to put tension lines. So there's logical places to cut the lines to make it work. Majority of all my neighbors want undergrounding. It will improve safety. You don't have the transformers next to people's decks. It'll improve property values. It'll make life a lot simpler and easier. But I think if we choose logical ways of doing it where it makes sense to draw a line, then it'll work really well. But Yes, we're very, very excited that there's possibilities for this. And then the other suggestion I also have is when they're putting in the vents and other things, so they pick logical places to put them. For example, there was a property, I think it was 18th and Ocean where there's two vents in front of the property, a big mechanical box right in front of the walk street patio. And all this stuff's in front of this guy's house. And I've seen in other locations where somebody hasn't built out the vent right in the middle of the property. It doesn't block the current garage, but when you build down the road. But if you put the vents between property lines, then it's not going to interfere with anyone building or driveways or garages, things like that. But just maybe have the planning department put together some good rules for where they put in the undergrounding equipment. Thank you.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Thank you, Ray. Any other public comments from the chambers, online?

ASSISTANT CITY CLERK ALVAREZ: We have John Allen.

JOHN ALLEN: Hi there. Thanks once again for taking up a lot of the important initiatives affecting our community tonight. And thanks, my gosh, for staying so late into the evening. We appreciate it. So I am in the 1300 block of Voorhees. I heard Councilmember Steve Napolitano's comment. Thank you for that comment. I will let you know, as we talk to our neighbors here, the 12 homes and 16 parcels, 15 of which are in support, we took into account scale. So notwithstanding the survey, the official survey, we guided our neighbors towards the potential outcome for about \$20,000 more per parcel than what's included in the city's official survey. So please have that in your minds. There will not be sticker shock unless something is dramatically different. And then I'd also ask the council members to compare the support. 15 out of 16 parcels at 94%. Some of the individual numbers as I look at some of the attachments that were presented by Jeff Fijalka, who again has just been terrific in educating us in the process. As I look at some of the attachments, it occurs to me that 11 out of 12 homes is higher than the absolute number of homes in some of the west of Sepulveda. Areas, proposed districts. So we feel like dances

with wolves out here. And we're really looking for your support. Thank you so much, you guys. Have a good evening.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Thank you, sir. Anymore?

ASSISTANT CITY CLERK ALVAREZ: Gregory Young.

GREGORY YOUNG: Hi, I live at 1350 Voorhees, just down the street from where John is. And I guess I have two questions. One, when we met with Jeff, I don't remember whether we were talking about vents and talking about boxes, but not vents. And then my other real question had to do with, on this postcard we got in the mail, it says, you're gonna talk about the survey and then possibly changing, making changes to the existing program. Could somebody elaborate what that is, Jeff, or somebody? What are these changes you're talking about making from what you shared with us a month or two ago?

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Okay, I think...

ASSISTANT CITY CLERK ALVAREZ: We do have one more public comment.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Okay, so he'll have to get back to you on that. So next.

ASSISTANT CITY CLERK ALVAREZ: JT.

JOE TOUCH: Hi, Yes, my name is Joe Touch. I'm a 22-year resident of Manhattan Beach. I have to admit that I am astounded at the level of gerrymandering going on here, taking a survey and then creating boundaries post facto. I don't

appreciate the fact that every few years, this issue keeps coming up for my neighborhood in Manhattan Beach. And you keep changing the rules until you get the answer that you want. I hear what the city wants. I don't hear what the residents want all the time here. I know that there are pockets of people who do want it, but there's other pockets who don't. And having this question keep being asked and the percent needed to pass it keeps changing. It was originally two thirds, then it was dropped to 50 plus one. Then there were original boundaries that were set and the boundaries changed and were citizen-led. Now, all of a sudden, the boundaries are determined by the city clerk after the votes are passed. I've never seen that in my life before. I'd be very interested to hear what a lawyer has to say about all that. I don't approve of any of this. I don't appreciate the fact that one of the councilmembers who has a conflict of interest on this thinks that it's appropriate or that the city lawyer thinks it's appropriate that they allow themselves time with a microphone that I do not get. I only get two minutes. I think they should only get two minutes if that's the case. So I'm just really astounded with this whole process and not happy with it at all. Thank you.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Okay. Thank you. Any more?

ASSISTANT CITY CLERK ALVAREZ: There's no additional request.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Public comments are closed.

Colleagues, do we have a motion?

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: I have a motion. Your honor.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Yes, we have a motion to accept by Councilmember Richard Montgomery.

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: Yes, I have a comment along with that. Those of us that have institutional knowledge, I mean, everybody up here has institutional knowledge, but I follow Councilmember Napolitano 2005 to 2013, proponent of undergrounding, and the caller was correct. 2005 to 2013, we had a 50% plus one ratio to approve districts. And that went fine. And then the recession hit and the council behind it decided to lock it down to 2017. And we came in 2017 and uncuffed or revised, I should say, lifted the moratorium. And we had 40 different districts start up or 14 districts start up right behind us. So in order to make sure we understood it, let's start the premise here. The city doesn't start a district. The residents do. The residents vote yes, or no. Some districts fail. They don't get there because the resident owners don't want it. Some move forward. Edison decides the districts and sets out minimums, not the city. So make sure you get information and we have an FAQ on the website talks about that. Helping districts get formed, what we're doing now. If Edison sets a rule, I forgot, Jeff, what you said, 600 feet of a street

is the minimum for setting a district up, then Voorhees meets that requirement. And instead of piecing on them all every single time, we can do administrative, what Jeff's talking about. If districts are strong support like Voorhees does, they shouldn't need to come here every single time to do it moving forward. They have that much support. I've never seen one 94%. The 70s that we saw in District 4 up in the Hill section and the ones we saw in District 14 to 14A along El Porto, those are the ones that are the strongest ones. Construction are almost done, some of them, which is great. So remember the key things here. Residents vote. They move the process forward. They vote yes, or no. They pay for it, not the city. That's why I motioned the honor to do follow two things. Receive and file the results of the 2023 UAB survey. Direct staff to focus new district formation efforts in areas exhibiting the greatest amount of property owner support and allow subsets of potential districts to move forward if the surrounding blocks are not supportive of undergrounding. That's my motion, Your Honor.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: Yes, the one and only.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Okay, moving on.

CITY CLERK TAMURA: Motion passes, 5-0.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Sorry, moving on. AB 1234 reports.

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: I have a couple, Your Honor. I attended the National League of Cities Congressional Conference in D.C. That's where you get to talk to your Congress members. Thank Congress Member Liu for giving the city \$200,000 to help us with our future projects. Also our U.S. Senators. You can talk to our Senators what's going on with all the issues affecting us. Of course, I brought up not undergrounding. I brought up airport noise. FAA overflights by Hawthorne Airport, which is more and more flights every day. Once Santa Monica Airport closes down, we're going to get more of that. And SoFi Stadium and everything else we're doing. So they got an earful from us and all this stuff, but people got to hear all that. And then I got to run home and then got to go to Civic Planner Association up in Northern California, where we got to hear about, A, electrification results in the state of California. We're not going to meet our 2030 goals, folks, of having electrification for all electric cars. The demand is not there. Cal ISO wants to buy electrical rights out of state so we can provide electricity to our own people, our own resident businesses going forward. But we all saw what's going on in the future here. But just to shock anybody, we're not going to meet our goal of 2030 being self-sufficient, electrical going forward. But now I get to go home and rest for a few days.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Great.

MAYOR PRO TEM HOWORTH: Thank you.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Well, thank you. Any others? Anybody? No? Future agenda items. So I have one. No. So the Sandpipers have provided a donation in their name by benefactors in the amount of \$50,000 to the Community Scout House. And what? Okay. And so they are requesting some scheduling reservation privileges of no more than six sessions a year for the community scout house. For Sandpiper events during non-scout activities.

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: I'll second it. You're good.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Okay. Great. Thank you. And City Manager report.

CITY ATTORNEY BARROW: I was just saying that's only a two-step process because it comes back no staff times needed to the next meeting or whenever.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Okay.

CITY ATTORNEY BARROW: You can vote on it.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Okay, great. Thank you.

CITY MANAGER MOE: No report tonight. Thank you.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Thank you. Okay. City Attorney report?

CITY ATTORNEY: No report tonight.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Okay. Any informational items? And we are adjourning. We are adjourning. The meeting is adjourned to a closed session on Tuesday, April 2nd, 2024 at 5 p.m. in City Council Chambers. Thank you.