

**CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
PARKING AND PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 28, 2011**

A. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Manhattan Beach Parking and Public Improvements Commission was held on the 28th day of April, at the hour of 6:33 p.m., in the City Council Chambers of City Hall, 1400 Highland Avenue, in said City.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Stabile, Gross, Adami, Vigon, and Chairman Silverman

Absent: None.

Staff Present: Management Analyst Madrid, Sgt. Mason, and Recording Secretary Kennedy.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

04/28/11-1 March 24, 2011

The Parking and Public Improvements Commission minutes of March 24, 2011 were unanimously approved as written.

D. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (3-Minute Limit)

None.

E. GENERAL BUSINESS

04/28/11 -2 Presentation on South Bay Bicycle Master Plan

Management Analyst Madrid introduced Marissa Christiansen, South Bay Initiative Director for the Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition. Ms. Christiansen gave a presentation about the South Bay Bicycle Master Plan. She highlighted the objectives: engage community stakeholders, improve cycling safety, increase bike commuting, and improve community health. Accomplishments to date: hired consultant in October; completed several bike counts, workshops and received community input. The next phase will include a Draft Master Bike Plan which will be presented to the Parking and Public Improvements Commission to provide input and then to City Council for approval.

Chair Silverman asked if bicycle accidents are reported to the Police Department?; shared that he rides his bike to work and the lack of space on Highland Avenue is

troubling; suggested the Master Plan look at feasibility of “sharrows” and increased signage in order to change behavior.

Commissioner Adami asked why all the South Bay Cities were not included? And commented that bicycle accidents can be terribly scary.

Commissioner Vigon concluded Manhattan Beach does not have the resources or infrastructure for a large-scale bicycle plan; he commented that behavior will need to change and asked why the bike path on the beach is not utilized by commuters.

Commissioner Gross recognized the emphasis on commuting and explained the Vitality Cities Initiative has highlighted stress (due to long commutes) as a high negative in the beach cities. He suggested that Ms. Christiansen may want to focus on those who commute within the City.

Chair Silverman thanked Ms. Christiansen for the presentation and opened the discussion for public comment. There was none.

04/28/11 -3 Review of Proposed 2011-2012 Capital Improvement Plan

Chair Silverman introduced City Engineer Steve Finton who presented the Review of Proposed 2011-2012 Capital Improvement Plan.

City Engineer Finton encouraged Commissioners to ask questions and comment during his presentation.

Chair Silverman asked if the Begg Pool improvements were approved; if so, when would the improvements begin; inquired if the Facilities Strategic Plan was adopted and if so, why the City is moving in a different direction; commended Public Works for sending scopes into sewer pipes to examine viability; remarked that it is comforting to know many sewer pipes are in good shape; asked if pipes are replaced on a schedule or if replaced when they erupt; questioned if new jobs would be created through the CIP projects, and if preference is given to local contractors; inquired if the slurry seal project has thermal expansion issues or climate issues; asked for a definition of slurry; verified how the weakest road spots are repaired; asked for a definition of telemetry; clarified the communication between the water pump stations and the City Yard – remote monitoring; asked where pump stations are located and why there is a need for an increased number of fire hydrants; suggested that increasing the number of fire hydrants could impact parking; asked for clarification regarding CIP monies: who disperses and ensures that the monies goes where it should; confirmed there is a

reservoir near Peck Avenue; asked where the City gets water and if there have been problems with wet wells in the past.

Commissioner Gross asked for clarification regarding current/existing projects for CIP column in the staff report; remarked on the large amount of money for CIP projects; asked if it is typical to have a long period of time between approval and implementation of a project; inquired if the CIP goals are in priority order; are contractors bound by prevailing wages; asked if Los Angeles County is delaying the Strand stairs project, and if there are their multiple phases; commented that some of the Strand stairs are not in good shape; confirmed that the path under Sepulveda Boulevard bridge will not be affected by the bridge widening project; asked if the Rosecrans Avenue project is being done in conjunction with the City of El Segundo; inquired if the CIP money that is generated by Manhattan Beach tax payers is supplemented with additional funds from State or Federal sources; remarked that it is marvelous that Public Works was able to do spot repairs instead of replacing all of the sewer pipeline; asked if the 10% sewer pipe replacement rate will continue indefinitely; verified the reason the City is divided into seven districts for slurry seals; asked if anything is done to the street before slurry is applied; suggested making parking free after dusk and installing the pay machines instead of meters in the City parking lots; commended City Council for approving water and sewer infrastructure studies and asked where Manhattan Beach falls compared to other similar cities; asked how many cities have 20 year infrastructure plans; reported The Gas Company has been updating many of the gas lines in the city (with plastic); and asked if the Work Plan prioritizes money by year.

Commissioner Vigon asked how the street ratings were created; suggested rehabilitating the Strand stairs during the summer might not be the best option; commented that in Manhattan Beach pedestrians are squeezed out; relayed suggestions to increase pedestrian safety that included gardening and highlighting signage as well as reclaiming/recapturing pedestrian rights-of-way; concluded that when there is an unfortunate pedestrian accident the need for a more pedestrian friendly city will be visible; asked if it is possible to buy parking meter heads that are lit at night; commented he is intrigued by the hours of video that City has on the sewer system; and asked if Manhattan Beach ground water is contaminated by the defense industry and gas stations.

Commissioner Adami asked how Public Works advertises upcoming projects and if the City received any federal stimulus money; when are the deadlines for applying for federal stimulus money; suggested the City prioritize pedestrian friendly projects; recommended forcing newly constructed houses to add sidewalks; inquired how CIP

projects are defined and if there is a minimum or maximum dollar amount; asked if the latex/modified slurry seals are being used; asked what the life expectancy of parking meters are; agreed that the new parking meters are not visible at night; asked how old the pump stations are and what the control systems and monitoring systems are like and if the pumps could be solar powered; relayed an interaction with a City employee that was passionate about fixing the water pump; asked if the City monitors utility lines; stated that in an emergency the well and reservoir would be utilized; shared that the City's water, when compared to EPA standards, is alright; commented on the Northern California gas accident and asked if the City monitors the Gas Company; asked what is the highest Manhattan Beach elevation. Commissioner Adami also inquired as to the status of his CIP request to install a crosswalk on Manhattan Beach Boulevard at the south exit of the Target shopping center parking lot.

City Engineer Finton stated that he was not aware of the request and made note that it can be included in the comments from the PPIC to the City Council.

Commissioner Stabile asked if the City is capturing rain water and reusing it for landscaping purposes.

City Engineer Finton and Public Works Director Arndt responded to all of the Commissions questions and inquiries.

Chair Silverman thanked City Engineer Finton and Public Works Director Arndt for the presentation and opened the discussion for public comment. There was none.

F. COMMISSION ITEMS

Commissioner Stabile commented that over the past few months there have been an increased number of unleashed dogs on the Strand and asked that Sgt. Mason pass the information along to animal control.

Sgt. Mason confirmed that he would pass the information along.

Commissioner Gross asked Management Analyst Madrid for a preview of what is to come to the Commission in the next few months.

Management Analyst Madrid announced she will be going out on maternity leave at the end of July; there are three work plan items assigned to the Commission; some of the items will not come to the Commission until next year due to possible grant funding sources that will not be available until 2012; currently there are no items scheduled for

the May meeting; there may be an encroachment appeal in June; and the Draft Master Bike Plan will come before the Commission in July or August.

G. STAFF ITEMS

04/28/11 – 4 Monthly Revenue and Expenditure Report: Receive and File.

Received and filed.

Chair Silverman asked if anything the PPIC has recently voted on is going before City Council.

Management Analyst Madrid explained that the American Martyrs School Follow-Up Study that was presented to the Commission in March went to City Council as a consent item at the April 19, 2011 Meeting, which was approved by City Council. Staff has addressed Mr. Mondello's concerns regarding his request to remove the one-hour parking on the west side of Laurel Avenue with the School's consent. By eliminating the one-hour parking zone, the Principal of American Martyrs has agreed to continue to encourage parents to use the school parking structure for parking.

Commissioner Stabile requested clarification why left turns into the American Martyrs School on-site school loading zone for drop off and pick up have been prohibited.

Management Analyst Madrid explained the original recommendation from PPIC included a left turn prohibition from 15th Street into the loading zone as well as a left turn prohibition exiting the loading zone onto 15th Street. During installation of the signs, the City was contacted by School Administration requesting to eliminate the left turn prohibition from 15th Street into the loading zone. Then Traffic Engineer Erik Zandvliet accommodated the school's request, and implemented only the turn prohibition out of the loading zone. The staff report to City Council reflected those changes and was approved by City Council at the meeting.

Management Analyst Madrid addressed the question regarding the gate at 18th Street. The parish previously had a verbal agreement with the neighbors to keep the gate unlocked. To help the school deter vandalism, as previously shared at the meeting, and to accommodate the neighborhood, the School has begun locking the gate at 6:30 p.m. and opening it at 6:30 a.m. Staff will continue to work with the School in any other concerns are received from the residents.

Chair Silverman shared that American Martyrs neighbor; Sondra Elsky's concerns that were raised at the last meeting have still not been addressed.

Management Analyst Madrid stated that she will contact Ms. Jeanne Wood at American Martyrs Pre-school as well as Ms. Elsky to set up a meeting.

Commissioner Gross suggested the Commission look at the revenues and expenditures of all new parking meters and recommended City Council prioritize lots that generate higher revenue such as the lot near Bruce's Beach and the El Porto Lot.

Management Analyst Madrid concluded that she would follow up with the Finance Department regarding the parking meters.

H. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:22 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to the Thursday, May 26, 2011 Parking and Public Improvements Commission meeting.