

**CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
PARKING AND PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS COMMISSION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
June 9, 2011**

A. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Parking and Public Improvements Commission of the City of Manhattan Beach, California, was held on the 9th day of June, 2011, at the hour of 6:34 p.m., in the City Council Chambers of City Hall, 1400 Highland Avenue, in said City.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Vigon, Stabile, Adami, Fournier and Chair Silverman.
Absent: None.
Staff Present: Madrid, Rydell, Harrod and Curtin.
Clerk: Schilling.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 28, 2011

1. A motion was MADE and SECONDED (Stabile/Vigon) to approve the minutes of April 28, 2011 with the following amendments:

- Commissioner Stabile requested that under Staff items regarding American Martyrs needs to read have *not* been permitted.
- Commissioner Vigon asked that references made about him on the bottom of page 3 be reworded as the minutes do not reflect the complete thought he was trying to communicate and in addition would like noted that he stated;
 - Strand stair repairs be done in the Fall/Winter
 - He was not intrigued by the sewer
 - Ground water comment is out of context

Management Analyst Madrid stated that she would address these items.

D. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None.

E. GENERAL BUSINESS

2. Recognition of Commissioner Paul Gross

Chair Silverman presented a certificate of recognition to Paul Gross for sitting on the PPIC Commission from June 2007 – May 2011.

3. Recognition of Outgoing Chair Lester Silverman and Appointment of New Chair and Vice Chair

Management Analyst Madrid read a Staff Report acknowledging staffs appreciation of the fine accomplishments the commission achieved under the leadership of Chair Lester Silverman.

Management Analyst Madrid also announced the appointment of Commissioner Gary Stabile to Chair of the Parking and Public Improvement Commission and Commissioner Cyrus Adami as Vice Chair through May 2012.

Commissioner Stabile graciously accepted his role as Chair of the PPIC Commission and welcomed new Commissioner Stewart Fournier.

4. 2011 Federal Safe Routes to School Grant

Traffic Engineer Jack Rydell presented a power point overview of the Federal Safe Routes to School Grant and the impact the grant can have on the schools in Manhattan Beach, including grades Kindergarten – 8th. Traffic Engineer Rydell stated that District seven which encompasses both Ventura County and Los Angeles County, would be vying for approximately 1/3 of the total \$42 Million grant project funds, which is approximately \$14 Million. Applications are due by July 15, 2011.

Traffic Engineer Rydell explained that once the applications are received the District will rate all applications using a standardized evaluation form furnished by Caltrans Headquarters. The selected projects are prioritized and submitted by the District to Caltrans Headquarters who validate the District selections and compile a statewide list of selected projects for the Directors approval, at which point applicants are notified.

Traffic Engineer Rydell and Management Analyst Madrid conducted meetings in May, 2011 with the elementary and middle schools in the City of Manhattan Beach to determine which projects parents, principals and teachers would like to see selected and made certain that each project meets the criteria established under the Federal Safe Routes to School Grant. The administration and key school stakeholders at the following schools were interested in being included in the projects funded by the Federal Safe Routes to School Grant Application;

- American Martyrs School
- Grand View Elementary School
- Manhattan Beach Middle School
- Meadows Elementary School
- Robinson Elementary School
- Pacific Elementary School

Traffic Engineer Rydell and staff conducted follow up meetings at each school to evaluate conditions that prevented or hindered students from walking/bicycling to school and specific improvements were discussed. Many of the improvements at each school are very similar with the locations being different. Traffic Engineer Rydell went into detail regarding specific projects being considered at each of the schools who are participating in the application for grant funds.

Typical improvements for each school include;

- Radar speed feedback signs
- Curb extensions and center islands
- Flashing beacons on "Stop" signs
- Enhanced pedestrian pathway markings and separation
- Signage and markings
- Bike facilities

Traffic Engineer Rydell confirmed the preliminary construction cost estimates for the items identified for each school in total is approximately \$400,000. He remarked that the total grant request will also include 10% for the non-infrastructure activities, funding for right-of-way and utility evaluations, design activities, construction engineering and contingencies. A rough estimate of the total grant request is \$600,000.

Traffic Engineer Rydell went on to explain that new to the grant program this year is the ability to include a request for funding up to 10% for non-infrastructure projects such as education, encouragement and enforcement activities. This will include an education outreach to the children, activities geared to encourage students to participate in a walking bus, ride their bike, etc. as well as neighborhood speed watch and patrol schedules. Traffic Engineer Rydell and Staff have already met with Manhattan Beach Police Department to identify their education and enforcement efforts around the schools.

Traffic Engineer Rydell mentioned that the Safe Routes to School program is unique in its overriding emphasis on community participation in the development and implementation of a project. He stated that successful projects are those that clearly demonstrate how the project involved the community and how the project will incorporate the five E's; Education, Encouragement, Enforcement, Engineering and Evaluation.

During this presentation there were several questions asked by Commissioners and addressed by the Traffic Engineer.

Commissioner Stabile noted the absence of Pennekamp on the list of schools presented and asked why. Traffic Engineer Rydell responded that Pennekamp was approached by staff but the principal declined to get involved stating that they did not have the resources to man a project at this time.

Commissioner Adami asked if all the monies were distributed among the schools. Traffic Engineer Rydell said that the money was distributed on a need basis. When meeting with the schools he said that he was able to address the options viable for each school, Management Analyst Madrid was able to provide the cities perspective on each option and the City Engineer was involved in the process as well.

Traffic Engineer Rydell also mentioned that although the schools were in favor of the installation of in-roadway warning lights at a few crosswalk locations, there still needs to be some policy discussions on locations for such treatments, and that he will include in-roadway warning lights in the next grant application, if applicable.

Commissioner Adami asked if all the schools were notified of tonight's PPIC meeting. Management Analyst Madrid assured him that they were.

Commissioner Vigon asked if notifying was done around the areas adjacent to schools. Traffic Engineer Rydell replied that residents/business around the schools were not notified as there were no controversial items being discussed.

Commissioner Adami asked if the PTA at each school was notified. Management Analyst Madrid explained that each principal was notified and they in turn were responsible for contacting their PTA groups.

Commissioner Vigon inquired about the size of the radar feedback signs. In response Traffic Engineer Rydell said that there are several different sizes. He also mentioned that these signs would be moved around to continually engage the driver. Commissioner Vigon would like residents notified if the use of these machines comes to fruition.

Commissioner Fournier asked for clarification regarding these items as recommendations only at this point for proposed grant application.

Commissioner Adami asked if there was any consideration given to addressing safety issues concerning the alleys around Meadows Elementary School. Traffic Engineer Rydell explained that the items addressed in the application were brought forth by the stakeholders and that it is not for staff to determine which projects are funded by the grant. Chair Stabile suggested that Commissioner Adami address his concerns about the alley with the PTA at Meadows. Commissioner Vigon feels that Commissioner Adami's concerns about the alley be considered since he is a resident and therefore a stakeholder.

Chair Stabile asked if there was any partnership with the South Bay Bicycle Coalition and the Bike Master Pan throughout the South Bay region. Traffic

Engineer Rydell confirmed his commitment to working with the coalition within the parameters of the grant.

Commissioner Silverman having not seen a presentation for this particular grant before asked several questions; “what are the chances of us getting the funds applied for”, and with the amount of time invested in this grant application among staff and stakeholders is it worth pursuing?” Traffic Engineer Rydell replied that there is always a chance that we may not be selected as a recipient of these funds however in his seven year history of writing grants he has not failed to get funds. He also noted that the City of Manhattan Beach schools are very vested and knowledgeable about walking routes and this will prove to be helpful in the application process.

Commissioner Adami expressed his gratitude for Traffic Engineer’s expertise in the area of grant writing and was happy to see that he is committed to walking/bicycle routes. Commissioner Adami also suggested that traffic engineer Rydell seek the support of the Manhattan Beach Education Foundation.

Commissioner Adami stated that a bike path through Polliwog Park would be great as there is so much activity at the site; sports, play dates, etc.

Commissioner Fournier thanked staff and Traffic Engineer for all their hard work but noted that these projects include a lot of signage and was concerned about the anticipated reaction to all of this from the community. Traffic Engineer Rydell reiterated that there is little about the proposed projects that are controversial, that the electronic radar signs much smaller now, and that he would continue to investigate different types of equipment. He also mentioned that none of the proposed bulb outs would eliminate any existing parking spaces. Commissioner Fournier mentioned that he was concerned about the number of signs proposed. Traffic Engineer Rydell stated that there are only seven signs proposed so far and this number could be reduced as they continue to work with the City engineer.

Traffic Engineer Rydell also explained that all of the participating schools sent our surveys to parents to provide input on the traffic improvements.

Chair Stabile asked for a definition of a walking school bus and received a full explanation from traffic engineer Rydell who also referred the commissioner to page 2 of 10 in the staff report.

Commissioner Silverman asked what the average amount of grants awarded? Traffic Engineer Rydell responded that the average amount awarded between \$200,000 - \$300,000.

Commissioner Adami shared that the Governor is interested in pursuing funds to improved infrastructure because it creates jobs.

Chair Stabile questioned why they haven't seen this grant before. Management Analyst Madrid stated that the only grant she was aware of was the State Safe Routes to School Grant that the City was awarded in 2009, which the City's previous Traffic Engineer, Erik Zandvliet worked on with City Engineering staff.

Audience Participation

Chair Stabile opened the item to public comment at 7:50 p.m. The Following persons spoke on this item:

Marty Friedman, 24th Street & Vista, voiced his safety concerns regarding the intersections on Vista and 29th, 30th and 31st. He would like to see stop signs at these intersections not just yield signs. He feels that these intersections pose a real hazard to pedestrians, too much foliage, and blind intersections.

Becky Bruhns, PTA Representative for Grand View was in agreement with Mr. Friedman's concerns and assured the commission that the Traffic Engineer has the schools full support, and that she has been very involved in the grant process with City Staff.

Commissioner Silverman asked about the status of the crosswalk at Highland Avenue/26th Street, and Ms. Bruhns felt it was a tremendous asset to those students walking/biking to and from school.

Chair Stabile closed audience participation at 7:54 p.m.

Discussion

There was a brief discussion among the Commissioners regarding the Federal Safe Routes to School Grant application.

Commissioner Adami shared his thoughts on the project and felt that it was an excellent idea to install a bike path through the park. He thought it was important to note that the PTA's support the proposed projects and suggested that a letter from the principal be included with the application.

Commissioner Vigon felt that pedestrian safety was paramount along with a program to enforce and reclaim pedestrian right of way in the City. He would like to see residents remove overgrown vegetation on their property that inhibits visibility at intersections and pedestrian right of ways. Commissioner Vigon also doesn't think that pedestrians should have to fight cars and trucks in order to cross Highland Avenue – but understands that these are all costly ventures. He expressed that he is glad to see these items brought forward tonight and supports it.

Commissioner Stabile expressed his concerns about Pennekamp's absence. Commissioner Adami suggested that they contact MBUSD to get Pennekamp involved.

Management Analyst Madrid said the principal of Pennekamp didn't feel like he had enough parent support to pursue the projects but said she would follow up with the school district.

Action

A motion was MADE and SECONDED (Vigon/Silverman) to proceed with the Federal Safe Route to School Grant Application.

AYES: Silverman, Vigon, Fournier, Adami and Chair Stabile.
NOES: None.
ABSENT: None.
ABSTAIN: None.

F. COMMISSION ITEMS

1. Commissioner Silverman questioned Council's decision to put parking meters on Park View because he seldom sees cars parked there.

Commissioner Vigon stated that it was an opportunity to raise revenue. Management Analyst Madrid stated that it was a Work Plan item.

A brief discussion followed among the commissioners with Commissioner Adami asking if any revenue has been realized by the City from these meters. He stated that he seldom sees any cars there.

Commissioner Silverman questioned why parking was eliminated in the sloped areas, which are now all No Parking Anytime zones, and if those areas can allow parking after 6:00 p.m.

The consensus of commissioners was that parking meters on Park View warrant a second look.

Management Analyst Madrid said an analysis of the installation of meters in this area will be performed towards the beginning of next year, and that the findings will be reported to Council. She also stated that she would include Commissioner Silverman's request in the PPIC Action Minutes to City Council.

2. Commissioner Adami asked for a status update on the crosswalk at Manhattan Beach Boulevard at the Target exit. Management Analyst Madrid will follow-up on this item with the Public Works Department.

3. Commissioner Vigon would like to see the area at the intersection of Manhattan Beach Boulevard and Valley/Ardmore landscaped. He stated that there are wood chips there at the moment but there are also sprinklers installed.

Management Analyst Clay Curtin responded to the question stating that due to budget cuts, the City is now spending \$500,000 per year on landscaping as opposed to the \$1 Million they previously budgeted for annually.

Chair Stabile suggested that this might be an opportunity for a community project.

Management Analyst Curtin shared that Deep Roots Nursery on Sepulveda Boulevard is taking donations to beautify the City landscape and have independently improved the green belt area.

G. STAFF ITEMS

1. Management Analyst Madrid introduced Management Analyst Clay Curtin to the commission announcing that he would be taking her place while she is on maternity leave.

2. Commissioner Adami asked about lights on the parking meters so that patrons could see what the balance of time was left on the meter.

Management Analyst Madrid will follow up with Public Works on this item.

3. Management Analyst Madrid said that she had contacted Jeanne Wood at American Martyrs Pre-school and Ms. Sondra Elsky regarding their concerns that were raised during the follow-up study. Management Analyst Madrid has not received a response back from either party.

4. Management Analyst Madrid presented a flyer to the commissioners inviting them to attend the Bike Master Plan meeting coming up at Joslyn Auditorium on June 20th. She also stated that the item would come before the PPIC Commission before going to the City Council.

H. ADJOURNMENT

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m. to the Regular PPIC Meeting on Thursday, June 23, 2011, at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers of City Hall, 1400 Highland Avenue, in said City.