

**CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
PARKING AND PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS COMMISSION
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
March 27, 2014**

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 27th day of March 2014, at the hour of 6:30 p.m., in the City Council Chambers of City Hall, 1400 Highland Avenue, in said City.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Fournier, Adami and Lipps.
Absent: Stabile and Nicholson.
Staff Present: Traffic Engineer Zandvliet, Management Analyst Madrid.
Clerk: Kozak.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

03/27/14-1 February 27th, 2014

Commissioner Lipps corrected Page 4, **Commission Discussion**, 1st paragraph, second line of the February 27, 2014 Parking and Public Improvements Commission minutes to read, "**whether to add a ladder style crosswalk**" or to clear away the foliage for better visibility.

MOTION: Commissioner Adami moved to approve the Parking and Public Improvements Commission minutes of February 27, 2014 as amended. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lipps and passed by unanimous voice vote.

D. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None

E. GENERAL BUSINESS

03/27/14-2 Consider the Removal of Parking on the East Side of Sepulveda Boulevard between Tennyson Street and Longfellow Drive

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet gave a presentation and recommended that the Commission pass a motion to remove parking on the east side of Sepulveda Boulevard between Tennyson Street and Longfellow Drive.

Commissioner Lipps thought the cars parked there may act as a buffer to protect the cars coming out of the driveway or the street. He asked what the difference is at

this location compared to other sections of Sepulveda Boulevard where the cars are speeding along. He said it seems that all of Sepulveda Boulevard has the same issue.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet stated that because of the visibility issue and the amount of accidents that have occurred at this segment of Sepulveda Boulevard, this is the reason Staff is recommending the removal of parking.

Commissioner Adami inquired about the severity of the accidents.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet responded that there had been injuries and damage resulting in more than \$5000.00 to the vehicles involved. He stated that in the Manhattan Beach stretch of Sepulveda Boulevard the number of accidents reported was about the same going North and South.

Commissioner Adami asked if the Commissioners approved the removal of the parking, what the next step is.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet explained it would have to go before the City Council for final action and then would be forwarded to Caltrans.

Chair Fournier asked if there was any other public opinion in regards to this issue, he said he thought this issue was brought to the Commission because of one citizen's concern.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet stated there was more than one resident that had concerns about the area in question and requested Sergeant Vargas to comment on the issue.

Sergeant Vargas explained that at the location there have been several traffic collisions because of the limited visibility at that curve. He stated there was a fatality at the location as well as another traffic collision the night before. He said in speaking with the traffic officers, there have been several cars that have been rear ended at that location because of drivers being unaware to what is ahead of them.

Chair Fournier then opened the Audience Participation.

Audience Participation

Robert Udovich, 500 Sepulveda Boulevard, Business Owner of Brooklyn Pizza, presented a petition to keep the street parking signed by all of the tenants of the 500 Sepulveda Boulevard building and said the businesses need the parking on Sepulveda Boulevard because that building is 25 spaces short of what is required. He said that the landlord had paid to get a variance for the parking lot and now the City wants to take away 26 more public parking spaces on Sepulveda Boulevard.

Mr. Udovich stated that the parked cars are not the problem but the lack of signage is. He explained there should be a speed limit sign, a sign that notifies drivers that there are parked cars ahead and that there is a driveway ahead. He asked the

Commissioners not to remove the street parking in front of the 500 Sepulveda Boulevard building.

Bob Larson, Manhattan Beach Resident, stated that the only vehicle parked along that stretch of Sepulveda Boulevard is for advertisement purposes. He asked the Commissioners to approve the removal of parking at that location.

Chair Fournier closed the Audience Participation.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Lipps thought it was a tough issue because everyone is in a hurry to get home, but on the other hand the parked car acts like a buffer and may slow down the traffic. He said he didn't really think about the street signage until he saw that on the other side of Sepulveda Boulevard going south there was a large yellow caution sign stating parked cars. He said to his knowledge there weren't any traffic accidents reported at that location.

Commissioner Lipps and Chair Fournier asked why the property owner would have asked for a variance for less parking.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet explained that some businesses are required by the City to have more parking spaces. He said the Planning Commission may have required more parking spaces years ago but when the current businesses in the building no longer required as many parking spaces the property owner applied for a variance and it was granted.

Commissioner Adami stated that Traffic Engineer Zandvliet and the Police agree that the parking should be removed at the location. Commissioner Adami asked why there wasn't a speed limit sign.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet said there was a speed limit sign at the location but recently Cal Trans had done some maintenance in the area and had not put the sign back where it had been. He stated that Staff would follow-up with Caltrans to have the sign replaced.

Chair Fournier stated that he opposes removing parking on Sepulveda Boulevard. He felt it would be bad for the businesses and it might be hard to get the parking back if it was needed. He said making a decision like this could be catastrophic to the development of commerce on Sepulveda Boulevard. He explained that accident prevention could be put in place by slowing the traffic down along that stretch and thinks more research should be done.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet explained that there are other alternatives for parking along Sepulveda Boulevard if needed in the future.

MOTION: Commissioner Adami made a motion to accept the Staff Recommendation to remove parking on the East Side of Sepulveda Boulevard between Tennyson Street and Longfellow Drive, replace the speed limit sign with the addition of

signs to calm traffic through the street segment. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Lipps. The motion passed with the following roll call vote.

Ayes: Adami and Lipps.
Noes: Chair Fournier.
Abstain: None.
Absent: Nicholson and Stabile.

F. COMMISSION ITEMS

03/27/14-3 Commissioner Items

Steve Charelian, Revenue Services Manager gave a presentation on the new technology parking meters, parking meter revenues and information about citations and administrative review process.

The Commission asked clarification questions regarding parking meter administrative fees, maintenance, citations and the City's investment portfolio.

Revenue Services Manager Charelian responded to the Commission's inquiries with assistance from Henry Mitzner, the City Controller, and Sgt. Chris Vargas, Parking and Animal Control Supervisor.

G. STAFF ITEMS

03/27/14-4 Monthly Revenue and Expenditure Reports: Receive and File.

Received and Filed.

03/27/14-5 Staff Follow-up Items

Management Analyst Madrid reported that the next PPIC Meeting in April will be held at the Police/Fire Community Room.

H. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at **8:10 p.m.** to the regular Parking and Public Improvements Commission Meeting on Thursday, March 27th, 2014, in the City Council Chambers of City Hall, 1400 Highland Avenue, in said City.