

**CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
PARKING AND PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS COMMISSION
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
July 25, 2019**

F. GENERAL BUSINESS

07/25/19-5 Consider a Request for a Crossing Guard at Blanche Road and 27th Street

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet summarized the request from Grandview Elementary School for an adult crossing guard at the intersection of Blanche Road and 27th Street. He explained the results of the traffic and pedestrian studies and compared them against the State warrants for crossing guards. He said that the minimum pedestrian volumes are met, but the traffic volume threshold is not met. He said that the City uses a ranking criteria to assign crossing guards to the highest exposure locations. He said that the Commission can recommend a new crossing guard, which will cost \$150,000 per year, or recommend reassigning an existing guard from a location that has a low ranking, if funds are limited. He added that approval for a crossing guard would have to be approved by City Council, so it would not likely to occur before beginning of next school year.

Chair Longhurst asked that if the City stays within its current budget, a school crossing guard would be reassigned from the intersection of Valley Drive and Francisco Street. **Traffic Engineer Zandvliet** confirmed that this location has the lowest ranking for reassignment.

Chair Longhurst opened Audience Participation (3-Minute Limit).

Sara Sheahan, a PTA member, said she initiated the request and lives at the intersection. She explained that people don't really stop at stop signs which exposes kids to unsafe crossings. She said that more parents would allow their kids to walk or bike to school but don't because they know drivers are not stopping.

Commissioner Franklin asked about the walking route that students take to school. **Ms. Sheahan** explained that the students walk along 27th Street, which is designated as the school route, and enter the school at the 24th Place alley on Bell Avenue.

Chair Longhurst asked Ms. Sheahan if the school still does a walking school bus. Ms. Sheahan said they do not, but confirmed that they do promote "Walk to School Wednesdays". Discussion followed about current and future student growth.

Commissioner Murillo asked about getting volunteers to be crossing guards. **Traffic Engineer Zandvliet** responded that the City's crossing guards are trained and managed by a company contracted by the City. Untrained volunteers would be an added liability to the City.

Commissioner Franklin said he was concerned about taking a crossing guard from Valley Drive and Francisco Street. He noted that it is a hard crossing to see and vehicles fly by. **Traffic Engineer Zandvliet** explained that there are new flashing beacons have been installed and the pedestrian volume is very low. Most parents prefer to their kids walk to 2nd Street where there is a crossing guard.

Discussion followed regarding the value of relocating a crossing guard versus adding a new crossing guard to the budget. The Commissioners reviewed the Crossing Guard Evaluation list.

Commissioner Paraluz stated she was in favor of assigning a crossing guard at the requested intersection and supported adding \$15000 to the budget to add new crossing guard. She said safety is paramount and a crossing guard is more effective than a stop sign. She also supported painting a new school crosswalk on the west leg of 27th Street at Blanche Road.

Commissioner Delk voiced his support of a crossing guard and said he was all in favor of safety. He said he was in favor of moving existing crossing guard to that intersection.

Commissioner Murillo asked where the crossing guard funds are budgeted. **Traffic Engineer Zandvliet** explained that it is in the Police Department contract services budget and funded with general funds. Mr. Murillo agreed to request the additional \$15,000 in general funds.

Motion: **Commissioner Paraluz** made a motion in 2 parts: 1) to recommend that the City Council authorize a crossing guard Blanche Road at 27th Street and to paint a new school crosswalk on the west leg of 27th Street at Blanche Road, and 2) and that City Council authorize \$15,000 in additional funding for crossing guard. In lieu of increasing the crossing guard budget, the motion would be to reassign an existing crossing guard from Valley Drive at Francisco Street to Blanche Road and 27th Street. **Commissioner Murillo** seconded the motion.

AYES:	Franklin, Longhurst, Delk, Murillo, Chair Paralusz
NOES:	None
ABSTAIN:	None