

MINUTES
MALIBU PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 5, 2020
MULTIPURPOSE ROOM
5:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Stewart called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The following persons were recorded in attendance by the Recording Secretary:

PRESENT: Chair Chris Frost (arrived at 5:46 p.m.); Vice Chair Doug Stewart; and Commissioners Keegan Gibbs, Fred Roberts, and Dale Skophammer

ALSO PRESENT: Susan Dueñas, Public Safety Manager; Jerry Vandermeulen, Fire Safety Liaison; Rob DuBoux, Public Works Director; Arthur Aladjajian, Public Works Superintendent; Sarah Kaplan, Public Safety Specialist; Sergeant James Braden, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; and Mary Linden, Executive Assistant

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Scott Tallal led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION Commissioner Gibbs moved and Commissioner Roberts seconded a motion to approve the agenda. The motion carried 4-0, Chair Frost absent.

REPORT ON POSTING OF AGENDA

Executive Assistant Linden reported that the agenda for the meeting was properly posted on January 30, 2020

ITEM 1.A. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Carol Randall suggested asking Caltrans to paint the speed limit in the traffic lanes on Pacific Coast Highway (PCH). She stated it would be especially helpful for visitors since speed limit signs were far apart.

Scott Dittrich agreed with Ms. Randall's suggestion. He discussed the town hall meeting with California Insurance Commissioner Lara. He stated Commissioner Lara had declared he wanted all Californians to be fire-safe. He discussed the importance of convincing all Malibu residents that they needed to have their homes inspected for fire safety.

Alan Armstrong discussed the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) beach access. He suggested any public input be turned in to Planning Director Bonnie Blue by tomorrow. He discussed the Las Flores Canyon Road left turn signal. He discussed homeless camping west of the restroom structure at Dan Blocker Beach. He asked what the procedure was for reporting people camping there after dark when the beach was closed.

ITEM 1.B. STAFF UPDATES

Public Safety Manager Dueñas announced that at its January 29, 2020 Special meeting, the City Council directed staff to identify a location for safe parking and bridge housing. She stated safe parking helped Los Angeles County receive approval for its no parking ordinance. In response to Vice Chair Stewart, Public Safety Manager Dueñas clarified it was the Safe Parking Program.

In response to Commissioner Skophammer, Public Safety Manager Dueñas explained how the Safe Parking Program would allow the City to enforce its no camping ordinance.

Public Safety Manager Dueñas announced the next Homelessness Working Group meeting next Thursday, February 13, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. She stated the City was producing a Malibu Survival Guide based on the Los Angeles County Survival Guide. In response to Vice Chair Stewart, Public Safety Manager Dueñas explained how the guides would be distributed.

Fire Safety Liaison Vandermeulen stated he was continuing to work on establishing a volunteer group to assist with the Home Ignition Zone Assessment program. He discussed possible methods for promoting the program. He discussed blue reflective hydrant dots he had installed throughout the City. He announced the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) stakeholder meetings on Thursday, February 20, and Saturday, February 22, 2020. He stated the consultant would display maps, provide presentations, and take public comment. He stated a CWPP online survey would be available soon. He stated the City was also included in the Santa Monica Mountains CWPP, but this plan would cover only Malibu. He stated additional resources were available at www.MalibuCity.org/FireSafety.

Public Safety Manager Dueñas stated the latest CERT class would be ending this Saturday with approximately 30 students graduating.

In response to Mr. Dittrich, Public Works Director DuBoux stated he discussed with Caltrans the suggestion about a left turn only signal at Las Flores Creek Road. He stated the City Manager, he and other staff were meeting with Caltrans directors at the end of February. He discussed a recent sinkhole on Civic Center Way. He stated a temporary fix was completed and a project was currently out to bid for a permanent fix. In response to

Ms. Randall, he stated he would discuss with Caltrans her suggestion to paint the speed limits on traffic lanes.

5:28 pm

ITEM 1.C. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Skophammer discussed a resident's request at a previous meeting to improve safety for turns from Harbor Vista Drive onto Malibu Canyon Road. Public Works Director DuBoux stated staff were considering various possible remedies, including installing "Keep Clear" pavement legend markings on traffic lanes. He discussed the Civic Center Way Improvements Project and its impacts on Malibu Canyon Road traffic. Commissioner Skophammer stated the greater problem was constant fast traffic on Malibu Canyon Road.

Public Works Superintendent Aladjajian discussed projects that could affect exits from Harbor Vista Drive. Public Works Director DuBoux stated changing traffic patterns or signals would require additional traffic analysis, which was not currently in the City work plan.

In response to Commissioner Gibbs, Mr. Dittrich stated approximately 30 residents in his homeowners association had requested home fire assessments. Commissioner Gibbs discussed signals at PCH intersections with Las Flores Creek Road and Rambla Pacifico. In response to Commissioner Gibbs, Public Works Director DuBoux stated the Commission's recommendation regarding speed bumps in Point Dume would go to the City Council in March. Commissioner Gibbs commended Public Safety Manager Dueñas for her presentation at the City Council Special Meeting.

In response to Commissioner Roberts, Public Safety Manager Dueñas stated an unofficial total from the recent homelessness count was over 170. She stated the County would apply an algorithm to determine the final count, which she expected to rise to over 250. She stated the special teams that counted homeless individuals in the brush found only two camps. Commissioner Roberts stated that seemed inaccurate based on 56 camps identified in the 2019 count.

Commissioner Skophammer discussed his participation in the homeless count.

Vice Chair Stewart stated he and Commissioner Gibbs met with the editor of The Malibu Times about publishing a small editorial piece once per month in the paper. He stated after 60 days, the articles would be repeated on social media. He distributed a list of potential newsletter topics, as well as a draft article. He stated they hoped to have the first article published in March. He discussed potential future articles to be authored by the Sheriff's Department, CERT and Volunteers on Patrol (VOP). He discussed an article in the Los Angeles Times about homelessness in Malibu. He stated he attended the Disaster Council

meeting last week and spoke as a resident. He discussed the status of Malibu Towing. He discussed a roundtable to discuss how to improve parking. He discussed a comment made at the Planning Commission stating attendance at the new Malibu Elementary School was far less than previously expected. He stated the Lifeguards reported six million beach visitors in 2019.

ITEM 2 CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION Commissioner Gibbs moved and Commissioner Roberts seconded a motion to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion carried 4-0, Chair Frost absent.

The Consent Calendar consisted of the following items:

A. Previously Discussed Items

None.

B. New Items

1. Approval of Minutes – January 8, 2020

Staff recommendation: Approve minutes of the Public Safety Commission Adjourned Regular meeting of January 8, 2020.

ITEM 3 OLD BUSINESS

None.

ITEM 4 NEW BUSINESS

A. Agreement with California Highway Patrol (CHP) for Traffic Control Services During Emergency and Public Safety Power Shutoff Situations

Recommended Action: Provide a recommendation to the City Council regarding a proposed agreement with the California Highway Patrol (CHP) for traffic control services during emergency and Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) situations.

Public Safety Manager Dueñas presented the report. She explained a short-term contract was needed to cover the City until a long-term agreement could be finalized, which could take several months.

Lloyd Ahern recommended having CHP come to the Las Tunas Beach area to observe traffic on a weekday morning. He expressed concern about that evacuation traffic if a fire broke out in Topanga Canyon during rush hour. He stated that would present the worst-case scenario with many people evacuating both Topanga and Malibu. He stated the CHP agreement should be fast-tracked. He agreed with Ms. Randall's suggestion about painting speed limits on the highway. He added it should be fluorescent paint.

Chair Frost arrived at 5:46 p.m.

Scott Dittrich stated he used to see CHP all the time, but they no longer patrolled on PCH. He suggested the evacuation plan recommend that people be directed to go west. He discussed traffic backups on Las Flores Canyon in the 1993 fire. He stated people had to abandon their cars.

Commissioner Roberts stated many people who were caught in traffic in 1993 had waited too long to leave.

Chair Randall stated this morning's traffic was like a dry run for a disaster evacuation. She stated the bottleneck was caused by construction in Pacific Palisades. She stated some drivers were using the median. She stated the Sheriff's Department, CHP and Santa Monica Police Department needed to coordinate with one another.

Commissioner Skophammer asked if there was an agreement with CHP, could the City have them execute its evacuation plan. Public Safety Manager Dueñas stated CHP would follow instructions coming out of Unified Command.

In response to Commissioner Skophammer, Public Safety Manager Dueñas stated the short-term contract could not be changed.

Public Works Director DuBoux stated the City would not be instructing the CHP what to do.

In response to Vice Chair Stewart, Public Safety Manager Dueñas stated it was unknown at this time how many CHP officers would be available to the City under the terms of the agreement. Vice Chair Stewart stated identifying the number of resources was critical. He discussed various options in the Draft Mass Evacuation Plan. He discussed the need for providing traffic control and modifying the traffic signals. He stated communication to the public was key.

Chair Frost stated communication between agencies was the most important factor.

MOTION Commissioner Gibbs moved and Commissioner Roberts seconded a motion to provide a recommendation to the City Council to enter into an agreement with the California Highway Patrol (CHP) for traffic control services during emergency and Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) situations. The motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 1.C. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS (continued)

Chair Frost discussed a Palo Alto fireman walking from Palo Alto to San Diego to raise awareness of suicides among first responders and veterans. He stated statistics

showed one first responder died from suicide every three days and 22 veterans every day.

B. Public Safety Agency Activity

Recommended Action: Discuss recent Public Safety Agency activities and receive and file monthly activity reports from the County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, Fire Department and Lifeguards.

Sergeant Braden agreed with Vice Chair Stewart about the value of educating the public about how to prevent thefts from vehicles near the beach. Vice Chair Stewart displayed a lock box that surfers could use to secure their keys. Chair Frost stated the same problem occurred at trailheads.

Sergeant Braden discussed how valuable CHP could be early in a disaster situation when Sheriff's personnel were involved in lifesaving efforts. Commissioner Skophammer stated he hoped the CHP would follow the City's evacuation plan and traffic management plan. Sergeant Braden stated CHP officers could flip the switch to change traffic signal timing.

Public Works Director DuBoux discussed how the City's signal synchronization project would assist with traffic management in an emergency.

Public Safety Manager Dueñas stated CHP was a member of the Malibu Disaster Council. She stated that allowed CHP input into the evacuation plan.

Sergeant Braden stated he attended a Topanga Emergency Disaster Task Force event. He stated the State of California was considering funding microsolar projects to provide emergency backup power. He stated it would first address individuals with medical needs for electricity. He stated it could also provide power to signals on Topanga Canyon Boulevard.

Commissioner Skophammer discussed difficulty comparing crime statistics with arrest statistics in the Sheriff's report. Sergeant Braden discussed how deputies made observation arrests. Sergeant Braden stated some arrests could not be traced back to a specific reported crime. Commissioner Skophammer stated the descriptions in the statistical reports did not correlate with one another. Sergeant Braden stated the crime analysis statistics were listed in categories used nationwide. Public Safety Manager Dueñas stated correlating the data would have to be done manually, which would be very time consuming. Commissioner Skophammer stated having someone manually compile that information may be necessary for the Commissioners to evaluate the Sheriff's Department.

Vice Chair Stewart stated Malibu was a low crime city. Commissioner Skophammer stated even small crime statistics needed to be evaluated.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION At 6:27 p.m., Commissioner Gibbs moved and Commissioner Roberts seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

Approved and adopted by the Public Safety Commission of the City of Malibu on March 4, 2020.



CHRIS FROST, Chair

ATTEST:



MARY LINDEN, Executive Assistant