

MINUTES
MALIBU PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION
JOINT SPECIAL MEETING
MARCH 11, 2021
TELECONFERENCED – VARIOUS LOCATIONS
5:00 P.M.

The following meeting was held pursuant to the Governor’s Executive Orders N-25-20 and N-29-20 and fully teleconferenced from various locations during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

CALL TO ORDER

Public Works Commission Chair Merrick called the meeting to order at 5:12 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

PRESENT: Public Works Commission Chair Brian Merrick; Vice Chair Lance Simmens (arrived at 5:13 p.m.); and Commissioners Scott Dittrich, Wade Major, and James Palmer; and Public Safety Commission Chair Chris Frost; Vice Chair Doug Stewart; Commissioners Daphne Anneet, Keegan Gibbs, and Joshua Spiegel; and Public Safety Commission Ex Officio Member Brent Woodworth

ALSO PRESENT: Rob DuBoux, Public Works Director; Travis Hart, Public Works Superintendent; Arthur Aladjajian, Public Works Superintendent; Susan Dueñas, Public Safety Manager; Sarah Kaplan, Public Safety Specialist; Brandie Ayala, Senior Administrative Assistant; and Mary Linden, Executive Assistant

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Public Safety Commissioner Spiegel led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION Public Safety Commissioner Gibbs moved and Public Works Commissioner Dittrich seconded a motion to approve the agenda. The question was called and the motion carried unanimously.

REPORT ON POSTING OF AGENDA

Senior Administrative Assistant Ayala reported that the agenda for the meeting was properly posted on March 5, 2021.

ITEM 1.A. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Scott Jacobs asked for an update on if speed humps would be added on Birdview Avenue and if not, how residents could get that going. He stated the difference in

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traffic between Birdview Avenue and Dume Drive was significant. He stated petitions had been submitted and he had talked about it at the City Council meeting. He stated residents hoped to see it completed before summer.

ITEM 1.B. STAFF UPDATES

Public Works Director DuBoux stated he was requesting speed humps on Birdview Avenue be included in the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 budget. He stated staff was waiting for direction from the Council on funding. He stated the plan was to have the project design done in the spring and go out to bid in June or July for construction in the summer. He reported that Caltrans indicated it had upgraded all the traffic signals on Pacific Coast Highway (PCH) and replaced the backup batteries. He stated the signals at the PCH intersections at Cross Creek Road, Webb Way, Malibu Canyon Road and John Tyler Drive did not operate correctly during the last power outage. He stated Caltrans checked found the converters were not charging batteries properly. He stated the City requested every controller be checked, and Caltrans confirmed corrections were made and all the signals should now be working properly.

Public Works Superintendent Hart introduced himself to the new Commissioners. He discussed a fatal traffic collision that occurred just before 3:00 a.m. today. He stated PCH had been closed for the Sheriff's investigation, and the closure was lifted before 10:00 a.m.

Public Safety Manager Dueñas discussed last night's community meeting about the Draft Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). She stated the CWPP was posted on the City website at www.Malibucity.org/FireSafety and was open for review and comment through April 9, 2021. She announced Fire Safety Liaison Vandermeulen was leaving the City and an offer was made yesterday to someone with a great deal of firefighting experience who would start March 29. She stated she would introduce the new Fire Safety Liaison at future meetings.

ITEM 1.C. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Public Safety Commission Vice Chair Stewart asked if the petition for speed humps on Birdview Avenue had met the threshold for approval. Public Works Director DuBoux commended Mr. Jacobs for the completeness of his permit application. He stated the Birdview petition met all the requirements. In response to Public Safety Commission Vice Chair Stewart, Public Works Director DuBoux stated petitions had not yet been submitted for Broad Beach.

Public Works Commissioner Major stated he was reviewing the CWPP. In response to Public Works Commissioner Major, Public Safety Manager Dueñas stated any questions or comments could be submitted to her at SDuenas@malibucity.org. She stated all questions and answers would be compiled and posted on the website.

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Public Works Commissioner Palmer stated that an item to discuss parking at the former Chili Cook-Off site for the Malibu Farmers Market was pulled from a Public Works Commission agenda. He stated he had requested the issue be on this meeting's agenda and was disappointed not to see it on the agenda.

Public Works Director DuBoux stated the Farmers Market parking issue was taken to the City Council. He stated the Council approved waiving the permit fees for parking on the City's Aoki parcel. He stated the permit application was in process.

Public Works Commissioner Dittrich disclosed he met with Dana Clark regarding Item No. 4.A.

Public Safety Commission Chair Frost discussed the oversized vehicle ordinance that was rolled out this week. He stated it also encompassed commercial vehicles parked on City streets. He stated Public Safety Commissioner Spiegel and he were working to identify potential sites for a temporary tow yard for the summer. He stated he knew the new Fire Safety Liaison and was excited about the experience he brought to the position. He stated speed humps on Point Dume were a game-changer. In response to Public Safety Commission Chair Frost, Public Works Director DuBoux stated the Birdview Avenue speed humps would be included in the annual street maintenance project. In response to Public Works Commissioner Dittrich, Public Safety Commission Chair Frost stated the Commissions were scheduled to meet together annually. He agreed with Public Works Commissioner Palmer that parking for the Farmers Market was important.

Public Works Commission Vice Chair Simmens stated there was a lot of intersection between the two commission on the issue of parking. He stated the Public Works Commission thought it should have a say in discussions about parking in the City. He stated he looked forward to collaborating with the Public Safety Commission.

Public Safety Commission Chair Frost commended the Public Works Commission for recommending a parking improvements project on Westward Beach.

ITEM 2 CONSENT CALENDAR

The Consent Calendar consisted of the following items:

- A. Previously Discussed Items
None.

- B. New Items
None.

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ITEM 3 OLD BUSINESS

None.

ITEM 4 NEW BUSINESS

A. Traffic Concerns on Corral Canyon Road

Recommended Action: Provide comments to staff regarding the installation of a small changeable message sign (CMS) at the northern City limits on Corral Canyon Road.

Public Works Director DuBoux presented the report. He discussed public comment at the January 27, 2021 Public Works Commission meeting requesting a changeable message sign (CMS) be installed at the top of Corral Canyon to warn motorists of unsafe conditions if a fire was coming up the roadway. He stated there was not enough room for a vehicle to turn around.

Dana Clark, President of the Corral Canyon Fire Safety Alliance (CCFSA), stated this was one of the most significant issues that had not yet been addressed. He discussed the location of a blind hairpin turn near the El Nido neighborhood. He stated that in a significant fire with winds blowing up the grade, cars would not be able to see the risk. He stated both sides of the road have significant slopes and it was impossible to turn around and retreat back up the road. He stated a CMS would alert motorists not to go down that road. He stated the request had support from the El Nido and Malibu Bowl neighborhoods. He stated they also requested the CMS be a compact version with solar battery-back up to protect the community and park guests.

Public Safety Commission Vice Chair Stewart stated there may be other sites in the City with the same problem. He discussed people driving into flames on Latigo Canyon during a 2007 fire. He expressed concern about proper activation and liability to the City. He suggested looking into expanding the problem area to increase visibility.

Public Safety Commission Chair Frost agreed with Public Safety Commission Vice Chair Stewart. He suggested installing an all-weather turnaround at the bottom of the corkscrew to allow motorists to turn around and go back up the hill. He stated the park at the top of Corral Canyon would be closed during red flag conditions. He discussed the proximity to the City/County line. He stated the CMS would need to be placed on the County side. He stated the City section was too far down. He expressed concern about who would activate the text for the CMS.

Public Works Commissioner Major agreed with Public Safety Commission Chair Frost and Public Safety Commission Vice Chair Stewart. He asked Dr. Clark to confirm where he proposed the sign be placed. Dr. Clark stated it could go on either

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side. Public Works Commissioner Major stated it looked like the best place would be on the shoulder. He expressed concern that the City did not have this type of signage anywhere before. He stated it was important to set a standard for consistency rather than tailor it just to this canyon. He stated it should be acceptable to the County. He expressed concern that the sign might not work as planned due to all the goes on at the beginning of a fire emergency. He asked if staff would be responsible for activating and ensuring the CMS text was correct.

In response to Public Works Commission Vice Chair Simmens, Public Safety Commission Chair Frost stated he thought an all-weather turnaround would be most effective to protect motorists coming down the hill since it would not require any activation. He stated he had seen only one fire that went up from PCH and one laterally. He suggested the CCFSA could operate a CMS for the community benefit.

Public Safety Commissioner Spiegel stated neighborhoods working together got things done. He stated it was important to get them what was necessary as quickly as possible to protect their lives. He stated the City could provide the necessary resources and let them run with it.

Public Safety Commissioner Gibbs agreed with Public Safety Commissioner Spiegel that it was most important to empower the communities.

Public Works Commission Chair Merrick expressed concern about liability from telling people not to go down if they then get caught in the fire going back up the canyon. He discussed potential costs if the City was requested to provide similar signs at other locations throughout the City. He expressed concern about who would be responsible for programming text during an emergency situation. He suggested a flip sign on hinges or flashing light that could be easily controlled by someone in the neighborhood.

Public Works Commissioner Dittrich agreed with Public Works Commission Chair Merrick. He discussed flashing lights on gates in his neighborhood that also had a sign explaining what it meant if the light was flashing. He questioned if there was enough room for a turnaround. He suggested bulldozing the shoulder to make it wider. He agreed with Public Safety Commission Vice Chair Stewart that this problem existed in other canyons. He suggested identifying other locations with similar issues. He stated a sign would warn visitors. He stated fires could possibly burn uphill. He suggested Corral Canyon be a pilot program. He stated Public Works Commission Chair Merrick's suggested flip signs or flashing lights could be more cost-effective and installed more quickly.

Public Safety Commission Chair Frost agreed with Public Works Commission Chair Merrick about using flashing lights. He stated the CCFSA was one of the strongest organizations in the Santa Monica Mountains area. He stated a CMS would have to be placed on the County side of Corral Canyon.

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Public Works Commissioner Major asked what would be required and how the City could help if a sign had to be placed on the County side. Public Works Director DuBoux stated a simple sign would go through the County Department of Public Works (DPW) for an encroachment permit. He stated a CMS would be a challenge due to uncertainty of who would be responsible for activating it.

Public Works Commissioner Major discussed the location of a turnaround as suggested by Public Safety Commission Chair Frost.

Public Safety Commission Chair Frost stated that a CMS placed on private property on the east side of Corral Canyon would be high enough above the road to be seen. He stated it would require a coastal development permit (CDP).

Public Works Commissioner Major suggested putting alternative proposals before the residents. Dr. Clark stated the CCFSA could present the information. He stated a private property owner had offered to allow a sign to be posted on their property.

Public Safety Commission Chair Frost agreed with placing a flashing light on the private property. He noted that property was located in unincorporated Los Angeles County.

Public Safety Commission Vice Chair Stewart discussed chaos in the early time of a disaster situation. He stated there would not be enough people in the City to ensure it was done properly and timely. He agreed with Public Works Commission Chair Merrick's suggestion of a flip sign that would be operated by local residents.

Public Safety Commission Ex Officio Member Woodworth stated when people were trying to get out during a fire, they might not be reading signs. He stated a turnaround was a great idea. He stated local capability to operate the sign was best. He stated information was as important as food and water in a disaster. He stated turnarounds would be helpful in other canyons as well.

Public Works Commissioner Dittrich discussed the liability of having a sign. He stated not having information is even worse. He agreed with Public Safety Commissioner Spiegel that it should be operated by locals. He agreed with using a flashing sign with a posted explanation.

Public Safety Commissioner Spiegel agreed with installing a turnaround. He stated it should be brought forward separately from a sign to avoid both being held up.

Public Safety Commission Chair Frost stated the Commissions could not vote on installing anything on County property.

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In response to Public Safety Commission Chair Frost, Public Works Director DuBoux stated a turnaround on the City's right of way could be investigated. He stated he could help connect the community with the right people in the County.

MOTION Public Works Commission Vice Chair Simmens moved and Public Safety Commission Chair Frost seconded a motion to request that staff: 1) Investigate whether a changeable message sign on Corral Canyon Road would need to be installed on City or County property; 2) Investigate the viability of installing a turnaround in the City right-of-way at the bottom of the corkscrew section of Corral Canyon Road; and 3) report back to the Commissions to provide a recommendation to the City Council. The question was called and the motion carried unanimously.

B. Speed Concerns in Point Dume Neighborhood

Recommended Action: 1) Receive and file the traffic data collected from the speed advisory signs in the Point Dume Neighborhood the period of February 2020 to March 2021; and 2) Receive an update on the traffic speeds on Dume and Fernhill Drive after the speed humps were installed.

Public Works Director DuBoux presented the report. He explained the City's process when the public submitted a request for installation of speed humps. He stated size and slope of the street was considered. He stated community support was indicated by petitions with signatures from owners of at least 60% of properties on the segment proposed for speed humps. He discussed how speeding at the location was evaluated. He discussed the 85th percentile and how it was applied. He stated traffic data supporting speed humps was presented to the City Council for authorization and funding. He stated the Point Dume speed humps have been very successful in reducing speeding.

Public Works Superintendent Hart discussed the Dume Drive and Fernhill Drive project to add 14 speed humps that was completed in December 2020. He explained the difference between speed humps and speed bumps. He stated there was some community resistance before construction but more support during and after installation. He discussed the Point Dume speed feedback signs. He explained the data reports. He discussed changes in data from February 2020. He stated speeds lowered significantly after speed humps were installed in December 2020. He stated the Dume Drive total vehicle count remained the same while the average daily speed decreased approximately five miles per hour (mph). He stated the decrease in average number of speed limit violations was most significant. He stated the Fernhill Drive total vehicle count increased but average daily speed decreased approximately three mph. He stated the data reports showed the positive impact of traffic calming devices.

Public Works Commission Chair Merrick stated he lived in Point Dume and agreed the speed humps had dramatically slowed cars. He asked why speed humps were not installed on Bluewater Road and Sea Lion Place. He suggested displaying

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speeds up to 35 mph on the signs. He stated most people speeding were probably residents who were probably not aware of how fast they were going. He stated speed humps were needed on Birdview Avenue. He stated he expected numbers would go up once the school reopened. He stated Westward Beach traffic circled through Fernhill Drive.

Public Safety Commission Chair Frost stated local residents used Fernhill Drive. He asked if tree roots in the road by the speed signs could be removed. He indicated support for speed humps.

Public Works Commissioner Major asked if adjacent streets had shown increased speeding because motorists were avoiding the streets with speed humps. Public Works Director DuBoux stated placement on Fernhill Drive and Dume Drive was convenient. He stated Birdview Avenue might get some extra traffic. Public Works Superintendent Hart stated the data did not indicate that was happening. He agreed that Birdview Avenue volume and speeds were increasing somewhat.

Public Works Commission Chair Merrick stated other streets in Point Dume had speed humps earlier. He stated after Selfridge Drive saw increased traffic when humps installed on nearby streets, Selfridge Drive residents requested speed humps. He stated non-residents did not know which streets had humps or were unfamiliar with alternate routes.

Public Works Commissioner Major asked if speed humps would work on canyon mesa roads, such as Big Rock, where speeding was an issue. Public Works Director DuBoux stated streets with a slope greater than 6% were not recommended for speed humps.

Public Works Commission Chair Merrick stated the City would not look into additional speed humps unless a neighborhood petition was submitted or the City Council directed it.

Public Safety Commission Vice Chair Stewart discussed the history of speed data signs in Point Dume. He stated maximum speeds helped support the need for speed humps. He stated concerns expressed by some residents that the Fire Department would face delays due to speed humps had been diffused. He discussed Caltrans speed signs that displayed all speeds. He indicated support for speed humps on Birdview Avenue.

Public Safety Commissioner Gibbs commended the City for a wildly successful project. He stated shifts in traffic counts were affected by construction traffic. He agreed with Public Safety Commission Vice Chair Stewart about the importance of reducing the top speeds. He thanked Public Works staff for making this happen.

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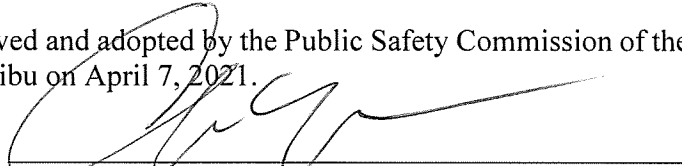
Public Safety Commissioner Spiegel stated this was great for the community. He discussed the need for blue dots to indicate locations of fire hydrants. Public Works Director DuBoux stated commissioners could notify Public Works staff any time they saw a location where blue dots were needed and they would be installed quickly.

Public Works Commission Chair Merrick thanked the Commissioners and staff for an excellent meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

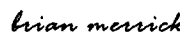
MOTION At 6:54 p.m., Public Works Commission Chair Merrick adjourned the meeting.

Approved and adopted by the Public Safety Commission of the City of Malibu on April 7, 2021.



CHRIS FROST, Public Safety Commission Chair

Approved and adopted by the Public Works Commission of the City of Malibu on April 28, 2021.

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BRIAN MERRICK, Public Works Commission Chair

ATTEST:



BRANDIE AYALA, Senior Administrative Assistant