

MINUTES
MALIBU PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 2, 2018
MULTIPURPOSE ROOM
5:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Randall called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

PRESENT: Chair Carol Randall; Vice Chair Chris Frost; and Commissioner Tracy Wright

ABSENT: Commissioners Christian Hanson and Fred Roberts

ALSO PRESENT: Susan Dueñas, Public Safety Manager; Rob DuBoux, Assistant Public Works Director; Arthur Aladjajian, Public Works Superintendent; Lieutenant Jim Royal, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; and Mary Linden, Executive Assistant

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Lieutenant Royal led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION Commissioner Wright moved and Vice Chair Frost seconded a motion to approve the agenda. The motion carried 3-0, Commissioners Hanson and Roberts absent.

REPORT ON POSTING OF AGENDA

Executive Assistant Linden reported that the agenda for the meeting was properly posted on April 25, 2018.

ITEM 1.A. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

ITEM 1.B. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Wright again asked when the stairs at Surfriider would be repaired. Public Works Superintendent Aladjajian stated a fence surrounding the area was being installed by Los Angeles County Beaches and Harbors for safety. He stated the project to repair the stairs was being prepared to go out for bid.

Vice Chair Frost stated the three meetings of the Homeless Advisory Group have been excellent. He commended Public Safety Manager Dueñas and Lieutenant Royal for bringing good ideas forward. He stated some will be easier than others to implement. He stated the model currently in place should continue.

In response to Chair Randall, Public Safety Manager Dueñas explained how the advisory group will transform over time.

Vice Chair Frost discussed a car rally near Neptune's Net over the weekend. He recommended defensive driving during peak traffic time.

Chair Randall discussed the PCH Task Force. She stated the grant consultant was attending community events and would be at the Malibu Festival on May 6.

In response to Vice Chair Frost, Lieutenant Royal discussed an upcoming grant-funded pedestrian/bicycle awareness operation. In response to Chair Randall, Lieutenant Royal stated drivers could be cited for not slowing for a pedestrian in a crosswalk.

ITEM 2 CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION Vice Chair Frost moved and Commissioner Wright seconded a motion to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion carried 3-0, Commissioners Hanson and Roberts absent.

The Consent Calendar consisted of the following items:

- A. Previously Discussed Items
None.

- B. New Items
 - 1. Approval of Minutes – April 4, 2018
Staff recommendation: Approve minutes of the Public Safety Commission Regular meeting of April 4, 2018.

ITEM 3 OLD BUSINESS

None.

ITEM 4 NEW BUSINESS

- A. Caltrans Pacific Coast Highway (PCH) Project Update
Recommended Action: 1) Receive a report from Caltrans regarding its permitting process and a status update on Caltrans construction projects and Caltrans permitted projects; and 2) Provide Caltrans with issues for future reports to the Commission.

Public Works Superintendent Aladjajian introduced Abdi Saghafi, Office of Corridor Management (West) Chief for Caltrans District 7 Division of Traffic Operations.

Mr. Saghafi stated Caltrans met with City staff regarding the development of a website to include information about projects on PCH, covering the entire corridor from the McClure Tunnel in Santa Monica to the Los Angeles/Ventura County line. He stated the website would be managed by Caltrans and the City would provide a link on its website. He stated the website would include contact information for each project. He stated the Escondido Slope Stabilization Project work would be completed before the moratorium begins on Memorial Day. He stated he or the Caltrans Senior Traffic Engineer would attend Public Safety Commission meetings on a quarterly basis. He discussed speed limit signage near the Escondido project. He stated Caltrans and its contractors have flexibility with signage and lane closures. He stated the speed limit signs would be fixed within the next few weeks. He stated speed limits in construction zones are determined by the Caltrans district office. He discussed the accidental cutting of signal loops at Cross Creek Road. He discussed how his office worked with the Office of Permits. He stated Caltrans would require permittees to have temporary detection, either through cameras or temporary loops, which would correct the signal if the loops were accidentally cut. He discussed a similar issue that occurred at PCH and Heathercliff this week.

In response to Mr. Saghafi, Chair Randall discussed the La Costa crosswalk project and history. She stated it had been postponed due to problems with traffic from the Malibu Beach Inn crosswalk project.

Graeme Clifford thanked Mr. Saghafi for attending the meeting. He discussed the Malibu Beach Inn valet crosswalk. He stated it is about 100 feet from the crosswalk by the Malibu Pier. He stated safety has nothing to do with it. He stated the jaywalker survey was ignored. He stated the California Coastal Commission (CCC) passed on the project and sent it back to the City. He stated the project should be stopped. He discussed the problem with signal timing at the intersection of PCH and Topanga Canyon Boulevard. He stated PCH should get three times the amount of time as Topanga. He stated visitors and tourists should be inconvenienced before the residents. He suggested Caltrans work during the summer to discourage visitors from coming to Malibu.

Lester Tobias asked if Mr. Saghafi was involved in decisions related to the Malibu Beach Inn crosswalk. Mr. Saghafi stated his staff was involved, but he was unaware of the jaywalking aspect. Mr. Tobias asked if there was a process to suspend or revoke the permit until clarification of the jaywalking aspect were resolved.

Mr. Saghafi discussed the permit issuance process. He stated several units within Caltrans, including traffic, hydraulics, geology, and design, review plans submitted

for permits. He stated the location of the crosswalk had been debated by the traffic and permit offices.

Mr. Tobias stated the location of the crosswalk was manipulated to work for the hotel and not the City.

Steve Uhring asked if residents could meet with Mr. Saghafi or the Caltrans Traffic Engineer regarding issues related to the crosswalk. He stated the projected pedestrian traffic of 22 people per hour was not correct. He asked who from the City told Caltrans to approve the project.

Mr. Saghafi stated he had never heard of a permit being rescinded.

Chair Randall stated the CCC demanded that the original agreement from when the hotel was built, including a crosswalk and stairs to the beach, be followed. She asked if Caltrans could tell CCC no if warrants were not met.

Mr. Tobias discussed the history of the Malibu Beach Inn project through three separate ownerships. He stated CCC advised all three owners of the outstanding violation about stairs to the beach. He stated the current owners offered stairs and a crosswalk, which CCC accepted if all affected agencies agreed. He stated the City did not say no. He stated a review of the valet study was still an outstanding.

Chair Randall restated that the project did not meet jaywalking warrants.

Mr. Tobias stated offsite valet parking quadruples the number of dangerous moves on PCH due to increased pulling in and out of the driveway and crossing the highway.

Mr. Clifford stated the crosswalk was intended for the valet operators. Mr. Tobias agreed.

Mr. Tobias stated that the 130 itemized priorities in the City's PCH Safety Study did not include a crosswalk at this location.

Lieutenant Royal agreed with Mr. Tobias that the safety of the valets is outweighed by the traffic safety impacts of increased unsafe turning maneuvers. He stated the PCH Safety Study determined that turning maneuvers and distractions, along with speed-related violations, were the highest impacts on traffic safety.

Commissioner Wright asked how Caltrans and the City had coordinated information about the crosswalk.

Assistant Public Works Director DuBoux stated developers requested a meeting with Caltrans when CCC required the crosswalk. He stated he attended the meetings with the Caltrans Traffic Engineer, and the location of the crosswalk changed multiple times. He stated Caltrans tried to move the location of the crosswalk closer to the location of beach access. He stated Caltrans makes the final decision because the project is within its jurisdiction.

Mr. Saghafi confirmed that Caltrans has a liaison with CCC. He stated CCC's primary goal is to provide access, whatever it takes.

Lieutenant Royal stated Caltrans and the City cooperated based on the developer's claim that the crosswalk had been required by CCC.

Mr. Tobias stated negotiations were done in private and put in the consent decree. He stated CCC did not require that permits be issued.

Mr. Saghafi stated he would inquire about suspending the permit. Public Works Superintendent Aladjajian stated there was no work going on now because they were waiting for poles to arrive.

Chair Randall requested Caltrans wait to see if the crosswalk was warranted.

Assistant Public Works Director DuBoux recommended Mr. Saghafi report back to the Commission after inquiring about the process and whether the permit could be suspended at this point.

In response to Vice Chair Frost, Assistant Public Works Director DuBoux confirmed the developer had to pay for the crosswalk.

Vice Chair Frost expressed concern that speed limit signs had not been approved before construction began on the Escondido Slope Stabilization project. He stated there were 30, 40, and 50 mph signs posted in the project area. He suggested hoods be placed over the incorrect signs. Mr. Saghafi stated he would have the signs corrected as quickly as possible.

In response to Mr. Clifford, Mr. Saghafi stated PCH cannot have triple time over Topanga Canyon, which is also a State highway. He stated additional loop detectors would be installed on Topanga, so the PCH time would increase if there were fewer cars waiting on Topanga.

In response to Vice Chair Frost, Lieutenant Royal confirmed it is illegal to drive in the shoulder before a turn pocket, such as on PCH approaching Webb Way. Vice Chair Frost stated cross hatching on the shoulder by Trancas was used as a right turn lane. He asked if the cross-hatching could be painted red.

Chair Randall asked if part of the wide shoulder between Cross Creek Road and Webb Way could be changed to lengthen the turn pocket.

Vice Chair Frost stated it could not because of the driveway between the end of the shoulder and the beginning of the turn pocket.

RECESS Chair Randall called a recess at 6:22 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 6:28 p.m. with Chair Randall, Vice Chair Frost, and Commissioner Wright present.

B. Encampment Management Initiative

Recommended Action: Receive and file report on the Encampment Management Initiative.

Public Safety Manager Dueñas presented the report. She stated the online survey had been part of the development of the Strategic Plan on Homelessness. She stated it was striking how people felt about the safety aspect of homelessness. She stated the City would be implementing an Encampment Management Initiative to have the Sheriff's Department begin clearing encampments on a monthly basis. She stated the Fiscal Year 2018-19 budget included funding for extra deputies needed for this work.

In response to Chair Randall, Public Safety Manager Dueñas explained the process of breaking down camps. She stated the outreach workers would be part of the process to encourage individuals to accept housing. She stated encampments in the Santa Monica Mountains area presented unique life safety issues.

Lieutenant Royal stated this was not new but was more regular and more robust. He discussed past encampment cleanups. He stated it was ultimately about fire safety. He discussed how property from the encampments was secured.

In response to Chair Randall, Public Safety Manager Dueñas confirmed the other Las Virgenes-Malibu Council of Governments (COG) cities do not have the same homeless problem as Malibu. She discussed how nearby communities coordinated efforts to clear encampments since resulting fires would impact more than just the city where the encampment was located. She stated the City would work with the County to provide hotel rooms during red flag warnings.

Vice Chair Frost discussed the recent fire in Malibu that started during the night at an encampment. He discussed other safety problems that occur when people are awakened for an evacuation. He suggested establishing a cap on the number of homeless allowed in the City. Public Safety Manager Dueñas stated that was not possible because it was an evolving number. Lieutenant Royal agreed that it could not be done. He stated a large percentage of the homeless population did not want assistance.

Chair Randall stated there were no homeless people in Malibu or Los Angeles when she moved here more than 40 years ago. She suggested the closing of mental hospitals was a major factor in creating the problem.

Lieutenant Royal stated being homeless was not illegal. He stated the Sheriff's Department only had to deal with it when it involved criminal activity or a public safety threat.

Chair Randall asked about homeless individuals near the library. She requested that area be kept as clear and safe as possible. Public Safety Manager Dueñas stated libraries throughout the county were dealing with that issue. She announced the May 24 town hall to introduce the draft Strategic Plan on Homelessness. She stated the plan would be presented to the Commission before going to the City Council.

Chair Randall commended Public Safety Manager Dueñas for the recent town hall on alerts and advisories.

- C. Recommendations for Commission Assignments in Fiscal Year (FY) 2018-2019
Recommended Action: Review Commission assignments from FY 2017-2018, remove completed assignments, add new topics for consideration, and recommend that the City Council approve the revised task list for assignment in FY 2018-2019.

Executive Assistant Linden presented the report.

MOTION Vice Chair Frost moved and Chair Randall seconded a motion to recommend that the City Council approve the following task list for assignment to the Public Safety Commission in FY 2018-2019:

- Review and provide input on the City's Emergency Preparedness Program and public safety activities
- Provide input on the public safety element of the Malibu Strategic Plan on Homelessness
- Actively participate in the Strategic Plan on Homelessness Advisory Group (one Commissioner appointed)
- Assess the impact of rehabilitation facilities on the City's public safety services (Fire Department, Sheriff's Department and Paramedics)
- Conduct an annual review of Fire Department and Lifeguard services, inviting Los Angeles County Beaches and Harbors to attend
- Review an after-summer Beach Team summary report
- Meet with Southern California Edison regarding the potential to upgrade street lighting along PCH
- Meet regularly with a Caltrans representative regarding PCH traffic issues
- Conduct seasonal reviews of Point Dume and Busch Drive speed advisory sign data and provide feedback to staff

- Review the proposed Summer Beach Team deployment schedule
- Study areas in the City to be considered for requirement of safety enhancements that would prevent vehicle-pedestrian accidents
- Make bimonthly oral reports to the City Council on Commission activity
- Submit a mid-year written report to the City Council on Commission activity
- Perform post-disaster assessment of City response, as necessary

The motion carried 3-0, Commissioners Hanson and Roberts absent.

ITEM 1.A. PUBLIC COMMENTS (continued)

Susie Duff, a resident of Corral Canyon, discussed the death trap on Corral Canyon resulting from visitors parking there to go to Solstice Canyon. She stated it was a miracle no one had been killed. She stated people walked in traffic lanes with children, strollers, supplies, and pets because there was no shoulder or pathway. She requested the City do something to fix the problem as soon as possible.

Chair Randall asked if there was enough room in the park for parking. Ms. Duff stated most visitors did not know there was safe parking at Solstice Park. Lieutenant Royal stated the parking lot at Solstice Park was inadequate for the number of visitors. He stated the Sheriff's Department cites for illegal parking. He agreed it is a dangerous area.

Chair Randall suggested the National Park Service (NPS) be requested to address the problem. Ms. Duff suggested parking be disallowed in the dirt lot on weekends. Lieutenant Royal stated he would reach out to NPS.

CONSENSUS

By consensus, the Commission requested safe parking and pedestrian safety on Corral Canyon for access to Solstice Canyon be added to a future agenda.

Ms. Duff suggested shuttle service be provided. Public Works Superintendent Aladjajian stated the Coastal Commission would not allow installation of No Parking areas.

D. 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.

Lieutenant Royal presented the report. He stated accidents were down between 30 to 40% in January through March over the same period in 2017. He stated approximately 80 to 90% of homeless crime were not felonies.

Vice Chair Frost stated the car rally near Neptune's Net was coordinated through social media and resulted in shutting down the highway. Lieutenant Royal explained how it was accomplished without law enforcement's knowledge. He stated the numbers in the crowd made it unsafe for deputies to break it up.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION At 7:24 p.m., Vice Chair Frost moved and Commissioner Wright seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion carried 3-0, Commissioners Hanson and Roberts absent.

Approved and adopted by the Public Safety Commission of the City of Malibu on June 6, 2018.


CAROL RANDALL, Chair

ATTEST:


MARY LINDEN, Executive Assistant