

MINUTES
MALIBU PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 1, 2017
MULTIPURPOSE ROOM
5:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

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

PRESENT: Vice Chair Chris Frost; Commissioners Christian Hanson, Carol Randall and Tracy Wright; and Ex Officio Member Lance Simmens

ABSENT: Commissioner Ryan Addison

ALSO PRESENT: Bob Brager, Public Works Director; Arthur Aladjajian, Public Works Superintendent; Travis Hart, Senior Public Works Inspector; Elizabeth Shavelson, Assistant to the City Manager; Lieutenant Jim Royal, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Liaison; and Mary Linden, Recording Secretary

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Hanson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION Vice Chair Frost moved and Commissioner Hanson seconded a motion to approve the agenda with Ceremonial Item No. B continued to March 1, 2017. The motion carried 4-0, Commissioner Addison absent.

REPORT ON POSTING OF AGENDA

Recording Secretary Linden reported that the agenda for the meeting was properly posted on January 25, 2017.

CEREMONIAL/PRESENTATIONS

A. Administration of Oath of Office to Newly Appointed Commissioners

Recording Secretary Linden administered the oath of office to Commissioners Hanson and Wright, and Ex Officio Member Simmens.

B. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

This item was continued to March 1, 2017 on approval of the agenda.

ITEM 1.A. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Meril May congratulated the new commissioners. He discussed his past activities with the Commission to increase safety on Pacific Coast Highway (PCH) and promote fire prevention. He submitted a summary of areas in the city that are in need of repair or maintenance.

ITEM 1.B. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Wright stated she was excited to be here.

Ex Officio Member Simmens stated he is also a cyclist. He agreed with Mr. May that pavement cracks are a serious safety issue.

Commissioner Hanson introduced himself. He stated he expected his work with the Fire Department would benefit his participation on the Commission.

Vice Chair Frost discussed the dangers of pedestrians crossing PCH. He discussed unsafe turns, particularly west of Trancas.

ITEM 2 CONSENT CALENDAR

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

The Consent Calendar consisted of the following items:

A. Previously Discussed Items

None.

B. New Items

1. Approval of Minutes – January 4, 2017

Staff recommendation: Approve minutes of the Public Safety Commission Regular meeting of January 4, 2017.

ITEM 3 OLD BUSINESS

None.

ITEM 4 NEW BUSINESS

A. Update on Projects Affecting Traffic on Pacific Coast Highway (PCH) and City Streets

Recommended Action: 1) Receive and file status updates on projects affecting traffic on PCH and City streets, including: a) Bus Stop Shelters Pilot Project; and b) Storm Preparation and Response; and 2) Discuss maintenance work conducted by Caltrans in Malibu and provide feedback to Caltrans staff.

Senior Public Works Inspector Hart welcomed back Public Works Superintendent Aladjajian.

Senior Public Works Inspector Hart stated shop drawings for the bus stop shelters were approved by the City. He estimated the three new shelters would be received within eight to ten weeks then installed in approximately two to three days. In response to Commissioner Randall, Public Works Director Brager explained this is a pilot project and there is currently no timeframe for additional shelters.

Senior Public Works Inspector Hart discussed the City's response to recent heavy storms. He stated numerous staff had reported to City Hall over the weekend. He discussed damages from last weekend's strong winds.

Vice Chair Frost commended staff for its efforts during the storms. Public Works Director Brager thanked the Sheriff's Department and Volunteers on Patrol (VOP) for their assistance.

Public Works Director Brager introduced Abdi Saghafi, Office Chief, Traffic Engineering, Caltrans District 7. Commissioner Randall thanked Mr. Saghafi for his attendance. Commissioner Randall stated the left turn signal on westbound PCH at Rambla Pacifico was sometimes green simultaneously with the signal for eastbound traffic. Mr. Saghafi stated elimination of the left turn lane into the gas station was being considered to allow for a protected left turn from eastbound PCH to Las Flores Canyon Road.

Commissioner Randall requested an update on the status of the La Costa crosswalk. Assistant to the City Manager Shavelson reported that the City had submitted responses to comments from Caltrans on the permit. Mr. Saghafi stated the two agencies would work together to resolve any outstanding issues with the permit. Commissioner Randall requested Caltrans remove weeds encroaching the bike lane at Zuma Beach. Mr. Saghafi discussed potentially holding a meeting with the City to review and identify the areas of PCH needing various forms of maintenance. He requested a member of the Commission be appointed to participate in the meeting along with City staff.

In response to Commissioner Randall, Mr. Saghafi stated the Caltrans median project from Puerco Canyon Road to Corral Canyon Road was expected to begin by the end of the year. Assistant to the City Manager Shavelson stated the City's median project extended from Webb Way to Puerco Canyon. Commissioner Randall discussed a lip in the pavement on the land side of PCH from Moonshadows to Las Flores. Mr. Saghafi stated Caltrans has plans to correct the full length of the pavement. Commissioner Randall asked if an updated crosswalk would replace the flashing crosswalk near the liquor store. Mr. Saghafi agreed that a constantly flashing light desensitized motorists. In response to Mr. Saghafi, Commissioner Randall stated more people would use the crosswalk if it was safer. Commissioner Hanson agreed with Commissioner Randall and stated employees and visitors of nearby businesses would use the crosswalk if it was safer. Commissioner Wright stated that crosswalk was the main access to Carbon Beach from the other side of the highway.

In response to Vice Chair Frost, Mr. Saghafi stated safe crossing near Malibu Seafood would be addressed in the Caltrans median project. Vice Chair Frost discussed the history of the area. He suggested the best solution would be to add pedestrian crossing over or beneath PCH. Mr. Saghafi stated the median would be widened by reducing the width of the shoulder and installing channelizers.

Ex Officio Member Simmens asked why the culvert could not be improved to make it a pedestrian undercrossing. He stated it would be easier and less expensive than creating an overpass or underpass. Assistant to the City Manager Shavelson explained that Caltrans deemed the culvert to be a system of water conveyance, not a pedestrian underpass. Commissioner Wright suggested an increased Sheriff's presence might help reduce the number of unsafe crossings.

Commissioner Randall stated the California Coastal Commission had required the owners of Malibu Beach Inn to add a crosswalk. She asked how that would be managed, since it would be so close to the signaled crosswalk near the Malibu Pier.

Meril May stated he is working with the County of Los Angeles to make safety improvements on Malibu Canyon Road and Kanan Dume Road, particularly at the intersection with Mulholland Highway.

Commissioner Randall expressed concern that the synchronization of all signals on PCH could make it difficult for residents to get onto PCH. Mr. Saghafi stated there would be gaps in the traffic but not as many as there are now. Ex Officio Member Simmens agreed with Commissioner Randall that a steady flow of traffic would make it more difficult and less safe for residents. Public Works Director Brager stated the intent of the project was to improve traffic flow from the western city limits to Santa Monica. He stated sensors would be installed in the highway to improve traffic timing. Commissioner Randall stated gaps in traffic were also important for safe pedestrian crossing.

Assistant to the City Manager Shavelson reported that Topanga Canyon Road reopened this afternoon. She discussed upcoming closures of Decker Road.

- B. Joint Meeting with Public Works Commission Regarding PCH Parking Study
Recommended Action: Determine dates available for scheduling of a Joint Special Meeting with the Public Works Commission to discuss the Draft PCH Parking Study Report.

Assistant to the City Manager Shavelson presented the report. She stated staff wants to be sure the Commissioners have sufficient time to review the lengthy report prior to the meeting, so the later dates are preferable. She stated additional dates of Wednesday, March 22, and Thursday, March 23 could also be considered. She stated the meeting would begin at 6:30 p.m. to allow maximum public participation.

Vice Chair Frost, Commissioner Wright, Commissioner Randall and Ex Officio Member Simmens stated either March 22 or March 23 would be possible. Commissioner Hanson stated he was unsure of his schedule at this time.

Public Works Director Brager stated the Commissions would have the opportunity to review the report before the meeting, receive a presentation, and provide comments to staff and the project consultant.

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

Guy Blake, VOP, congratulated the new commissioners. He explained the work of the VOP. He discussed VOP assistance in red tagging illegally parked motorhomes. He discussed parking signs removed by Caltrans on the south side of eastbound PCH near El Matador State Beach. He stated the VOP were longer enforcing that stretch of highway. Assistant to the City Manager Shavelson stated the City had submitted a request to re-evaluate that area to see if the signs were warranted. In response to Vice Chair Frost, Mr. Blake discussed enforcement of No Parking zones during storms. He stated he wrote 63 citations this past weekend in one area alone where visitors were coming to view waterfalls.

Ex Officio Member Simmens stated people had expressed concerns to him about individuals walking along PCH with a series of wagons that blocked ingress and egress into parking lots. Commissioner Wright stated the individuals are advocates trying to bring attention to issues related to the homeless population.

Mr. Blake stated the VOP were increasing enforcement of 90-minute parking zones at Heathercliff and Dume.

RECESS At 6:20 p.m., Vice Chair Frost recessed the meeting. At 6:28 p.m., the meeting reconvened with all Commissioners present.

Lt. Royal explained the Sheriff's Department report. He discussed impacts of the passage of Proposition 47 on theft crimes, as more people with drug problems were being released and then stealing or committing identity theft to support their habits.

Lt. Royal reviewed 15-year crime trends in Malibu. He stated residential burglaries have flattened, assaults are down, and locked and unlocked vehicle thefts, strong-arm robberies, and grand theft vehicle and petty thefts are up.

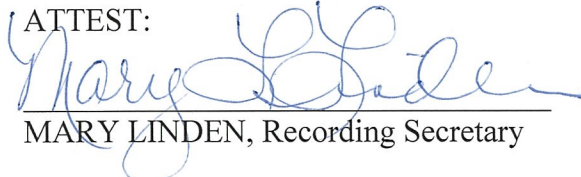
Commissioner Randall discussed a recent stabbing incident at a local rehabilitation facility where the suspect escaped onto the beach near her home. Lt. Royal stated he had been captured in a nearby culvert. In response to Commissioner Randall, Lt. Royal explained how the Sheriff's Department would notify neighbors if there was a serious concern of public safety.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION At 6:57 p.m., Commissioner Randall moved and Vice Chair Frost seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion carried 4-0, Commissioner Addison absent.

Approved and adopted by the Public Safety Commission of the City of Malibu on March 1, 2017.


CAROL RANDALL, Chair

ATTEST:

MARY LINDEN, Recording Secretary