

# La Jolla Traffic & Transportation Board

## MINUTES

**Chairman: Mark Broido**

**Vice Chairman: Joe LaCava**

**Secretary: Sherri Lightner**

### MEETING – December 13, 2007

**Present:** John Beaver (LJTC), Mark Broido, Jim Heaton (LJSA), Joe LaCava (BRCC), Todd Lesser (LJSA), Lance Peto (CPA), Tiffany Sherer (PLJ-alt), Van Van Inwegan (LJTC).

**Absent:** Sherri Lightner (LJSA – alt), Deborah Marengo (PLJ), George Sutton (BRCC).

**City Staff:** Gary Pence

In Sherri's absence Joe LaCava recorded the minutes of the meeting.

The public was welcomed to the meeting and the chair described the Board's composition and purview.

### REGULAR MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER 4:05 p.m. by the Chair Mark Broido

#### **Minutes:**

Seeing no objection the minutes of the meeting of October 27 were deemed approved.

#### **Public Comment:**

- Lance Peto – Brought pictures showing 2-hour parking signs on Lower Girard. Peto also brought pictures of construction activity showing signs removed. Pictures were given to Gary Pence as further evidence to get the signs reinstalled. Gary noted he was also looking for evidence in the city files.

#### **Chair's Report:**

- Community Parking Board – They made a presentation in October and were invited to return with more information. The Chair has not yet heard back from them.
- Girard Crosswalk (at the schools) – The bid on the construction plans came in at double what was estimated (\$20k v. \$40k). This would set a new price point for this type of installation that no other jurisdiction in California has agreed to. The City will continue to study the matter.
- The Throat – Signal timing continues to be a problem causing significant congestion. First it was a software problem, then one of the sensors went bad. There are still problems and the city continues to work on it.

#### **AGENDA ITEMS:**

Van Van Inwegan leaves meeting.

1. **DONNA MARSH:** *Petition for permission to impact street traffic flow and parking for a private gala opening of a new store at 7712 Fay Avenue, on January 26<sup>th</sup>. Applicant's Rep: Berkman*  
The street needs to be closed because they will be constructing a runway for a fashion show as well as room for the expected attendance of about 250 (by invitation only.) Noted that it will be a very upscale event and part of the store owners commitment to showcase not only their store but La Jolla as well. The evening event will be from 6 to 9pm. The affected street is the 7700 block of Fay between Kline and Silverado. Closure will be from 11a to 11:30p, but it will be tiered. At 11a it will be a soft closure; that is, no through traffic, but pedestrians and cars going to off-street parking will continue to be allowed. At 5:30p there will be the hard closure—no pedestrians or cars. Participants will be allowed to drive in to valet parking. Cars will be taken off-site to an off-street parking garage where arrangements have already been made. 90% of the merchants on the block have signed recognizing the proposal. Donna Marsh circulated the petition herself and believes the signatures also constituted tacit approval of the event. Businesses on the block are not open Saturday evenings, except Aloha Sushi which will be providing food for the event.

**MOTION: Approve closing based on representation that merchant signatures reflect acceptance and there is no opposition and also based on the soft closing at 11a and hard closing at 5p and all valet parking will be off-street. (Lessor/Heaton: 3-1-0-1)**

Beaver objected due to private use of public right of way and this might set an undesired precedent. Peto recused because of ownership of commercial property on Kline Street.

Tiffany Sherer joins meeting

- 2. Fay Avenue Extension Vacation/Purchase:** *The Methodist Church and other property owners are working with the City to have a street vacation and correction of map inconsistencies of Fay Avenue Extension where it crosses La Jolla Hermosa and meets La Jolla Boulevard.. Jim Anthony, Real Estate Assets, City of San Diego; several representatives from the Methodist Church.*

Anthony reported that the City is selling land purchased in 1959 for the Fay Avenue Extension, this application proposes not physical improvements. The City is selling land it no longer needs and working with the adjacent property owners including:

- a. Methodist Land Swap: Swap Methodist property that underlies the bike path for city land that underlines the church's nursery playground. Parcels are approximately the same size.
- b. Methodist Land Sale: Sell to the church several odd shaped parcels that are located between the church property and La Jolla Boulevard. Price is \$339,000 which is 15% of market value. Reduced price because there is a covenant restricting land only for parks, streets, and parking. If church later sells land at market rate, it has to give the difference back to the City; however, there will be no deed restrictions on the land if the church chooses to develop it for its own purposes.
- c. Spiazzi: Sell city land that is essentially the east half of their parcel. A private garage was built on the city land some time ago. Price is \$286,000 which is deemed to be full market price.
- d. Zanezzi (sp?): Sell city land that is a tiny sliver that also falls on the eastern portion of their lot. Price is \$37,000 which is deemed to be full market price.

There was some litigation on this matter as a judge ruled that the covenant placed by the church back in 1959 to restrict the land only for parks, streets, and parking was legally enforceable. The church noted it has been working on this for several years and has spent in excess of \$50,000 with surveyors and lawyers trying to work this out with the city. Jim Anthony has been working on this only for a few months. Neither party knew the history of the Extension. There was much discussion with no one certain about the history of the Extension or its current status. There were numerous questions from the Board as to the status of the Extension but neither the City nor the church could offer any clarification. There was much frustration expressed by the Board on how the City was structuring the deal and why there wasn't competitive bidding. The Chair warned that the Board was only allowed to judge the merits of the application on traffic and transportation issues and that the issues of land sales or land use were best handled by other committees (the applicant will also appear at the Coastal Development Permit Committee). There was a suggestion to wait for more information but the Board was concerned that the City might take action if we didn't indicate our position on the matter.

**MOTION: At this time, the Board strongly opposes giving up this right-of-way and opposes vacating the Fay Avenue Extension. (Lessor/Heaton: 5-1)**

Sherer opposed motion because she believes that the Extension has already been eliminated as a roadway..

- 3. Race Judicata (5k run/walk):** *The Cal Western School of Law Student Bar Association has petitioned for traffic and parking impacts associated with a 5k race on February 23, 2008. It will mainly affect the Scripps Park and Beach Barber Tract areas. Ingrid Patin, Race Director.*

This is an annual event that Association uses as a fundraiser for the UCSD Cancer Center. The event has been held in other venues in the past and this year had chosen La Jolla. The event would be from 9 to 11a with cleanup done by 12noon. The proposed route would start at Scripps Park and then continue south winding through the Barber Tract and return to Scripps Park. There would be about 300 to 500 participants and the event would be run by 25 volunteers with almost no funding. Residential streets would be coned and monitored for safety, but not closed. The Board objected to taking the race into the narrow residential streets. The Board offered numerous alternatives routes focusing on La Jolla's main streets, commercial streets and the bike path.

The applicant agreed to revisit the route and will come back to the Board's January meeting.

- 4. Coastwise Run (1 miler):** *Scott Kyle from Coastwise Capital Group, LLC (a La Jolla based company) has hired a firm to create a community 1 mile run near Ellen Scripps Browning Park on ~~May 18~~ October 4 or 5, 2008. The event will feature a number of fun and community oriented 1 mile runs (youth, adult, mutt mile, corporate relay) before a post-event festival at the Park. Brennan Lindner, Generic Events, agent.* Lindner appeared for information only and to get input from the Board. The race is now moved to October 4 or 5 to avoid the summer moratorium on new events at Scripps Park. There would be a 1 mile fun run, a "mutt's mile", and a corporate relay. Parks & Beaches heard this proposal and wants to combine it with another existing event due to the proliferation of runs/races using Scripps Park and the public streets. The proposed route would use Coast Boulevard and the west side of Prospect Street. Not really a fundraiser but any net proceeds would go to Rescue Mission and the Humane Society. Perhaps as many as 400 might be involved. The Board had concerns re using Prospect on a Saturday morning and also shared Parks & Beaches concern re the number of events. Board suggested getting the support of the property owners along the proposed routes (commercial, museum, church.)

Lindner will return with a final plan for the Board's consideration.

Van Van Inwegan returns to meeting.

- 5. Via Capri at Hidden Valley Road:** Pop-out design presentation and review as part of a revised traffic calming measures proposed by the City for this block. Gary Pence, P.E., City of San Diego

The Board had previously approved a raised median at the intersection of Via Capri and Hidden Valley Road. The median was rejected by the Fire Department when they determined they could not negotiate the intersection with their largest piece of equipment. Gary was returning with a new plan that was comprised of two components:

- a. Corner Bulb-outs on the east side of the intersection. These would be landscaped and would restrict traffic continuing eastbound on Via Capri.
- b. Restripe the intersection. This would create a painted island that would guide left-turning traffic on Via Capri to a more sharper turn onto Hidden Valley Road encouraging them to slow down to navigate it safely. There would also be a painted island to guide right-turning traffic on Hidden Valley to also negotiate the turn more slowly

Joe Dicks and Todd Lessor, residents of the area, still want a raised median in the intersection. They didn't object to the painted island as an interim step and wanted the corner bulb-outs to happen as soon as possible. Positions that the Board concurred with.

**MOTION: Approve the curb bulb-outs on the east side of the intersection with a pilot program of restriping the intersection per Gary Pence's plan with the proviso that we continue to work with the City to get a more substantial intersection improvement. (Beaver/Heaton: 6-0-0)**

**Meeting adjourned at about 6:00 p.m.**

**Next meeting at 4:00 p.m. on January 24, 2007 Auditorium at the Rec Center.**

Submitted by Joe LaCava, 12/13/2007