



Pacific Beach Planning Group

www.pbplanning.org

Pacific Beach Taylor Library
4275 Cass Street, San Diego, CA 92109
Wednesday, October 25, 2017: 6:30-8:30 pm
MINUTES – FINAL

Item 1 - Call to Order, Quorum

Members Present: Ben Ryan, Chris Olson, Ed Gallagher, Eve Anderson, Jason Legros, Jim Morrison, Karl Rand, Liz Segre, Marcia Nordstrom, Michael Martin, Paula Gandolfo, R.J. Kunysz, Steve Pruett

Members Absent: Amy Gordon, Baylor Triplett, Henish Pulickal, Kristen Victor, Peter Lee, Tony Franco

Late Arrivals: Marcia Nordstrom (7:00 pm); Jim Morrison (7:40 pm)

Early Departures: Paula Gandolfo (8:15 pm), Michael Martin (7:53 pm)

Recorder of These Minutes: Liz Segre

Item 2 - Non-Agenda Public Comments (2 minutes maximum per speaker)

Issues *not* on Agenda and within the jurisdiction of Pacific Beach Planning Group.

Commenter: Don Gross

3600 Rivera accidents: 11 cars totaled. PBPG parking group should get on this.

East Mission Bay Drive and Grand Avenue accidents.

DeAnza mobile home closure: movement of the mobile homes has been shut down.

Pacific Beach and Crown Point Drive sidewalks: streets are marked and people are working on them.

Academy sidewalk pretty much done.

Item 3 – Current Agenda – Modifications and Approval

Kunysz volunteered to tally votes for this meeting.

Agenda modifications:

- Anderson to present Elections Subcommittee update
- Change to item 12a: Matt Winter from BeautifulPB will present on Placemaking draft ordinance instead of Kristen Victor
- Presentation added to item 12: Ambrose Wong will present for 5 minutes on the AIA's "Housing the Next 10 Million" event on November 4-5.

Someone moved to approve the agenda. Someone else seconded. **Approved** – 11-0-0

Item 4 – September 27, 2017 Minutes – Modifications and Approval

Minutes modifications:

- At the September meeting someone commented that our meetings should have microphones and PA system or some form of sound amplification. (And at this October meeting we did!)

- The new community garden is at St. Andrew's by the Sea, 1055 Thomas, between Cass and Dawes. Not at Christ Lutheran Church.
- In Item 11c: The sign at 2830 Garnet is not a billboard but a lit cabinet sign. We discussed/agreed that the Special Events subcommittee should be responsible for deciding on programming community announcements. Kunysz is the one who suggested monthly community messaging be made with the sign's owner, and the owner consented to this.

Someone moved to approve the minutes. Someone else seconded. **Approved** – 11-0-0

Item 5 - PBPG Chair's Report (Information Item)

Presenter: Jason Legros

Legros was acting Chair at this meeting, in Pulickal's absence. Legros had attended the CPC meeting the previous evening. Point Loma Planning Group is dealing with an interesting issue, where the landowner artificially raised the level of their lot by filling in a retaining wall. So even with the height restriction they were taller than their neighbors. Ryan thought this shouldn't matter – they should be held to what the restriction was before. Legros said there's a loophole.

Should homeowners be allowed to parallel-park in front of their driveway? What if the City created a fee system where an owner or resident/tenant could apply for a permit to do this? Should it be transferable to a guest? Could you park two cars if there's room? Maybe you buy two permits? Wilding said the Fire Dept. would frown on that practice. Firelane issue. It was tried before. Gross said if you are the owner of the home and park in front of the driveway, they can't tow. The police has to come and get a signature. Some of the attendees know people who have been ticketed for parking in front of their driveway. Legros said it may depend on the neighborhood as to whether you'd be ticketed or not.

Legros said there was discussion at the CPC meeting of consolidation of the City's planning groups to just five. The PB Planning Group would likely be one of the groups to be eliminated.

Item 6 – Elections Subcommittee Report (Information Item)

Presenter: Eve Anderson

One person – Renee Cookson – has applied for election (area D) and has collected her petition signatures. We couldn't vote at this meeting because it wasn't an action item on the agenda. Renee introduced herself and talked about her background. She's the second VP of PB Woman's Club. Has been involved in charities for 40 years. Works in mental health. Does focus groups. Wants to give back to community. Is a public speaker and does presentations to the City Council. Very involved with homeless population.

Scott Chipman needs his petition signed.

Need another commercial seat. If we don't get someone, can wait until election in March. If you know a professional person (dentist, engineer, etc.), they are also eligible to run. Unlike before, businesspeople don't need to get the home addresses of all the business owners now.

Item 7 – Councilmember Zapf Representative (Information Item)

Presenter: Monique Tello

Tello is handling the PB area for Zapf's office now. Had no report for us but a question:

Zapf's previous rep, James McGuirk, was talking to Gary Pence in the Traffic Dept. about a stop sign. Olson said that neighbors had asked to be on the Traffic Subcommittee agenda but then didn't show up to the meeting. The issue hasn't come in front of the PB Planning Group. Tello said she would follow up if we want her to do so.

Item 8 – PB Community Updates

Presenters: Discover PB, Beautiful PB

No representatives of these groups were on hand to present.

Item 9 – Code Compliance Subcommittee {Information Item}

Presenter: Jason Legros

The PROW (Public Right of Way program) walk was in August. The walkers looked at issues with sidewalks and the right of way in our business district. Some issues that had been solved a few years ago have reappeared.

Two main types of issues: 1) signs and items specific to the business activity; and 2) infrastructure items like sidewalk and tree problems. Twenty-three businesses had improperly placed signs; 27 businesses had non-permitted merchandise on the sidewalk or tall, skinny flag banners (not permitted). Or they had multiple signs instead of one.

Plan for dealing with this: Coordinate with business district and do educational outreach with goal of self-policing.

There were eight empty tree wells, and 34 tree wells were uneven with the sidewalk, up to six or eight inches, which is a tripping hazard. This is on a main street – Garnet – and people are drinking and then walking around a lot.

There were 16 issues with sidewalks. One section was pushed up by tree roots – another tripping hazard.

There were multiple newspaper boxes that were empty, old, and rusted – serving no purpose.

Gallagher said the subcommittee's idea was to submit this list to the City, but James McGuirk had said to try the Get It Done app. Gallagher used the app to send in 40 case reports for cracked sidewalks, tree wells, etc. Seems like the whole sidewalk should be repaved. He was in the act of photographing when he saw a woman trip. Legros said it's a lot of work to send in each report. But at least you have an individual case number for each report.

Regarding empty tree wells, Gallagher said there's a form that the business owner must sign to say they are willing and able to care for the trees. Watering: two or three times a week for the first year; every two weeks in year two. Gallagher talked to four business owners about the tree wells. Three said they don't want a tree because it obscures their signage, though one said if the tree were short (shrub) or skinny (palm), then that would be OK. One person said he had had the tree removed.

Gallagher had asked the City's horticultural people for suggestions for plants that are less obstructive and hadn't heard back. Maybe a bench would work better in some places. Anderson suggested that a City horticulturalist attend our January meeting. Gallagher said the community plan was written 20-25 years ago, before xeriscaping became widespread. It's a good plan but not modern.

Kunysz said at the southeast corner of Felspar and Mission Blvd. the curb and storm drain are in terrible shape. They tried to fix it, but it wasn't done well – maybe cement didn't cure enough.

Legros said there's a citywide right-of-way standard on sidewalks of eight feet, but in PB it seems to be only six feet. Can't find documentation on this.

The cost for sign registration is \$100 a year, and you must do it every year and have a sticker on both the sign and the business front window.

Item 10 – Special Events (Information Items)

Presenter: Ed Gallagher, Michael Martin

Gallagher talked about our booth at BeachFest. We wanted to emphasize the Get It Done app and collect comment cards. About 40-50 people stopped at the booth, and we got 20 completed comment cards and nine people expressing interest in serving on PBPG. Half were interested in particular committees. Twenty-five different topics were mentioned on the comment cards. People were concerned about homeless population, not enough public transportation to relieve traffic congestion, need for shuttle or trolley to Balboa Station, need more residents/housing (fewer tourists), and need affordable housing. Three people were anti-STVR (two because of affordable housing issue).

Anderson wants a second sign on the front of the booth. Had thought Scott Chipman would be there with materials on the De Anza plan, but instead he paid \$200 for his own booth. That was great, but he had good visuals, and we didn't have any.

Someone suggested we add information about Get It Done to the PB Planning Group website.

Olson suggested putting up big maps on the booth next time, for better engagement. Such as a plan for Garnet. Nordstrom suggested visuals on De Anza and/or the new trolley stop; maybe posters that outline the PBPG accomplishments/success stories.

Anderson said our booth placement was good (PB Town Council on one side, Beautiful PB on the other). PB Town council had duck races with water pistols.

Kunysz suggested a clickable map on our website: Here's what's going on in your neighborhood.

Legros suggested videos, slide shows, interactive multimedia items to project at the booth. Less waste than handouts.

Item 11 – Streets and Sidewalks Subcommittee

Presenter: Chris Olson

(Consent Items)

Olson moved to approve the consent items 11A and 11B without discussion since they had passed in subcommittee. He so moved, and Kunysz seconded. **Approved 11-0-1**

Anderson abstained because she wanted more information about 11B.

- a) *Approve 10-minute passenger loading zone, 24 hours a day and with a length of 40 feet at the entrance to Oakmont at 955 Grand Avenue. It will include a painted curb and signage.*
- b) *Request that the City deal with the visibility issues for pedestrian safety by trimming or cutting down the tree in the public right of way (parkway) on Beryl at 4890 Academy.*

Gross commented that trimming or cutting this tree doesn't solve the safety issue. He wants a stop sign because cars are travelling 50 mph at that location.

(Action Items)

- a) *Install a continental crosswalk with pedestrian-activated flashing beacon and countdown timer on Riviera on the southern portion of the intersection at Graham Street. Request that City staff identify alternatives for improving pedestrian and bicycle safety on Graham Street (between Riviera Drive and Gresham).*

There's a lot of pedestrian and bike traffic but no crosswalk. It's needed to help people get to and from the beach on Graham safely. Gallagher said the location has a lot of anomalies. Olson said it's complicated. Wants City staff to provide ideas for improvements to facilitate movement. Gandolfo wanted the motion to mention pedestrian safety. Nordstrom said a stop sign and crosswalk are needed to slow traffic. Gross said he has photos of the area and that the City has studied the issue. Would like Tello to provide the photos to Zapf. Olson said the PBPG has recommended improvements there but hasn't asked specifically for a pedestrian crosswalk before.

Anderson moved that we approve the action item as stated on the agenda. Gandolfo seconded.
Approved 12-0-0

- b) *Garnet Pedestrian Safety Improvement Standards: All intersections along Garnet between Mission Bay Drive and Mission Boulevard will meet the following standard: 1) continental crosswalks; 2) countdown timer (visual and audible); and 3) pedestrian-activated flashing warning beacon for intersections not controlled by a traffic signal. (Please see the proposed standards attached at the end of these minutes.)*

Olson said this proposal might be controversial. Garnet is a problem area for pedestrian, car, and bike safety. Lots of accidents with pedestrian injuries and fatalities. Wants to create a standard for pedestrian safety. When there's an intersection that has a signal, you'd have a continental crosswalk and a countdown timer. For those not signalized (Morel, Gresham), you'd need those two things and also a pedestrian-activated flashing warning beacon. Let's ask the City to do this list.

Ryan asked if we should prioritize a shorter list and ask the City for that instead of for everything. Others on the board said that if we ask for only half, we'll get a quarter and that we should ask for everything we want. Kunysz pointed out that this money spent would be money saved by the City in lawsuits. Gandolfo said that in this community we are heading in the direction of less car-centric and more

pedestrian safety.

This list of improvements is just what is needed on Garnet. In the future we could make a list for other problem streets.

Kunysz moved to approve the action item. Olson seconded. **Approved** 12-0-0

Item 12 – **PB Counts Presentation (Information Item)**

Presenter: Katie Matchett

Matchett is on the advisory board for Beautiful PB. Talked about the most recent round of PB traffic counts. Counted 22 locations this year. All close to the beach. We have three years of results now and Matchett can provide the data if needed. Vehicle traffic is concentrated on key streets. People aren't taking advantage of the fact that we have a grid pattern and could therefore avoid traffic by driving on less-trafficked streets. Hornblend may present opportunities, since it is less trafficked though near businesses on Garnet and Grand. Perhaps people are having trouble getting to Hornblend in certain places.

Olson: Reed, Diamond, Cass, and Tourmaline are PB Pathways. More pedestrian- and skateboard-friendly.

Morrison: Would like to see a realignment of parking on Garnet and Grand to allow for bike lanes.

Anderson: The PB traffic count was done in August. This is the busiest time of year, with the highest count we have in PB. Winter days would be very different. Matchett: You try to pick a typical peak day for a traffic count, but not the highest-traffic day ever.

Gallagher: Maybe Hornblend could be a bike boulevard with one half a bike lane and the other half vehicular one-way.

Gandolfo: Our community has a seasonal surge. We should represent that surge to the City so they don't plan and improve just for regular days but also for those surge times.

Olson: Don't know of any other traffic count that's done as regularly as this one. Our community is leading by doing this kind of thing.

Wilding: Concerned about the grid idea. It takes three lights to cross Grand Avenue, and the lights are not synchronized. Wants to see roads of travel utilized and surface streets not utilized. He stands out in his street slowing down traffic at 7 am so his daughter can cross the street and go to school safely.

Gross: Doesn't like PB Pathways. Pedestrians and skateboards are allowed to go anywhere, and it's not safe. This is not allowed elsewhere.

Morrison: Has seen the computer that regulates the Grand Avenue traffic lights. But some lights are regulated here. The systems aren't working together.

Item 13 – **CRMS**

Presenter: Karl Rand

(Information Item)

- a) *Ambrose Wong gave a presentation about the AIA's "Housing the Next 10 Million" event on November 4 and 5.*

Wong said it's not 10 million – actually it's the next ONE million. He's on board of Beautiful PB. Sandag projects that by 2050 there will be another million people in San Diego. There have been monthly meetings throughout the year with discussions on how to deal with this growth. Will require 400,000 new housing units. The November 4-5 meeting will be in Mira Mesa at the County Operations Center. Architects and architecture students will help the attendees find areas for new development and growth. Will start making graphics that will help people understand the ideas and recommendations.

Wong displayed a map that resulted from a brainstorming session with PB community members. Invited PBPG members to attend both days. If unable, on Sunday there would be a presentation about what happened during the entire weekend.

Wong explained that the areas on the map marked "relocate" is military housing. The Climate Change Action Plan suggests moving military personnel closer to where they work.

Morrison asked if the meetings would address the psychological aspects of the population growth: e.g., changing people's minds about development density and height. Wong said yes.

Wilding: Not into the high-density idea. Wong: We can do nothing and let growth happen without our input, or we can plan for the growth.

Wong mentioned an upcoming tiny home showcase.

(Action Item)

- a) *Matt Winter of Beautiful PB presented a review of placemaking issues and requested that PBPG issue a letter of support for restoration of RS Zones to draft ordinance.*

Winter is president of Beautiful PB. Explained concept of placemaking. Examples: parklets, murals, community building events, park benches. Small-scale things.

But the City tends to make things too complicated. So this draft ordinance is designed to make it simpler for the City to decide which projects to allow. Beautiful PB wants PBPG to support this ordinance but also to ask for the RS zones (residential) to be put back in, which would make the ordinance cover every zone in the City. Rand said the City never explained why they pulled the RS zones out. Winter said it was because you'd need the adjacent landowner's approval, and residents might be more volatile about such changes than business owners. Ryan asked if the ordinance would require you to take down the placemaking item at some point, and Winter said no. Anderson said she saw the ordinance as creating not so much murals as simply more benches appearing, and Winter agreed.

Winter said to get something approved, you draw it up, pay a fee, and get approval from the City. The ordinance is not making the process easier, but just more clear.

Ryan asked if he put out a bench, would it be his? Winter said yes, it's yours, and you must maintain it. You can take it away if you want. But you can't control who uses it, because it's on public property.

Olson moved to take the agenda-specified action and provide the letter on PBPG letterhead. Wording would be:

The Pacific Beach Planning Group supports the draft ordinance of placemaking with the addition of all residential zones, include RS zones.

Gallagher seconded. **Approved** 11-0-0

Item 14 – Other Subcommittees and Reports (Time Permitting)

Pacific Beach Community Parking District: Chris Olson

Communications/Tech: Baylor Triplett

STVR: Karl Rand

No other reports were made.

Item 15 – Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Next PBPG Meeting: Wednesday, November 29, 2017 6:30-8:30 pm

If additional accessible accommodations need to be made, please contact the Chairperson, Henish Pulickal, at henish.pulickal@gmail.com or 858.380.8765

Pacific Beach Planning Group 10/25/2017 Proposed Pedestrian Safety Improvements for Garnet Avenue

Whereas Garnet Avenue has been designated as a Vision Zero Corridor and PB Counts data demonstrates a high volume of pedestrian traffic, the PB Planning Group requests all pedestrian crossings meet the following standard

Traffic Signal Controlled Intersections

- Continental "Ladder" Crosswalks
- Countdown Timer (Visual and Audible)

Non-Traffic Signal Controlled Pedestrian Crossings

- Continental Crosswalks
- Countdown Timer (Visual and Audible)
- Pedestrian Activated Flashing Warning Beacon

The following is a listing of improvements needed, as indicated by "X". Survey conducted 10/24/2017.

Garnet Cross Street	Continental Crosswalks	Countdown Timer	Ped. Activated Beacon	Comment
Mission Bay Dr.	X	X		
Bond St.	X	X		
Soledad Mtn. Rd	X	X		
Pendleton St.	X	X	X	
Olney St.		X	N/A	
Noyes St.	X	X	X	
Morrell St.	X	X	X	
Lamont St.	X	X	N/A	
Kendall St.	X	X	X	PBPG has requested Crosswalk on West Leg of intersection
Jewell St.	X	X	N/A	
Ingraham St	X	X	N/A	
Haines St.	X	X	N/A	
Gresham St.		X		
Fanuel St.	X	X	N/A	
Everts St		X		
Dawes St.		X		
Cass St			N/A	
Bayard St.	X	*	N/A	*Has visual, needs audible
Mission Blvd			N/A	PBPG has requested Pedestrian Scramble