

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2006  
CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
1315 VALLEY DRIVE  
7:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 7:11 p.m.

**1. Roll Call**

Present: Public Works Commissioners Beste, Brittain, DiVirgilio, Marinelli, Winnek

Also Present: Richard Morgan, Director of Public Works/City Engineer  
Greg Savelli, Chief of Police  
Michael Flaherty, Public Works Superintendent  
Rhea Punneo, Administrative Assistant, Public Works Department  
Ray Abassi, Contract Traffic Engineer

**2. Flag Salute**

Chairman Winnek led the flag salute.

**3. Approval of Minutes:**

The minutes of the meeting of July 19, 2006 were approved as written.

**4. Public Comment**

Howard Longacre, Hermosa Beach

Mr. Longacre suggested that meeting agendas be taped to the door of Council Chambers; advised that item 6a wasn't on the web site and everything connected to an item should be on the web site; said he didn't believe \$1.7 million would not be enough to complete the Pier Ave. project and that Pier Ave. should go back to four lanes – a little narrower for longer diagonals, should be on September 12<sup>th</sup> Council agenda; noted that Mr. Flaherty has a third of the employees he had years ago.

Alan Strusser, Hermosa Beach

Noted that this is his first appearance before the Public Works Commission; said he has been before the Planning Commission many times regarding the Pavilion; feels there has been some positive changes; sees more attention to parking time limits; feels message getting across that neighbors are being attached and wanted to thank all responsible; very interested in neighborhood parking district – will start that process; would like to see more attention paid to 17<sup>th</sup> Street; said was there to support neighbors on 16<sup>th</sup> and that if he lived on 16<sup>th</sup> Street he would be gone; horrendous traffic situation on 17<sup>th</sup> St.; suggested commissioners take a look at the traffic on that street; said he has started policing the area – that he calls dispatch regularly for parking enforcement.

Ron Miller, Hermosa Beach

Said he came forward to talk about 16<sup>th</sup> St. west of PCH; said was upset when read flyer about meeting which noted discussion of traffic east of highway.

At this time Chairman Winnek explained to the audience the jurisdiction of the Public Works Commission noting that it is not licensing zoning, development – issues regarding alcohol, zoning, and budgetary concerns are not within the jurisdiction of the Public Works Commission.

Mr. Miller continued, stating that the traffic between Ardmore and PCH on 16<sup>th</sup> is horrendous; is really bad after 6:00 p.m. – cars speed all the time and peal out at 2:00 a.m.; he's awakened every night; there is no police patrol services; quality of life has disappeared. The crossing guard at 16<sup>th</sup> and Ardmore told him that the number of cars running the STOP sign is unreal; he would like to have some relief from the traffic problems on this street; feels a permit parking district is a good idea; there is much illegal parking at Vons and the Pavilion; loaded trucks blow air horns at night when loading dock blocked; no good traffic flow into and out of parking structure; maybe one way or speed bumps would help.

Rosalyn Bender, Hermosa Beach

Asked if this is the group to ask about view variances and was directed to the Planning Commission.

Steve Scandura, Hermosa Beach

Seconded the idea of a permit zone on 17<sup>th</sup> Street; sees people fighting over parking spaces; hopes free parking a the gym will help; sees people changing in their cars; pulls beer bottles out of the ice plant.

Scott Cummings, Hermosa Beach

Has notice a lot of speeding on 14<sup>th</sup> and there's nothing to stop or slow drivers; checked web site for information on speed bumps – would like humps or at least stop sign at Owosso.

Chairman Winnek advised Mr. Cummings to speak with Mr. Morgan.

Sam Abrams, Hermosa Beach

Said citizens lost again at the Planning Commission meeting the previous evening; has no issue with the light at 16<sup>th</sup> St.; feels folks have a legitimate issue regarding eastbound traffic and people need to be heard. At this time Chairman Winnek stopped Mr. Abrams and suggested he come back to the podium when item 6a was open for public comment.

**5. Correspondence**

Email from David Kephart regarding intersections on 8<sup>th</sup> Place

Chairman Winnek suggested this be received and filed unless staff had comments on the request. Mr. Morgan suggested that the commissioners look at the location and direct staff to follow up; he noted staff is hesitant to remove parking spots unless safety issues involved – would have a hearing so that all affected were present. There was no further comment.

At this time Mr. Morgan introduced the City's new Chief of Police, Greg Savelli. Chief Savelli said that he was pleased to be here, letting all know he'll be attending many of the public meetings and he'd noted the items that had been discussed.

## 6. Items for Commission Consideration

### a. Traffic Signal at 16<sup>th</sup> Street and Pacific Coast Highway

Mr. Morgan presented the item, noting that the signal was installed last May; noted that staff believes it to be wonderful safety improvement, certainly for the PCH corridor; spoke with Sgt. Thompson who concurs, saying has done a lot for speeding on PCH between 21<sup>st</sup> St. and Pier Ave.; now relatively safe turning movements; as directed by Council, now back with status report. He then turned floor over to Ray Abassi, Contract Traffic Engineer for his report.

Mr. Abassi told of taking traffic counts both before and after signal was installed – extensive counts to follow potential impact of signal on neighborhood streets; stated that there was no significant cut-through traffic from an engineering stand point – that the area is at a Level of Service A; concluded that there was no significant level of residential intrusion and no further analysis was warranted.

Mr. Morgan noted that a City stealth survey (done on 16<sup>th</sup> east of PCH) indicated the average rate of speed was 17.5 MPH, 85<sup>th</sup> percentile was 22 MPH and detected a single vehicle traveling at 50 MPH, most likely late at night; staff has observed 16<sup>th</sup> on many occasions and has not seen any speeding. Mr. Morgan advised that staff does not support making changes to turning movements; signal seen as safety improvement, changes to turning movements would make the intersection not as safe.

The commissioners had no questions for staff at this time; Chairman Winnek then called for public comments. At a request from members of the audience, additional copies of the agenda item were made and distributed.

#### Melinda Brown, Hermosa Beach

Said she was here three months ago; said now dealing with velocity and volume; has seen an increase in speed and cars going up and down 16<sup>th</sup> since the installation of the signal; wants to mitigate the problem before gets worse; being middle of block she feels she feels the increases the most; there are no speed limit signs; there are no police patrols; said street not designed to be major thoroughfare; noted 21<sup>st</sup> St. is twice as wide as 16<sup>th</sup> St.; recommends 16<sup>th</sup> be made one-way, westbound – maybe Ardmore to PCH as well; consider speed bumps or sidewalk on north side of street – back end of property; also turning limitations.

#### Meryl Lande, Hermosa Beach

Appreciates the study but finds it hard to believe anyone could find there's been no increase in volume and velocity; said people are parking there at all hours of the day and night; finds beer cans outside garage; said it is an unacceptable situation; said signal was for crossing kids; doesn't think making 16<sup>th</sup> one way would help, would only impact other streets.

#### David Adler, Hermosa Beach

This issue has brought the neighbors together; wants to say concerned about more than just 16<sup>th</sup> St.; feels street no longer safe, especially when school starts in September; said it's a fact there is more traffic, there will be even more traffic when school starts and even more traffic once Pavilion leases out rest of spaces; said study faulty after school was let out; doesn't know how commission can make decision based on that; how do values of LA

County apply to Hermosa Beach; people can't pull out of their driveways; urged commission not to base decision on study because it is faulty; parking on 16<sup>th</sup> has improved since free parking offered at gym.

Mr. Morgan clarified a point – Council does understand that this is a school route and there is a capital project to put in sidewalks on 16<sup>th</sup> St. this year.

Lee Grant, Hermosa Beach

Mr. Grant read his statement for the commission – noting that he feels the study is incomplete and inaccurate, that it was done when school was out, when traffic is erratic; feels study doesn't make sense; said he knows when a car is speeding; traffic will be much worse when school starts; "I know this traffic study is wrong." Said study is biased, defies common sense.

Eric Reilly, Hermosa Beach

Here to speak on behalf of his children; lives at apex at of hill where cars and trucks are literally going 45 MPH; said trucks are flying up street; said feels statistics not accurate; asked that please, for the kids on the street, do something.

Sam Abrams, Hermosa Beach

Said logic says the report can't be true; said signal was put in so traffic goes directly to Prospect; can't believe report unless there was a summer lull; if a parking issue, put in a parking district; at Planning commission, approved 8,000 s.f. restaurant and there'll be lots of cars coming in. Said barrier on 14<sup>th</sup> was put in before he moved there, signage helped keep folks from speeding down 14<sup>th</sup> to barrier and no outlet to PCH.

Richard Thompson, Hermosa Beach

Said can barely get out of his garage in the morning; said cars are moving a lot faster than 25 MPH; has physically gotten out in front of cars and slowed them down; there are no speed limit signs; cars are parking on corners, safety vehicles couldn't get by.

Ron Miller, Hermosa Beach

Wanted an understanding of counts in report; asked about disparity between eastbound and westbound traffic on 16<sup>th</sup> St. plus northbound and southbound on PCH.

Steve Scandura, Hermosa Beach

Said he loved living in Hermosa – doesn't want to turn it into MB, with race tracks on every street; sympathizes with residents on 16<sup>th</sup> St.; sympathizes with people on 16<sup>th</sup> – suggested signs that say "No Through Traffic" or a speed bump; people in hurry using 16<sup>th</sup> and therefore going faster; making 16<sup>th</sup> one way would cause big problem on 17<sup>th</sup> and big problem on Raymond; maybe better to address problem with speed limit signs, speed bump and some enforcement.

Linda Miller, Hermosa Beach

Said she lives in condo complex; said 16<sup>th</sup> St. [Ardmore to PCH] is one block street carrying a tremendous amount of traffic; at least 200 cars in that one building (Commodore); compared with on block street at McDonald's – noting turning restrictions

and suggested similar signage at pavilion; added wants speed bumps on both sides to parking garage; said it's a miracle no one killed already considering the amount of traffic on that one block.

Dr. Stacy Keller, WCA Animal Hospital, Hermosa Beach

Said she sympathizes with residents; noted there are two entrances to the hospital – one on PCH, one on 16<sup>th</sup> and if 16<sup>th</sup> is made one way westbound, clients would not be able to access the hospital parking area; believes speed and volume can both be addressed by speed bumps, rather than making 16<sup>th</sup> one way.

Patty Egerer, Hermosa Beach

Said she lives on 15<sup>th</sup> Place and property goes through to 16<sup>th</sup> St.; said she feels traffic as it goes up and down the hill; said the whole area is affected; said drivers go up 16<sup>th</sup>, to Mira to 15<sup>th</sup> Pl. to Ocean to Aviation – shortcut avoiding three signals created by signal at 16<sup>th</sup> and PCH; said that report not acknowledge significance of traffic flow change; said while has created some safety on PCH, is like their neighborhood is condemned; said would like to see back up information, wants another run of traffic counts; said numbers don't make sense; asked if anyone has evaluated materials used to build 16<sup>th</sup> St. – noting was built in 1927; said that there's been a dramatic change in the neighborhood that must be realized.

Lisa Brennan, Hermosa Beach

Said is frustrated, doesn't know what the solution is and is asking commission to help with the solution; said would like second chance with the traffic count; map is incorrect which so maybe the numbers are as well; said has lived there 11 years; said everyone knows that when a traffic light goes in, traffic goes up; said she knows is convenient but knows it ties to commercial areas; for first time could not get out of her garage the preceding Sunday; said traffic study should be done when school is in for a fair count; feels neighbors on Raymond are concerned; asked for way to mitigate traffic, especially commercial traffic in her neighborhood.

Greg Sampson, Hermosa Beach

Said he has two kids under three; said volume and speed are his main concerns; as everyone has said, speed and traffic have increased – it's through traffic between Prospect and PCH; said reports are faulty; said at last meeting commission approved looking at one way on 16<sup>th</sup> or other options; said two cars in each direction cannot pass at same time; CUP approved previous evening at Planning Commission means alcohol okay until midnight; asked if other solutions can be looked at.

Howard Longacre, Hermosa Beach

Reviewed his handout; said this signal is an attractive nuisance; suggested eliminating through traffic on 16<sup>th</sup>; said gate just above entrance to parking at animal hospital is what is needed; said no more traffic counts.

Point of Order: Mr. Longacre noted that other commissions and/or councils allow more time to speak.

Alan Tellman, Hermosa Beach

Said this isn't normal inclined street, is very steep and vehicles are "flying" when get to top of hill; said report wasn't realistic – no school traffic; now has to get out to street so wife can get onto street to leave in morning; said report is incorrect saying traffic isn't fast in neighborhood – sees many near misses; said average speed noted in report is impossible; noted street was built in 1927.

Gene Shook, Pavilion

Said parking district needed east and west of PCH, parking will only get worse over time; said slowing methods include speed bumps, posted speed limits, "No Trucks" signage; said creating inconvenience will cause people to go elsewhere; said speed bump should be placed west of loading dock if installed; said timely enforcement most important thing area needs.

Point of Order: Ms. Egerer noted that the chart in the report doesn't have reference where the roadway capacity values were obtained – source document. Also noted that roads are built differently now than they were in 1927 and gave picture from that period to the commission.

Alan Strusser, Hermosa Beach

Said he doesn't know the answer, does know the entire neighborhood is affected, does use Raymond to 16<sup>th</sup> to use the signal; said if he lived on 16<sup>th</sup>, he'd be selling; noted the two schools are accessed using 16<sup>th</sup> St.; noted Hermosa is changing – is more expensive and more family friendly.

Phil Luken, Hermosa Beach

Said he was here the previous evening where they said no studies were being done so applauds this commission for doing so; said there may be some inconsistencies in report; asked that commission continued to look at situation; asked that look at other forms of mitigation before making street one way.

Rosalyn Bender, Hermosa Beach

Pointed out that signal didn't go up until private business owner paid for it; forty years ago parents bought home she currently lives in east on 16<sup>th</sup> St. because didn't want traffic, noise, safety and parking issues that west side of PCH presents; still have all of those issues; looking at Current Traffic Counts, said counts aren't realistic and residents have spent entire summer and suggested resolutions have not been taken seriously.

Michael Nixon, Hermosa Beach

Said he's an 11-year resident; this is the first issue that's jarred him; said people tear up and down street at all times of day and night; asked about installing speed bumps; asked that do study when school is in session – would make more sense.

Discussion among the commissioners and questions to staff highlighted the following:

- Trips generated per day per households feeding the area, the numbers seem to make sense.

- It was noted that person with driver's license should know the allowable speed limit is 25 mph when signs aren't posted – and don't have to be per the California Vehicle Code.
- Clarified that speed humps on streets steeper than 8% and 16<sup>th</sup> St. clearly exceeds
- Clarified difference between speed *humps* and speed *bumps*
- Report with counts was taken after school was out for summer – different traffic patterns
- If created one-way streets, speed would most likely increase on the couplets as would the volume of vehicles and, would be best to do it area wide which would mean a change to the Circulation Element
- Couplets are normally within one block of each other
- Markings and signage needed as well as additional enforcement
- Methods using signal to discourage traffic include using delayed turning; current timing set up by Caltrans and they don't slow traffic, they want smooth flow
- 16<sup>th</sup> St. clearly a school route with additional traffic during school year
- Data doesn't show problems indicated by the neighborhood
- Council hasn't heard requests for changes because Council direction was to do report, receive public comment at Public Works Commission, then back to Council with comments – still in process
- Possibly should have workshop to determine all issues and components of problems and possible solutions to move forward on issues other than light – looking for solution for whole neighborhood
- Another study needed after school year begins

Point of order: Residents not asking for removal of light, asking for traffic and speed mitigation

- Addition of "fancy" new restaurant not seen to be traffic nuisance – visitors from other cities would most likely take the larger streets to leave the area rather than neighborhood streets
- Don't want to create problems for other neighborhoods
- Time, thought, additional study can hopefully come up with good solution
- Restricting eastbound through traffic to residents only is not a legal option
- Turning restrictions during peak hours can be done but can cause problems on other streets

**MOTION** by Commissioner DiVirgilio that commission support staff recommendation to leave signalized intersection as is with condition of exploring options for mitigation efforts east and west of Pacific Coast Highway with possibility of that including an all-party workshop and a new traffic study. Seconded by Commissioner Beste.

AYES: Beste, Brittain, DiVirgilio, Marinelli, Winnek  
 NAYS: None  
 ABSENT: None  
 ABSTAIN: None

Further discussion included:

- Signage and pavement markings can/will be done for neighborhood.
- The Community Development Director usually takes the lead when creating parking districts.
- A combined effort is needed to develop solutions that work.

**7. Commissioners' Reports**

None at this time.

**8. Public Works Department Reports**

a. Monthly Activity Report – June

b. Project Status Report – June

The above items are submitted for information purposes only.

At this time Mr. Morgan advised that notice will go out for Public Works Commission Meeting of September 20, 2006 to begin the public process for Pier Avenue. Asked which two commissioners would like to be on the subcommittee for this project. Noted that item will be on Planning Commission Agenda and Mr. Morgan asked subcommittee to attend that so they could report back to the Public Works Commission the following evening. Then the Planning Commission subcommittee could attend this commission's meeting as well. Commissioners Marinelli and Brittain volunteered to be on the subcommittee.

**9. Items Requested by Commissioners**

None

**10. Other Matters**

Commissioner Brittain thanked Mr. Morgan for the manuals.

Commissioner Winnek noted that at the intersection of PCH and Artesia, the lines from one side of Artesia to the other do not line up thereby creating confusion for those traveling northbound through the intersection. Mr. Morgan said he would take it up with Manhattan neighbors and Caltrans.

**11. Public Comment**

Rosalyn Bender, Hermosa Beach

Spoke with Stephen Burrell regarding issues discussed earlier this evening; told her about other streets where action had been taken – 3<sup>rd</sup> one way eastbound, 2<sup>nd</sup> westbound, and 14<sup>th</sup> blocked totally at PCH; guessed that there was enough public comment at the time to make these changes happen; said was curious took this much to make this happen on 16<sup>th</sup> Street.

Alan Thomen, Hermosa Beach

Previously discussed traffic issues aside, there is a problem where 16<sup>th</sup> Street meets Prospect, whenever trying to make left from Prospect, people traveling up hill tend to "pre-turn" so more often than not has to go way out and around to get down his street – asked for yellow lines on street and signage.

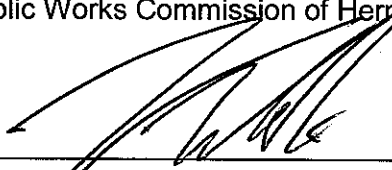
**12. Adjournment**

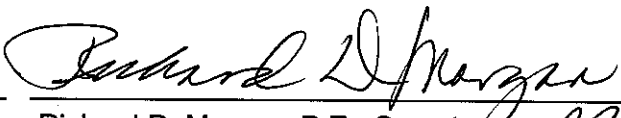
Commissioner Winnek adjourned the meeting at 9:48 pm to the meeting of Wednesday, September 20, 2006.



**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and complete record of the action taken by the Public Works Commission of Hermosa Beach at the regularly scheduled meeting of August 16, 2006.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Victor Winnek, Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard D. Morgan, P.E., Secretary *RP*

*8/20/06*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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