

October 30, 2006

Honorable Mayor and Members of
the Hermosa Beach City Council

Regular Meeting of
November 14, 2006

PROPOSED LIGHT IN NOBLE PARK

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Authorize staff to install a light in Noble Park; and
2. Approve transfer funds within the Parks budget to pay for the purchase of the light.

Summary:

Staff received a letter from a resident living adjacent to Noble Park expressing concerns for safety at night in Noble Park. This resident felt that the park is too dark and that the addition of a light would improve safety. Staff agrees that the lighting is minimal and that a light would be a good addition to the park. Staff proposes a 14-foot tall light pole with a full-cutoff luminaire, the same as the new Strand lights.

Noble Park is zoned O-S-2 Restricted Open Space Zone. Section 17.34.030 of the Municipal Code specifies permitted improvements to include "unobtrusive park lighting." The full cut-off luminaire is designed to eliminate side glare. Along with a short pole, staff considers this "unobtrusive."

This item was taken to the Public Works Commission on October 19, 2005. Meeting notices were hand delivered to the surrounding properties. The Commission supported installation of the lighting installation as long as it is not intrusive to the neighbors (see attached excerpt).

Fiscal Impact:

The luminaire and pole cost \$2,117 and will be purchased using funds currently in account 001-6101-4309 (Parks, Maintenance Materials) which would be transferred to 001-6101-9401 (Parks, Infrastructure - Streetlights).

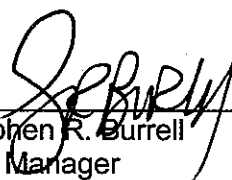
- Attachments: 1. Excerpt, PWC Meeting Minutes 10-19-05
2. Letter from resident

Respectfully submitted,

Concur:

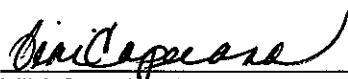


Richard D. Morgan, P.E.
Director of Public Works/City Engineer



Stephen R. Burrell
City Manager

Noted for fiscal impact:



Viki Copeland
Finance Director

- Suggested re-cement area in front of his house and leave the rest of the street as it is in good condition.
- Hold construction company that did the damage liable for repair of the damaged section of street.

Danny Piper, 804 19th Street

- Thanked Mike for talking to the residents today.
- No preference for concrete or paving, will support the majority of the residents' wishes.
- There are cracks in the street near his house and should be repaired.
- Wants encroachments to remain.

Discussion among the Commission included the following:

- Mr. Morgan explained that this street is ranked 10 or lower out of 100 and is considered in poor condition.
- Grind and overlay has been the method often utilized for concrete streets. Once streets are street are overlaid, they can then be part of the slurry program every five years.
- No permits have been issued for encroachments.
- Problem with encroachments is drainage and need to keep water out of manhole. There would be no significant loss.
- Numerous requests cited by Commissioner DiVirgilio for repair of streets. Believes support is owed to City to repair damaged streets.

MOTION by Commissioner DiVirgilio to support and approve staff's recommendation to repair 19th Street. Seconded by Commissioner Lombardo.

AYES: Beste, DiVirgilio, Lombardo
 NAYS: Marinelli
 ABSENT: None
 ABSTAIN: None

d. Installation of new street light in Noble Park

Mr. Morgan received a letter (and concurrence from other residents via phone calls) that the park is very dark and believes that a light will discourage loitering. There is currently a 15-foot pole in the yard and a light can be installed by maintenance with minimal cost. Will install a luminary with cut-off to keep glare to a minimum. Wants to hear from resident north of the park and the beach house to see if they support installation. There are a lot of restrictions placed on Noble Park but it does include lighting and park benches – park benches have been installed. One light would not be enough to illuminate the entire park, but the center area, which is the darkest.

Commissioner Beste cited instructions for public comment and opened the floor.

Bernard Rawlings, 1510 The Strand

- 15 year resident
- Lives north of the park
- Concerned about lighting. Lighting from the temporary lifeguard stand creates a shadow in his bedroom.
- Neighbors who would be affected by this light as well are currently on vacation.
- Believes this light will cast a shadow in his bedroom as well.
- Have never noticed any one loitering.
- If lights are placed, he would suggest placing a series of smaller, lower voltage lights.

Discussion among the Commission included the following:

- Attachments on lights to keep down glare, similar to the Strand.
- Preference to install pedestrian lighting over one center light, but very expensive, approximate cost \$100,000.
- The challenge of maintaining pedestrian with current landscaping would be very difficult.
- A lighting study was considered. It was decided that this would be a burden to staff based on one complaint and one response.
- Lighting may attract loiterers.
- Believes lighting was not placed in park to discourage use at night by residents.
- Strand lighting is being evaluated by Mr. Morgan and Mr. Flaherty with \$60,000 in the budget earmarked for this project – this will not affect the park.

MOTION by Commissioner DiVirgilio to install lighting but be diligent that it is not intrusive to the neighbors. Seconded by Commissioner Lombardo.

AYES: DiVirgilio, Lombardo, Marinelli
NAYS: Beste
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

7. Commissioners' Reports

Commissioner DiVirgilio – Centennial Committee: Gave an update on meeting last week. This meeting discussed one of the aspects of the Centennial Celebration – ‘100 Acts of Beautification’. The Centennial Committee along with Public Works will seek to identify as many projects as possible that will enhance the city and promote community involvement. These projects, once identified and approved, will be completed over the course of the year. Different, possible, ideas were discussed. At this time, no plans have been finalized. Commissioner DiVirgilio requested Commission’s involvement to brainstorm tasks and present at the next meeting.

Further discussion continued about work budgeted for and being done at the Clark Building: prior to exterior painting maintenance will replace windows and substantially trim back trees on the south and east sides.

8. Public Works Department Reports

- Reminder: Sandbags available for residential use at 1315 Valley Drive, City Hall parking lot. Sandbags are replenished weekly.
- Pier Phase 3 Ceremony, Saturday, November 19th at 11:30 a.m. Lifeguards will move in next week.
- Walk of Jazz, Saturday, October 22nd. Plaques have been installed. Will also install Surfer Walk of Fame plaque.
- Mr. Morgan will be taking the new policy for handicap parking to Council first meeting November, along with tree ordinance.

9. Items Requested by Commissioners

Commissioner Marinelli - 20th Street Improvements: Mr. Morgan stated this has been completed and residents were pleased with contractors and the resulting work.

Commissioner DiVirgilio – Crosswalk and light at PCH and 16th Streets: Mr. Morgan stated the traffic is being funded by the developer of the pavilion and have reached an impasse with Caltrans over a handicap ramp not meeting standards and will now be taken to the State Architect for approval. Mr. Morgan estimates that the light may be in place by the end of the calendar year.

RICK

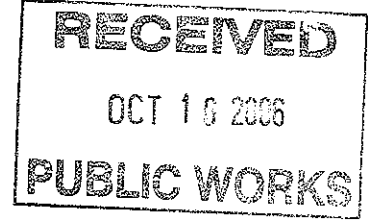
City of Hermosa Beach



Civic Center, 1315 Valley Drive, Hermosa Beach, California 90254-3885

October 10, 2006

Roy Casey
55 15th Street
Hermosa Beach, CA 90254



Dear Roy:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter dated October 2, 2006. Your letter will be included on the City Council agenda of October 24, 2006.

I have forwarded copies of your letter to the members of the City Council and appropriate department heads for their information.

One of the items you mentioned, the light in Noble Park, will be installed following the City Council action at his meeting on October 24, 2006.

Let me know if you have any questions. I can be reached Monday through Thursday from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. by phone at (310) 318-0216 or by email at sburrell@hermosabch.org.

Sincerely,

Stephen R. Burrell
City Manager

SRB:rem

ROY CASEY
55 15TH STREET
HERMOSA BEACH, CA 90254

RECEIVED
OCT - 3 2006
Per.....

(310) 357-7620

October 2, 2006

The Honorable Mayor and City Council
c/o Stephen Burrell, City Manager
Civic Center, 1315 Valley Drive
Hermosa Beach, CA 90254

Gentlemen:

I respectfully request that the matters described below be included as an agenda item in the near future for investigation, discussion, consideration and eventually a vote by the City Council of Hermosa Beach, CA.

Overview

The purpose of my letter is to promote actions in the area of crime prevention that will help lower the potential for crime. I consider crime prevention programs to be particularly important in Hermosa Beach because our city has very limited resources to fund the enforcement of laws in the face of an extremely high volume of visitors and tourists that drive a higher need for safety.

Crime Prevention and Safety

I hope you share my thinking that crime prevention programs are a great way for cities with lots of leisure time tourists and limited finances to help smaller police departments head off crimes before they are committed. The single idea that I would like to place before you at this time is to increase lighting in the following areas:

1. Noble Park between 14TH St. and 15TH St. does not have any lighting whatsoever and it has become a favorite gathering place at night for drinking, selling and using drugs and a popular spot for sleeping over night. The darkness is also an inviting environment for abduction, robbery, mugging, rape and other illicit activity. I am told that there may be conduit already run underground to accommodate wires for lighting. Of course, the light fixture would have to be appropriate for a park, fall within the guidelines established for Noble Park and be acceptable to residences and businesses within eyesight of the park.
2. The apron or foot of the pier is very dimly lit and it has a heavy level of foot traffic combined with fast moving bikes, skateboards and scooters. It would be fairly easy to add lighting from existing electrical wires in the immediate area. Lighting would also discourage under age kids from gathering in this area after curfew. This is a difficult area for HBPD to patrol because it is so far away from the street and lighting would represent a great deterrent to crime at this location.

3. The parking lots North and South of the Plaza are not well lit and they represent likely locations for muggings and abduction because people are getting in and out of cars in a dark place with not many people around. There are many light standards and other places in this area with existing electrical sources, which should make it relatively efficient to increase the number of lumens in these areas.
4. Under the pier has become a favorite sleeping place for uninvited guests and a great place for criminals to hide. On a recent occasion, HBPD discovered two overnight guests that had outstanding warrants for their arrest sleeping under the pier.
5. The Plaza has relatively dim lighting in relation to the high level of foot traffic combined with riders on bikes and skateboards who often times come through the Plaza at high rates of speed or in masse. If the city is going to continue to allow bike riders and skate boarders in the Plaza, then additional lighting would help to lower the number of accidents. This is particularly important because this is one of the few areas in the city where parents feel comfortable letting their children run and play in the open space but the reality is that they are subject to being run over just as if they were playing on The Strand.
6. Street Lights and Alley Lights – While we are looking into lighting, it would be good to consider the adequacy of lighting on all streets and back alleys, particularly in light of the increase in the number of night clubs, increased population, increase in visitors and tourists and the overall increase in the crime rate in our country.

Thank you in advance for your consideration in these matters.

Best regards,

