

Minutes of the Ocean Beach Planning Board General Meeting 2/05/14

6:05:30: Meeting called to order. Present: Scott Therkalsen, Pete Ruscitti, Bill Bushe, Raeanon Hartigan, Drew Wilson, Gio Ingolia, John Ambert, Kevin Becker, Andrew Waltz.

Motion to add information item on upcoming elections to the agenda as item #1 by Gio. Vote 9-0-0

Minutes: Gio moves to approve the minutes from 12/4/13, Rae seconds. Vote 8-0-1

Gio moves to approve the minutes from 12/11/13, Rae seconds. Vote 9-0-0

Relevant Representative Reports: John (Faulconer's Rep) - Gio should be appointed to Mission Bay Park Committee this week; the precise plan appears to be on track to meet the city planning dates which Gio will announce later.

Non-agenda public comment: Chris Morro (Inn on Sunset Cliffs) – at suggestion of city he announced that the Inn is now completing a EIR and seeking public comment.

Information Item #1: Election Committee Update: Materials are posted online and after reviewing the materials an unfortunate bylaw states that the Feb and March meetings do not count towards the required meeting attendance. One solution would be to start the process earlier; in the future the board will look in to possible solutions. At this time there is little that can be done for applicants who have not attended a meeting before February. Announcements of vacant seats and dates for the election; Public forum will be open to all. Seth Connolly announced that he was one who was ready to run but not eligible due to the above mentioned rules.

Action Item #1: Design of the Santa Monica Ave mid-block crosswalk

John (Faulconer's Rep) – Street light was first step towards crosswalk. After discussions with staff there were 4 options. There is money for curb-cut with raised crosswalk, not sure about the raised crosswalk with the grate or the two hump crosswalk. Street division has decided whatever is there will be concrete not asphalt.

Pete's Clarification – city's option is designed and pretty much ready is for a raised crosswalk, can be funded now. Community is concerned about the downslope/upslope aspect of the basic raised crosswalk the city is ready to do. Community suggested one like the one in Solana Beach. City engineer says there is plenty of room to meet the max 5% grade requirement.

Public Comment:

Man#1: Volunteers like me will still be out there, some of those fancy little bumps would help because people are speeding down here like crazy. Jon's response – city policy is not to do the "bumps" anymore. More traffic calming can be discussed in the future if the one decided upon is not effective.

Suzy: We've been discussing this for 6 years and the school is still growing. Because it has been so difficult we are hesitant to wait any longer. All the parents are really hoping for this to get done now, the design as long as it is raised is acceptable.

Nicole: in favor of the raised crosswalk only because realistically it's the only thing we can get done.

Jon: concerned about flooding. All for crosswalk but the raised bump is going to cause problems with water management and also fire trucks will drive over the bumps.

Seth: thanks to the volunteers. Thinks it is an appropriate use of traffic calming.

Board comments:

Bill: let's get this done as fast and as cheap as possible

John: the city option is probably the best one and things can be done to improve it (see my sketch). Lights would also be nice. Funding is here but I think we should work to improve this option.

Andrew: Agreed

Rae: this solution is better than the grate solution. More traffic calming should really be done. Change in grade also forced those on wheels to slow down which is good.

Pete: Some sort of pop-out would be preferred but for practical purpose I'd support getting the simple raised crosswalk installed.

Gio: Option 2 is fully funded. John's answer is yes and this will be done in house. When would the project start? John's answer: I'd hope it could be done by next fall, dude look at how fast I got that streetlight installed! Pedestrian x-ing sign should also be part of the package.

Kevin: let's do it.

Drew: visual traffic calming is preferred. I would prefer option 3. Everything should be geared towards the pedestrian.

Public comment: person who works on this stuff thinks these crossings work really well.

Scott: these ladies have been working on this forever, if they know best then let's support them. Plus john has announced that he will address improvements as needed in the future.

Scott moves to approve option 2, the raised crosswalk with curb ramps, which is funded and will not be going out to bid. Seconded by Gio. Vote 9-0-0

Board reports: OBCDC is having trouble with the funding to finish the entryway. Precise Plan dates: 2/12/14 - smart growth and land use at 2:00; 2/13/14 - planning commission; 2/27/14 historical resource board; 3/17/14 city council hearing.

Motion to adjourn by Rae, seconded by Gio. Meeting adjourned at 7:25.