

LA JOLLA TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Regular Meeting: Wednesday August 16, 2017

Members Present: Dave Abrams, (Chairperson) LJCPA, Tom Brady LJCPA, Donna Aprea LJTC, Patrick Ryan BRCC, Erik Gantzel BRCC, Brian Earley LJSA, Aaron Goulding LJVMA, Corey Bailey LJVMA

Members Absent: Nancy Warwick LJTC, Darryl Tschirn LJSA

Approve Minutes of: Wednesday June 21, 2017 **Motion to Approve: Brady, Second: Earley 7-0-1 (Ryan)**

Public Comments on Non-Agenda LJ&T Matters:

Bill Robbins asked about the status of the four commercial parking spaces at the Cove. He invited parking enforcement to come down and see those four commercial parking spaces and he told the Board that some of the officers stopped writing tickets but some did not. Parking tickets are still being written on them and he reminds the Board that this is something we did not approve for more than one commercial space on a trial basis and that LJCPA did not ratify (*Agenda Item 2, March 15, 2017*). Bill advised there needs to be signage and better striping on those four parking spaces. Brian pointed out that when we make recommendations it does not always mean the City will accept them as it appears to be in this matter. LJ&T is just an advisory board for the City. Dave will contact City staff for a resolution.

Catharine Douglass appears before the Board with a picture of a crashed car on its side with its roof sheared off, the result of a collision with the house that is located on the corner of Torrey Pines and East Ivanhoe. This house appeared on the front page of the La Jolla Light several weeks ago. It has been the target of four car crashes due to excessive speeds at that intersection.

Catharine is asking the Board if the City has anything that can be put up as a barrier to protect personal property but also pedestrians. There are not many places to cross Torrey Pines so the intersection of East Ivanhoe which has a traffic light has a lot of pedestrians. The driver of the car in the picture went through the intersection at 55 mph and flipped her car into the home taking out the chimney but if a pedestrian had been there they would have been killed. Catharine is asking if the City has anything they might be able to install if she went to them for help. Dave responded that he received a phone call from the resident of the house that was damaged in the collision. The resident spoke to City staff and initiated an evaluation of the intersection which is something that LJ&T would have done. Dave advised her to contact him when she receives a definitive response from the City with any improvements for the intersection and he will put it on our Agenda.

Zack Hayman commented on the traffic light on Girard Ave. at Pearl St. The center lane is used for drivers turning right from Girard Ave onto Pearl but it is also used by drivers continuing straight on Girard. When a driver does not turn right and wants to go straight on Girard they stop and doing that “kills the lane”. When the light turns green arrow, right turn drivers end up merging into the right lane to turn because the other lane is stopped. It is creating a mess at that intersection. Dave responded that there is a tremendous volume of traffic at that intersection and if its tinkered with there may be other complications but he will contact City staff to ask them if they have any ideas for improvements.

Tresha Souza in the audience for the So Fine on Kline Agenda Item supports what Mr. Hayman is saying about the traffic conditions on Pearl at Girard. She called the City about it. There should be dedicated turn arrow lights at that intersection to keep the traffic flowing because as it is right now one driver can stop traffic waiting to turn right. Ms. Souza said a City staff member came down to survey the traffic at that intersection and his findings were inconclusive. Dave asked her who she spoke to and she could not recall their name only that it was a City traffic engineer. Dave asked her to call him if she can find the name of the staff member she spoke to because it could help him expedite communication with the City.

A final comment from a gentleman in the audience referenced the excessive speeding on Gilman Drive stating that Gilman Drive should be renamed Gilman Highway. San Diego Police Officers seem to have turned Gilman over to UCSD and don't really care about residents who live on the street. Dave responded that there is excessive speeding on most of our streets throughout La Jolla. Dave will include Gilman Drive when he speaks to City staff about the other issues that have been brought to our attention.

No further public comments.

Agenda Item 1: Election of Officers Nominated from June Meeting:

Chairperson: D. Abrams

Vice Chairperson: B. Earley

Secretary: D. Aprea

Motion to Approve Slate of Officers for 2017-2018: Brady/Ryan 5-0-3 (Abrams, Earley, Aprea)

Agenda Item 2: La Jolla Art and Wine Festival- Request for Temporary Street Closures on portions of Girard Ave, Wall Street, and Silverado Street for the annual fundraising event benefitting La Jolla Public Schools on Saturday October 7 and Sunday October 8 (Laurel McFarlane) **Action Item**

Two-day festival showcases over 400 Artists, a festive wine and beer garden featuring 16 different wineries and 12 different craft breweries, a silent auction, a family center, Gepetto's will host a children's center, there will be a food court offering a variety of different food, live

music throughout the day and entertainment. Attendance is expected to surpass 20,000 people. Because of their high record of attendance sponsorship has increased allowing them to give even more funds to the Elementary and Middle Schools. Saturday hours 10 am to 7 pm. Sunday hours 9 am to 6 pm.

Street closures begin Friday Oct 6 at 5:00 pm for set-up of load-ins and end Sunday October 8 at 11:00 pm for clean-up and load-out. 24 hour Security will be provided both days. Affected Streets that will be closed:

Girard Ave between Prospect and Torrey Pines Rd.
Silverado between Drury Lane and the alley west of Herschel.
Wall Street between Girard Ave and the alley west of Herschel.
Nothing has changed from last year's event.

Board discussion began with Tom advising that this event is always very well attended and is supported by the Village Merchants Association. The LJVMA voted to approve it at their last meeting.

Aaron asked what percentage of retailers and artists are from this community. Laurel mentioned there are about 45% new artists participating in this year's event and Aaron asked what percentage are from La Jolla. Laurel is in charge of production not securing the artists but she can find out for him. This is something Aaron really wants to know because her event is going to impact the community and business owners. Aaron owns an Art Gallery in the Village and every time they have their event his business drops significantly. He is speaking for all the other artists in this town when she says there is a 45% increase in new artists and he is asking what does that do for the other artists. Laurel advised that the Committee members for the LJ Art and Wine Festival all live and work in La Jolla their children attend schools here, the last thing they want to do is negatively impact a merchant. She encouraged him to reach out to the committee they are very creative and enjoy finding unique things to do. Aaron has suggested that being an art and wine festival perhaps art gallery owners here should be invited to participate and be a part of it. Laurel will ask Sherry (Ahern) to contact him.

Aaron asked for an estimate of the dollars that have been fundraised for the schools. Laurel responded that since they started the event close to a million dollars has been raised. Brian commented that \$45,000 is estimated to be raised this year. Laurel responded estimates are very fluid since weather and the silent auction plays a role in the outcome. Erik asked is it worthwhile to shut the village down for 3 days just to raise \$45,000.00 dollars and Laurel responded that yes it is because the schools would be impacted without it.

Motion to approve temporary street closures for portions of Girard, Silverado, and Wall Street on October 7-8 for the annual La Jolla Art and Wine Festival: Earley, Second: Ryan 8-0-0

Agenda Item 3: So Fine on Kline- Request for Temporary Street Closure of Kline Street between Girard Ave and Herschel Ave related to the 5th annual event on Sunday November 12. (Tresha Souza) **Action Item**

Festival site includes the street and sidewalk in front of the Church and school property from corner of Girard and Kline to Kline and Herschel.

Set up begins: Saturday 11/11/17 2:00pm

Event Starts: Sunday 11/12/17 9:00am

Event Ends: Sunday 11/12/17 5:00pm

Take Down: Sunday 11/12/17 9:00pm

Starting at 2pm Saturday afternoon Nov 11 San Diego Traffic and Transportation Dept will close the street down on Kline at Girard up to Herschel to mark out the vendor booths and set the stage up. Mary Star of the Sea has that whole block so the closure is only impacting them. Festival will start at 9am Sunday morning. Area restaurants participate. They will have a beer and wine garden. Some of the proceeds from their event goes to the Merchants for their Fourth of July Fireworks Show but their event is not really a fundraiser for them; more like a community family festival that everyone is invited to attend.

During public comment Scott Noya, a parishioner of St. Mary's, is familiar with the festival and the schools and he supports the street closure for the Festival. It's a minimal impact closure since the Church has the entire block and it's a fun time for their church community.

No further comments

Motion to approve temporary street closure on Kline St between Girard and Herschel Ave on Sunday November 12 for the 5th annual So Fine on Kline Event: Brady, Second: Gantzel 8-0-0.

Agenda Item 4: La Jolla Shores Fall Fest- Request for Temporary Street Closure of a portion of Avenida de la Playa for the 10th annual event on Sunday October 15 (Sharon Luscomb)

Action Item

Angie Preisendorfer, President of the La Jolla Shores Business Association, explains it's their 10th annual Fall Festival but it's the first time they are requesting a portion of Avenida de la Playa be closed. Businesses and restaurants participate and children are running back and forth across the street for snacks and treats. This year they decided for safety reasons to close down the street for a few hours. The street closure is for a small portion of Avenida de la Playa, just one block between Calle De La Plata and El Paseo Grande however it affects Shore Rider Bar, Piatti's and Barbarella's within that small area.

Angie submitted letters of endorsement to the Board from the affected businesses but Dave asked her if she received some resistance from anyone else who may be impacted by the closure. Angie responded that there was some concern over lost parking spaces for a few hours but she believes the street closure is safer for the children.

Patrick asked about the hours of the closure and they want 11-5. The Festival begins at 1:00pm and ends at 4:00pm but they need time for set up and clean up. He asked about the number of parking spaces that would be lost for those few hours and Angie responded there are 12 on each side for a total of 24 spaces. There will be a diversion around the closure but Avenida de la Playa is very accustomed to detours and diversions courtesy of the water main construction that has been ongoing for several years. This is the first time they are closing a block of the street down and do not yet know what the city will ask them to do.

Brian sits on the La Jolla Shores Assn Board and represents them here on LJT&T. He noted that the Athenaeum had great success with their street closure the first time they asked for one and he advocated for the Fall Fest street closure to Angie and the LJSBA at the Shores Board meeting. The number of people and the children running around meant a street closure would ensure their safety. It would also encourage more people to walk around to the businesses who have suffered for the last 3 years with all of the construction surrounding them.

Motion to approve temporary street closure of a portion of Avenida de la Playa on Sunday October 15 for the 10th annual La Jolla Shores Fall Fest: Ryan, Second: Bailey 8-0-0

Agenda Item 5: - City Proposed Controls for the Herschel Ave/Kline Street Intersection- Revised pedestrian crossing striping and temporary bulb-outs to enhance pedestrian safety requested by Stella Maris Academy (Julie Hollis) **Action Item**

City Traffic Engineers noted that there is no data showing any accident history or related problems at this intersection besides the concern of the parents and school staff.

City proposed temporary bulb-outs will try to simulate the effects of bulb-outs using striping and pylons, therefore, it's a temporary installation depending on how well they work. The channelizers (pylons) will be the same dimension and style as the ones in Neptune Place and Playa del Norte. Bulb-outs are usually completed by concrete work which would require a CIP project.

Patricia Lowell is the Principal of Stella Maris Academy. Stella Maris will be celebrating their 70th year in September and when the original structure was built they did not have any traffic issues. Today the Academy sits on 3 corners of Herschel Ave with Cadence rounding out the 4th corner of the intersection that has a 4 way stop sign. The stop signs are not effective and they have been trying to solve the problem of slowing down the traffic at that intersection.

Ms. Lowell has noted that when drivers are making the right turn at all corners of the intersection they are driving very fast and they are not slowing down so the turns become very sharp. This is a problem for their students and teachers crossing the intersection to attend classes in other buildings. She told the Board about a Kindergartener who was swinging her lunch bag while crossing the street. A car travelling very fast at the same time touched her lunch bag as she was swinging it. MS Lowell described the incident as a close call and in January they called the City for help. The School asked them for traffic lights but because of the 4 way stop signs city staff told them they could not have the traffic lights but bulb outs might be more appropriate for the intersection. Ms. Lowell has heard from people in neighborhoods that have the bulb outs that it does slow traffic down and she is asking the Board to help them obtain the bulb outs for their intersection.

Patrick clarifies that this is just an application for temporary delineators and nothing more and Ms. Lowell agrees that it is a temporary measure to see if the bulb outs have any effect on slowing down the traffic. Patrick uses the example of the bulb outs at the bottom of Capri and Hidden Valley going north on Ardath choking in the sides of the street so drivers cannot cut the corner. This is what Stella Maris Academy wants for their intersection.

The delineators will force drivers to drive in the center of the street and may cause traffic to back up so several board members are not certain if this is the right solution for the intersection but Ms. Lowell wants to try it. Patrick comments that to make roads safe they have to feel dangerous to the driver and doing this does slows traffic down. He would have had a problem if the channelizers were going to cause a loss of parking spaces but it appears that the channelizers will be placed in the red zones of the intersection. Patrick considers doing this for a one year trial in case it does cause a traffic nightmare on the intersection.

Board members want to consider other options for traffic calming on the intersection but this is the City proposed measure that is on the table. If it does not work out the City can reverse course and consider other methods.

Public comment: Scott Noya comments that he served on the Stella Maris school board when his children attended the school. He also lived a few blocks from the intersection so he knows it well. It was a very busy intersection in the past that has become increasingly busier due to the traffic on Torrey Pines Road. Drivers are cutting off on Torrey Pines at Ivanhoe and blowing through the intersections on Kline to get to where they need to go. As a cyclist he sees a lot of traffic back-ups. Traffic backing up on Herschel Ave should not be an issue and this is a pilot project that the city wants to try, so it seems to him that this is something we should try as well. Aaron spoke to Mr. Noya directly advising him that what we propose for the intersection might affect his cycling as well; he will lose about 10' of space and getting pinched in as well. Mr. Noya responded that when he feels unsafe on his bike he takes the lane which he can do.

Tom wants this proposal to be a one year trial to see how well it works and if it works out well

It could be made permanent. The re-striping will not be affected by our one year trial.

Motion to Approve City's proposed temporary pedestrian safety improvements at the Herschel Avenue/Kline Street intersection on a one-year trial basis with an effectiveness evaluation to occur at the conclusion of that timeframe: Brady, Second: Bailey 8-0-0

Agenda Item 6: Resident Request for Consideration of Special Area for La Jolla residents to park at La Jolla Shores Beach- Referral from Barbara Bry, City Council, for review of this topic. (David Ellman) **Discussion Item**

David Ellman, a resident of La Jolla, has asked the Board to consider a special area of La Jolla Shores Beach for La Jolla residents to park their vehicles. This is a discussion only item.

Brian starts the discussion by advising there would have to be parking permits issued and someone would need to patrol the lot for parking permits. Dave believes meter maids would be responsible for doing that along with their other tasks. Dave believes that Mr. Ellman just wants an exclusive area in the Shores for La Jolla residents but determining who is a La Jolla resident may have its own issues.

Tom advises that the City has a policy on residential permits which would apply to us as City residents. Mr. Ellman would have to get a petition going for interested residents. Tom feels it would open up questions as to how many permits are issued to residents; would it be by the number of families living at an address which could be taken as unfair if there is a single family residence vs multiple family residence. It becomes complicated.

Patrick knows it is done well in other cities; Seattle and San Francisco issue them by zones, it requires a lot of management overhead. In some cities it comes down to the vehicle; license plate numbers are written on the permit and the permit is attached to the rear of the vehicle. The city would need a residential permit computer system to keep track of them and then be able to enforce it.

Erik believes that the proposal as conceived is not designed to allow people to park in their own area around their home, it is to provide a benefit to the entire community of La Jolla just to park in an area at the Shores. Here is a zone where anyone from this community can park and it is at a public resource. It is not protecting the residents living there; it is setting aside a City resource for everyone in this community. The proposal becomes problematic when setting aside an area for people who need it the least at the expense of people who need it the most.

Dave references the money source for the City from selling the permits to those residents for exclusive use of the area. Patrick considers that would become an access issue because the residents who can most afford the permits would purchase them and the residents who least can afford it could not participate.

Tom notes that Mr. Ellman is the only one he knows of that has expressed an interest in residential parking permits. If he has the stamina to get the facts and comply with all of the City regulations pertaining to the permit process then Tom would encourage him to do it. However, the proposal is so complex it borders on nightmarish and several board members have expressed some discomfort with it.

Brian advises the Board that Mr. Ellman did not appear at the La Jolla Shores Assn Meeting with his proposal.

Dave will contact Mr. Ellman.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 5:05pm

Next Meeting: September 20, 2017 Dave announced that the Chairperson and Secretary will be out of town that date. Brian will fill in for the Chairperson and Nancy will fill in for the Secretary.

Respectfully submitted: Donna Aperia, Secretary