

MINUTES OF TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING OF THE CITY OF LOS ALAMITOS

REGULAR MEETING – February 8, 2023

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Traffic Commission met in Regular Session at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 8, 2023, Chair Patz presiding.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners:

Chair Patz,
Vice Chair Murphy
D. Hill (7:14 p.m.), R. Hill, Marchese, Mejia,
Salai

Present: Staff:

Ron Noda, Development Services Director
Irving Montenegro Jr., Development Services Manager
Chris Kelley, City Engineer
Brent Malatesta, Sergeant
Shaun Krogman, Sergeant
Maria Veronica Enciso, Department Secretary

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Marchese led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. ORAL COMMUNICATION

Chair Patz opened oral communications.

Resident and President of the Parkewood Neighborhood Home Owners Association (HOA) John Lang spoke about agenda item 5A, and expressed his preference for option 1 of the proposed recommendations.

Chair Patz closed oral communications.

5. PRESENTATION

A. Presentation Regarding E-Bike Safety

Sergeant Krogman provided an E-bike safety presentation.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

All Consent Calendar items may be acted upon by one motion unless a Traffic Commissioner requests separate action on a specific item.

A. Findings Required by AB 361 for the Continued Use of Teleconferencing for Meetings

For the Traffic Commission to continue to have the option to meet via teleconference during the pandemic, AB 361 requires the Traffic Commission to make specific findings at least every thirty (30) days.

Motion/Second: Mejia/Murphy

(Carried 7/0): The Traffic Commission approved Consent Calendar Item A.

B. Approval of the Minutes

Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Meeting of November 9, 2022, and January 11, 2023, and the Special Meeting of December 14, 2022 with revisions.

Motion/Second: Mejia/R. Hill

Carried 7/0: The Traffic Commission approved the Regular Meeting Minutes of November 9, 2022 with revisions.

Motion/Second: Mejia/R. Hill

Carried 6/0 (Salai abstained): The Traffic Commission approved the Special Meeting Minutes of December 14, 2022 with the requested changes.

Motion/Second: D. Hill/B. Hill

Carried 7/0: The Traffic Commission approved the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 11, 2023.

7. STAFF REPORTS

A. Parkewood Neighborhood Red Curb Painting

Development Services Director Noda summarized the staff report.

Commissioner R. Hill asked Mr. Lang about the current condition for vehicles exiting the neighborhood and the presence of a blind spot. Mr. Lang described the dangerous conditions for vehicles, despite the maintenance to the hedges.

Commissioner D. Hill asked about whether the extension of the red curb would eliminate any parking spaces – Mr. Lang stated that it is not often that people park in those areas.

Commissioner Murphy asked and received clarification from Development Services Director Noda regarding the options proposed, which would include additional red curb for consideration.

Commissioner Mejia asked about the access for emergency vehicles - Mr. Lang described his experience of where he has seen emergency vehicles park during a call for service.

Commissioner Mejia asked and received clarification from Development Services Director Noda regarding the process for notifying residents about these types of changes, and whether the City would incorporate this as a step in the process.

Commissioner Mejia asked and received clarification from Sergeant Malatesta about the restrictions for parking on corners.

Commissioner Salai asked and received clarification from Sergeant Malatesta about the current level of enforcement in the neighborhood. Sergeant Malatesta advised that in the event of a serious safety hazard, making contact with the vehicle owners is their first step approach before considering the impounding of a vehicle violating restrictions.

Commissioner Salai asked and received information from Mr. Lang about the basis for this request, despite there being a lack of complaints from residents to the Police Department. Mr. Lang stated that the community has older residents, which makes it unsafe without sidewalks when walking. Also, due to vehicles it causes very congested streets.

Commissioner Salai and Development Services Director Noda discussed the following:

- Whether approving this request would set a precedent for other similar requests throughout the City.
- If this request is approved, whether it would trigger the mandatory enforcement of all red curbs.
- The two options proposed, and whether the painting of the corners is appropriate.
- Whether the HOA would cover the costs for this request.

Commissioner Mejia asked and received clarification from Development Services Director Noda regarding how long the red curb would be in place, and when it would necessitate repainting. Development Services Director Noda advised that curbs and address numbers are regularly repainted throughout the City every two (2) years.

Commissioner R. Hill discussed the circumstances for this request, and the substantial differences this has to other requests for red curbs in the City.

Chair Patz discussed not approving this item today, and instead allowing staff the opportunity to notice residents of that neighborhood for the chance to provide feedback.

Commissioner Salai asked and received clarification from Development Services Director Noda stating that requests for curb paintings do not go before City Council for consideration. Also identifying that code changes do go before City Council for consideration.

Chair Patz stated that he is not concerned that approving this request would set a precedent, as it is a unique area.

Motion/Second: R. Hill/

Not Carried: The Traffic Commission made a motion to approve the curb painting request as submitted, subject to the results of the notification to the residents of the neighborhood.

Commissioner R. Hill rescinded his motion.

Motion/Second: R. Hill/Marchese

Carried 7/0: The Traffic Commission approved moving this item to the next meeting, pending feedback from the community regarding the red curb request in the Parkewood neighborhood.

B. Traffic Commission Status Log

This is a tracking tool used by the Traffic Commission to track assignments and accomplishments.

Commissioner Salai shared the following:

- Item A29 – requested the status of the school traffic study. Development Services Director Noda advised that staff is in the process of securing a Consultant to develop a new study.
- Briefly discussed the traffic conditions surrounding the High School, and the timing of the traffic lights.

Commissioner Mejia stated that he experienced some difficulty accessing the agenda and attachments on the City website. Department Secretary Enciso and Development Services Director Noda advised that the City website was transitioned to its latest format about ten months ago, which changed the way agendas are downloaded.

Commissioner Murphy asked about his request for a median marker on the east side of Katella Avenue. Development Services Director Noda advised that the item would be added to the log and will be assessed.

8. FROM THE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Development Services Director Noda announced the departure of Department Secretary Maria V. Enciso.

9. TRAFFIC COMMISSION INITIATED BUSINESS

Commissioner Mejia asked about the following items:

- Several safety lights around the City are incandescent, and should be fixed. Development Services Director advised that the safety lights are slated for replacement to Light Emitting Diode (LED).
- The recently implemented parking restrictions in front of Katella Deli, and why this change did not go before the Traffic Commission for consideration. Additionally, seeking copies in the future of any noticing sent to residents pertaining to parking and curb painting changes.

Chair Patz thanked Department Secretary Enciso for her service.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Motion/Second: Murphy/D. Hill

Carried 7/0: The Traffic Commission unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting until March 8, 2023.

The Traffic Commission adjourned at 7:37 p.m.



D. Patz, Chair

Attest:


Ron Noda, Secretary

