



PACIFIC BEACH TOWN COUNCIL
VIRTUAL GENERAL MEETING via ZOOM
MAY 20, 2020

Present: Brian White, Greg Daunoras, Susan Crowers, Mary Lou Benzel, Dan Bushong, Brian Curry, Denise Friedman, Brianna Jackson, Dominic Moscatello, Jane Nobbs, Karl Rand, Tony Schlegel, Regina Sinsky-Crosby, Ron Walker

Absent: Marcella Bothwell

CALL TO ORDER: 6:58

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Brian White welcomed viewers to the PBTC General Meeting being streamed live via Zoom on Facebook. Brian invited viewers to go to Pacificbeachtowncouncil.org to find out more about our neighborhood all-volunteer non-profit organization.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

San Diego Police – Officer Brandon Broaddus: No report

San Diego Fire-Rescue – Officer Richard Marcello: No report

San Diego Lifeguards – Sgt. Rick Strobel

Sargent Strobel reported that the lifeguards have been busy on the beaches with pretty dangerous spring conditions and surf. They've made up to a dozen rescues a day and have responded to some serious calls at Sunset Cliffs in the pocket beaches where there's not a lot of law enforcement and lifeguard presence. We're seeing some sting rays here in Pacific Beach. The lifeguards are continuing to help with social distancing. Some problems in the late afternoon with people on the boardwalk wanting to watch the sunset. On Friday, June 12th they will go into full summer operations, and they will also staff up for the Memorial Day weekend. They are still waiting for a decision about the Jr. Lifeguard program from the City of San Diego.

Questions for Sargent Strobel:

- 1) What are the watercraft rules? Technically, paddle-craft is limited to one person, but boats can have more if family members. These circumstances are difficult to enforce, generally the lifeguards try to educate the public as to the current guidelines.
- 2) What about the pontoon party boats with large groups of people I'm seeing out on the bay? Again, the rules are that it is supposed to be family members. It's difficult to enforce out on the

water and could be best managed by the companies renting the boats. These kinds of optics, as well as people laying on the beach or using the boardwalk may result in policy makers shutting down access again.

- 3) Looking at the Mayor's proposed budget for FY 2020-21, there is a cut to the Advanced Lifeguard training, how will that affect the department? Lt. Stropky on the Senior Leadership Team would be able to address that question best, but in Sgt. Strobel's opinion is that any type of budget reduction to the Advanced Lifeguard Academy will make it harder to get qualified candidates for the job.

Sgt. Strobel will be moving to the Boating Safety Unit. He thanked the council for their support during his time working the ocean front.

FEATURE PRESENTATION



Slow Streets Pilot Program – Alyssa Muto, Deputy Director with Environmental and Mobility Planning and Everett Hauser with Transportation and Storm Water

This program is a temporary repurposing of our streets for increased pedestrian and bicycle activity to allow for physical distancing necessary when people are going to and from jobs or just getting out for exercise. The first street piloted was here in Pacific Beach on Diamond Street from Cass to Olney with a little break at Ingraham Street. The second street piloted is on Adams at the 805 overpass. The third installment was in North Park on Howard Avenue. Through access is allowed for residents, delivery trucks and emergency responders along Diamond Street. Phase I is coming to conclusion with Slow Streets installed in Districts 2, 3, and 4. A survey is up on their website:

www.sandiego.gov/slowstreets.

Questions: clarify blocks closed on Diamond? Closed from Olney to Mission Blvd, however because of the need to fill in some gaps where there wasn't signage at every cross street, they have been able to repurpose some of the eastern portion of the slow streets, so those areas east of Ingraham will now be open without slow street signage, and those signs will be repurposed back to fill in any gaps we have on Diamond Street.

Q via Facebook from Mr. Fitzgerald who lives on corner of Jewell and Diamond, he's noticing because there's no signage there, cars are traveling pretty fast- why do some portions not have signage? Everett Hauser responded: at initial roll-out they focused on key intersections, the entry points from major intersections, one block in from Ingraham and starting at Jewell. Just testing out key intersections first. After lots of feedback they are responding with lots more signage.

Q from Regina: Super stoked about Diamond Street closure. Any plans to do a north/south street closure, because Grand Ave is preventing a lot of families from accessing Diamond? Answer from Alyssa: Encouraging everyone to provide any ideas to Councilmember Campbell, and also use the survey to convey any feedback or ideas. Everett's answer: Part of the evaluation for the Slow Streets

program was looking at the bicycle masterplan and Diamond Street is on the Class III bike network. They also relied on Beautiful PB Pathways work to know that these streets were community vetted and so when looking for that north/south connection they will seek input from the survey, the council office and PB Pathways information.

Comments from Jessica & Michael Moore (who live on Missouri St. between Fanuel and Gresham): The Diamond Street closure has negatively impacted safety and quality of life on Missouri Street due to cars diverting north on Haines and then continuing west on Missouri. Because so many businesses have closed on Garnet, it makes more sense to close down streets in the business district, so that people can walk and bike down. Response from Alyssa: there were some counts done by Chris Olsen at the Beautiful PB organization, and they compared a Sunday in August of 2019 to Sunday, May 3, 2020 following the implementation of the Slow Streets program on Diamond Street.

Diamond Street

| | <u>Motor vehicles</u> | <u>Pedestrians</u> | <u>bike & skateboard</u> | <u>scooters</u> |
|-------------|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|
| August 2019 | 425 | 204 | 26 | 48 |
| May 2020 | 55 | 193 | 215 | 4 |

Missouri Street

| | | | | |
|-------------|-----|----|----|----|
| August 2019 | 148 | 84 | 15 | 17 |
| May 2020 | 109 | 46 | 34 | 0 |

Question: How long will the Slow Streets pilot program last? Alyssa responded that there are no dates set for removing and they are beginning the Phase II streets, and will decide what to do with the Phase I streets- whether they will be maintained, or added on to, or repurpose those same resources to other parts of the city.

Comments about the Beautiful PB data from Michael & Jessica Moore: The counts are taken at Cass Street, and most of the traffic has turned off of Missouri before crossing Cass Street. After the Moore’s dog and a neighbor’s dog was killed, and 8 traffic accidents, they fought to have STOP signs installed at the Fanuel and Gresham cross streets on Missouri, and they feel that this recent increase in diverted traffic from Diamond has nullified the safety improvements provided by those STOP signs. They applaud the city’s effort to allow for a safe environment to exercise during quarantine, they just don’t feel the Slow Streets are necessary; streets are pretty safe regardless, but closing down Diamond has made Missouri less safe.

Comments from Jessica Hughes: Because kids don't have a lot of options for sports, park and play right now, and she likes having Diamond Street closed off for kids to be able to ride their bikes safely – something she doesn't normally let her son do on their own street.

Comments from Ashley Daniel (lives on Diamond & Bayard): she thinks it's a great option for people to be able to use Diamond from Ingraham to the beach. She sees people using it throughout the day – walking, biking, skateboards, families with strollers – it's a very positive thing. She likes the idea of Garnet being closed to only foot traffic and thinks that would be helpful to the businesses and restaurants with the outdoor dining option.

Comments from Katie (lives on Grand & Fanuel): she has been using the Diamond Street for walking and running, loves the idea and would like to see Slow Streets expanded to include Riviera and Crown Point Drive, and Fanuel Street. Feels that implementation has been difficult as she has seen drivers turning off of Ingraham onto Diamond who don't appear to be residents. She thinks some cars are using Diamond now because there's less traffic; she would like to see a police presence there. She'd also like a sign to remind bikers that they have the entire street and shouldn't ride so close to pedestrians. Response from Everett as to why there aren't any signs at the Ingraham/Diamond intersection: when we evaluate the overall network, we have to look at the signalized intersections and what are people's options. If they're on a main street they still need to be able to turn in and access the rest of the grid network, so that's why cars are allowed turning access from Ingraham, and then the Diamond Slow Street continues from Haines to Mission Blvd. Anytime they're doing long-term traffic calming, they definitely look at the spillover effects and this pilot program will help the city better understand the long-term implications.

Alyssa commented that some of the feedback from the survey indicates that people are requesting better informational signage about who can use the slow street, how to report issues. They are working on this and expect to have it have increased informational signage in the next couple of weeks.

Comments from Michelle Adams (lives on Diamond). Her issue with the Slow Streets program was that she heard nothing about it being implemented. The residents on Diamond are directly impacted and should have been informed. She uses Diamond as a way to get around PB and avoid the congestion of Grand and Garnet. Diamond has a lot of stop signs at the cross streets, therefore making it easier to drive safely when crossing streets with a limited sight distance due to parked cars. She is seeing more people driving through her alley. Another concern is that it seems like the Slow Streets have given pedestrians/bicyclists a false sense of security, she has seen several people almost get hit because they don't stop at STOP signs or because they're out in the middle of the street. She's also seen pedestrians on Diamond street direct their anger at drivers on the street, even if they are local residents. She's concerned about large groups of bike riders & roller bladers not social distancing. Overall, more negatives than positives, she'd prefer that the boardwalk be re-opened instead.

Question posted on Facebook from Ed Gallagher: is there a chance we could loop Diamond back to the beach via Hornblend? Alyssa's response: Hornblend is not part of the proposed network in Phase I or II.

Question from Brian White: What's the next step? Response from Alyssa: We are rolling out the last street in Phase I of the Mayor's proposed Slow Streets, we've ordered additional barricades and signage due to arrive in mid-June and we are looking to begin Phase II following community input from the survey.

Question from Sarah Berns: Is there any consideration for commercial streets becoming Slow Streets? Alyssa's response: there's definite opportunity for commercial streets. Diamond was a great street to get a parallel to a major corridor and that's why it was appealing. There are challenges with the transit connections along Garnet, but it's something to consider.

Brian White asked about the possibility of utilizing parking spaces in front of restaurants for outdoor dining for social distancing in the business districts. Alyssa responded that North Park BID has proposed this type of idea, and the city is looking into this possibility with input from MTS public transit, police and fire to ensure public safety.

Brain White asked Councilmember Campbell what went into choosing Diamond Street for the Slow Street pilot program? Response: "We talked to community members, we talked to the planning group, and the Town Council and Diamond Street was suggested, and then we talked to traffic division, etc. and they said, "yeah, let's give it a try."

Jessica Moore interjected that the Town Council didn't know anything about the program. Campbell's response was that her representative is Jordan Beane and "we did reach out to the community and we only had a few days' notice that the Mayor was taking us up on our idea. It's been done in other cities as well." Her hope is that we'll be able to open our parks soon so that people will have more space to recreate without having to close the streets. The councilmember added, "I don't think it's a long-term thing." She doesn't know of any other streets that have been proposed in our district. She encouraged people to leave comments and suggestions on their page. She would like to see our outdoor spaces open up before our indoor spaces. Masks are required even outdoors if within 6 feet of another person.

COMMUNITY UPDATES

Discover PB – Sara Berns, Executive Director

Glad to see positive feedback about closing Garnet Avenue, not just for the restaurants but retailers as well. Now is a great time to explore closure options in the commercial corridors with support from the city. Dine-in and retail opening is still up to the governor and there should be an answer prior to the weekend. Discover PB is working to keep up with the information as the situation evolves and keeping businesses apprised of updates and requirements.

Trash and over-flowing trash receptacles have become an issue. The cleaning contract is continuing as before, sidewalk cleaned 4 days per week, and Discover PB has 36 trash cans emptied 4 days per week in addition to those cans supplied by the city. There has been a big increase in people getting take-away food, but businesses are not allowed to put out trash cans because it provides a place for people to congregate. Due to budget constraints Discover PB is unable to increase pickup days. Citizens are encouraged to pitch-in with clean-up. There is a comprehensive list of businesses, hours and specifics on delivery/curbside/outdoor dining options on the Discover PB website: www.pacificbeach.org

Question from Ashley about trash cans on the beach, wondering if they could use lids on the cans to better contain the trash and prevent scatter from the birds. Sara replied those cans are the responsibility of Park & Rec Dept, and that those cans cannot have lids because of method of collection by trucks. Sara clarified the different types of trash cans in Pacific Beach and the responsible parties:



Trash Cans

Responsible for collection

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Square with a doors | City of San Diego |
| Round with plastic lid marked PB | Discover PB |
| Barrels at the beach, no lid | Park & Rec |
| Barrels with light blue dome lid (MB parks) | Park & Rec |

PBTC Art Contest Winners

Regina reported we have raised over \$2500 and there are 5 days left to order online, and there is a link on our PBTC website. We’ve had good coverage from social media and local print. Two designs to choose from: Hazmat Surfer by Charlie Nieto, and Quarantimes by Victor Garcia. Proceeds go to the PBTC to support Stay Home SD local food distribution for seniors during the COVID-19 quarantine.

PBTC Chalk Art Contest Winners

Brianna reported that the social media campaign had many submissions that were voted on by the PBTC. The winner (#itaketheheat) created a design with words, hearts, and peace signs woven in, so it was really inspirational.

#PB Porch Portrait is the current online social media contest promoted by the PB Town Council. People are getting creative with submissions, and this goes through Friday and the winner will be announced next week. Looking forward in June we will have a #GradPortraits contest.

Foothill & Loring Round-about Update

Brian White shared an update with graphics from the PB Planning Group meeting regarding the tentative design for the Foothill Blvd and Loring Street roundabout (plan available at www.pbplanning.org). Construction is scheduled for Fall 2021 and should be completed by Fall of 2022.

GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES

Councilmember Dr. Jennifer Campbell (District 2) -Jordan Beane

The garbage can situation on Mission Blvd is something they're talking to the Mayor's office about. They want to take care of it especially as the city moves into Phase II of re-opening. "We want to make sure PB as beautiful as possible."

Question from Denise: Where does the councilmember stand on SDSU West? The councilmember supported SDSU West at every turn and voted for it as a private citizen. We are currently waiting on the council president who sets the docket to bring the vote forward.

Question from Brian W: Are there some STVR regulations being crafted to put before the council for a vote? Response: I believe those conversations having been ongoing between the stakeholders in effort to do things correctly. Seamus Kennedy and Venus Molina are leading the way on this with Councilmember Campbell. Brian added that PBTC would like to have input.

Question from Regina: There is a new scooter company in Pacific Beach, Spin- did they reach out to District 2 before they brought the scooters to PB? Response: Not as far as he is aware.

Question via Facebook from Meredith Dowling: what is the status of STVRs during the quarantine as there are a lot of large gatherings at these places? This is an enforcement issue. Accommodations are only supposed to be for front line/essential workers, but not everyone is following the orders.

Brian W played a video clip of Dr. Wilma Wooten, San Diego County Public Health Officer – "AirBnb is only lawful if used for essential workers. At this time in Stage 1 and we are now in Stage 2, there are ZERO gatherings for the general public."

Question via Facebook from Allen Harris: Is Councilmember Campbell looking into rent vouchers for renters affected by COVID? Response: yesterday the city extended the eviction moratorium by another month. Rental assistance and mortgage deferment are state issues.

Final Comments

Cathie Jolley will be hosting a Meet & Greet with Barbara Bry next Thursday, May 28th. A Zoom invitation will be embedded into the chat. All are welcome!

Karl Rand, PB Planning Group reported that in addition to the presentation on the roundabouts at the last meeting, there was a presentation by Brian Curry regarding beautification of the PB Rec Center. PBTC voted to sponsor this project and sent a letter of support. The planning group also approved 20 residential units on Turquoise where the carwash is going out of business. At the next planning group meeting they'll be electing officers and committee chairs.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:30 pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Susan Crowers, Secretary