



DOWNTOWN TASK FORCE MINUTES

An Advisory Group to the City Council

Thursday, January 23, 2014
5:30 PM, Main Street Library

Council Members: Mayor Connie Boardman (Chair) and Council Member Jim Katapodis

Task Force Members: Brett Barnes, Meg Bernardo, Kim Kramer, Ron Newman, Ralph Palomares, Cesar Pena, Susie Smith, Michael Wentworth, Cathy Werblin

Absent: Council Member Carchio, Domenic Iorfino, Dave Shenkman, Stephanie Wilson

City Staff: Fred Wilson, Jennifer McGrath, Chief Robert Handy, Chief Patrick McIntosh, Captain Russell Reinhart, Lieutenant Kelly Rodriguez, Scott Hess, Janeen Laudenback, Dottie Hughes, Chris Cole, Kellee Fritzal, Teri Baker, Simone Slifman

Mayor Connie Boardman called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM.

1. Public Comments

Armory Hansen read an open letter from Kim Kramer regarding principles of parliamentary procedure. Mike Heh stated that the DTF has been a good venture so far, but that 5 months cannot solve 25 years of problems so suggested continuing the meetings, taking a break in summer and then resuming or efforts will fall apart. Gloria Alvarez stated that disturbances occurring outside of her home are not isolated incidents and expressed concern that no arrests or consequences will result in a failure to deter neighborhood crime. Steve West indicated that he agrees with Mike Heh about continuing the DTF and that he believes the deemed approved ordinance was dismissed as an option too early. He requested that his prior request to end meter enforcement after 6 PM be amended to require that meters in front of homes be enforced for 24 hours, and that the DTF continue to explore use of the beach lots. Mary Urashima stated that DTF is a good effort, and should be permanent, but that she sees breakdown in the process, and that the public is not clear on what has occurred so a matrix should be developed.

2. Approval of January 9, 2014 Minutes

The minutes were approved as submitted. Council Member Katapodis abstained.

3. Review of Prioritization List from September 26, 2013: Maintenance, Events, Zoning

The Task Force reviewed and discussed the following items from the Prioritization List:

- **Maintenance**

- Power blast sidewalks/trash & littering/Pier Plaza Maintenance: Kellee Fritzal detailed the area maintained by Malco, from PCH to Orange. Council Member Boardman sought input from members as to where the members believe more attention can be paid to maintenance. No areas were reported.
- Stripe bike trail: The trail was striped at the end of 2013. Council studied striping further south of the pier, and due to safety concerns that exist during the summer, it was determined that further striping would not occur. Member Palomares expressed concern about speeding bicycles on the path.
- Member Smith reported that the Downtown BID has begun a beautification subcommittee, which will hold its first meeting next Monday with the time yet to be determined. The meeting is open to the public. Member Kramer inquired as to the scope of the Committee meeting. The subcommittee will consider making recommendations to add heartier plants, install additional bike racks, improve appearance of the ZPark, and maintenance of newsracks. They are also looking to include an architect or designer on the subcommittee to provide additional input.

- **Events**

- 4th of July and City's Fireworks Show on the Beach: Council Member Boardman inquired as to whether there is a recommendation to Council to take permanent action, and that if all fireworks are illegal it is easier to enforce. Member Kramer inquired about how to stop fireworks in the City. A discussion took place regarding what the city currently does to enforce illegality of fireworks. Council Member Boardman indicated that they are illegal now that the two years has concluded, but that a Charter Amendment would be required. Fire Chief MacIntosh explained enforcement results from the prior year and proactive plans for 2014, but that allowing them for two years actually made it more difficult to enforce, and that they confiscated 150 pounds of illegal fireworks at that time, as opposed to only 50 when all were illegal. Council Member Boardman sought clarification on the item in the prioritization regarding impacts on the beach, and Council Member Katapodis clarified that it referred to how and when trash is collected during events.
 - A motion was made by Member Ron Newman, and seconded by Member Brett Barnes, to recommend to City Council increasing number of trash receptacles during special events, including lining local streets around Main Street with temporary containers. The motion passed unanimously with no objections or abstentions.
- Ban dogs during events: City Attorney Jennifer McGrath discussed the prohibition on dogs in the downtown during events. Member Palomares stated that he suggested this item because of irresponsible dog owners. Council Member Katapodis said that we need to enforce the law, and that dogs in crowds are a problem. Member Smith clarified that dogs are only prohibited from Surf City Nights in the food service area, but not the

entire street fair. Captain Russell Reinhart explained that this is County health code and applies within 25 feet of food service, but varies from stand to stand and the County essentially has no mechanism or staff for monitoring or enforcement. The City would have to create the code if it wanted one, because it is not currently within the HBMC. Member Bernardo inquired as to whether this applies to dogs on restaurant patios. Council Member Boardman inquired as to whether the DTF wanted to recommend an ordinance on dogs to the City Council, and no support was provided so no recommendation will be made.

- Extra security at events: A discussion occurred regarding vandalism and bicycle theft during events as well as other times of the year, and the effectiveness being measured of the new security cameras and future signage. Chief Handy indicated that there are now video surveillance requirements for businesses with entertainment.
 - Council Member Katapodis made a motion, seconded by Member Kramer, that the City Council consider increasing the number of cameras in the downtown, pursuant to input by the Police Chief. The motion was approved unanimously with no objections or abstentions.
- State Parks Events: Council Member Boardman indicated that the City and State Parks are working on an agreement to define guidelines for events on the State Beach that occur within the City limits and to inform the City.

- **Zoning**

- Vacation Rentals: City Attorney McGrath clarified that any rentals under 30 days are not permitted and that any such activity should be reported to Code Enforcement as a Zoning Code violation.
- Rehab Houses: They are citywide. Owners can be sued in small claims court for up to \$7,500 and a lot of documentation is required in order to be successful in court and demonstrate that it is a nuisance. City Attorney McGrath indicated that a lien against the property can be recorded in the event of non-payment of a judgment and that small claims court is an effective tool. Council Member Boardman clarified that State law precludes the City from regulating anything with six (6) beds or less.
- Add signage: Members Smith and Kramer discussed the need to reduce the number of signs, and make all signs readable, easy to understand and consistent. Police Chief Handy and Captain Reinhart reported that the video monitoring signs were already ordered, and public works will be posting them in the near future. The downtown officers already had started a project of increasing the universal “no” signs for such things as skateboarding.
 - Member Smith made a motion, seconded by Council Member Katapodis, that a recommendation be made to the City Council to review formatting of existing signage in the downtown to increase visibility, more organized and consolidated

and updated where possible. The motion was approved unanimously with no objections or abstentions.

- High rents: Member Smith stated that this item is related more to the mix of businesses in the downtown and that in Laguna Beach there are limits to the number of business types that can be in the area, and creates a more inviting downtown with a unique mix of businesses. Member Kramer indicated that this is also in place in Pasadena.
 - Council Member Boardman made a motion, seconded by Member Kramer, that the City Council hold a study session to explore and discuss regulation of various business types in the downtown. The motion was approved unanimously with no objections or abstentions.
- Chief Handy distributed copies of a generic entertainment permit, which he indicated may be slightly modified depending on the nature and location of the business.
- Captain Reinhart made a presentation on crime statistics and clarified the methods by which statistics are calculated when reported to Federal sources. DUI is not reported on a general level. He reported that the statistics indicate that there is not a crime wave, and that there is actually a 5% decrease in downtown crime. The PowerPoint will be made available on the Downtown Task Force web page.

4. General Discussion of Parking:

- a. Discussion of Valet and Beach Parking**
- b. Business Validation/Employee Parking**
- c. Update on Residential Permit Parking – Kim Kramer (5 minutes)**

It was determined that this would be discussed at the February 13th Task Force meeting.

5. List of Items Reviewed/Recommendations

There was no further discussion.

6. Public Comments

Mary Urashima recommended a single document be created to categorize and track issues and decisions. Louise Fiorello spoke of the need for more restrooms near her property (next to TK Burger) as there has been a problem there in the past. Althea Santucci thanked Member Kim Kramer for his letter and believes that the DTF needs to keep going to address alcohol and property issues. Chris Hart stated his belief that this was the most productive DTF meeting thus far but that it needs to continue meeting regularly to measure the effectiveness of what is implemented, as well as discuss and take action on what needs to happen after people leave Main Street and continue behaving inappropriately in the area.

7. Future Agenda Items

Council Member Boardman requested a discussion of the future of the Downtown Task Force; ownership of the planters and fountain downtown; Belmont Shore bar monitoring program; enforcement time for parking meters, and discussion on when the DTF recommendations should be forwarded to the City Council. Member Kramer would like to go back and review the items that were not voted upon. Member Newman indicated that the Belmont Shore program is not yet ready but that he would share information once it the program has been implemented.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:24 PM.