

LA JOLLA TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Regular Meeting: August 17, 2022

Due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, LJT&T meetings are being held temporarily as online Zoom video/voice teleconferences.

Members Present: Brian Earley (Chairperson) LJSA, Dave Abrams (Vice Chairperson) LJCPA, Tom Brady LJCPA, Donna Aprea LJTC, Bill Podway LJVMA, Ross Rudolph LJSA, Natalie Aguirre LJVMA, Erik Gantzel BRCC, Patrick Ryan BRCC

Members Absent: Nancy Warwick LJTC

Approve Minutes of July 20, 2022: Podway, Second: Brady Motion Passed with Abstentions: Ryan, Gantzel, Rudolph. Not Available to Vote Aprea, Aguirre

Chairperson Report: Torrey Pines Elementary School is located on Cliffridge Ave. TPES is right across the street from the YMCA and Cliffridge Park. Several parents contacted him regarding a street closure for a special event. He contacted Justine in the City's Special Events Division and Justine informed him that Cliffridge Ave is a Red Curbed Fire Lane and cannot be closed down.

Brian shared his frustration with the Coastal Commission. La Jolla has been waiting on decisions for the Vending Ordinance and the Spaces for Places Program. No one really knows anyone on this Commission but they are holding up important decisions for our Community and he is hoping someone is taking note of that.

Public Comment:

Peggy Davis- drainage problem on the crosswalk (*by Camino del Oro and El Paseo Grande*) that she has addressed many times to this Board. It (*crosswalk*) has still not been painted. This afternoon her daughter walked down to check the road and it was dry so it could have been painted but minutes later a big gush of water came out of the curb and flowed across the intersection. This has to be taken care of and she has been requesting assistance from the City for over a year. Resolving the drainage problem and repainting the crosswalk is a major undertaking and she is hoping with assistance from La Jolla Committees this can be accomplished.

Brian shared a picture from the La Jolla Light of that intersection Peggy has been talking about. In the picture there is water coming from the curb and spilling out into the roadway. The water is creating a hazardous condition on the walkway and intersection of one of the busiest streets in La Jolla Shores. It has erased the stop line by the stop sign and is washing away the crosswalk. Apparently, it is coming from a Home that has serious drainage issues. City Traffic Engineering has received dozens of requests about this dangerous condition but it has continued to go on.

Ross- based on the description Peggy gave about it being dry one minute and then a sudden gush of water the next sounds like a sump pump discharging water into a drain. **Janie** informed the Board that it is coming from a Home across from Kellogg Park that has purple pipe water (*recycled water*) that has three drains that go out into the curb and runs down the street. The home has a subterranean garage and basement and they have been at this for five years. **Peggy** advised the water is coming from 8405 El Paseo Grande but **Janie** clarified it is coming from the home that is 4-5 places up from 8405; the water is running down the street and gushing out at 8405 because there is no storm drain on the east side of that street. **Peggy** informed the Board the Police were giving out tickets for rolling stops at the stop sign last week.

Steve Hadley- they asked the city to reconfigure that swale so the water would go underneath the concrete but is it a possibility to ask the homeowners to run their pump at a time when there are not a lot of pedestrians on the street like 1-2 or 3-4 in the morning just so the street could be dry for pedestrians during the day. **Janie** responded the homeowners come from Mexico and come to La Jolla periodically. **Peggy** is a Realtor and she can get that information and get back to us.

Agenda Item 1: Access to Avenida De La Playa Boat Launch- Recent interest regarding possible obstacles in reaching the Beach Based Boat Launch that has served the La Jolla Shores Community for decades (Michael Costello LJCPA, Brian Earley, Chairperson) **Discussion Item**

At the June 15 2022 Meeting LJT&T was asked to support the La Jolla Shores Assn request for support of a Street Promenade to create a permanent pedestrian only Spaces as Places Program on Avenida de la Playa: Agenda Item 2: Letter of Support Street Promenade Avenida de la Playa- The California Coastal Commission is considering the recent effort by the La Jolla Shores Assn and La Jolla Merchants Assn in their efforts to create a permanent pedestrian only "Spaces as Places" on Avenida de la Playa. Outside dining on Avenida de la Playa which has been so popular is the brainchild of Phil Wise who spirited it through some very daunting city rules. This particular Block has been so successful that they really want to keep it going. The concern from Coastal Commission initially was twofold: access to the beach which LISA assured them that was not an issue and the other concern was parking. LJT&T supported their Request by drafting a Letter of Support that was not ratified by LJCPA because there were some concerns about Beach access.

Michael Costello, Trustee on La Jolla Community Planning Assn, is spearheading a Discussion about the street closure on Avenida de la Playa because there are questions and concerns that should be addressed now to save time later on. Questions relating to the closure of one block on Avenida de la Playa that is causing accessibility issues for a beach boat launch that is at the end of the Street is something the Coastal Commission would be very interested in. Access in coastal communities such as ours, a coastal recreation community, is very important for scuba divers, fishermen, boaters, kayakers, and canoers. It would be helpful to address the parameters of that one block closure at 200 Avenida de la Playa. Is this an all-day 24-hour closure or just for restaurant hours; what are the alternative routes around it and what is the width of those alternative streets, what about parking on those alternative routes, and what

about the turning radius because a large truck towing a boat is going to need a large turning radius.

Brian advised that this discussion center more on the alternative routes to the beach boat launch and not about the closure of that one block on the street. The 200 block has been closed for over two years and Spaces as Places is something the City is advocating. There have been very few complaints over the promenade that have been brought up in community meetings. **Brian** asked those attending the Meeting if they have heard any complaints about not being able to launch their Boat because of the promenade. **Tricia Riha** responded to that by asking why not go down to that Beach Boat Launch on a weekend and see what is going on in that neighborhood. People do not speak up because they get afraid, it's a very political environment. **Brian** asked her if she knew anyone who could not launch their Boat at that Beach Boat Launch. **Tricia** responded that is not the question of launching their boat there- the question is getting there to launch it. For 75 years it has been a straight shot down Avenida de la Playa but now you are requiring drivers to go around in circles.

Brian noted that this beach boat launch cannot launch power boats because it is all sand down to the water. **Tricia** responded yes you can- any trailer can launch a boat down there; this is the only beach launch in the City although **Brian** responded that is incorrect.

Ross- has spent a lot of time at the Beach. He is not a Boater but it seems to him that a sand ramp is not going to allow large boats to be launched there; the beach launch is primarily used by kayakers. He cannot imagine someone taking their large boat to that sand ramp when there are many other places in the city that have concrete ramps where someone can lower their truck and put their trailer into the Water to get their boat afloat. This is a strawman argument to say we are denying people the ability to launch their huge ships down there when that is never going to happen.

Phil Wise- we live in a Mediterranean climate and we should take advantage of that. The Street promenade is not just to make the restaurants money it has turned into something far bigger than that. Locals and Tourists are really enjoying the environment on that one block of Avenida de la Playa between El Paseo Grande and Calle de la Plata. Tricia is correct that it is a straight shot to the beach launch on Avenida de la Playa but only for the people with a Boat who live down there. For everyone else it is not a straight shot because they are coming from either Torrey Pines Rd or La Jolla Shores Dr. From Torrey Pines Rd there are many side streets one can use: Princess, Viking, Little, Calle de la Plata, La Jolla Shores Dr. From La Jolla Shores Dr: Paseo Dorado to Calle de la Plata, Calle Clara, Vallecitos, Calle Frescota, Camino del Oro, Camino del Collado, and the North end of El Paseo Grande. There are many streets to the launch area but you have to make a turn and it has always been that way it is not something new.

Development Services at the City would never have allowed them to close that section of the street if they saw a traffic issue; the Police and Fire Dept did not see a traffic issue; neither did the City's Special Events Department because there are all different ways to get through it.

He addressed an issue that was brought up at a La Jolla Shores Meeting that this was the only sand ramp in the City and that is not true. He sent Brian a list that was created by the Kayak Club in San Diego. There are twenty boat ramps in the City and six of them have sand beaches. Ours is not the only sand ramp in San Diego.

Ken Hunrichs- just now hearing about the particulars of this closure and wanted to know if the City of San Diego is the instigator of it. **Janie** responded it was brought to the La Jolla Shores Assn who approved it and then it was worked out with the City over two years ago. He is not familiar with the area although when he has been down there, he has seen boat trailers brought all the way down to the Beach and they used a triangle shaped barrier to make their turn around; otherwise, there is no way they could turn those trailers around without backing them out. He tried driving all the side streets in the area finding ways around the closure and he imagined he was towing a trailer. All of the streets in that area with parking on both sides of the street reduced the driving down to one lane. To get past a car in the opposite direction you have to find a turn out and most of the time that is a narrow driveway just so it can drive by. His greatest concern from this project is that once it is closed on a permanent basis there will be a call for reducing the street parking which the City seems favorable to doing since they removed parking to install bike lanes and accommodate the outside dining for the restaurants. He favored outside dining when the virus was raging but we seem to be beyond that now. It seems to him that trailers towing inflatable boats and multiple kayaks on one tow do not have a good alternative to get down to that Ramp and that concerns him and is the reason he is here at this Meeting.

Janie- to address some of Ken's concerns parking places in that area cannot be removed per the Coastal Commission. They have mitigated the loss of parking spaces by finding other places to park. It (*narrow streets*) is a problem for regular cars too; anyone living in the area would know that. You just have to be careful. She cannot be vaccinated against Covid and would not be able to enjoy dining in the Community if that area was not open for outside dining. For over two years people have come from all over the world to enjoy it. The boat people have been able to get to the boat launch without issues. There has been not one complaint to the La Jolla Shores Assn by a recognized individual who has a Boat concerning this issue.

Michael Costello acknowledges that there are alternative routes but none of them are as nice as going straight down Avenida de la Playa. Whoever built that boat ramp nearly 75 years ago built it there because it is the most appropriate route. All of the other streets are narrower. This is one more example of loss of beach access to the ocean recreational community that he really has trouble with.

Brenda Fake- she is neutral to all of this but access is not cut off. You are still able to get there. Is it convenient as it was once before probably not however the Coastal Commission would still say there is access available there. The outdoor dining there has brought in a tremendous amount of revenue for those businesses and she believes all of our community groups need to look at balance for both our Residents and our Businesses. Covid is not going away and we need

to be viable and able to pivot to meet the needs of the people in terms of Health. We need to understand and accept change is going to happen.

Dave-concur with Brenda. There has to be a balance between the people who use the beach boat launch and the people who want the outdoor dining. The beach boat launch is accessible just a little more inconvenient to get to but people are getting to it; the outdoor dining seems to have become an asset; it is well liked, very popular and everyone wants to see that continue. Dave reminded this is a Discussion Item only and he sees no purpose in making it an Action Item.

Tricia Riha- screen shared some pictures of Avenida de la Playa showing the street really does not need to be closed for outdoor dining. Sidewalks along Avenida de la Playa show umbrellas fronting the businesses. There can be outside dining while trucks with trailers can still use the Street for access to the boat launch. She pointed out the narrow side streets that they want to use for alternative routes; even Walkers, Bicyclists, and Scooters have difficulty on those narrow streets. She suggests everyone read the La Jolla Community Plan because Avenida de la Playa is a view corridor and the beach boat launch is documented several times in our Community Plan.

Mike Costello- this could involve a Community Plan change which would have to go to City Council and the Coastal Commission.

Brian thanked everyone for bringing this back to our attention but right now we do not have control over anything and need to wait for a decision from the Coastal Commission.

Agenda Item 2: La Jolla Art & Wine Festival-Request for Temporary Street Closure and No Parking on portions of Girard Ave, Wall Street, and Silverado for Annual Event on October 7-10 2022 (Sherry Ahern) Action Item

Sherry noted that the La Jolla Art & Wine Festival is now in its 13th year. This would have been its 14th year but it could not be held in 2020. She is the Founder and the Chair. They give all the money they raise to the 5 public schools in La Jolla and they represent about 8000 parents and 6000 kids. They always host this event on Columbus Day weekend. This year it will be Oct 7 for load in on Friday night, 8-9 for the actual event and they will load out on the 9th. Laurel McFarland is her Event Producers. Its half of them and half Sherry's group. They are mostly volunteers; few are paid so they can give more money to the Schools.

As for the Street Closures, for the first few years they used to host this on upper Girard by the Farmers Market but it became so popular it moved to Girard at Torrey Pines Rd down to Prospect St, both sides of Silverado St but they only go to the Alleys, and one part of Wall St. They do not request to close Kline because they need that street open for passageway and they can use the BOA parking garage for the entire weekend.

This year they have 170 Artists back-to-back down Girard Ave and they have a wine and beer garden that holds about 1200 people that are 21 and over. Sherry explained that they purposely have the 170 Artists back-to-back running down Girard to Prospect St for the Merchants. The Hotels and Stores will be full; this is truly a community event. They will have a gourmet food section on one side of Silverado and they will auction some items off on the other side. They will have roving entertainment. Sherry explained she is just the Chair serving on the Board but three years ago she gave it to the Schools so the 5 Public Schools actually own this Event.

This year they are going to close the road at 4pm instead of the usual 5pm. They are going to go around and personally talk to every Merchants on Girard. Parking is important and they use those little signs that say no parking in 72 hours but the no parking is just for Friday night and the weekend. Drivers get upset believing there is no parking for 72 hours before the Event and Sherry is asking people to be careful how they write that no parking signage to specify it is just for Friday night and the weekend of the Event. They did have to tow about 6 vehicles last year. Sherry explained to the Board she ran up and down the Streets and in and out of Stores looking for the Owners of those Vehicles and she did manage to find some Owners who were able to get their cars out in time, but not the others and believes it was about half a dozen that had to be towed. They take pictures of the signage and the vehicles that were parked there before they are towed. Being towed is a horrible experience for anyone and she tried hard to avoid it.

Brian noted they are requesting that the Streets be closed at 4pm this year instead of 5pm and is that the only change. Sherry responded that is the only change. **Natalie** asked why the earlier start time. **Sherry** responded they wish they could go even earlier. With that many people it is taking a long time to load in. By starting an hour earlier, it may keep some of the Artists off the Streets. They all have a time slot to come but they don't adhere to it and they start lining up on the Street. Shutting the street down at 4pm may allow more time for them to see any potential problems that may come up and allow for a more seamless opening for the next day.

Brian asked Sherry about the increases for Special Events that the City implemented. Sherry acknowledged there will be an increase this year for police services but not as high it will be next year and then she will have to decide on whether to continue the Festival. She does not want to work so hard for an entire year just to give the City hundreds of thousands of dollars that will not go to the Schools. She told the Board Joe LaCava was trying to help them but the City implemented this without talking to anyone in the business. It is not just her Event, Laurel McFarland produces nearly all the Special Events in San Diego and she is dealing with this increase as well.

Motion to Approve La Jolla Art & Wine Festival Request for Temporary Street Closure and No Parking on portions of Girard Ave, Wall Street, and Silverado for Annual Event on October 7-10 2022: Brady, Second: Ryan 9- 0-0

Agenda Item 3: Street Closures for Special Event Processions- Review and Approve Criteria, Standards, Administrative Protocols for Requests that involve Temporary Street Closures for

Special Event Processions for Future Permit Applications. (Brian Earley, Chair and LJTTB Members) Action Item

Special Event Processions in La Jolla Village Guidelines for Street Closure The Special Events and Filming Division of the City of San Diego on occasion receives permit requests for the exclusive closure and temporary use of the coastal street(s) of downtown La Jolla for processions, ceremonies, and observances for private use on public streets. In recognition of the public benefit of such events, the La Jolla Traffic and Transportation Board (LJTTB) offers the following guidelines and administrative procedures to minimize the amount of time and disruptions to traffic flow, parking, and businesses while celebrating the ceremony and cultural benefit of such events.

1. Blackout Dates Public safety blackout dates are listed by the Special Events and Filming division and can change depending on the public safety resources that are available. Those dates are listed on their web site. For La Jolla Village or Downtown La Jolla. We would like to add the three major holiday dates for the summer: • Memorial Day • July 4th • Labor Day

2. Work with the Venues that are Partnering in the Event Applicants are requested to provide the contact names at the participating hotel for confirmation of start/conclusion dates and times. Contact with the wedding organizers to assure mitigation of conclusion of the procession.

3. Short Term Street Closure All special event processions will use this method of street closure and no parking. After the procession begins and the event proceeds, SDPD traffic division opens the street and parking where available and continues a “rolling street opening” until conclusion.

4. Two Hour Maximum Duration of Time The LJTTB believes that a maximum of two (2) hours be provided for procession start to finish.

Patrick- this guideline is intended for small processions, correct? The wording may need to be changed “for private use on a public street” because we could have a marathon going on a public street or a Fourth of July parade on a public street and he does not want to say that people cannot have a Fourth of July parade on a public street because that is one of the blackout dates. The wording needs to be clarified otherwise he does not have a problem with it. **Brian** agrees; it is a fluid situation, but these are our guidelines to go along with the permit.

Bill- Catharine Douglass brought up a good point at the last Meeting about the time frame that the City looks at for a holiday weekend; specifically, the Memorial Day weekend starting midnight Friday night and going until midnight on Memorial Day. As long as Special Events is looking at the entire three-day time frame maybe it is something we need to include in there or verify with Special Events and the Police Dept if they actually are looking at Holidays as three-

day weekend events. Are we looking at one day while the City is looking at three days for these Holidays?

Brian responded he was centering on one day, the Holiday itself, because blacking out three days may be an overreach. For the Memorial Day Event- Family and Friends attending that Event were flying into San Diego from all over the World on the weekend before the Event took place and using the weekend to meet up with the family and friends of the couple.

Motion to Approve Street Closures for Special Event Processions: Rudolph, Second: Gantzel 9-0-0

Brenda -has a small announcement about the Cocktails on Coast Walk that she missed at Public Comment. The Friends of Coast Walk is hosting a Fundraiser on the Tennis Court next to her Home on Coast Walk under the Stars on September 16 from 6p to 10p. It is following the La Jolla Sunrise Rotary Walk for the Trail that starts at 5p at the Cave Store. It is a Fundraiser and tickets are \$100. They are doing some really good stuff for the Trail.

Adjournment: 5:32 pm

Next Meeting – September 21, 2022

Respectfully Submitted: Donna Aprea, Secretary

