

Agenda Correspondence

August 23, 2016 City Council Meeting

Agenda Item A-12

Dana Swanson

8/23/16 Meeting
Item A-12
RECEIVED
City of Morro Bay

From: Christine Johnson
Sent: Monday, August 22, 2016 6:48 PM
To: Dana Swanson
Subject: Fwd: Morro Bay Skateboard Park

AUG 23 2016

Administration

Agenda correspondence. FYI and thanks!

Christine Johnson
Councilmember, City of Morro Bay
805-305-3759
cjohnson@morrobayca.gov

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jack Smith [REDACTED]
Date: August 22, 2016 at 6:36:28 PM PDT
To: 'Jamie Irons' <jirons@morrobayca.gov>, 'Christine Johnson' <cjohnson@morrobayca.gov>, <mmakowetski@morrobayca.gov>, <jheadding@morrobayca.gov>, 'Noah Smukler' <nsmukler@morrobayca.gov>
Cc: <dbuckingham@morrobayca.gov>
Subject: Morro Bay Skateboard Park

Hello Mayor, City Council Members, City Staff and Citizens of Morro Bay.

Although I am unable to attend tonight's city council meeting, I want to express my support for the possibility of a vastly improved skate park, or possibly a new skate park all together, becoming an official goal of the City of Morro Bay.

Morro Bay has a long and impressive history in the skateboarding world, beginning with a city sponsored skateboard contest in 1976, and national level slalom races on Harbor Street in 1981, and on Kennedy Way in 1991. There was even a ditch riding contest held in the late 1980s in the drainage culvert across from the Cookie Crock Market, or for the old timers out there, Williams Brothers and Thriftys. In the early 2000s Morro Bay was host to five World Slalom Skateboarding Championships held on Main Street and Pacific Street. Each of these races attracted over 100 racers from 15 countries, filling hotels and the coffers of local restaurants and business. Morro Bay has also produced two World Slalom Skateboarding Champions, Paul Dunn and Gary Fluitt. The 7th Annual Morro Bay Mile Skateboard race was held this past July 4th.

A few years back, Councilwoman Nancy Johnson, after noticing that many young, and some not so young people were using their skateboards as transportation, led the effort to change the Morro Bay ordinance that restricted skateboard riding in Morro Bay. When I tell visitors to the Morro Bay Skateboard Museum that our city council changed the law to support skateboarding as transportation, they are truly amazed.

The time has come for Morro Bay, a city with such a storied skateboarding history, to upgrade its current skate park or perhaps even build a new skate park. Skateboarding is no longer considered solely

a kids activity, just pay a visit to the beautiful new San Luis Obispo skate park, or the Los Osos skatepark and you will see skaters, of both genders, from five to over sixty years old enjoying themselves. Both the SLO and Los Osos parks also attract families from throughout the state, nation and world to their respective cities.

The current Morro Bay skate park has been limping along for years, with above ground features and obstacles that are very limiting to the skaters of today. Recently a group of skaters banded together in an effort to improve our current park by adding new terrain, unfortunately due to liability concerns these features were removed. I think now is the time for the city to join with these young skaters, their families and other interested parties to create a skate park that Morro Bay can be proud of, as well as meet the needs of our local skaters.

Thank you.

Jack Smith

Agenda Correspondence

August 23, 2016 City Council Meeting

Agenda Item C-4

8/23/16 meeting
Item C-4
RECEIVED
City of Morro Bay

Dana Swanson

From: Christine Johnson
Sent: Monday, August 22, 2016 6:48 PM
To: Dana Swanson
Subject: Fwd: Concerns regarding Interchange Improvements at SR1/Main Street/SR41

AUG 23 2016
Administration

Agenda correspondence. FYI and thanks.

Christine Johnson
Councilmember, City of Morro Bay
805-305-3759
cjohnson@morrobayca.gov

Begin forwarded message:

From: Barry and Ginny Garelick <[REDACTED]>
Date: August 22, 2016 at 6:24:13 PM PDT
To: "jirons@morrobayca.gov" <jirons@morrobayca.gov>, "cjohnson@morrobayca.gov" <cjohnson@morrobayca.gov>, "mmakowetski@morrobayca.gov" <mmakowetski@morrobayca.gov>, "jheadding@morrobayca.gov" <jheadding@morrobayca.gov>, "nsmukler@morrobayca.gov" <nsmukler@morrobayca.gov>
Subject: Concerns regarding Interchange Improvements at SR1/Main Street/SR41)

Dear Mayor Irons and Morro Bay City Council Members,

Regarding the August 23, 2016 City Council meeting, we are writing to express our concerns about Agenda Item C-4: Award of a consultant agreement for preliminary engineering services for improvements at the SR1/Main Street/SR41 interchange. My wife and I live on Mimosa Street which is near this interchange. Consequently, we are familiar with the traffic problems at this location and are very concerned that your staff has recommended that a round-about be constructed here.

A few years ago we attended a city council meeting and learned that the construction of a round-about to reduce traffic congestion at this interchange was one of several options being considered. At that time we expressed our concern about a round-about here and suggested that signalization would be more appropriate. Since then we have not heard anything further about improvements to this interchange, so we were very surprised to learn a few days ago that the city staff has chosen this option as the preferred alternative.

We believe a round-about poses various problems that would make the traffic situation at this interchange worse. The multiple lanes on each of the east-west and north-south roads would create hazards not only for the cars using the round-about but also for the students going to and from Morro Bay High School. Our belief is based on our experience with the round-about on Morro Bay Boulevard. This interchange has problems, including drivers who enter the round-about from the east and often do not yield to the traffic in the round-about and who instead "sneak in" right turns onto Quintana. As a result, we have often had to stop while in the round-about to avoid an accident. Given that the round-about proposed for SR1/Main St/SR 41 interchange would be larger than the Morro Bay Boulevard round-about we believe that it has an even higher risk for accidents. There are considerably more pedestrians who would need to cross the interchange, than is the case at Morro Bay Boulevard. While signalization may be a more expensive option in the short run, we believe this option poses less safety risks to both pedestrians and drivers in the long run.

In closing, we do not believe that the City has provided adequate outreach to the residents of Morro Bay and it appears to us that a decision to build a round-about at the SR1/Main St/SR 41 interchange has already been made. Therefore, we request that during the development of the environmental documents, opportunity is given for the citizens of Morro Bay to voice their opinions. As it is, it appears that the main support for the round-about is from the San Luis Coastal Unified School District and Morro Bay High School.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this very important project. We hope that at tomorrow's City Council meeting you will recommend that a community workshop be held to discuss options for this interchange and that you will continue this item to a future meeting for contract award review.

Sincerely,

Barry and Ginny Garelick