

Paul Casey, Director
 Community Development Department
 City of Santa Barbara
 P.O. Box 1990
 Santa Barbara, Ca., 93102-1990
 10/1/07

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OCT 01 2007
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 CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
 SANTA BARBARA, CA

RE: APPEAL OF 9/19/07 HLC DECISION BY THE CITY OF SANTA BARBARA ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW (SBACS) ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Dear Mr. Casey,

At a special meeting held Monday, September 25, 2007, the SBACS Advisory Committee voted unanimously to appeal the final design of the East Cabrillo Sidewalk Replacement Project (0-800 East Cabrillo Blvd). This appeal is being filed on behalf of the Arts & Crafts Show members, the local public, and the visiting tourist to Santa Barbara.

The date of submission of this appeal is Monday, October 1, 2007. The \$360 filing fee has been paid by donations from show members.

Item #: 6 9/19/07

0-800 E CABRILLO BLVD

Application Number: MST2004-00806

Assessor's Parcel Number: 033-120-0RW

Owner: City of Santa Barbara

Agent: Marck Aguilar

The SBACS has been monitoring the conditions of the sidewalks of Cabrillo Blvd since the mid 1980's. We have observed the declining conditions of the pavement, and through the efforts of our Advisory Committee and individual artists, we have continued to keep the city apprised of the situation. With the advent of the State Bond measure which appropriated funds for the project, our committee became very active in monitoring the progress of the Bond measure to insure that our particular needs and those of the visiting resident or tourist would be met. Over the last 5 years we have insured that the item would remain on our agendas and have continued to advocate for the positions of the aforementioned groups.

The reason for the appeal of the HLC decision is summarized below.

1. With this plan approved by the HLC, 50% of the Sunday public parking in the Crafts Section will be significantly obstructed or encumbered in terms of access in and out of ones' vehicle, making it extremely difficult to unload from and load into our vehicles thus causing an undue hardship.
2. The agreement to allow lane closure for safe loading and unloading in the red zone in the easterly portion of the Craft Section has been rescinded.
3. An additional 75-100 persons or more in that red zone, depending on show occupancy, will be unable to reach their spaces, or will have great difficulty in reaching their spaces to load and unload.
4. Show members in the Craft Section will no longer be able to function in a safe or unencumbered manner.
5. The public at large will no longer be able to enjoy unencumbered access to and from their vehicles. Public safety in regards to the *Public's* ability to exit and enter their vehicles safely and unencumbered will be greatly compromised. At risk are parents with their young children, the elderly, the handicapped, and those using the rental facilities for evening and daytime events.

6. Space numbers were not furnished to us on the plans until September 5, 2007, which made it impossible to adequately study the ramifications of the proposed plan or to notify affected members accurately and in a timely manner.
7. The City of Santa Barbara has a **vested interest** in maintaining and protecting the Santa Barbara Art & Craft Show as both an historical and cultural resource.

Our specific requests are as follows:

1. Removal of the planted spans between the light posts.
2. Scaling back the planted areas around the light posts to no more than 2-foot span around the light posts, leaving an access path on the curbside. This will allow for the trailing of beautiful vines to grow upward on the proposed iron trellises, thus creating a beautiful vertical color scheme, while still allowing access to a parked vehicle by the public.
3. Reconsideration of loading/unloading plans for the large portion of the Craft Section which is red zoned: Thus either the red curb planting:
 - a. Must be scaled back equivalent to the revised planting in the grey curb areas if there is to be no lane closure for loading and unloading, or
 - b. Keeping the planting as is but providing lane closure in the morning and the afternoon. (This solution will probably retain more members in the show).

Also:

4. Revisiting proposed plantings and species. Sustainability of the proposed plantings is highly doubtful, and the costs are very high to maintain them. Parks & Recreation Staff have testified at the HLC meetings that sustainability, costs and maintenance of the plantings will be a significant issue and cost to the city.
5. Revisiting bench placement.
6. Planning for contemporary use. *The question we might ask:*
"Is it more important to return the area to its historical vision,
or to adapt the historical context to the contemporary use of the area?"

Finally:

7. Request of an on-site visit with show members on a Sunday during set up and break down hours.
8. A designated member of the SBACS show TBD allowed to participate in any mitigation hearings.

Our specific concerns regarding the proposed plans are that they do not provide:

- Unencumbered access to and from vehicles by show members.
- Unencumbered access to and from vehicles by the daily visitor.
- Safety for all pedestrians re: surreys, baby carriages, dogs on narrow sidewalks.
- Consideration of use by the handicapped population, and improved handicapped access.
- Adaptation of use of the area to current needs.
- A sustainable planting scheme.

(Handicapped access of show members to and from their vehicles to their show spaces will now be greatly encumbered. Handicapped access for the public in general is already greatly underserved in the 0-800 East Cabrillo Boulevard area, and now is even more compromised).

In closing, we are confident that we can supply the necessary written documentation, photographic evidence needed, etc. to support our appeal. And we are convinced that no functional solution can be reached without an on-site visit to the show on a Sunday during set up and break down hours with Advisory Committee representatives so that an accurate study can be made.

Background

The SBACS also has a vested interest in seeing the Cabrillo Boulevard area beautified and restored to its former condition, and we advocate equally for any user of the area be they resident or tourist. In fact many of us wear 2 hats, that of a citizen of Santa Barbara, and that of the participating artisan. Most importantly we advocate as users of the area who are the most intimately tied to the parkland, who know its every nuance, and who are aware of the entire ramification of this project. Many of us have been located in the same space on Cabrillo Blvd for the last 25-30 years.

Since the mid-1980's, the SBACS Advisory Committee as well as individual show members have closely monitored the decline of the sidewalks and the parkway strip. We have often documented this in our minutes. When the State Bond measure was announced we made sure to keep the item on our agendas even before it had passed. We have continued to advocate on behalf of show members every step of the way. We had called for a planning charette which did not come to fruition. We have attended most public meetings that have dealt with this project and have provided public testimony. We have made sure to pass on written material which could enlighten decision members.

None the less, our Advisory Committees have worked closely with our Staff all during this process to present a viable plan which would result in a beautiful restoration of the area, while still enabling us to conduct our daily business in an unencumbered manner as before. However, the final plan, which was passed, does not allow us to do so. Without unencumbered access to our vehicles, we cannot perform our Sunday functions as artists.

With the planting in of the majority all of the grey curb areas of the Craft Section, approximately 50% of all public parking in the Craft Section will be obstructed re: access to one's vehicle, in some manner. How this translates in real terms is that approximately every two vehicles are in some way negatively affected. Two affected, two not affected and so on.

With the planting in of the red zone in the easterly half of the Craft Section, currently another 75 show members will be unable to even reach their spaces, or reach them safely due to the planting in of the red zones even with the access strip allotted, now that lane closure has been withdrawn as an option. In the grey curb area, the general public will also lose this same 50%, proving even more dangerous at night, as the Chase Palm Park building increases in demand as a rental facility.

In addition, the offer to allow safe loading and unloading via lane closure in the morning and afternoon had been crucial to the proposed project advancing any further after the 11/29/06 HLC meeting. At that meeting, HLC required staff to remediate the effects of fully planting in the Red Zones and to come back with an offer in compromise in the spring of 2007.

The remediation was the creation of 8 twenty-foot spaces to allow 75-100 show members to have at least a reduced ability to load and unload through the proposed plantings combined with lane closure to yield a safe and orderly loading and unloading process. That first compromise as required by the HLC at that meeting was seen only as the beginning of the compromise process by and for the SBACS, and we noted every step along the way the additional problems of this plan, but we were ignored. Acceptance of this first compromise by all parties was responsible for HLC voting a preliminary approval of this project at their March 21, 2007 meeting.

It was that vote allowed Mr. Aguilar to forward the "concept plan" onto the State HL Department, which subsequently approved the concept plan. In addition, we as a group were assured that the plan could be "tweaked" after State approval. That offer has also been rescinded. The SBACS and our Advisory Committee has worked with the involved city departments in good faith to nurture a plan that would function well for all parties involved.

But this approved plan is a plan we cannot endorse.

As show participants, we will be unable to access our vehicles in a safe and unencumbered manner if this plan is allowed to go any further as approved. This same restriction will also apply to the public's use of the area.

Historically, the SBACS had always had use of the grey curb area in the Craft Section. With the construction of the extension of Chase Palm Park on the northern side of Cabrillo Boulevard in the early 1990's, the bottom half of the Art Section and approximately the bottom 1/3 of the Craft Section became red curbed, with small portions being yellow curbed. The Show immediately lost access to most of the available public parking on which it relied. There was no mitigation for loss of that parking after the construction and members were often ticketed on Sunday mornings for trying to unload at their spaces. When it became apparent that this was a dysfunctional situation, members in the newly created red zone of the Craft section were informally given permits to unload and load for several years. That practice has been discontinued but ticketing of show members seems to have relaxed. Due to this loss of grey curb parking, many show members in the Craft section have declined to renew their permits and stay with the show, citing the difficulties in loading and unloading. This loss of public parking has also contributing factor to a decrease in show membership in the Craft Section, from 189 members to an all time low of 120 members, with a significant net loss of revenue to the city.

A Brief History of the Santa Barbara Arts & Crafts Show

Inspired by the outdoor art shows of Mexico and Spain, a small group of artists began an outdoor art show in De La Guerra Plaza in 1965. As the show grew, and artisans desired to participate, the need for a permanent home became apparent. A successful petition drive placed a resolution on the ballot to establish the show on a permanent basis in Chase Palm Park on Cabrillo Boulevard, on the eastern side of Stearns Wharf. The resolution passed, and in 1973 The Santa Barbara Arts & Crafts Show was born. Free to the public year round, every Sunday both visitor and resident alike can enjoy the beauty along Cabrillo Boulevard, while delighting in the artistic beauty our local artisans and artists provide.

For over 40 years, the SBACS has thrived on East Cabrillo Boulevard. Through our successful affiliation with the Parks and Recreation Department, the show has become a positive and visible cultural icon enjoyed by thousands of visitors and locals alike.

Comprised of approximately 200 artists and artisans, we feature the finest in photography, sculpture, fine and contemporary art, ceramics, custom fine jewelry, weaving and clothing, fused and blown glass. All hand made by the artist. We are the longest running year round show in the country, and many communities, including San Francisco, have modeled their shows after ours. The only requirements to participate in the show are that you make what you sell yourself, that you be present on Sunday to meet the public, and that you are a resident of SB County. In addition, one must abide by the rules of the ordinance which established our show.

Because the show takes place in a city park, we fall under the auspices of the SB Parks & Recreation Department. We are also part of the City Advisory Committee System in that we are served by the SB Arts & Crafts Show Advisory Committee, which is comprised of 2 elected members of the Art Section, 2 elected members of the Crafts Section, an appointed Member At Large, and a non-voting position of the Recreation Supervisor, Judith Cook.

Our spaces are allocated in five foot increments with the average space 10 -15 feet in the Crafts Section. Our permit fee is approximately \$490.00 per year, which generates a substantial income for the Park & Recreation Department, as well as countless dollars in tourism to the City. We pay for advertising the show out of our own pockets. We generate thousands of tourist visits to the waterfront area which yields increased business to all local hotels and restaurants, and we have been responsible for placing Santa Barbara on the map as one of the greatest cultural and artistic resources of the State of California. These tourists also make use of the revitalized downtown area, thus making the tourist dollar generated by our show even more valuable.

To summarize:

1. Approximately **50%** of the public parking will be obstructed, encumbered or blocked entirely by the plantings. Many show members will have difficulty reaching their spaces and vehicles due to the proposed plantings and street furniture.
2. **Public safety** in regards to the **Public's** ability to exit and enter their vehicles safely and unencumbered will be **greatly compromised**. **At risk** are parents with their young children, the elderly, the handicapped, and those using the rental facilities for evening and daytime events.
3. **Handicapped access** in and out of one's vehicle, and of show members to and from their vehicles to their show spaces is now greatly encumbered. Handicapped access **for the public** in general is already greatly underserved in the 0-800 East Cabrillo Boulevard area, and now is even **more compromised**.
4. **Sustainability** of the proposed plantings is highly **doubtful**, and the **costs** are very high to maintain them.
5. We truly believe that the SBACS will be harmed if this plan is allowed to move forward.

The solutions we have proposed allow for beautification of this area combined with a realistic assessment for the contemporary use of the area. They are workable solutions, which can also be assessed as providing another viewpoint of the Olmstead legacy, one which would satisfy the historic needs and vision for the area, and at the same time yield a vision of which we can all be proud.

Again, the question might be:

"Is it more important to return the area to its historical vision, or to adapt the historical context to the contemporary use of the area?"

Again we thank you for your consideration

Signed
Deborah Healy 735-3901
Chairperson of the SBACS
On behalf of all show members.

Marilyn Lopez
SLA-6001
910-1290

cc:
SBACS Advisory Committee
Nancy Rapp, Director of Parks and Recreation Department
Judith Cook, Supervisor of Parks and Recreation
Marck Aguilar, Planning Specialist

Deborah Healy