

Maryanne Cronin

From: Kurt Schneider <Kurt@maverickinvestments.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 03, 2023 11:17 AM
To: Eric Johnson; Maryanne Cronin
Subject: Legends parklet - Please approve
Attachments: 202308030944.pdf

-EXTERNAL-



Kurt Schneider
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Planning Commissioners:

Over the past 35 years I have seen Belmont Shore go through many ups and downs. Today we are on an upswing and the inclusion of parklets will only add to the ambience of the neighborhood with welcoming outdoor seating. In addition, Belmont Shore's retail district competes with many other districts and in order to remain competitive, we need to change with the times. Please approve this application for one of our oldest establishments so they may survive for decades to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kurt Schneiter', written in a cursive style.

Kurt Schneiter

President BSBA, Former Parking commissioner (12 Years)

Alex Medina

From: Julie Dean <julz.travels@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 3, 2023 1:07 PM
To: PlanningCommissioners
Subject: Legends' Appeal Comments - Julie Dean

-EXTERNAL-

To: Long Beach Planning Commission
From: Julie Dean, 25 year Belmont Shore resident
Re: Item 1. Recommendation to receive supporting documentation into the record, conclude the public hearing, and consider a third-party appeal filed by Citizens About Responsible Planning (CARP) (APL23-009); Accept Categorical Exemption CE-23-022; and, Uphold the Zoning Administrator's approval of a Local Coastal Development Permit (LCDP23-009) and, adopt the proposed findings and conditions of approval thereto, for the installation of a permanent parklet (301 square feet) within a portion of the public right-of-way, currently designated for two on-street parking spaces, abutting a sports bar/restaurant at 5236 E. 2nd Street in the Neighborhood Pedestrian (CNP) Zoning District. (District 3)

My name is Julie Dean. I am a 25 year resident of Belmont Shore and I have been on the board of the Belmont Shore Residents Association for 14 years, the last two as president. I am speaking today for myself only.

I urge the Planning Commission to DENY this PERMIT for Legends for the following reasons:

Legends has already gotten public space in the form of sidewalk dining in 1996-97; now they're greedily asking for more free public space.

This project is of course supported by Legends' customers, but it is overwhelmingly NOT supported by neighbors. We have over 600 signatures from local residents who do not want permanent parklets. They were never asked, yet they are major stakeholders in this situation. This parklet is also NOT supported by dozens of retail and service businesses located on 2nd Street in Belmont Shore. They have no voice because the street is really controlled by the bars and restaurants.

I am disabled and every time I traversed the sidewalk near Legends during the time of temporary parklets I had to be hyper-aware of staff barrelling out of the door with hot plates and heavy drinks, not looking left or right, as if Legends owned the sidewalk. Additionally, patrons would mingle on the sidewalk while watching the TVs and talking to folks inside, encroaching on pedestrians' right-of-way. Finally, Legends added two-

top tables on the sidewalk adjacent to the parklet, making sidewalk space even smaller. The management failed to properly deal with and train their staff on these issues over a two and a half year period; I'm not sure why we should trust them now.

I have said this over and over again, but no one seems to hear me. Belmont Shore has been parking-impacted for over 40 years, yet now suddenly we think it's okay to remove vital parking spaces on 2nd Street? Legends' parklet doesn't mean just two spaces being removed. It means two spaces, plus all of the spaces used by the cars of the folks patronizing the parklet, and the cars of the staff needed to support the parklet. That is FAR more than two. Belmont Shore cannot handle that. Please stop this.

I'm also concerned with the Conditions of Approval and feel they should be far more robust.

There are minimal details regarding the signage stating the parklet is a public space. How many signs are required when two parking spaces are being used for a parklet vs. one parking space? Where must they be posted? What size will they be? What size font is required?

What about signage that the sidewalk is a pedestrian walkway, and that pedestrians have the right-of-way?

The enforcement phone number is supposed to be on the signage, however will there be an easy reporting mechanism? Will calls be logged, acknowledged? Will the data be analyzed? If after hours or weekends, will there be a recording set up?

Why is there no condition relating to dog water dishes, bikes, sandwich board signs, host stands, menu stands, heaters, standing umbrellas, potted plants, leashed dogs in the parklet, etc? All of these already encroach into the sidewalk space in Belmont Shore. However if parklets are approved, the sidewalk space will be even more impacted.

Why is there no limitation on hours of deliveries, especially considering the delivery truck/bus stop fiascos we've had on 2nd Street? I observed and documented a delivery truck parked in a bus stop for 1 ½ hours several weeks ago. Four buses had to drive past that stop in that time period, unable to drop off or pick up passengers. Consider how this affects those with disabilities.

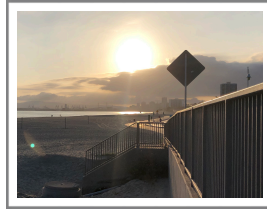
Oversight and enforcement simply does not happen! I love our city but we are not good at oversight or enforcement.

This land belongs to the people, the community, the public.

Thank you for your time and attention. Again, please deny this appeal.

Julie Dean
25 year long resident of Belmont Shore
President, Belmont Shore Residents Association
julz.travels@yahoo.com

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Brian Cochran

August 3, 2023

To the City of Long Beach Planning Commissioners Erick Verduzco-Vega, Jane Templin, Alvaro Castillo, Josh LaFarga, Mark Christoffels, Richard Lewis

Dear Commissioners,

I write today to urge you to DENY the application for a permanent parklet sought by Legends.

The impacts of allowing the incursion of such a structure on Second Street, with its extensively documented traffic issues, constricted pedestrian walkways and already invasive and unmanaged sidewalk dining encroachments, are unequivocally detrimental to the surrounding community.

As a board member of the Belmont Shore Residents Association, a supporter of Citizens Advocating Responsible Planning, a founder of the Parking Not Parklets group, and a 25-year resident of Belmont Shore, I support managed and equitable growth for our neighborhood and the city as a whole.

Permanent parklets on Second Street, however, embody neither principle.

Allowing Legends to proceed with construction and operation of a permanent parklet by removing two metered parking spaces represents just the first of a certain wave of more than a dozen bars and restaurants that similarly have sought or will pursue such applications. The aggregate effect will be not just the loss of some 20+ parking spaces but the major diminishment of access by those with disabilities, the elderly and customers of businesses that are not bars and restaurants. It is a taking of safety and quality of life from the residents

who live in Belmont Shore and who will feel the ripple of effects of this crassly commercial expansion on a daily basis.

The pursuit of permanent parklets on Second Street – initiated via back door under cover of COVID need and contrary to long-established positions by local leaders and even some applicants – does not in any way serve a greater good. It amounts to a city giveaway of valuable land to bars and restaurants camouflaging their profit-making under the guise of “community activation.”

These bars and restaurants proved themselves unworthy stewards of the public space when the temporary parklets were allowed. City departments, from Public Works to Special Events to Parking Enforcement, have consistently been unable to effectively monitor, document, enforce and mitigate the issues stemming from both sidewalk dining and the temporary parklets. There are no measures in place in the current permanent parklets ordinance or city oversight to gather meaningful data on the problems, or to assess the impacts in an actionable form. A current “curb use” survey frames potential concerns in only the vaguest way. A Public Works pilot program of truck delivery impacts on Second Street has not yet been completed. The result of either effort will come too late for review of the Legends application and nearby properties.

The Conditions of Approval (Use) framed as part of this application are vague and have no oversight mechanisms, thereby burdening residents of the community yet again to document and report problems. The designation that the Legends parklet space be accessible to non-paying customers is merely a sop to public outrage over the taking of public space for private gain. The signage and monitoring requirements are negligible. Not a single permanent parklet in existence or being considered even comes close to the vision promoted by the then-mayor and city council members in 2018 when the ordinance was discussed and enacted. There are no “barklets.” There are no art-space parklets. There are no uses meaningfully benefiting the public. It’s all commercial. All about bars and restaurants and their profits.

Business owners on Second Street purchased or leased property in this congested area fully aware of the limitations of geography and access. Are they before you now seeking rooftop dining at their own expense? No. Are they here presenting holistic solutions to address the community concerns? Nope. Are they even listening to their neighbors. Definitely not.

They just want. And they’re happy to take the freebie if you give it to them.

I urge to deny them this permit. Please say “NO,” for the greatest good.

Sincerely yours,

Brian Cochrane