

MAR VISTA COMMUNITY COUNCIL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
DECEMBER 9, 2008
MINUTES

7:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

The following members of the board were present or arrived shortly thereafter: Ken Alpern, Laura Bodensteiner, Stephen Boskin, Sharon Commins, Rob Kadota, Bill Koontz, Christopher McKinnon, Marilyn Marble and Bill Scheduling.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the Nov. 11, 2008 meeting were approved as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT (1)

Bill Ring, representative to Parent Community Advisory Council LAUSD and candidate for Board of Education, asked about coordinating NC education committees.

Vern Taylor, 30 year MV resident and owner of 3 properties, commented on the "MV compound" that has been there for 80 years. He thanked the council for support. Currently in data collection and analysis phase, the city is concerned about the number of residences present in the R1 zoned neighborhood.

ELECTED OFFICIALS AND CITY DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Laura Island, Mar Vista Recreation Center Director, reported that over 550 children participated in the winter snow festival. She is already working on next year's event and hopes to have a "green" theme.

OFFICERS AND LIAISON REPORTS

Chair: No report.

First Vice-Chair: No report.

Second Vice-Chair: Sharon Commins announced the Women's Club luncheon.

Secretary: No report.

Treasurer: Christopher McKinnon reported that there is approximately \$100,000 in MVCC's DONE account.

LANCC Delegate Report: No report.

Director for Animal Welfare: Lola McKnight commented that she would like to be included in communications about meetings that have animal welfare issues on the agenda. She would like to start an animal welfare committee. She announced that she would like to coordinate the collection of dog and cat supplies potentially at the MV Farmers' Market.

DWP MOU: No report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive & Finance:

POLICY MOTION: (re: Quimby and Parking 5117 Funds): MVCC requests that the Los Angeles City Council be requested to supply each Neighborhood or Community Council with an

accounting of both 5117 parking funds, and Quimby Funds for its district.

Motion passed.

POLICY MOTION: (re: ICO Moratorium): The MVCC hereby supports adoption of an Interim Control Ordinance (ICO) / moratorium as proposed by the City Planning Commission temporarily prohibiting the installation of all new offsite advertising signs and supergraphic signs, as well as prohibiting alteration to existing offsite signs and supergraphic signs, until a new offsite sign ordinance can be developed, adopted and implemented. There should be no exceptions that might weaken the enforceability of the moratorium.

Bill Scheduling asked why this was taken through the T&I committee.

Motion passed.

POLICY MOTION: (re: NCs Right to Appeal); MVCC requests that the Los Angeles City Council be requested to amend the working documents for Neighborhood and Community Councils, thereby allowing N.C. the right to appeal city department decisions.

Motion passed.

Community Concept Plan Committee:

Sharon Commins commented that they are waiting for City Planning department to let them know that they have the money to start the process.

Community Outreach Committee:

FUNDING MOTION: SoMar Neighborhood Assoc. Newsletter: The MVCC will allocate \$350 out of the \$6,000 August 12th funding motion for neighborhood association newsletters to the South Mar Vista Neighborhood Association to pay for an ad that will be placed in their winter newsletter.

Motion passed. 1 abstention.

FUNDING MOTION: MVNA Annual Block Party; MVCC to allocate \$500 for the Mar Vista Neighborhood Association 2009 Block Party.

Motion passed.

Education, Arts & Cultures:

FUNDING MOTION: MVCC to allocate up to \$2500 to purchase supplies for Richland Elementary School's Garden Improvement Project. This Funding motion must meet all City of LA funding guidelines and be funded and paid in the fiscal year in which it passed or it expires.

Kami Turrou, Richland Booster Club, presented on Richland Elementary's request for funding and showed pictures of the garden.

Gwen Rinehart commented that the school is underfunded.

Bill Ring commented in support of the motion.

John Ayres commented on the number of public schools in the MVCC area.

Nancy Karlin commented on the fundraising ability of Richland is less than other schools in the area.

A Richland parent commented on the students' access to the garden.

Chris McKinnon asked some questions about sprinklers.

Bill Scheduling commented on school funding in the past.

Sharon Commins commented in support.

Ken Alpern commented in favor of the motion.

Laura Bodensteiner commented in favor of the motion.

Sharon Commins asked for a plaque to commemorate MVCC support.

Bill Koontz commented in favor.

Albert Olson commented that he is concerned about the number of schools in the area but thinks this is a worthwhile project.

Motion passed.

Election & Bylaws Committee: No report.

Green Committee:

Laura Bodensteiner reported that the meeting is held on the 4th Sunday of the month at the MV Farmers' Market.

ADMINISTRATIVE MOTION: The Green Committee will host a Stakeholder meeting focusing on environmental issues in Mar Vista.

Motion withdrawn.

James Brennan commented on the solar programs that will be available through the DWP. There will be a solar town hall held next year.

Neighborhood Traffic Management Committee: No report.

M) Urban Planning Committee

FUNDING MOTION: MVCC to allocate funding for Wi-Fi equipment in the Town Center district of Venice Blvd. The MVCC shall allocate funding for three Open Mar Vista/Meraki Wi-Fi antennas/repeaters equipment and installation to assist in creating free Wi-Fi Internet access in the Town Center district for Venice Blvd. between Inglewood and Centinela, including the Farmers Market Area, up to \$1125. A key goal of this funding is to assist with MVCC Outreach to both businesses and residents in this region of Mar Vista. This Funding motion must meet all City of LA funding guidelines and be funded and paid in the fiscal year in which it passed or it expires.

James Brennan commented on Open Mar Vista and making the internet publicly available.

Kate Anderson asked about accessing free Wi-Fi in the community.

Sharon Commins commented that many communities are adopting these types of programs.

Bill Koontz asked if this is a one-time expense.

Bill Scheduling commented that there may be some purchasing issues.

Albert Olson asked why these places have been chosen and are the businesses that will benefit contributing.

Motion to table

Motion failed. 3 for, 5 opposed.

James Brennan commented that the businesses nearby are donating their internet connection.

Ken Alpern commented on Venice Blvd as the center of business in Mar Vista.

Bill Scheduling commented on concerns on forming partnerships.

Bill Koontz commented in support.

Motion passed. 6 for, 3 opposed.

POLICY MOTION: The MVCC opposes any new construction that increases density until a clear defined plan to guarantee supply of existing water requirements for 20 years, as well as enough additional water to sustain increased density, is adopted by the City of Los Angeles.

Kate Anderson asked what a clear defined plan is.

Bill Scheduling commented about the clear defined plan.

Bill Koontz asked if this motion would result in a letter to the city about these concerns.

Motion to refer back to committees.

6 for, 2 for, 1 abstention. Motion referred back to committee (T&I and PLUM)

MVCC and Joint Motions to Oppose Zoning Change at Proposed Casden Development Site, Exposition/Pico/Sepulveda Blvds. (Case #ENV-2008-3989)

POLICY MOTION:

I. A. Whereas, the MVCC has repeatedly and routinely expressed a strong interest in precedent-setting projects that lie adjacent to its boundaries and which would affect its stakeholders, and

Whereas, the MVCC has repeatedly and routinely promoted planning and transportation policies that emphasize neighborhood preservation, reduced gridlock, and quality of life for its stakeholders, and

Whereas, the MVCC has repeatedly and routinely promoted a future Exposition Light Rail Line that has appropriate traffic and land use mitigations to establish it as a transportation alternative that will improve the quality of life of its stakeholders,

The MVCC therefore Opposes the proposed development of Casden West LA, LLC located at 11122 West Pico Boulevard and 2341-2441 S. Sepulveda Boulevard (major cross streets of Pico Blvd. and Sepulveda Blvd.), which as proposed would be located alongside the future Exposition Light Rail Line and integrated with a station, and which includes:

1) A ten-story mixed-use structure containing a commercial component of approximately 266,800 square feet comprised of an approximately 212,450 square foot retail store and an approximately 54,350 square foot market, and a residential component that would consist of approximately 512,870 square feet in four buildings containing a total of approximately 538 units

2) Five levels of subterranean parking with a total of 2,090 parking stalls, including 1,013 stalls for the commercial uses and 1,077 stalls for residential use (as well as, potentially, for transit users)

I. B. The MVCC Opposes this proposed development and recommends that Los Angeles City Planning reject this zoning change variance request from M2 to C2 for the following reasons:

1) The excessive size, height, density and scope of this project lies entirely outside the character of this region, and would therefore disrupt if not destroy the character of all adjacent neighborhoods, and have permanent impacts on the residential, commercial and industrial aspects of the region.

2) A project of this size requires a full Environmental Impact Report, rather than a Mitigated Negative Declaration, with Traffic impacts calculated per CEQA requirements, rather than the outdated peak-hour traffic counts as currently used under the outdated LAD OT policy.

3) There is a marked lack of guaranteed transit-oriented development within this project that is consistent with a commercial development adjacent to a rail station. Providing rider amenities is an important component of any transit-oriented development, particularly in a location lacking such amenities nearby.

4) There are serious concerns to be addressed regarding a freeway-adjacent housing development and the increased risk of asthma and cancer of any future residents

5) There is insufficient affordable housing for this transit-adjacent development, as well as a lack of incentives for the employees of the commercial aspect of this project to live at this site

6) There are inadequate residential amenities for a project of this scope and size, including

insufficient land/playing field/open space for a development of this size and of this many people, inadequate infrastructure for proper ingress/egress,

7) The Property in question, zoned M2 represents a significant portion of M2 -zoned space in the region. The community and city has demonstrated concern over the future need for and previous loss of M2 land. The West LA Community Plan is currently being re-written and issues pertaining to land use designation on such a large property should be deferred until after the plan has been complete. To change the zone of this large property at this critical juncture will undermine the importance of the planning effort and create an un-mitigatable impact on the community's vision for its future.

8) This project contributes to Westside traffic congestion rather than help solve it by not using the land for parking and accommodations for bus, rail, and bicycle commuters, who would benefit more with a Westside Regional Transportation Center at this site

I. C. The MVCC also recommends that Los Angeles City Planning reject the applicant's request for a zoning change from M2 to C2 until these concerns are sufficiently addressed to both local and regional neighbors who would otherwise be adversely and permanently impacted by the project as currently proposed.

It is disingenuous to separate the consideration of zoning from the consideration of the project as this city application seeks to do.

I. D. The MVCC also recommends that this location be evaluated as a project best needed to suit the region's current and future transportation needs.

Bahaa Mikhail commented that the North Westdale Neighborhood Association has concerns about the traffic impacts on the neighborhood.

Motion to table. Failed 4 for, 5 opposed.

Sharon Commins commented on the loss of industrial land and the ramifications of the subsequent loss of jobs.

Bill Koontz commented on the appropriateness of this motion.

Albert Olson commented on the timeliness of this motion.

Ken Alpern commented on the developers asking for the zoning change.

Sharon Commins commented on the process to create the EIR and commented that it is important to get ahead of the process.

Motion passed. 7 for, 1 opposed, 2 abstentions.

POLICY MOTION:

1) To require that the developer engage the appropriate NC's during the preliminary stages of planning, in much the same way they are required to get the input of LADOT regarding traffic issues;

2) Open a council file on this project;

Motion to split original motion split into policy and funding motion.

Motion passed, 1 abstention.

Policy motion passed, 1 abstention

FUNDING MOTION:

3) Hire an independent traffic analyst to do an independent traffic study of the project, financed by impacted NCs.

Nancy Karlin asked who will pay for the independent traffic analyst.

Motion failed due to lack of a second.

Announcement: Ad-hoc Old Fire Station 62 meeting on the Third Wednesday at Santa Monica College Bundy campus.

Recreation Open Space Enhancement Committee: No report.

Safety and Security Committee:

Bill Koontz reported that funding motions were tabled.

SMC Bundy Campus: No report.

Transportation & Infrastructure Committee:

POLICY MOTION: The MVCC requests that CD11 study in fiscal year 2008-2009 and fund in fiscal year 2009-2010 installation of pedestrian crosswalks with pedestrian activated traffic signals on Washington Place and East Boulevard and Washington Place and Marcasel Avenue. Additionally, it is requested that consideration be given to including also traffic calming bump outs and center median planter as safety and beautification measures.

Motion passed.

POLICY MOTION: The MVCC requests that LADOT look into the feasibility of re-timing the traffic signal lights on Venice Blvd at Centinela Ave., Walgrove, and Lincoln Blvd so as to increase the flow of north/south traffic at these intersections which currently have cue backups that encourage cut-through traffic in adjacent residential neighborhoods.

Motion withdrawn.

Bi Monthly CD 11/LADOT Traffic Meeting Sub Committee : No report.

Web Development – Project Draft Plan

- Review proposed project schedule
- Present preliminary site map
- Summarize and refine functional requirements
- Summarize and refine design requirements
- Identify functionality that will require Drupal modules
- Identify required levels of authorized administrative access

ZONE REPORTS

Zone 1: Ken Alpern reported that the Palms Blvd tree planting was successful. Tree maintenance upcoming in May 2009.

Zone 2: Bill Koontz reported that Casden came to the NRNA meeting to present the project. Several NRNA committees have been formed.

Zone 3: Kate Anderson reported on the successful Aftershock event.

Zone 4: Stephen Boskin reported that Santa's sleigh was out this evening.

Zone 5: SoMar meeting on Thursday at the MV Library. Rash of car break-ins in the zone.

Zone 6: Marilyn Marble reported on the Beethoven beautification project. A new business ice cream store may be coming.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

GRIEVANCES

None.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT (II)

Rob Kadota commented on creating certificates of appreciation from MVCC.

John Ayres commented on opening Beethoven to the community 10-3 on Saturdays and the master joint use plan for the district.

Bahaa Mikhail announced Bill Rosendahl and Chief Bratton meeting to discuss the reduction in the police force on the Westside on Thursday at Felicia Mahood Center.

Christopher McKinnon reported that the library's tree is being eaten by aphids.

Rob Kadota announced that parking permits are available for city parking lots for board member business.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 PM.

Minutes submitted by Laura Bodensteiner on Jan. 10, 2008.