

MAR VISTA COMMUNITY COUNCIL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
FEBRUARY 10, 2009
MINUTES

7:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the Jan. 13, 2008 meeting were approved as presented, 1 abstention.

PUBLIC COMMENT (1)

Rabbi Hachum Shifren introduced himself as a candidate for state senate.

Bill Koontz announced an art event on Feb. 13.

Caltrans representative Leon Romero gave an update on the 405 Freeway widening project. Caltrans anticipates that the project will be functional by Summer 2009. Palms Blvd is completely operational. National Blvd is going to be reconstructed and widened, and is currently at 25% completion. There are 4 stages of construction, and they are currently in Stage 2. It is slated to be completed in Spring 2009. He gave an update on the freeway widening.

Marty Rubin asked about the pedestrian walkways at the intersection of National and Sawtelle.

Bahaa Mikhail asked about light synchronization along National Blvd.

Marilyn Marble asked about funds for the project.

Babak Nahid asked how long this project began. The Palms bridge project started in 2004. He also asked about pedestrian safety on the bridge. There are no plans for a railing on street side of the bridge.

Bill Koontz asked about peak times. 6am-9am, 3pm-6pm, 11am-1pm. He also asked about the merging of the lane at about Olympic on 405 South. Leon replied that it is a temporary tapering for the project.

Chris McKinnon asked about the lanes. Leon said there will be 5 lanes on the 405 under the 10 Freeway. He also asked about graffiti suppression and the plantings.

Bill Scheduling asked about the lane striping and the sharp turns on the 405 South. He also asked about cut-through traffic through the gas station.

Ken Alpern asked for the contractor to be made responsible in future projects.

Contact Judy Gish with further questions.

ELECTED OFFICIALS AND CITY DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Department of Neighborhood Empowerment Project Coordinator Deanna Stevenson asked if the MVCC budget representatives would be attending the budget meeting.

Mar Vista Recreation Center Director Laura Island announced the first Teen Valentine Dance. She reported on the budget meeting and the clustering concept. Mar Vista Park will be a pilot cluster project with PenMar Park. Spring Egg Hunt on April 11.

CD 11 Councilman Rosendahl represented by Field Deputy Len Nguyen announced the Solar Forum on Feb. 17. He announced an adoption event on Feb. 14 from 8am-3pm. Exposition Phase II EIR, comment period will end in March. There are two meetings scheduled: Feb. 18 at Venice and Feb. 25 at Webster.

Mayor of LA Antonio Villaraigosa represented by Stephen Cheung and Jennifer Badger, Westside Area Representatives, requested representation at the upcoming Budget meeting. The mayor is in Washington D.C. and is requesting that money go directly to municipalities instead of through the state.

OFFICERS AND LIAISON REPORTS

Chair: Rob Kadota reported a Survey L.A. Notice of completion about Playa Vista has been released.

Potential new business owner is looking to open a well-baby center in Mar Vista.

First Vice-Chair: Albert Olson reported that the “Watch the Road, Watch the Kids” signs are assembled and ready to be placed in neighborhoods.

Second Vice-Chair: Sharon Commins requested e-calendar items.

Secretary: Laura Bodensteiner reported that the upcoming MVCC newsletter will be distributed on Friday and Saturday, and requested that people let her know if they do not receive it.

Treasurer: Christopher McKinnon reported that the budget is currently at \$96,533, with about \$22,309 allocated.

Director for Animal Welfare: Lola McKnight reported that the Animal Awareness Committee is planned for Feb. 17, but may change to Feb. 23. She reported that an animal communicator will table at the MVCC farmers’ market booth in March. She also announced the Feb. 14 adoption event.

DWP MOU: Babak Nahid assembled information for stakeholders to become educated about Measure B. CD11 Solar Energy Forum, 7pm-9pm at Daniel Webster Middle School Auditorium. Councilmember Rosendahl will be hosting a forum with LADWP to inform stakeholders about the upcoming solar energy ballot Measure B.

Rusty Roten is a representative with the local electrician’s union. He commented on the measure and that it will create jobs in LA.

Bi Monthly CD 11/LADOT Traffic Meeting Sub Committee: Linda Guagliano announced that the committee meets on the 2nd Wednesday of every 2nd Month. Next meeting on March 11 at the Councilman’s office. The mayor’s office has put a hold on all left turn signals due to funding issues. Alley repaving has also been put on hold.

LANCC Delegate Report: No report.

Mayor's Budget Planning: No report. Volunteers are welcomed and encouraged.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive & Finance:

FUNDING MOTION: Raise in Price of Current Web Hosting due to a DWP energy surcharge

(1) DWP Energy Surcharge of \$25 per month starting from Oct through Dec. - \$75 energy surcharge

(2) Total Bill \$150.00

Motion passed, 3 abstentions.

Community Concept Plan Committee:

Sharon Commins announced the meeting Feb. 11 at SMC Bundy Campus. Proposed sign districts will be on the agenda. Also, the mayor’s housing proposal to include low and very low income housing.

Community Outreach Committee:

FUNDING MOTION: The MVCC will allocate \$350 out of the \$6,000 Aug. 12 funding motion for neighborhood association newsletters to the Westside Village Civic Association to pay for an ad that will be placed in their next newsletter. This Funding motion must meet all City of LA funding guidelines and be funded and paid in the fiscal year which it is passed or it expires on June 30, 2009. In addition, the MVCC requests that 100 copies of the newsletter be provided to the MVCC for distribution at the MVCC Farmers Market booth.

President of the WVCA commented in favor of the newsletter funding.

Motion passed unanimously.

FUNDING MOTION: The MVCC will allocate up to \$500 to pay for publicity signage for the Westside Village Civic Association's annual meeting, and to pay for the room rental for the same meeting. This allocation is contingent on the Westside Village Civic Association agreeing to the following:

- All publicity for the event will state that the event is "open to the public".
- The signage paid for by the MVCC will be placed prominently throughout the community.
- This Funding motion must meet all City of LA funding guidelines and be funded and paid in the fiscal year which it is passed or it expires on June 30, 2009.

Motion was withdrawn.

FUNDING MOTION: The MVCC allocates up to \$1,500 to purchase additional MVCC reusable grocery bags originally designed by members of the MVCC Green Committee. Additionally, the Outreach Committee requests that additional research take place to find alternative vendors for the reusable bag that can provide bags created with "sustainable" materials, and that these options be presented to the Board when this motion is considered.

Albert Olson stated that the funding motion for the Green bags would be for the same bags as we had previously purchased.

Bill Scheduling commented about the cost of the bags.

Motion passed, 3 abstentions.

Education, Arts & Cultures:

Kate Anderson announced Education Stakeholders meeting in April. Festival with the Outreach Committee to bring artists in Mar Vista.

Election & Bylaws Committee: No report.

Green Committee:

POLICY MOTION: for Library recycle bins The Mar Vista Community Council requests that the Los Angeles Public Library make available and promote to the public and Library employees Blue and/or Yellow recycling bins from the Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Bureau of Sanitation or other appropriate city agency, both interior and exterior to their location in Mar Vista at 12006 Venice Boulevard Los Angeles, CA 90066 as soon as possible with weekly Monday street collection by Bureau of Sanitation trucks.

Motion passed unanimously.

POLICY MOTION: US Post Office recycle bins (Chris McKinnon): The Mar Vista Community Council requests that the United States Postal Service make available and promote to the public and Post

Office employees Blue and/or Yellow recycling bins from the appropriate Federal agency, both interior and exterior to their location in Mar Vista at 3826 Grand View Boulevard Los Angeles, CA 90066 as soon as possible with weekly collection by an appropriate recycling vendor or governmental agency. Also cc to the Committee on Government Reform that has oversight of the postal service.

Motion passed unanimously.

POLICY MOTION: MVRC recycle bins (The Mar Vista Community Council requests that the Department of Recreation and Parks for Mar Vista Recreation Center, Park and Pool make available and promote to the public and Park employees Blue and/or Yellow recycling bins from the Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Bureau of Sanitation or other appropriate city agency, both interior and exterior to their locations in Mar Vista at 11430 Woodbine Avenue and 11655 Palms Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90066 as soon as possible. Weekly collection by Bureau of Sanitation trucks or other city department requested as well.

Motion passed unanimously.

POLICY MOTION: The Mar Vista Community Council requests that the United States Postal Service make available and promote to the public and Post Office employees Blue and/or Yellow recycling bins from the appropriate Federal agency, both interior and exterior to their location in Mar Vista at 3826 Grand View Boulevard Los Angeles, CA 90066 as soon as possible with weekly collection by an appropriate recycling vendor or governmental agency.

Tom Ponton reported that battery recycling is available at the library and at the MVCC Farmers' Market booth.

Motion passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE MOTION: to create "Mar Vista Green Garden Showcase," tour of sustainable and eco-friendly gardens and homes on April 26th.

Motion passed unanimously.

Neighborhood Traffic Management Committee:

ADMINISTRATIVE MOTION: To explore MVCC Speed Trailer Repair and possible upgrades.

Motion passed unanimously.

POLICY MOTION: Re-designation of Substandard Collector Street Segments to Appropriate Local Street Status. SEE ATTACHMENT A.

Marty Rubin expressed concern about potential changes to streets that are altered.

Lewis Stout offered a friendly amendment to change Palms Blvd to Victoria.

A stakeholder on Inglewood urged support of this motion.

Linda Guagliano commented in support of the motion.

Bonnie Stout commented in support of the motion.

Babak Nahid reiterated concern that there be no unintended consequences to the change.

Chris McKinnon asked about south of Venice.

Motion passed unanimously.

Old Fire Station #62 Ad Hoc Committee:

Sharon Commins reported on the walk-through with the building inspector. The building is well built. There are concerns about the heating/cooling system. There is a website under construction utilizing Google Apps.

Bill Koontz asked about underground diesel containers. Sharon Commins responded that there is no tank currently.

Planning and Land Use Management Committee report:

POLICY MOTION: The MVCC Board supports City Planning approval of the requested variances at 3974 S. Beethoven St.: To create a Small Lot Subdivision of four new single-family homes on a 5,600 net square foot site, with the following adjustments to permit construction prior to the recordation of the final map

- (1) 5-foot front setback in lieu of the required 15-foot front yard setback**
- (2) 5-foot side yard setbacks in lieu of the required 6-foot side yard setbacks in the R3 zone**
- (3) 5-foot rear yard setback in the lieu of the required 15-foot rear yard setback**
- (4) Reduced spaces between buildings allowing 4-inches in lieu of the 20-foot required**
- (5) 5-foot passageways in lieu of the 12-foot required**

Roy Persinko commented in favor of the variance.

Linda Guagliano commented in opposition to the variance due to increased density and out of character.

Marty Rubin asked if the project would be LEED certified.

Bill Scheduling asked if the building will be prefabricated.

Babak Nahid commented on the sustainable building.

Sharon Commins commented that this may be the best project that comes along for the property.

Albert Olson asked if there has been MVCC outreach to the neighbors. Motion to table. Motion failed. He also expressed concern about the size of the project.

Ken Alpern commented that the lot is zoned R3-1.

Motion passed 8 for, 1 opposed, 2 abstentions.

Sharon Commins announced a meeting on Feb. 19 about Signage/Billboards.

Recreation Open Space Enhancement Committee:

Tom Ponton reported that they are trying to meet with the Park Advisory Board on Feb. 17, and may be changed due to other meeting conflicts.

Safety and Security Committee:

FUNDING MOTION: to allocate up to \$5,000 to support LAPD's Pacific Area Explorers and DAPS (Deputy Auxiliary Police Service) programs, with specific expenses to be approved by the Board. MVCC logo placement to be arranged on all goods where appropriate. This funding motion must meet all City of L.A. funding guidelines and be funded and paid in the fiscal year in which it passed or it expires.

Pat Karasick commented in support of the motion.

Babak Nahid asked how many youths are served by the program. About 50 kids are in the program.

Motion passed, 3 abstentions.

ADMINISTRATIVE MOTION: to approve the letter of appreciation for the donation of coffee and other accoutrements in support of Shake Out '08 and "Aftershock" to the manager of Starbucks Coffee at 11705 National Blvd.

Motion passed.

Santa Monica Airport Committee: Bill Scheduling reported they are trying to organize a field trip to the airport.

SMC Bundy Campus Ad Hoc Committee: No Report.

Transportation & Infrastructure Committee:

Albert Olson reported that Chuck Ray was elected Vice Chair of the committee.

POLICY MOTION: Traffic Control Tiger Teams, proposed by Westside Regional Alliance of Councils,

i) While the City has found it both effective and profitable to implement “Tiger Teams” to clear ‘No Parking, Tow Away Zones” during peak hours, the city has been unable to control gridlock.

ii) As gridlock is a major quality of life issue, the City of Los Angeles City Council is hereby requested to implement an enforcement mechanism and fine system to alleviate the constant gridlock in intersections in the City Limits.

Motion passed unanimously.

POLICY MOTION: of Support for expansion of OPD to 3100 block of Corinth

i) WHEREAS on November 3, 2008 the residents of the 3100 block of Corinth Avenue submitted a petition to the Councilmember for Council District 11 requesting his agreement that the boundaries of Overnight Parking District 505 shall be extended to include the 3100 block of Corinth Avenue and

ii) WHEREAS the Los Angeles Department of Transportation has taken the position that a resolution of the full City Council is necessary,

iii) THEREFORE the Mar Vista Community Council hereby resolves that they support the petition of the residents of the 3100 block of Corinth Avenue and request the Councilmember for Council District 11 to ask the full City Council to extend the boundaries of the Overnight Parking District 505 to include the 3100 block of Corinth Avenue.

Motion passed unanimously.

POLICY MOTION: of Support to the proposed MOU between Los Angeles Department of Transportation and Neighborhood Councils:

i) The MVCC believes it is very important for Neighborhood Councils (NCs) to have a good working relationship with all Offices of the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT), especially those responsible for:

- (a) Transportation Development and Transit Services,**
- (b) Transportation Operations, and**
- (c) Parking Management and Regulations.**

ii) Therefore the MVCC requests the LADOT to schedule a series of working sessions whereby interested NCs, of a representative subset thereof, and LADOT management of the above Offices work jointly to develop the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to be offered to all NCs for signing.

Motion passed unanimously.

POLICY MOTION: The MVCC is supportive of Councilmember Rosendahl’s significant efforts to address the problem of people living in vehicles that are being parked on residential streets in both the Venice and Brentwood areas, using both pilot parking programs and creation of OP Districts.

i) However, the MVCC is concerned with similar issues within its boundaries and concerned with a possible spillover effect if the programs initiated in the above-mentioned areas are successful in removing vehicles from those residential areas. Therefore, the MVCC requests that the City be mindful of our stakeholders' concerns as the above programs are implemented, and---where appropriate---similar solutions be considered for the Mar Vista community.

Bill Scheduling commented on the portion of National that has RVs.

Motion passed unanimously.

Web Development Committee: Babak Nahid reported that the committee has been meeting diligently. He hopes to have designs to present at the next Board meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

GRIEVANCES

None.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT (II)

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:53 PM.

Minutes submitted by Laura Bodensteiner on Feb. 18, 2009.

ATTACHMENT A: Motion re. Re-designation of Substandard Collector Street Segments to Appropriate Local Street Status

Whereas:

- Inglewood Boulevard and Grand View Boulevard between National and Venice Boulevards,
 - Rose Avenue-Beethoven Street between Walgrove-23rd Street and Venice Boulevard, and
 - Beethoven Street between Venice Boulevard and the Los Angeles City/Culver City Boundary
- are currently listed in the Palms-Mar Vista-Del Rey Community Plan as residential neighborhood Collector streets, and therefore also

listed in the City's Street Framework Model for the purpose of showing where neighborhood traffic will be injected into the commuter arterials, but

Whereas such inclusion in the Street Framework Model has allowed and continues to allow development project traffic planning models to improperly use said streets as thru-routes for absorbing development project traffic increases, thereby allowing density increases that can not be accommodated on commuter arterials alone, thereby forcing commuter traffic onto our residential Collector street when such projects are built, and

Whereas said streets have consequently become the MVCC-territory residential streets most frequently used by such commuter traffic, and

Whereas the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) states that it cannot employ effective cut-thru traffic control

measures on Collector streets but can on street segments designated as Local streets, and

Whereas LADOT has stated that streets or street segments currently designated as Collector Streets maybe re-designated to a lower street status if the street or street segment does not meet City Standards for Collector Streets, and

Whereas segments of the above-named streets are either not dedicated and/or not built to the City's Right of Way and/or pavement width Standards for Collector streets, as published in the General Plan; Transportation Element; Chapter VI – Street Designation and Standards and in the Department of Public Works Standard Plan; Standard Street Dimensions, and

Whereas the neighborhood-internal segments of the above streets provide shortest routes to the nearest arterial only for the residents who live on those segments and therefore serve as Local streets rather than as Collector streets, and

Whereas the Los Angeles Department Public Works, Bureau of Streets Services states that in all aspects of street cleaning and maintenance, streets designated as Local Streets are treated the same as those designated as Collector Streets.

The Mar Vista Community Council therefore requests the Los Angeles Department of City Planning to re-designate the street segments listed below from Collector Street status to the Street status listed below, so that:

1. the above-named streets will not be listed in the Street Framework Model as continuous thru-street routes and therefore will no longer be improperly used as planned routes for absorbing development project traffic, and
2. the Los Angeles Department of Transportation may employ its most effective cut-thru traffic control measures on the named segments as Neighborhood Traffic Management Plans are developed for the above named streets.

The street segments to be re-designated are:

- Inglewood Boulevard between Indianapolis Street and Charnock Road to Hillside Local,
- Inglewood Boulevard between Charnock Road and Victoria Avenue to Local,
- Grand View Boulevard between Clover and Victoria to Local,
- Beethoven Street between Appleton Way and Victoria Avenue north of Beethoven Elementary School to Local,
- Beethoven Street between Manor Lane and the Los Angeles City/Culver City boundary to Local.