

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

7:02 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, Bob Fitzpatrick, Rob Kadota, Bill Koontz, Christopher McKinnon, Marilyn Marble, Babak Nahid, Albert Olson and Bill Scheduling.

*APPROVAL OF MINUTES*

The minutes from the Feb. 10, 2009 meeting were approved as presented.

*PUBLIC COMMENT (1)*

A stakeholder expressed concern about Metro Route 333 that was changed such that the number of stops through Mar Vista have been reduced.

Marty Rubin gave an update on the ban on C and D aircraft at Santa Monica Airport.

Michael Millman commented on the removal of postal boxes. He asked the council to try to bring the boxes back. Rob Kadota suggested contacting Jane Harman's office [Jessica.duboff@mail.house.gov](mailto:Jessica.duboff@mail.house.gov) 310-643-3636.

LADWP Simone Taylor Public Affairs division Neighborhood Relations liaison. 213-367-8692. LADWPneighborhoodnews.com. She announced we are in Phase I water conservation and left flyers.

Jean Ushijima commented on the removal of post office boxes and her attempts to bring back a box near her house.

*ELECTED OFFICIALS AND CITY DEPARTMENT REPORTS*

Mar Vista Recreation Center Director Laura Island reported on the dedication of the sign on the pool building. Windward School adopted the park. Spring event will be partnering with PenMar Park on April 11. Spring Camp April 6-10. Flyers available for summer movie series July 18, Aug. 1 and Aug. 15. They have begun planning for the Fall Festival with a Green theme, collaborating with the MVCC Green Committee. She also talked about the new Teen Club.

CD 11 Councilman Rosendahl represented by Field Deputy Len Nguyen reported on the mail box cuts were done based on mail volume according to the post office. He requested newsletter items, sent usually on Fridays. Downtown Mar Vista parking meters can have new signs that reflect the new 2 hour limit.

CA Assemblymember Ted Lieu represented by Jennifer Zivkovic reported on the California budget. AB1061 encourages water conservation.

Mayor of LA Antonio Villaraigosa represented by Jennifer Badger, Westside Area Representative presented Budget Survey posters and reported on the Mayor's budget day. She announced that the LAPD reached its highest officer deployment in city history, about 9,800 officers.

Department of Neighborhood Empowerment Project Coordinator Deanna Stevenson announced the April 25<sup>th</sup> conflict of interest training, will serve as state-mandated training. Regional Congress of Neighborhoods in May in the Valley. No word yet on how the budget cuts will affect neighborhood councils.

Babak Nahid asked how in her view the budget impacted the city and specifically the neighborhood councils \$50,000 annual allocation. He also asked what were three key findings from the budget survey in which NC's participated.

### *SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS*

Mar Vista Branch, Los Angeles Public Library Senior Librarian Carole Kealoha reported that libraries are being used a lot more due to the recession. Computer classes, preschool story time, book club, etc. She encouraged stakeholders to support Friends of Mar Vista Library.

Bureau of Sanitation Zero Waste, Alternative Technologies Kristin Guerillo reported that the city is looking for ways to eliminate black bin waste. City of LA received several RFPs and will select the vendor and technology this spring. Contact Miguel Sermenio for more info 213-485-3611. Workshop on March 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.

Babak Nahid provided info on the free compost available to residents at West LA 6000 W. Jefferson Blvd. Time of Operation: 7:00 a.m. To 5:00 p.m Seven days a week.

### *OFFICERS AND LIAISON REPORTS*

Chair: No report.

First Vice-Chair: Albert Olson reported that a meeting for the Charnock Wells will be scheduled.

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

Secretary: Laura Bodensteiner requested input on newsletter distribution. There were gaps on Beethoven and Colonial reported by stakeholders in the audience.

Treasurer: Christopher McKinnon reported that the current balance is \$89,884. Minus allocations leaves \$55,589. Funds for next year are uncertain.

Director for Animal Welfare: Lola McKnight announced their first event at the Farmers' Market at March 21 will have an animal expert speaking on emergency care. Next meeting at the Coffee Connection. This Sunday 11-4 at Roxbury Park Woofstock event with 30 vendors, celebrities, etc.

DWP MOU: No report.

Bi Monthly CD 11/LADOT Traffic Meeting Liaison: Linda Guagliano announced that the committee meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every 2<sup>nd</sup> Month. Next meeting on March 11 at the Councilman's office at 10am. The mayor's office has put a hold on all left turn signals due to funding issues.

LANCC Delegate Report: No report.

Mayor's Budget Planning: No report.

### *COMMITTEE REPORTS*

#### Web Development

Babak Nahid made a presentation on the current home page design of the MVCC Web site and provided an update with Kurt Rademaker from Urban Insight Inc.

#### Executive & Finance:

**FUNDING MOTION: Up to \$1,000 for an MVCC laptop computer for MVCC use, equipment and software choices to be approved by the Executive committee.**

Ken Alpern asked where the computer would be kept between uses.

Babak Nahid and Bill Scheduling suggested the board consider using open source rather than proprietary software for their laptop.

**Motion passed. 1 opposed, 1 abstention.**

FUNDING MOTION: Purchase of additional microphones and stands for board meetings – less than \$500.

Motion to table. Motion tabled.

Community Concept Plan Committee:

Sharon Commins announced the meeting 7-9pm Mar 11. She announced foreclosure network services. She encouraged stakeholders to take the West LA walking tour. There is a code amendment meeting upcoming.

Community Outreach Committee:

**FUNDING MOTION: The MVCC shall allocate up to \$300 to create and purchase a large MVCC banner to be placed on the perimeter fence at the Mar Vista Rec. Center. The banner will contain the MVCC logo, “Mar Vista Community Council”, web site address, and an announcement of the monthly Board meeting at the Rec. Center and be made out of sustainable material if possible.**

Chris McKinnon expressed concern for the visual blight.

**Motion passed.**

Funding Motion: The MVCC shall allocate \$1462.50 to order an additional 250 Watch The Road/Watch For Kids signs.

Babak commented that similar signs are available through other vendors at significantly lower cost.

Marilyn Marble commented that the signs are difficult to read.

Bill Scheduling commented on the price.

Sharon Commins offered a friendly amendment to approve the amount, but report back on other vendor possibilities.

Laura Bodensteiner commented that the signs are not aesthetically pleasing and potentially distracting to drivers.

Babak Nahid suggested the type for MVCC on the signs is too small to make the message effective.

Motion to table. Motion tabled.

Discussion of need for bollards at the corner of Grand View Blvd. and Venice Blvd. to protect the Mar Vista Farmers Market. Demetrios Mavromichalis, President of Mar Vista Farmers Market presented a request that the MVCC allocate funds for the purchase of bollards. The cost is aprx. \$26,000, and will be discussed again at the March meeting of the Outreach Committee.

Lorraine Wells introduced the MVFM board members in attendance, Ian Voltieri, Joseph Treves, Demetrius M, Diana Rodgers.

Ian Volteiri MFVM board member commented on the change brought to the area and the need for the bollards for safety.

Nancy Karlin asked if this is allowed and commented about who would be sued.

A stakeholder asked if the alleys would be done and where will they be stored.

Joseph Treves commented that the bollards would be a safeguard to make the venue safer for all.

Demetrius Mavromichalis commented that they asked the councilman’s office for the money, and they suggested asking the NC.

Babak Nahid suggested that the size of the funds being requested required rigorous due diligence by MVCC in researching all aspects of the proposal. He also suggested that the magnitude of the cost of the bollards merited exploring ways to share their full cost with relevant parties, including the market and the Councilman’s office.

Bill Koontz asked if the MVFM would pay for part.

Ken Alpern asked if MVCC could fund partially one year.

Christopher McKinnon asked about the non-profit status of the market.

Sharon Commins asked if the cost includes the permits.

Albert Olson mentioned that they have discussed sharing storage space with MVCC and expressed concern about the safety of the less expensive bollards.

Bill Scheduling expressed concern about liability issues.

The Outreach committee requests that MVCC Zone Directors and additional Board members partner with members of the Outreach Committee to assist MVCC committees in providing reasonable notification to stakeholders of any agenda item that is specific to an address in a stakeholder's immediate neighborhood. One such reasonable notification might be a distribution of flyers to the immediate neighborhood.

Linda Guagliano commented that this is an important issue.

Nancy Karlin suggested that standards be developed.

Education, Arts & Cultures:

Babak Nahid announced the committee meets the first Thursday of the month at the MV Library, next one on April 2.

Election & Bylaws Committee:

Suggested Bylaw changes are posted on the web for board review and future consideration.

Rosenberg's Rules of Order are recommended over our current use of Robert's Rules of Order.

City Clerk run NC elections in 2010. Planning meetings will occur in near future.

Green Committee:

**Funding Motion: Allocate \$200 for MVGC's Mar Vista Green Garden Showcase outreach materials to be made with sustainable materials if possible.**

**Motion passed.**

**Funding Motion: Allocate up to \$300 for a MVCC Green Committee banner to be made with sustainable materials if possible.**

**Motion passed.**

Neighborhood Traffic Management Committee:

Bill Pope reported on that the committee did not meet. The laser has been sent in.

Old Fire Station #62 Ad Hoc Committee:

Policy Motion re: Reuse of Old Fire Station #62. SEE ATTACHMENT A.

Nancy Karlin commented that senior housing should be considered.

Deborah Merrill commented on the inadequate location of the site for senior housing.

Roy Persinko commented that it is not feasible to support 20+ units that would be required to make the site into senior center.

Marty Rubin expressed concern about losing the land.

Bill Scheduling commented in favor of the community center.

Bob Fitzpatrick commented in favor of senior housing.

Marilyn Marble commented in favor of senior housing.

Babak Nahid commented on the need for better outreach to ensure broader input from the community.

Sharon Commins commented on the research that the committee did.  
Motion to table. Motion tabled, 6 for, 5 against, 1 abstention.

Policy Motion re: Alternative Sites for Affordable Senior Housing  
Motion to table. Motion tabled.

Transportation & Infrastructure Committee:

**POLICY MOTION: Expo Line Motion. SEE ATTACHMENT B  
Motion passed, 1 abstention.**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 PM.

Minutes submitted by Laura Bodensteiner on April 11, 2009.

#### **ATTACHMENT A: Old Fire Station #62 Ad Hoc Committee Motions**

##### **Policy Motion re: Reuse of Old Fire Station #62**

Whereas the Mar Vista Community Council Board of Directors voted in 2007 to retain the old Fire Station 62 for community use

Whereas community support for this use remains strong and deep as evidenced by participation in the Ad Hoc Committee

Whereas the site is not conducive to senior housing because of its location at the top of a hill, on an already congested corridor, over 1500 feet away from a rapid bus line, without walkable access to services

Whereas the scale of the proposed project is not in keeping with the character of the neighborhood per the Palms/Mar Vista/Del Rey Community Plan Chapter 3 Land Use Plan Policies and Programs, Residential:

GOAL 1, Objective 1-1.2: Protect the quality of residential environment and the appearance of communities with attention to site and building design. Program: Implement design guidelines for residential development.

Objective 1-1.3: Protect existing single family residential neighborhoods from new out-of scale development and other incompatible uses. Program: The plan map identifies lands where only single family development is permitted. These areas are protected by designating appropriate transitional height requirements for commercial and multiple residential buildings, when located adjacent to single family dwellings (Transitional Height Ordinance) and through plan amendments and corresponding zone changes which minimize incompatible uses.

Objective 1-1.4: Promote neighborhood preservation, particularly in multi-family neighborhoods.

Objective 1-2: To reduce vehicular trips and congestion by developing new housing in proximity to services and facilities. Policies 1-2.1 Locate higher residential densities near commercial centers and major bus routes where public service facilities and infrastructure will support this development. Program: The plan designates most of the higher residential densities near major transit corridors.

Objective 1-3.2: Proposals for change to planned residential density should consider factors of neighborhood character and identity, compatibility of land uses, impacts on livability, public services and facilities and on traffic levels. Program: A decision-maker should adopt a finding which addresses these factors when considering a change in planned residential densities.”

Whereas for the project to be financially feasible requires more units than the current zoning permits

Whereas the Mar Vista community has no dedicated space for community meetings, CERT, after school programs, arts classes, PAL, and programs designed for at-risk youth

Whereas the community is cognizant of the budget cuts which have decimated programs for youth, seniors and at-risk populations and sees a need to provide this space to create opportunities for volunteers

Therefore, the Mar Vista Community Council recommends the preservation of the existing site and structure for use as a multi-purpose community center

### **ATTACHMENT B – Transportation & Infrastructure Motions:**

**Policy Motion: The MVCC would like to re-affirm its positions regarding Expo Phase 2 project which are summarized and updated as follows:**

- 1) A Westside Segment (Phase II) of the Exposition Line (Expo Line) that is routed on the Exposition Rail Right of Way (ROW), and not routed along Venice and Sepulveda Blvds.; the MVCC absolutely opposes the Venice/Sepulveda route as being unfairly disruptive to traffic on Sepulveda and Venice Blvds., and unfairly disruptive to Mar Vista and Westside Village residents, and the MVCC recognizes the ROW routing as the most cost-effective route to connect West Los Angeles with Santa Monica and the Mid-City
- 2) Expo Line Grade separations at the congested commercial corridors of Overland Ave., Westwood Blvd., Sepulveda Blvd. and should the Westside Segment of the Expo Line be routed on the Expo ROW, as well as grade separations at Pico Blvd., Barrington Blvd. and Centinela Blvd. for either routing
- 3) An Exposition/Sepulveda station consistent with the type of grade-separated crossings employed
- 4) Sufficient parking, bus bays, bicycle racks and pedestrian amenities at all Westside stations to maximize convenience and access to the Expo Line
- 5) A Venice Blvd. Busway connecting the Venice/Robertson Expo Line station to the beach in the west and towards Downtown Los Angeles in the east, with future station sites and adjacent parking/transportation centers to be established that allows enhanced, convenient and rapid regional access to the Expo Line for commuters from Palms, Mar Vista, Del Rey, Venice, Marina Del Rey and Culver City.
- 6) The Exposition Bikeway as an essential component of the Exposition Light Rail Line Project, with engineering and planning to be included with all elements of Phases 1 and 2 Planning
- 7) Inclusion of all elements of the Exposition Line Greenway, as well as water reclamation and park establishment along the ROW, that does not interfere with or prevent the establishment of the rail line through the ROW or negatively impact the adjacent neighborhoods
- 8) Establish Exposition/Sepulveda as a “regional/commuter” rail station and Exposition/Westwood as a “local/community” rail station:
  - a) Concentrate parking at the Exposition/Sepulveda station, and include/facilitate pedestrian access to this station from Sawtelle Blvd.
  - b) Limit Exposition/Westwood station access mainly to buses, bicycles, pedestrians, and neighborhood-serving parking
  - c) Preserve and prioritize the land on the ROW for the Exposition Bikeway and Greenway Projects
- 9) A 50-100 year deed restriction to maintain the R1 (single family home) zoning adjacent to the Right of Way on any currently zoned R1 neighborhood adjacent to the Expo Line in order to maintain current neighborhood preservation, while encouraging transit-oriented development in R3/4-zoned neighborhoods, at an appropriate and sustainable scale, adjacent to all Expo Line stations and bus stops of major bus feeder lines to the Expo Line.