

Mar Vista Community Council  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS Meeting**  
**December 14, 2010**  
**Minutes**

7:02 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The following members of the board were present: Kate Anderson, Laura Bodensteiner, Sharon Commins, Geoffrey Forgione, Bill Koontz, Marilyn Marble, Albert Olson, Maritza Przekop, Chuck Ray, Bill Scheduling and Alex Thompson.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes were approved with modifications presented.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Brennan Lindner announced the 13.1 Los Angeles Marathon on Jan. 16, 2010 announced the event and detailed the outreach that is planned for the event. There were questions about the road closures.

Booker Pearson gave an update on the Upward Bound House. He thanked the council for the letter of support. \$1 million in renovations to the facility. He reported on the successes of families that have graduated to permanent housing.

Craig Lightner, husband of the owner of El Zacatecas, introduced himself.

Salma Lightner introduced herself as the owner of El Zacatecas bar.

Wil Nieves, planner for El Zacatecas, commented that they will be at the Dec. 21 PLUM meeting. Geoffrey Forgione asked if the bar has a web site. Yes: [venicebikinibar.com](http://venicebikinibar.com)

James Sautino introduced himself. He does the promotions for the El Zacatecas bar.

Cindy Chambers, Venice Neighborhood Council, reported that she has been elected as the Western Region Budget Advocate. She introduced herself and explained the process.

Linda Lucks, president of Venice Neighborhood Council, commented how important it will be to band together as neighborhood councils to keep funding. She also invited MVCC to VNC and to work together on common issues.

**ELECTED OFFICIALS AND CITY DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

CD 11 Bill Rosendahl, rep. by [Len.Nguyen@lacity.org](mailto:Len.Nguyen@lacity.org), Field Deputy reported that the skate spot is being shifted to Westchester.

US 36 Congresswoman Jane Harman, rep. by Kate Anderson, Deputy Chief-of-Staff, reported that the congresswoman wants to be more connected to her district. She reported on the meeting with local advocates about the Santa Monica Airport.

**OFFICERS AND LIAISON REPORTS**

Chair Albert Olson: Report on the notice from City Attorney's Office (Darren Martinez) regarding Government Code 1090's stipulation that Board members cannot be paid for services by their own Neighborhood Council. He read the following statement from the LA City attorney:

"Neighborhood Councils are required to adhere to Government Code section 1090 (Section 1090). Under Section 1090, Neighborhood Council board members are prohibited from having a financial interest in any contract entered by their board. (Contracts include the expenditure by the board of its public funds to purchase goods and services.) Generally, this means that board members cannot be paid for services by their own Neighborhood Council.

Under Section 1090, a person's financial interests is categorized into different types of interests. There are "full interests," "remote interests" and "non-interests." A person who is the owner of a business has a "full financial interest" in their business. If there is a "full financial interest," then the entire board of the Neighborhood Council is prohibited from entering into the contract/transaction/financial expenditure. I have attached a handout regarding Section 1090 entitled "Conflicts of Interest in Public Contracting" for your review, which explains this law in further detail. In addition, I've

attached a handout that contains conflict of interest examples - specifically, see question number 1 and its answer. If you or your board have any further questions, please feel free to contact our Office.

Last, please note that we have had several recent changes in our Division and I am pleased to announce the addition of several staff attorneys. The regional attorney who will be assigned to advise your Neighborhood Council is Mr. Anthony Paul Diaz (AP). I've copied Mr. Diaz on this email so that you have his email address and his contact number is (213) 978-8132. Please feel free to contact Mr. Diaz in the future regarding any legal questions regarding your board's operations."

First Vice Chair: No report.

Second Vice Chair: No report.

Secretary: No report.

Treasurer: No report

Director for Animal Welfare: No report.

DWP MOU: Chuck Ray reported on the Dec. 4 meeting MOU committee and DWP Advocacy Committee. The MOU Committee discussed asking the board of the DWP to move their meetings to a less secure location because the public can no longer attend the public meetings readily. DWP liaison to NCs gave a description of a new management activity called "changed management training." The last DWP board meeting had a report of the Internal Advisory Committee. The Mayor has appointed a new general manager Ron Nichols.

LADWP-BOS Recycled Water Advisory Group: Christopher McKinnon reported on the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. There will be a presentation to MVCC on March 8<sup>th</sup>.

Bi Monthly CD 11/LADOT Traffic Committee: Linda Guagliano reported on the Nov. 10 meeting. Michael May will be replacing Mo Blorfroshan. It was suggested that the MVCC present a certificate of appreciation.

LANCC Delegate Report: No report.

OLD BUSINESS: None

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### *Executive & Finance Committee*

**ADMINISTRATIVE MOTION: The MVCC approves the submitted November statement for the US Bank MVCC Purchase Card.**

Christopher McKinnon asked about the AIA line (reusable bag purchase).

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**FUNDING MOTION: The MVCC allocates up to \$250.00 to purchase additional equipment for video cam (extra battery, extra charger, ac adapter, tape cartridges, and tripod) to assist in creating video coverage of community events.**

Rob Kadota commented that there is tripod in storage (which may have functional difficulties).

**Motion passed.**

### *Planning and Land Use Committee:*

Sharon Commins recused herself during the following discussion because she sits on the MV Park Advisory Board which has been adopted by Windward School.

### **POLICY MOTION: Regarding ENV-2010-2553-CE [ZA-1998-892-ZV-CUP]**

**The Mar Vista Community Council supports the Windward School's request to increase enrollment by 75 students to a total enrollment of 550 students at 11530 Palms Blvd contingent upon:**

- 1. The Windward and the City of Los Angeles agreeing that no additional enrollment increase requests will be made for a minimum of 8 years from the time that the increase to 550 students is granted, and**
- 2. The Windward School will support and finance the establishment and annual payments of a preferential parking district for the Butler Ave. cul-de-sac off of Palms if the residents of those streets approve such an arrangement.**

Steve Wallace introduced the item.

Windward Director of Finance and Operations gave an explanation of the student enrollment increase. He discussed the traffic adjustments to accommodate the additional students.

Gregory Rockmael, resident of Butler Ave, reported that cars from the school park on Butler Avenue. He commented

that this increase will create more noise pollution.

Valerie Summers, 35-year resident near cul-de-sac, reported on the noise pollution and urged the board to protect the residents of Mar Vista.

Patti Nakano, 40-year resident, commented that she believes there should be a cap on enrollment.

Ken Alpern commented on the success of the school and commented in favor of the motion.

Tom Ponton commented in favor of the motion. He said the population is growing, and the schools need to grow with it.

He commented that Windward has been a great neighbor to the park and the community.

Guillaume Chanfreau, resident neighbor of Windward, commented in opposition to the motion. He commented on the parking issues and safety concerns.

Rob Kadota commented in support of the motion.

Len Nguyen reported on a meeting with the Councilman Bill Rosendahl, supporters and opposers. The school agreed to a parking restriction and to not seek further enrollment increases for 8 years.

Maritza Przekop solicited comments from everyone.

Bill Scheduling asked what percentage of enrollment is in the MVCC area (2/3). He suggested a sound wall/mitigation.

He also asked about the restricted parking. Friendly amendment was accepted regarding restricted parking.

Marilyn Marble asked if the batting cages could be moved.

Bill Koontz asked if there are measures in place to keep students from parking in the neighborhood. He also asked about the drop-off area.

Alex Thompson asked about parking on the north side of Palms. The students cross in the middle of the street.

Geoffrey Forgione asked if Windward will be at capacity with the existing structure.

Bill Koontz asked if "Do not block" intersection could be painted on the road.

Albert Olson asked if any students have ever been dismissed due to traffic violations. He also asked if there is a record of the violations.

Jeanne Kuntz commented on the possibility of mandatory carpool and bussing.

Patti Nakano commented on the discussion of the enrollment cap.

Alex Thompson offered an amendment to open parking on the North side of Palms as a contingency of the motion.

2 for, 7 opposed. Motion to add Palms parking contingency failed.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

*Green Committee:*

**POLICY MOTION: Ban of Plastic Bag Issuance by Retail Establishments in Los Angeles**

**Dear Mayor Villaraigosa, Councilmember Rosendahl, and City Councilmembers:**

**Acknowledging the November 16, 2010, passage of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisor's ban on plastic bags and the Environmental Impact Report which legally supports it, and, in lockstep with the Clean Seas Coalition (7th Generation Advisors, Heal the Bay, Sierra Club, Surfrider Foundation, et al), we want to convey Mar Vista Community Council's support for a citywide ban on plastic bags.**

**Recognizing the importance of being good stewards of nearby Ballona Creek, the Ballona Wetlands, Santa Monica Bay and the oceans beyond, the Mar Vista Community Council has long supported efforts to clean up and improve waterways that affect our Southern California communities and our beaches which are so vital to our tourism industry.**

**According to the Los Angeles Times, Californians use more than 120,000 tons of the bags each year and, despite efforts to increase it, only 5% are actually recycled. Taxpayers therefore end up paying close to \$25 million a year to rid streets, beaches, parks and waterways of the bags. A ban will help save city and state monies in troubled economic times and conserve important natural resources which could be put to a more beneficial use.**

**A city-wide ban on plastic bags, identical to the County ban, would take us a giant step in the right direction. The Mar Vista Community Council looks forward to your swift action on this matter.**

Andy Shrader discussed the adverse impacts of plastic bags. He addressed the economics of reusable bags. Other cities have already banned the bags, including India, China, Somalia, and many U.S. cities.

Andrew Basmajian, Mar Vista Farmers' Market board member, commented that the future resides in small community action. The MVFM is proud of the community's action. The market is a zero-waste market.

Amy Lawrence, former MVCC board member, commented in favor of the motion.

Rob Kadota commented in support of the motion.

Gregory Rockmael commented in favor of the motion. He commented on people using paper bags.

Bill Scheduling commented about banning all bags (paper and plastic).

Maritza asks what the ban would cover.

Chuck Ray commented on paper bag pollution.

Bill Koontz commented in support of the motion.

Alex Thompson commented in support of the motion.

Geoffrey Forgione commented in support of the motion.

Albert Olson commented that he counted 18 reusable bags in his house. He also commented that he believes it's not a NC's place to pass a motion like this.

Andy Shrader commented about paper bags: 100% recycled paper, 40% post-consumer recycled paper and allows stores to charge 10 cents per bag. Recycling doesn't work.

Sherri Akers commented about paper bags. China has banned plastic bags.

**Motion passed. 8 for, 1 opposed (Chuck Ray), 1 abstention (Bill Scheduling).**

*Education, Arts and Culture:*

**Funding Motion: The MVCC approves funding of up to \$1500 for the 2011 Education Summit tentatively slated for March or April 2011 (to cover outreach, fees, equipment, space, and related costs). 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, 2011.**

Kate Anderson presented the details about the event.

Alex Thompson commented about the budget.

**Motion passed.**

The following reports were tabled:

*Safety and Security Committee*

*Recreation Open Space Enhancement Committee*

*Transportation & Infrastructure*

*Community Outreach Committee*

*Election & Bylaws Committee*

*Historic FS 62 Ad Hoc Committee*

*Santa Monica Airport Committee*

*Zone Director Reports*

Zone 1: No report.

Zone 2: No report.

Zone 3: No report.

Zone 4: No report.

Zone 5: Maritza Przekop received a list of 21 items for Zone 5 to work on.

Zone 6: No report.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:56 PM.

Minutes submitted by Laura Bodensteiner on Dec. 29, 2010.