



# Mar Vista Community Council



## AGENDA & MINUTES

### Special Meeting of the Board of Directors

<http://www.marvista.org/minutes-and-agendas.php>

Friday, August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018, at 7:00pm

Coffee Connection, Station Room  
3838 S. Centinela Blvd., Mar Vista, CA 90066

#### 1. Call to order

*Order called at 7:06 pm*

#### 2. Roll Call – Call of the roll and certification of a quorum

*Quorum met during roll call with {Paola Cervantes, Robin Doyno, Aaron Elster, Elliot Hanna, Mary Hruska, Rob Kadota, Michelle Krupkin, Damien Newton, Sara Roos, Holly Tilson} ten present; Nanxi Liu entered at 7:08pm and Ken Alpern at 7:16pm; Klos absent.*

#### 3. Community Memorial Observations

*Rick Selan was recognized by Kadota, Roos and Tilson. A retired math teacher of many long years at Mark Twain, he was very politically active advocating for gifted students and especially keenly for special education students. Upon his retirement he tutored and advocated on behalf of many young Mar Vista stakeholders, and attended countless MVCC EACC meetings. He was very dedicated, very intense and an icon around town. He will be missed by many; his was a special soul.*

*Ernesto Campana – A neighbor of Zone 5 and Paola Cervantes. He was a "sweetheart, with a big laugh", wonderfully sharing his home with four generations – mother, wife, kids and grandkids.*

#### 4. Announcements

*Krupkin (/Zone 5): Canela Restaurant is closing today, marking the thirteenth business closure since inception of the Venice Boulevard reconfiguration.*

*Kadota (/Bike MV): absent for Market drop off, assistance secured from Cervantes. BikeMV created a calendar of events around cycling and outreach opportunities for September, including MV events and beyond (Elenda popup bike lane/street closure event in CC, cicLAvia downtown – Hollywood Bowl). Met with Culver City WalkNRollers. Cycling education may turn into a public safety fair at MVES – starting at school with identified participating parents, hope is to vary location and grow the event frequency and size. Funding may be requested for this fair and for reflective vests.*

*Roos (/Secretary/Fall Festival): website expanding to include community issues of interest so Board members' notifications should be forwarded. Janet Morgan is volunteering to coordinate calendaring. Julie Miller is advertising, arranging booths.*

*Tilson (/Treasurer): Reflective vests would be a good idea, but funding requests should be considered comprehensively. "First come-first served" may not be the best funding strategy.*

#### 5. Public Comment for Items NOT on This Agenda

*Newton (/PLUM): PLUM focusing on Senior Center proposed for Venice Boulevard.*

*Krupkin – Notes the mockup presented recently for MV monument sign not that which was presented by Deputy Nguyen previously.*

*Alpern: inquiry about the pending 300 lawn signs, clarification that these are on order and being designed.*

#### 6. Ex-Parte Communications and Conflicts-of-Interest - Each board member shall declare any ex-parte communications or conflicts-of-interest pertaining to items on or related to this agenda.

Alpern – Questions about scooters, Planning; asphalt repairs.		Cervantes – none	Doyno - none	Elster - none
Hanna – short chat with CD11 about the Bridge Housing letter.			Hruska -none	Kadota - none
Klos – absent	Krupkin – discussion of sidewalk vending program with Tilson and of unfinished motions with other board members.		Liu – meeting with Bonin about permanent supportive housing.	
Newton – Has not personally covered the Sidewalk Vending Motion although StreetsblogLA has. Will interview Safeguard organization about safe parking in early October.		Roos – none	Tilson – discussion of sidewalk vending program, and all three motions, with Krupkin. No financial conflict represented in any discussions.	

**7. Adoption of the Agenda**

*Adopted without objection (8:12pm)*

**8. Reading and Approval of Minutes** – Reading and approval of the minutes from the August 14, 2018 meeting of the Board of Directors.

**Motion** (Kadota/Hruska) to **dispense with reading of Minutes and approve as-is PASSED 10/0/2** (Hanna, Cervantes).

**9. Special Orders** – None

**10. Unfinished Business and General Orders**

**10.1. Discussion of the City of Los Angeles’ sidewalk vending program** – Discussion and possible action regarding the restoration of the “opt-out” clause in the City of Los Angeles’ sidewalk vending program.

*WHEREAS, the City Council, on April 18, 2018, adopted an Ordinance creating a Sidewalk Street Vending Program and,*

*WHEREAS, in the final draft of said ordinance, the “opt out” provision was removed, at the last minute, prior to approval, and*

*WHEREAS, local brick and mortar enterprises along Venice Blvd in Mar Vista, have spent years establishing their businesses based on a set of assumptions and rules, such as where they can be located, the taxes they are required to pay, and the best ways to attract customers, and*

*WHEREAS, sidewalk vendors in the proposed ordinance will probably sell similar types of goods and services as nearby brick and mortar businesses, but not be required to adhere to the same elaborate state and local permitting and land-use regulations, and*

*WHEREAS, the local brick and mortar businesses on Venice Blvd in Mar Vista, have contributed to the “main street” atmosphere that local residents value, and*

*WHEREAS, the local brick and mortar businesses along Venice Blvd in Mar Vista are mostly small ones, with small profit margins, and*

*WHEREAS the presence of sidewalk vendors along Venice Blvd in Mar Vista, for the reasons specified above, would constitute unfair competition for the local brick and mortar businesses on the same stretch.*

*THEREFORE, the MVCC urges restoration of the “opt-out” clause of the Los Angeles Sidewalk Vending Ordinance.*

*T/I motion presented by Hruska. City Council (CoLA) approved this motion already. Originally an “opt out” clause included facility to petition out of the regulatory area; this clause was removed at the last minute. However a way to opt out remains – it is just more difficult.*

*Newton: What would happen if MV opted out? Hruska: The petition wouldn’t apply to the whole of MV; if someone’s vending in the area, can someone be arrested in that area? Hruska: No, non-compliance is no longer criminalized.*

*Roos: Are we eliding with anyone? Hruska: 23 CIS were filed [correction: filings were prior to 2015, for a different supplement to the CoLA motion under recent consideration, now passed].*

*PUBLIC DISCUSSION – none.*

**Motion (Alpern/Krupkin) to approve ~**

*BOARD DISCUSSION –*

*Hruska: MVCC filed a CIS in 2014 expressing concerns with Chief Analyst Report. We should now record objections to the passage.*

*Roos: (i) Opting out remains a viable possibility for individual vendors via petition; the opt out clause always only ever was to apply to special commercial districts, of which MV is not one. (ii) There are no->few public sidewalks in MV capable of supporting sidewalk vending per this regulation (they're all too constricted). (iii) this is a supplement to that earlier ordinance and relates to matters of criminality and vending, not commercial restraint of trade, (iv) we do not know the tenor of MV stakeholders and have not the facility to survey it; this being a matter of political polarization and new vs old urbanism our asserting a stance risks alienating a specific demographic, selectively and gratuitously: since the matter is moot in every conceivable way, why generate strident partisan controversy when none was even present before?*

*Doyno: What are Bonin's objections? Hruska: Don't know.*

*Hruska: Concur it is unwise to weigh in on complicated matters about which we are not clear*

*Cervantes: What is the opt out process? Hruska – A protracted, onerous appeals process is now required for individuals in contrast with the specific clause which would have provided for a petition that enabled council district advocacy for the group, rather than by individual vendors. Harder the present way. Centinela does not qualify (confirmed by Newton). Details are "Still being worked out".*

*Doyno: Moves to table indefinitely. Kadota requests more discussion.*

*Hruska: This is voted on, it's a "done deal" and purpose is to show support for local businesses. The matter is moot legislatively, no one is advocating for this modification.*

*Kadota: Has there been consultation with Bonin or CD11 staff regarding the motion and where it stands?*

*Hruska: No. Kadota: Pending this it's worth tabling; it's been noted there does exist provision for opting out – staff could help us to focus on the matter.*

*Krupkin: Great Streets Cmte has heard complaints about the street vendor located on the SW corner of Centinela/VB regarding public health and safety issues. Kadota: Counters with anecdote of locals calling for street food.*

*Alpern: The conversation is not being heard the right way: no suggestion that street vendors are a "bunch of felons" but rather are enjoying unfair advantage. No infrastructure costs, personal savings at the expense of the Commons. But some vendors can augment the atmosphere, and are beneficial to the community.*

*Hanna: Clarifies 'table' sets motion aside during this meeting; 'postpone indefinitely' sets motion aside until unspecified future date; 'postpone with set date' assures future agendaing for specified date.*

*Cervantes: postpone until we have more details.*

**Motion (Kadota/Liu) to postpone until no later than January, 2019 PASSED 11/0/1 (Hanna).**

**10.2. Discussion of beach curfews** – Discussion and possible action regarding opposition to the lifting of beach curfews currently in force.

*The Mar Vista Community Council opposes the lifting of the beach curfew currently in place, restricting beach access from midnight to 5am, daily. This is in consideration of public health and safety concerns and in keeping with long standing practice, supported by LAPD and LA County Beaches and Harbors, the agencies tasked with maintaining the safety and integrity of the beach and the shoreline, respectively."*

*Presented by Newton as forwarded via WRAC. Two thirds of WRAC's Westside NCs have voted already to formally oppose lifting the beach curfew. The matter is as much about campfire parties as about CoLA not having resources to police homelessness; to reduce liability CoLA wants to retain the curfew hours. Venice NC has opined policing resources should be strengthened rather than retreating. Limiting beach access is a concerning precedent. POSEy Subcmte voted to not pass the motion. However because it is controversial and the demographics of POSEy (younger) are distinct from PLUM's (older), the motion was considered at PLUM out of fairness. PLUM Cmte voted to oppose lifting the beach curfew (pass the motion).*

Roos: This is a historical turf war between the CA Coastal Commission and CoLA. It is in active, current political play involving parameters of types and numbers of beach access, and where.

Kadota: Is the boardwalk considered "City" or "beach"? Ans: Don't know. VNC is opposed to lifting the curfew.

**Motion** (Kadota/Hruska) to **approve motion** already on the table

BOARD DISCUSSION –

Newton: Coming from WRAC it's relevant to wonder whether this is an issue that affects our stakeholders. We have community members that use the beach, and this claim is more important than simply being nice to our neighbors, VNC. Still, reversing their opinion is expressly not friendly. A thorough process is needed: either vote to support, or vote to send it back to Committee, not to reverse it.

Kadota: this is an issue of police priority and resources. Venice beach is not distant; we share a border and the police department. Our priorities are relevant.

Krupkin: LAC lifeguards are additional enforcement agency, with thin resources. Safety is of concern.

Kadota: Curfew allows the police to maintain the capacity to take action and also sustain a level of safety. If the beach were open 24/7 that would drain resources; the brief closure enables the resource to be sustained.

Alpern: Precedent of clearance and "reset" is useful; it gives legitimacy to taking action. The public health hazard must not be overlooked and while curfews are repugnant, the first priority must be safety.

Hruska: Curfew exerts some deterrence of criminal activity, which helps with tourism as well as community integrity.

Newton: Unenforced curfew could encourage more brazen criminality.

Cervantes: Regardless of curfew, law enforcement is required.

Roos: Therefore it's not a question of safety but of resources to maintain it.

**Motion** (Kadota/Alpern) to **call the question passes** by 2/3 vote,

**Motion to approve passes** 7/4 (Newton, Roos, Cervantes, Doyno)/1 (Hanna)

**10.3. Discussion of potential locations for permanent supportive housing** – Discussion and possible action regarding a letter received from Councilman Bonin requesting MVCC's assistance in identifying locations within Mar Vista for permanent supportive housing.

Hanna: introduces attached letter (below) and proposes to task the Homeless Issues Committee (HIC) with identifying locations.

Hruska: ¿Is the permanent housing location search for parcels or empty buildings?

Kadota: These are the questions we should address as a Neighborhood Council (NC): ¿What can we bring to the table to identify this housing? Consider safe parking, perhaps as temporary-transitional, or permanent. Zone Directors (ZD) should have hard discussions with Neighborhood Associations (NAs), looking at geography and maps to see what if anything can be possible. HIC has been looking, but doesn't identify many opportunities; we need a public process.

Hruska: So land is a reasonable suggestion. Hanna: Anything that enables the City to get folks off the street. Hruska: WLA Courthouse? Kadota: not "ours".

Liu: Excited by the prospect of an impactful, group activity utilizing a database of available properties. ¿Budget? Timeline?

Newton: Approves of HIC involvement and ZD involvement. HIC could guide ZDs search – e.g., safepark (LAUSD parking lots not eligible because they are open); report to BoD with ZD guidelines by October BoD meeting.

Alpern: Important not to blend distinct populations: working poor living in their vehicle vs. those with chronic issues. There are resources for those who will work with LAPD, City services; those who won't play by the rules should not be catered to.



Cervantes: ¿How does bridge housing relate to "safe park"? Distinction is self-contained housing vs. temporary vehicle-based housing.

Kadota: HIC Co-chairs have been active but the public must contribute creativity and process to due diligence in pursuing the requested space-identifications.

Cervantes: the old firehouse (FS62) could incorporate Bridge Housing incentivizing City support for its funding. Kadota: From the FS62 board perspective myriad reasons would preclude the suggestion but it should be considered all the same.

Hruska: empty land is virtually impossible to obtain on the westside; empty buildings, safe park locations are key per Klos.

Tilson: concerned with logistics, contracts, liability of Safepark option. MVCC would trade away its reputation in the absence of such details – CD11 must advise both MVCC and HIC.

Newton: A NFP (Not-for-Profit) organization manages Safepark contracts with organization (e.g., NA, group, congregation), permits through local police, rules concerning lot size, space availability, 24/7 security, bathrooms, site access, meals-coordination.

Doyno: logistics vary between sites so a single answer cannot cover all logistics; costs average \$100K/lot.

Hanna: Community cooperation is important, part of an expectation for reciprocal CD11 attention to the 405 encampment. Hruska: Strategically this attention is key to retaining community cooperation [positive feedback loop]. Alpern: Credibility is contingent on enforcing rules for law-breakers; important piece to engaging community cooperation too.

Liu: displacing the homeless simply shifts problems from one neighborhood to another; linking community cooperation to encampment removal is uncooperative. Roos: coordination with CD11 aids cooperativity rather than quid-pro-quo or favoritism. Newton: CD11 contact is needed.

Kadota: Klos-Sabshin-Levien work closely. This is a long-term problem. Hanna/Roos: Agreed, years-old. Krupkin: CD and CoLA have resources for discovery; NC and community have fewer. Alpern: Still the community should participate and partner in the conversation. Cervantes: solutions come from building relationships, coaxing use of services specific to individual's challenges.

Cervantes: Reviewing possibilities is the least we can do. Hanna: Expectations are different from quid-pro-quo; supports cooperation but wants reciprocity.

Elster: latest research from HUD (Federal) shows building free housing is the cheapest, most viable path to a solution.

Hruska: concerned the situation is complicated by multiple needs of target population; as a Federal problem should the problem qualify for FEMA support? Cervantes: invoke multiple services. Krupkin: Efficient spending would focus on the issue directly rather than bureaucratic training. Roos: the complexity is compounded by solutions being an unfunded mandate.

Tilson: Money for free housing is not infinite; must be spent efficiently. Reopening state hospitals for chronic issues would be efficient, multi-leveled solution, that would free up subsidized housing for those with short-term housing needs. Agrees HIC + ZDs is proper group to task with identifying space.

Kadota: Issues and dynamics are vast and deep – public education and presentations are necessary. MVCC should support a Speaker series, ask serious questions, discover hidden knowledge base or resources.

Newton: just identifying space is a large task; safe park is a separate, large issue. HHH provides a means to spend and share housing for the needy. Hospitals serve a different function.

Alpern: closing federally-supported facilities dates to the Reagan administration – payment responsibility was at issue. Now three subpopulations need different treatment – down-on-luck and chronic-issues population need some monitoring in housing; the third population needs law enforcement and removal. LAC and CoLA may be unreliable for enforcement but could adopt effective affordable housing policy if empowering foundations is not the goal.

Elster: Identifying units to give away would help first two categories; building may be cheaper in the County where there is no shortage of land.

Liu: Confirms research, characterization of homeless subpopulations.

*Doyno: Problems are varied; a single solution is not possible; the Lanterman Act is an issue inhibiting reopening of facilities. MVCC should support CoLA without and strings attached; we can afford to address the problems of homelessness.*

**Motion** (Newton/Doyno) **passed** 11/0/1 (Hanna) as amended to provide a path forward – not solutions but a strategy: "The MVCC BoD instructs the Homeless Issues Committee to:

*(1) Report back to the Board, not later than its regular October 9, 2018 meeting, with guidelines for what Zone Directors should be seeking in partnering with CD11 to assist with the task articulated in Councilmember Bonin's letter of August 3, 2018: solving homelessness in our neighborhoods, and identifying potential locations in Mar Vista for supportive housing, bridge housing or safe parking.*

*(2) In cooperation with the six Zone Directors, work to identify possible locations for permanent supportive housing as requested in the letter. These joint-findings, plans, and progress shall be reported to the board at its November 13, 2018 meeting - and monthly thereafter, as necessary. "*

**11. New Business** – None

**12. Adjournment**

**Motion** to adjourn (Alpern/Liu) **passed** at 9:16pm

**Attachment** (following page) ~ Letter discussed in agenda item 10.3:

Approved



**MIKE BONIN**  
**City of Los Angeles**  
**Councilmember, Eleventh District**

August 3, 2018

Elliot Hanna  
Chair, Mar Vista Community Council  
P.O. Box 66871  
Mar Vista, CA 90066  
elliot.hanna@marvista.org

Dear Mr. Hanna:

*Elliot*

At the end of March, I wrote to the Mar Vista Community Council, asking for the council's partnership in solving homelessness in our neighborhoods, and asking for suggestions on potential locations in Mar Vista for supportive housing, bridge housing, or safe parking. As this crisis in our neighborhoods continues, I am writing to renew that request.

As a director of the MVCC and now as chair of the organization, you have been vocal in drawing attention to the problem of homelessness in Mar Vista. I invite your vocal engagement in identifying constructive solutions, and in joining other 11th District neighborhoods in helping to solve this region-wide crisis. My staff and I are eager to partner with you and the MVCC on those efforts.

I have asked every neighborhood and neighborhood council to become actively engaged in creating solutions, and the response from neighborhoods around our council district has been encouraging and inspiring:

- In the past few years, *Del Rey*, which shares a zip code with Mar Vista, has earned a reputation as one of the most active and solution-oriented neighborhoods in the City. With the support of the Del Rey Neighborhood Council, supportive housing has opened on both Courtleigh Avenue and on Beach Avenue. Last year, a home for homeless youth opened in Del Rey. The Del Rey Square Apartments, a building providing low income housing for seniors, includes a significant number of formerly homeless people. In the past few weeks, the Del Rey Neighborhood Council has begun an aggressive and focused effort to find potential locations for safe parking or bridge housing.
- In *Venice*, with the support of most residents, the City is proposing bridge housing on a former bus lot, while several proposals for supportive housing are in the pipeline, on both city-owned property and on private property. The Homelessness Committee of the Venice Neighborhood Council has unanimously endorsed bridge housing, and has spearheaded a program to reunify homeless people with their families. Venice is also home to St. Joseph Center and Safe Place for Youth, which provide homeless services and help find jobs and or housing for people living on the street.

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- In *Brentwood*, the campus of the Department of Veterans Affairs is moving forward with plans to build more than 1000 units of supportive housing for homeless veterans. The VA campus is home to the first Safe Parking program on the Westside, and in partnership with the City, bridge housing is in the works there as well.
- In *West LA*, the City and County operate the Emergency Winter Shelter program. The Neighborhood Council of West LA/Sawtelle, by an 11-1 vote, approved supportive housing for the homeless at the former WLA Animal Shelter. The neighborhood council is now considering potential Safe Parking locations. Additionally, with community support, a recently approved project at Olympic and Bundy will include homeless housing.
- In *Pacific Palisades*, the Pacific Palisades Community Council helped form the Pacific Palisades Task Force on Homelessness, which has raised money, hired its own social service agency, and successfully housed dozens of people. The PPCC recently formed a new task force to identify potential locations for bridge or crisis housing for homeless women in the community.

This response from neighborhoods has been exciting, and is showing Los Angeles that residents of the Westside are eager to lead and be part of the solution. I hope that the Mar Vista Community Council will show similar leadership. I know that the Homeless Issues Committee has been engaged in this issue for some time, and I have been grateful to work with Susan Klos, Robin Doyno and members of that committee, and understand you have named new members as well. I am eager for suggested solutions from the Mar Vista Community Council and believe that with your support, the MVCC can join and complement these other 11th District efforts, actively participating in the solution. As you have noted, the situation is dire, and demands urgent action.

I have attached a copy of my previous correspondence to MVCC, as well as a list of types of programs and projects the City and County are investing in.

Regards,

  
**MIKE BONIN**  
 Councilmember, 11th District

Cc: MVCC Board of Directors

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