

**MAR VISTA COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**APRIL 8, 2008**  
**MINUTES**

7:00 P.M.  
MAR VISTA PARK AUDITORIUM

*CALL TO ORDER*

The following members of the board were present or arrived shortly thereafter: Ken Alpern, Laura Bodensteiner, Stephen Boskin, Sharon Commins, Colin Hatton, JD Gaydowski, Rob Kadota, Keith Lambert, Albert Olson, and Bill Scheduling.

*APPROVAL OF MINUTES*

The minutes from the February and March meetings were approved as presented.

*PUBLIC COMMENT (I)*

Bill Latka, co-president of Friends of Beethoven announced they are planning a greening project to plant 200 trees where there is asphalt currently. They need asphalt removal dumpsters (10-15) estimated cost \$4,000; header board estimated cost \$2,500; and temporary construction fencing. Funds needed totals about \$9,000. They also want to open the park up to the public.

Bill Latka also announced "Going Green with Metro" event on Sunday, April 13 at 10 AM at the Mar Vista Farmers Market.

*ELECTED OFFICIALS AND CITY DEPARTMENT REPORTS*

Laura Island, Mar Vista Park Director, announced that the soccer and baseball programs are full. She announced the Chivas soccer clinics on May 10.

CD 11 Councilman Rosendahl represented by Len Nguyen reported on the progress of the Palms bridge, which is now projected to be done in August 2008. The National project is now projected to be done in December 2008. They are going to have a quarterly update meetings with Caltrans to better track progress.

*SPECIAL PRESENTATION*

Bureau of Engineering, City of Los Angeles Prop. O Storm Water Clean Water Bond. Candelario Flores gave an overview and update on the Mar Vista Stormwater Treatment Project.

*OFFICERS AND LIAISON REPORTS*

Chair: Rob Kadota announced a survey to evaluate the MVCC. The State of the City address is scheduled for April 14.

Second Vice Chair: Albert Olson reported on Pico/Olympic. The court case has been postponed to April 30, and implementation has been delayed to May 1.

Secretary: No report.

Treasurer: Rob Kadota reported on the remaining balance and that he has been issued a charge card. MVCC needs to approve and submit a budget to DONE by June.  
LANCC Delegate: No report.

NCRC: Tom Ponton reported that the recommendations are still going thru the city council. Most have been approved. The Education and Neighborhoods committee meeting discussed the requirement for NCs to use 5 posting places and reducing it to 2. They also discussed having translation services available free.

Mayor's Budget Planning: No report.

Director for Animal Awareness: Lola McKnight reported that the Mar Vista Day of Service had a good turn out. She announced upcoming events: 3rd Sunday at WLA farmers market 10-2; Best Friends event on April 27; DAW meeting on April 27 at Shalom Printing in Sherman Oaks. DAWprogram.org. Lola's blog is [doggiematchmaker.blogspot.com](http://doggiematchmaker.blogspot.com).

DWP MOU: reported that the Council will vote to raise rates on April 9.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### *Executive & Finance Committee*

Rob Kadota reported that the committee did not meet, but it will be meeting in the upcoming month.

### *Community Outreach Committee*

Stephen Boskin thanked the community for their support of the Day of Service. Colin Hatton reported on the web site redesign. He is working with 5 potential bidders.

### *Education, Arts and Culture*

No report.

### *Election & Bylaws Committee*

Rob Kadota announced the Clean Money Forum on April 10 at 6:30 pm at Walgrove Elementary. The election for Zone and Community directors will be on Saturday, June 21.

### *Green Committee*

Laura Bodensteiner reported on the March meeting and announced the upcoming meeting on April 13 at the Mar Vista Farmers Market. The "Going Green With Metro" event will be at 10 am at the market after the meeting.

### *Recreation Open Space Enhancement Committee*

Tom Ponton reported that the committee is looking for projects.

### *Safety and Security Committee*

Bill Koontz reported that the committee did not meet this month. He also reported on CPAB and the new signage that will be installed.

### *Santa Monica Airport Committee*

Albert Olson reported that there have been about 300 responses to the survey to date. NWNA is going to insert the survey into its newsletter. He will also present the survey to Friends of Sunset Park.

**POLICY MOTION: The Mar Vista Community Council requests that Congresswoman Jane Harman, Congressman James Oberstar and Congressman Henry Waxman investigate possible legislative action to require the FAA to accept and respect the intent of the City of Santa Monica with regard to its ordinance conforming the Airport to Category A and B aircraft.**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

*SMC Bundy Campus Ad Hoc Committee*

Len Nguyen reported on the agreement.

*Transportation & Infrastructure Committee*

**POLICY MOTION: Parking meters along Venice Blvd. between Centinela and Inglewood Blvd. be changed from 1 hour maximum to 2 hour maximum and reaffirm the MVCC's support for this proposal.**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**POLICY MOTION: Whereas the Mar Vista Community Council strongly opposes the placement of Public Amenity Kiosks (PAKs) within our boundaries, because they are out of character with the look and feel of our neighborhoods, and because they provide no positive service to the community except for the revenue stream generated by the advertising, and**

**Whereas the MVCC supports the placement of transit shelters to encourage the usage and quality of life for those who use mass transit,**

**Therefore, the MVCC makes the following recommendations to the Los Angeles City Council regarding the placement of the CBS/Decaux signage and street furniture in Mar Vista:**

- A. CBS/Decaux is encouraged to consider a redesign of its proposed transit shelters, so as to prevent a net loss of shelter seating when these proposed shelters replace existing bus stop benches.**
- B. The following locations are suggested as possible sites for new transit shelters:**
  - 1. Westbound Venice Blvd far side of Sawtelle Blvd (NW) Volvo/Saab shop**
  - 2. Westbound Venice Blvd far side of Butler (NW) Apartments**
  - 3. Westbound Venice Blvd near side of Inglewood (NE) Office Building**
  - 4. Westbound Venice Blvd far side of Beethoven (NW) office building**
  - 5. Westbound Venice Blvd near side of Walgrove (NE) old apartments**
  - 6. Eastbound Venice Blvd far side of Beethoven (SE) small businesses**
  - 7. Eastbound Venice Blvd far side of Wade (SE) apartments**
  - 8. Eastbound Venice Blvd far side of Grand View (SE) Post Office back at wall**

- 9. Eastbound Venice Blvd far side of Sawtelle Blvd (SE) SP Gas Station
- 10. Westbound National Blvd west of Sawtelle at 11317 National Blvd - Rite Aid

C. Although the MVCC strongly opposes the placement of PAKs within our boundaries, and we reject the PAK placements proposed by CBS/Decaux on 2/15/08, we would accept placements of PAKs at the following locations if the City of Los Angeles insists that equitable distribution of PAKs to all Neighborhood Council areas necessitates that MVCC accept a very limited number of PAKs:

1. South side of National between 405 exit and Sepulveda (street side of Ross Dress for Less)
2. West side of Sawtelle, North of National, South of Webster MS property. (close to current recycling center)
3. East side of Sepulveda, South of Palms and before Burger King (by Yoku, Yoku yogurt shop)
4. North side of Venice, West of Centinela and East of Ocean View no closer than 30 ft from the corner (by WaMu/CVS)

D. The MVCC strongly opposes the placement of any PAKs along National between Sawtelle and Centinela, especially at the intersection of Barrington and National, and on median strips.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

Linda Guagliano reported on the Bi-monthly Traffic Meeting. Next meeting is on May 14 at 10 am.

*Urban Planning Committee*

**POLICY MOTION: The MVCC Board does not oppose the variance requested for the wall at 3979 East Blvd.**

**Motion passes unanimously.**

*ZONE REPORTS*

Zone 6: VenMar NA will elect a new president and online group was announced.

*OLD BUSINESS*

None.

*NEW BUSINESS*

**POLICY MOTION: MVCC Supports the City Planning Anti-Mansionization Ordinance.**

(Executive Summary of Ordinance available at the meeting, posted on the MVCC web site and on request sent to all individuals by email)

Nancy Karlin commented in favor of the motion.  
Keith Lambert commented on the effect on property values.  
Ken Alpern commented that it is a difficult issue.

**Motion passed. 5 for, 3 opposed.**

**POLICY MOTION: Letter expressing concern about SB 1818 (See Attachment A)**

Nancy Karlin commented in favor of the letter.  
Sharon Commins commented on drafting the letter.  
Ken Alpern commented on the reduction of affordable housing.

**Motion passed, 6 for, 1 opposed, 1 abstention.**

**POLICY MOTION: Motion of Support for the City of Los Angeles' Planning and Land Use Management Committee:**

**“The fumigation of a residence is a popular way of combating pest infestation in the City of Los Angeles. While it can be very effective at removing the nuisance, often times fumigation tragically claims the lives of beloved pets who wander inadvertently into the danger zone. Citizens have argued that had they been notified prior to the fumigation, they would have made plans to keep their pets indoors and out of harm's way. Toxic pest control substances also pose a health risk for children, a risk the City cannot ignore. Basic disclosure of fumigation by pest control companies should be required to empower neighborhoods to protect community wellbeing. WE THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council request the City Attorney to draft an ordinance that would require pest control companies to notify adjacent residents within 48 hours prior to the use of toxic materials in neighboring homes. WE FURTHER MOVE that the City Attorney be requested to report on this ordinance within 45 days of adoption of this Motion.”**

Lola McKnight commented that this is a safety issue.

**Motion passed. 6 for, 1 opposed, 1 abstention.**

**POLICY MOTION: Motion of Support to Add “Animal Cruelty” to the list of predicate acts as prescribed by Penal Code Section 186.20.**

Albert Olson expressed concern that the term could be misused.

**Motion to table.**

**Motion was tabled, 5 for.**

*FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS*

None.

*PUBLIC COMMENT (II)*

Tom Ponton commented on allowing a billboard district along the 10 freeway and digital billboards.

JD Gaydowski requested that the NC election be part of the agenda.

Albert Olson commented on the need for candidates for the NC election.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Minutes submitted by Laura Bodensteiner on April 15, 2008.

## **Attachment A – Letter of Concern RE: SB 1818**

Ms. S. Gail Goldberg, Director of Planning  
Department of Planning  
City of Los Angeles City Hall  
200 Spring Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Reference: Senate Bill 1818 (SB1818) State of California mandated density bonuses and adopted February 20, 2008 by Los Angeles City Council

Dear Ms. Goldberg:

Los Angeles is already one of the densest cities in the country. An SB1818 implementation ordinance which opens virtually the entire city to 35% increases in density—whether appropriate or not—will:

- Circumvent our General plan, our Community plans and our Specific plans, rendering them useless;
- Increase our traffic;
- Increase our infrastructure failures [water, sewer, electrical]
- Decrease our overall quality of life; and
- Result in a net loss of affordable housing

Therefore, Mar Vista Community Council's Board of Directors agree with the concerns brought forth by Ms. Jane Ellison Usher, President of the Los Angeles City Planning Commission, in her opposition to the City of Los Angeles's implementing 05-1345 Ordinance, (relative to amending Sections 12.22, 12.24, 14.00 and 19.01 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code to implement a Density Bonus Program, as required by State law) in her letter of March 14, 2008.

The Mar Vista Community Council recommends the following actions be taken by the City of Los Angeles regarding the implementation of said 05-1345 Ordinance, (relative to amending Sections 12.22, 12.24, 14.00 and 19.01 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code to implement a Density Bonus Program, as required by State law)

- Request that the City of Los Angeles pass a resolution asking the State of California to exempt the City of Los Angeles from SB1818;
- Request that the City of Los Angeles repeal its implementing Ordinance 05-1345 regarding SB1818, pending the determination from the state on said exemption request;
- Request that the City of Los Angeles disallow any density bonus for a proposed development that results in a net reduction of affordable housing; and
- Request all projects seeking to utilize the density bonus menus be classified as discretionary and thus subject to CEQA review for environmental impacts

Sincerely,

Mar Vista Community Council

**Referenced material:** City Hall Density Bonus Bill: The WRONG Solution Repealing SB 1818 By Jane Ellison Usher March 14, 2008

You may be aware that, as President of the Los Angeles City Planning Commission, I have voiced repeated and serious disagreement with **SB 1818**. Like you, I am aware that **SB 1818** has had the immediate effect of replacing more affordable housing with costlier, less affordable housing. It has also given us updated housing stock, which on its face can be identified as a positive outcome, though I suspect that this superficial reaction bears more true investigation into whether we are indeed getting "better" buildings. Without belaboring my opposition, may I summarize just a few points for your consideration:

1. Because it overrides all local zoning, **SB 1818** breaks the promises made by our general plan. The general plan and its subsidiary components, unlike **SB 1818**, are the product of substantial professional planning, constituent, and environmental review. Instead of coherent, consensus-based planning, **SB 1818** offers us planning via the mechanisms of developer whimsy and desire.
2. Because its bonuses are not limited to employment and transit centers, **SB 1818** does not advance the smart growth patterns and practices that will enable Los Angeles to remain a world class city. **SB 1818** allows growth to occur at traffic worsening locations. Los Angeles, by contrast, needs to rein in growth at traffic-inducing locations.
3. The manner in which the City of Los Angeles is proceeding eliminates environmental review for all **SB 1818** projects that seek only the density bonus and not other, additional development incentives. The City Council has adopted language that defines such projects as "ministerial." Per state CEQA guidelines, "ministerial" projects are exempt from its oversight. I believe this powerful wordsmithing has occurred below the radar.
4. I give credence to the often expressed sentiment that the City of Los Angeles lacks sufficient housing for low and middle income residents. From my perch as President of the CPC, I can observe that more than 90% of our new housing stock will be sold at market rate prices. Market rate prices are beyond the reach of the poor and middle class, as must be obvious to anyone who tries to purchase housing. Unfortunately, **SB 1818** is the WRONG solution to our problem. Los Angeles needs a citywide solution that relies on smart growth land use policies and a menu of contribution options that apply to all developers. The current decline in the housing market impedes our progress to sensible solutions, as are already in place in other cities throughout the country. (These comments were provided in response to Brady Westwater's articles on repealing SB1818, the so-called Density Bonus Bill. See his stories in March 4 and 7 CityWatch issues.)

**(Jane Ellison Usher is the President of the Los Angeles City Planning Commission.)**