

MAR VISTA COMMUNITY COUNCIL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
SEPTEMBER 9, 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, Kate Anderson, 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 Aug. 12, 2008 meeting were approved as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT (I)

A Zone 1 resident asked about the bridge over 405 that is not completed. She asked the Sepulveda/Palms intersection lack of family friendly restaurants.

ELECTED OFFICIALS AND CITY DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Mar Vista Recreation Center Director Laura Island introduced Liz Narvaez. She also promoted the Mar Vista Fall Festival.

CD 11 Councilman Rosendahl, represented by Len Nguyen, Field Deputy, reported on foliage being removed from the fire station. He also reported on concerns about cell phone towers. He reported that the Palms bridge is slated to be complete at the end of October. There is a Dec. 9 meeting at Caltrans that can include a representative from the council.

OFFICERS AND LIAISON REPORTS

Chair: Rob Kadota made the following motion:

ADMINISTRATIVE MOTION: to nominate Laura Bodensteiner to fill vacant At Large Director seat.

Ken Marsh asked the chair to explain the choice.

Rob Kadota commented that a number of people expressed interest in the vacant position. He commented that Laura had the most experience for the position and familiarity with the Board. He commented that Laura fulfilled the role of Secretary well.

Ken Alpern commented that as editor of the newsletter and chair of the new Green Committee Laura is very qualified.

Christopher McKinnon asked about the quorum issue.

Babak Nahid asked who else applied and what the process was to make the selection.

Bill Scheduling commented on the role of the Chair at the council.

Bob Fitzpatrick requested that the other interested parties be announced.

Ken Marsh commented on missing the opportunity to bring someone new on to the council.

Motion passed. 9 for, 1 abstention.

First Vice-Chair: Albert Olson reported on funding that was passed for the Fire Station but has not been paid. He commented on the motion under New Business.

Second Vice-Chair: Sharon Commins requested e-calendar information be sent to her. She requested hosts for future stakeholder meetings.

Secretary: Bob Fitzpatrick opened the nomination for secretary.

Bill Scheduling nominated Laura Bodensteiner.

Nomination was approved unanimously.

Treasurer: Chris McKinnon reported on the Council's balance.

ADMINISTRATIVE MOTION: The current MVCC Board approved budget lacks required line item details as required by DONE. A more specific budget was presented for review and adoption by the board.

BUDGET WILL BE ATTACHED.

Motion passed unanimously.

LANCC Delegate: Babak Nahid reported on the name change to "Coalition." He reported that the elections will be held in December to be an officer of LANCC. The Ethics Committee put forward a motion to require NC board members to file Form 700 and suggested that the Board comment. Lawsuit against the city about infrastructure and another motion to require mandated surveys. Also, Councils have been asked to contribute \$500 to the Congress of Neighborhoods.

Mayor's Budget Planning: Curt Steindler has expressed interest in this position.

Director for Animal Awareness: No report.

DWP MOU: Babak Nahid commented that the purpose of the MOU committee is to ensure that there is clear communication about water and power with NCs. A new advocacy committee has been formed. Dwpcommittee.org (new committee) and dwposc.org (committee formed under MOU).

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive & Finance: No report.

Community Concept Plan Committee: Sharon Commins announced the upcoming meeting Sept. 10, 2008.

Community Outreach Committee:

Albert Olson commented on the Fall Festival poster that recognizes MVCC as sponsor.

FUNDING MOTION: The Mar Vista Community Council will partner with the Mar Vista Recreation Center to present the Fall Festival at the Mar Vista Park, and allocates \$2,500 to help pay for printing and other costs. The MVCC will be identified as a co-sponsor on promotional materials.

Christopher McKinnon commented on adding recycling to the motion. This friendly amendment was declined.

Bill Scheduling commented on funding proposals being presented with a budget and moved to table. Motion failed.

Motion passed. 2 opposed.

FUNDING MOTION: The Mar Vista Community Council will allocate up to \$500 to create and print 2 copies of a MVCC promotional PAK poster.

Tom Ponton commented on printing multiple posters.

Bill Pope commented on blowing up flyers inexpensively.

Bill Scheduling commented on the lack of budget presented with the motion.

Ken Alpern commented in favor of the posters.

Babak Nahid commented on adding a community message to the poster.

Motion passed. 1 opposed.

Education, Arts & Cultures:

Kate Anderson commented on her new role on the committee. Next meeting scheduled for Sept. 11 at MV Elementary at 6:30 PM.

Election & Bylaws Committee:

No report.

Green Committee:

Laura Bodensteiner announced the Sept. 14 monthly Green Committee speaker at 10:30 AM at the Mar Vista Farmers' Market. The monthly committee meeting is the 4th Sunday of the month at 9:30 AM.

FUNDING MOTION: to allocate \$1,500 for promotional items to be used at Quarterly Stakeholder meeting and other events. Will have the MVCC logo included.

Lorraine Wells commented on potentially partnering with the Farmers' Market.

There was a public comment in support of collaboration between the market and MVCC.

Motion passed.

Neighborhood Traffic Management Committee:

Bill Pope commented on potential meeting with LADOT on Oct. 7.

Recreation Open Space Enhancement Committee:

Tom Ponton and Roseann Herman commented on the maintenance of outdoor stairs in Mar Vista, possible grant application and future MVCC Funding motion.

Roseann Herman presented the project and asked for Council support and volunteers. She volunteered to be project manager.

Marilyn Marble commented on the state of disrepair of the fence on Palms.
Tom Ponton requested volunteer sign-ups.

Safety and Security Committee:

Bill Koontz reported that the committee met. He announced the Sept. 18 Block Captain meeting; LAPD open house Sept. 20 11 AM - 3 PM; Nov. 13 Great American Shakeout; Winter Wonderland toy drive is coming up in December.

Santa Monica Airport Committee:

Bill Scheduling reported on the meeting and encouraged participation.

Transportation & Infrastructure Committee:

POLICY MOTION: The Mar Vista Community Council opposes the application for a variance to build a parking structure at 3655 Centinela Blvd.

Yvonne Nelson commented on the first part of the motion and that the current parking is adequate.

Roy Persinko commented that he does not see the need for the structure.

Bobi Garland commented on safety issues surrounding the parking structure.

Marilyn Marble commented on long term vehicle parking in the area.

Bob Fitzpatrick commented that he attended the hearing and there was a large group opposing the variance.

Motion passed unanimously.

POLICY MOTION: The Mar Vista Community Council requests the Los Angeles Department of Transportation to:

1. When it installs speed humps that it do so at heights and/or spacing such that the maximum speed of 85% of traffic using the block in question will remain at or below the posted speed limit.

2. Switch to “split-type speed humps”, as used by Culver City and other neighboring cities, which allow Fire Department trucks, engines and rescue ambulances to pass without slowing.

Bob Fitzpatrick commented that residents should be allowed to choose the type of speed hump installed and that the MVCC should not be involved.

Motion passed, 1 opposed, 1 abstention.

POLICY MOTION: Whereas the General Plan of the City of Los Angeles; Framework Element; Executive Summary; State Requirements section states that, “California State law (Government Code Section 65300) requires that each city prepare and adopt a comprehensive, long-term general plan for its future development”, and that, “California State law requires that the day-to-day decisions of a city follow logically from and be consistent with the general plan. More specifically, Government Code Sections 65860, 66473.5 and 656474 require that zoning ordinances and subdivision and parcel map approvals be consistent with the general plan.”, and

Whereas the Implementation Programs Section states that the City is to “Establish a program to monitor growth and public service and infrastructure demands and capacities.” And “Prepare and submit to the City Council an Annual Report on Growth and Infrastructure, based on information compiled by the monitoring program.” And,

Whereas Chapter 2. Growth and Capacity; Growth Monitoring Section of the General Plan Framework Element states that “the City will establish a growth monitoring program that will provide important information regarding the accuracy of future growth estimates and the distribution of that new development by community plan area. This monitoring program will annually document what has actually happened to the City’s population levels, housing construction, employment levels, and the availability of public infrastructure and public services. Information on environmental conditions will also be monitored on a yearly basis to maintain and update an environmental database, which will be used to facilitate but not replace, environmental review for subsequent programs and projects in accordance with CEQA.”, and that “The information from such a monitoring system will be presented to the City Council in the form of an Annual Report on Growth and Infrastructure, which can be used as the basis for revision of policies as needed to meet the goals of the Framework Element.”, and

Whereas the Framework Element Theoretical Buildout section states that “Should population and employment growth be greater than the levels anticipated by the Framework Element, policy stipulates that studies be undertaken to correlate with the necessary supporting capital, facility, or service improvements and/or demand reduction programs.”, and that “Should additional potential impacts be identified, these would be subject to further environmental review in accordance with the CEQA. This would be facilitated by the implementation of a program to monitor the characteristics and impacts of growth and availability of infrastructure and public services (the “Monitoring Program”) and annual reporting of this information to the City Council (the “Annual Report on Growth and Infrastructure”) as a basis for the planning and funding of necessary improvements.”, and

Whereas no such monitoring program has been established and the Annual Report on Growth and Infrastructure has not been published since the 1998 Report, and

Whereas the City of Los Angeles has continued to approve density and infrastructure-demand-increasing land development projects without knowledge of whether the City’s various infrastructures can accommodate the additional residents such development projects make possible,

Therefore the Mar Vista Community Council requests the City comply with its General Plan mandated duties to:

1) Implement an infrastructure capacities monitoring program and database, including a Transportation Database. We ask that the Transportation Database list such capacities as: Current and by-year projected Levels of Service at all signal-controlled intersections, and Number of available transit seats by route and hour, and

2) Publish updated Annual Reports on Growth and Infrastructure for years 1999 through 2008.

Motion passed unanimously.

Urban Planning Committee:

POLICY MOTION: The Mar Vista Community Council supports the following compromise proposal put forward by the owner of the 3160-3178 Barrington Ave. properties, Mr. Abraham Assil:

1. Mr. Assil agrees to file a new application for his property, 3160-3178 Barrington, in order to convert the 48 apartment units in the 4 buildings currently on the property, keeping the original construction and character, and turning them into condominiums.

2. A waiver from the City's parking requirement of 1 ¼ spaces per dwelling unit, or 60 total spaces, plus an additional one-quarter space per dwelling unit, or 12 spaces for guest parking, will be necessary to implement said condominium conversion.

3. NOTE: Additional parking spaces [12-14] beyond the existing 48 spaces will be created by reconfiguring the existing enclosed garages and carports for a total of 60-62 spaces. The resulting shortfall of parking will be 10 to 12 spaces.

4. The residential buildings will not be demolished.

5. Changes to the street and parkway are not contemplated as part of the project.

6. The MVCC believes this alternative best accommodates the desires of the surrounding community that any proposed development of this property respect the character and scale of the existing residential neighborhood.

Motion passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE MOTION: to change name of MVCC Urban Planning and Land Use Committee to Planning and Land Use Management Committee (PLUM Committee)

Motion passed unanimously.

POLICY MOTION: The Mar Vista Community Council recommends the City to hold a hearing on the T-Mobile Cell Tower installation at 3815 McLaughlin Ave so the tenants and neighbors can express their concerns regarding health, safety and notification procedures.

Chris McKinnon asked who the letter will go to and if there is precedent.

Motion passed unanimously.

Web Development Committee:

Babak Nahid commented that the RFP has been circulated to several groups that specialize in creating this type of web site.

ZONE REPORTS

Zone 1: Babak Nahid reported on encouraging Neighborhood Watch in Zone 1.

- Zone 2: Bill Koontz reported that the new Richland Ave. School principle Ms. Salazar spoke to the Nwana. There is an Open House at Richland 12-3 PM Sept. 13.
- Zone 3: Kate Anderson congratulated Westdale on their efforts on the Barrington issue. Hilltop is looking for new volunteers to be block captains. She announced the Hilltop Aftershock party after the Great American Shake Out. They are hoping to do a movie night. She has started a blog: www.mvcczone3.blogspot.com
- Zone 4: No report.
- Zone 5: Christopher McKinnon reported that some Zone 5 residents were featured in a national article for turning their front yard into a vegetable garden.
- Zone 6: Marilyn Marble announced a block party on Colonial that she feels is important for MVCC to attend. She commented on her concern for the fence on Palms. She described on the Dictionary Project that she is involved with.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

FUNDING MOTION: to approve the use of last years' MVCC allocation to FS 62 of \$1,000 for purchase of various items to upgrade the living quarters of Fire Station 62 and to purchase a new lockout kit for emergency responses by the Fire Station.

Christopher McKinnon commented that patio furniture and fire pit items are inappropriate and moved to table. 2 for, 1 abstention. Motion failed

Bill Scheduling recommended checking with DONE.

Motion passed. 2 opposed, 1 abstention.

GRIEVANCES

None.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Bill Scheduling requested that the 2/3s vote issue be clarified by the Election and Bylaws committee. He also requested that the co-chair term be clarified.

PUBLIC COMMENT (II)

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 PM.

Minutes submitted by Laura Bodensteiner on Sept. 9, 2008.