

**MAR VISTA COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**MAY 12, 2009**  
**MINUTES**

7:02 P.M.

*CALL TO ORDER*

The following members of the board were present or arrived shortly thereafter: Ken Alpern, Kate Anderson, 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 April 22, 2009 special meeting were approved as presented. The approval of the minutes from the April 14, 2009 meeting was tabled pending corrections.

*PUBLIC COMMENT (I)*

A Zone 1 resident thanked Babak Nahid for his efforts.

*ELECTED OFFICIALS AND CITY DEPARTMENT REPORTS*

Laura Island, Mar Vista Park Director, reported on the construction progress and Earth Day cleanup at the park. She reported on recycling progress and the upcoming teen club activities.

CD 11 Councilman Bill Rosendahl represented by Len Nguyen announced that Maxine Waters is holding a Town Hall on Saturday, May 16 about the stimulus plan.

Simone Taylor, DWP, reported on shortage year rates, entering Phase 3 and shortage year rates begin on June 1. Please report violators to [droughtbusters@dwp.com](mailto:droughtbusters@dwp.com).

City of L.A. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa represented by Jennifer Badger reported on the Budget Finance committee meeting. The mayor supports a \$45,000 budget for NCs. He sent a letter requesting a fiscal state of emergency. Day of Service upcoming on June 27<sup>th</sup>.

DONE Project Coordinator Deanna Stevenson reported on upcoming deadlines, including bylaws are due by May 15<sup>th</sup> and the election stipulation worksheet is due by June 1<sup>st</sup>.

*OFFICERS AND LIAISON REPORTS*

Chair: No report.

First Vice-Chair: Albert Olson reported that the Budget and Finance Committee meeting downtown scheduled for 1 pm did not start until 3 pm.

Second Vice-Chair: Sharon Commins commented on the Budget and Finance Committee meeting.

Secretary: No report.

Treasurer: Christopher McKinnon reported that the balance is \$80,349, with \$31,924 allocated.

Director for Animal Welfare: No report.

DWP MOU: Babak Nahid reported on the threat of NC funding cuts and requested attendance at the May 18<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting.

Bi Monthly CD 11/LADOT Traffic Meeting Liaison: Linda Guagliano announced the next meeting at 10 am on May 13.

LANCC Delegate Report: No report.

Mayor's Budget Planning: No report.

*COMMITTEE REPORTS*

Executive & Finance:

Rob Kadota reported that the committee discussed outstanding funding motions, including LAPD Pacific Area Explorers and DAPS Program and MVCC. A funding motion for \$15,000 for Venice Blvd Beautification was referred to T&I Committee, as well as a funding motion for \$15,000 for green street and curb repair related of North Oval (with possible Federal Stimulus \$) was referred to T&I Committee.

Aging In Place Project has expressed a desire to host a quarterly stakeholder meeting Summer or Fall.

**ADMINISTRATIVE MOTION - Green Garden Tour Appreciation: Mar Vista Community Council formally recognizes and extends our appreciation to the organizers and garden hosts that participated in Mar Vista's 1st Annual Green Garden Tour with board approved certificates.**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**POLICY MOTION - Modified Financial Disclosure Forms for NCs: MVCC Supports BONC's Proposed Draft Financial Disclosure Form as a more appropriate solution to Financial Disclosure requirements for Neighborhood Council use of either form 700 or Form 54.**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

Community Concept Plan Committee:

Sharon Commins reported that the Community Plan will not be funded in the foreseeable future.

Community Outreach Committee:

**FUNDING MOTION: The Mar Vista Community Council approves the allocation of an amount not to exceed \$500 to assist funding an outreach event intended to support a Mar Vista business community event. 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, 2009.**

Bill Scheduling asked if there is outside funding.

Bill Koontz commented that the goal is to improve downtown and will benefit stakeholders.

Babak Nahid commented that chambers and councils are and should remain separate.

Kate Anderson commented in favor of supporting the business community.

Bill Scheduling commented that there are few details given about what will be funded.

Marilyn Marble commented in favor of the motion.

**Motion passed. 7 for, 1 opposed, 1 abstention.**

Education, Arts & Culture:

Kate Anderson reported that the Education Summit has been set for May 28<sup>th</sup> 7-9pm to talk about what the decentralizing of the budget means for schools and how parents can get involved.

**FUNDING MOTION – Education Summit Event and Video Equipment Purchase and purchase of a video camera: Motion to allocate \$1000 for outreach and miscellaneous event costs (room rental, refreshments, flyers, posters) for the MVCC Education Arts and Culture Committee's Stakeholder meeting scheduled for 5.28.09 and \$1,500 to purchase a video camera and accessories. Purpose of the event is to discuss the impact of the budget crisis on our schools. In order to capture and share the program with people not able to attend the meeting. The E.A.C. is asking MVCC to purchase and make available to the EAC committee a video camera that will become part of the MVCC's set of board owned and operated AV equipment. This funding motion must meet all city of LA funding guidelines and be funded and paid in the fiscal year in which it passes or it expires.**

**Motion passed.**

Election & Bylaws Committee:

**POLICY MOTION: Adoption of revised MVCC Bylaws: 2nd Reading and vote of proposed 04-06-09 Draft Modification of MVCC Bylaws – posted on web and printed copies available at board meeting. 2nd reading and board action scheduled for May 12, 2009 MVCC Board of Directors meeting.**

Bill Scheduling commented in opposition to using Rosenberg's rules.

**Motion passed.**

**POLICY MOTION re: MVCC Election Procedures, Bylaws and Standing Rules and City Clerk Election Stipulations: Review and complete with MVCC specific language the 2010 neighborhood council election procedures stipulation language worksheet.**

**Motion passed.**

Green Committee:

Laura Bodensteiner thanked the participants of the Green Garden Showcase. Meetings usually held on 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday, but this month will be May 31<sup>st</sup> in deference to Memorial Day.

Neighborhood Traffic Management Committee:

**FUNDING MOTION re. Speed Trailer Repair and Upgrade:**

Whereas the MVCC Speed Trailer has been an asset to the MVCC Stakeholders by displaying the speed limit on streets where it is not posted, and by alerting motorists to their driving speed, and Whereas the MVCC Speed Trailer has also been an invaluable tool to the Neighborhood Traffic (NTM) Management Committee by allowing the Committee to know which Mar Vista streets have a cut-thru traffic problem, and to prioritize those streets for NTM Plans for reducing the cut-thru traffic, but Whereas the data produced by the Data Acquisition Computer of the MVCC Speed Trailer has been difficult to work with and requires Mr. Scheduling to run several programs he wrote to:

1. adjust the Time Stamp on the data records produced by the Speed Trailer to the correct local time, as the clock in the existing data commuter is not adjustable, and

2. convert the raw data records into meaningful and useful traffic counts, reports and speed reports.

And Whereas upgrading the Data Acquisition Commuter will be required to produce reports when the MVCC implements its new website, or when Bill Scheduling leaves the Board, and Whereas the radar gun of the MVCC Speed Trailer is now not functioning,

Therefore the MVCC Neighborhood Traffic Management Committee requests the MVCC Board of Directors to approve and allocate: \$95 to repair the MVCC Speed Trailer's radar gun. \$250 to upgrade the MVCC Speed Trailer's Data Acquisition Commuter and Software – total expense not to exceed \$350. And to authorize Bill Pope to authorize RU2 Systems to make the repairs and to purchase the computer upgrade from RU2 Systems.

**Motion passed.**

**POLICY MOTION - Letter to LADOT re Rose Avenue Speed Humps: See ATTACHMENT A.**

Albert Olson asked about the final paragraph of the letter about how recommendations are presented.

**Motion passed, 1 abstention.**

Planning and Land Use Management Committee:

**ADMINISTRATIVE MOTION: The MVCC Board insists that the Livable Blvds. Planning team, enlisted by Bill Rosendahl and his Planning Staff, report to the MVCC on its progress to date.**

**Motion passed.**

Update on Beautification Projects in MVCC Boundaries and update on Signage, SB1818 and Sober Living Houses tabled.

Recreation Open Space Enhancement Committee: No report.

Safety and Security Committee: No report.

Santa Monica Airport Committee: Under Old Business item – motion to purchase sound metering equipment.

SMC Bundy Campus Ad Hoc Committee: No report.

Transportation & Infrastructure Committee:

**POLICY MOTION: Support for City Sign Ordinances and Sign Districts except for Ballona Wetlands:**

**i) The MVCC recommends the following be sent as a CIS regarding CF 08-2020:**

**ii) The MVCC supports the L.A. Planning Commission's proposed ordinance amending Sections 11.5.7, 12.05, 12.21, 12.22, 12.23, 13.11 and Articles 4.4 and 9 of Chapter 1 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code to establish total sign area limits for properties; establish area and height limits for individual signs; prohibit off-site signs, digital displays and roof signs; establish administrative civil penalties for violations of the sign regulations; enact new criteria for the establishment of sign districts;**

and enact related technical corrections and other measures to reduce visual clutter and otherwise mitigate the potential impacts of signs on the visual environment.

iii) However, the MVCC strongly opposes the designation of the Ballona Wetlands as an “area eligible to apply for Sign District designation.” (See CPC Sign Ordinance ATTACHMENT 3 West/Coastal Los Angeles region: Ballona Wetlands (Formerly Playa Vista Phase III), Lincoln Blvd. and Culter Blvd.) We request that this valuable natural resource of our community be taken off this list.

iv) The MVCC also strongly opposes the creation of new relief provisions for deviations from the sign regulations.

Motion passed.

**POLICY MOTION: Representation on Expo Line Construction Authority Board:** The MVCC Board strongly urges the City of Los Angeles to pursue all city, county and state efforts to ensure local representation during the planning and construction of the Westside Phase of the Exposition Light Rail Line by altering the composition of the Exposition Line Construction Authority Board to expedite the inclusion of the CD5 and CD11 Councilmembers on that Board.

Motion passed.

**POLICY MOTION re: Opposition to Taxi parking in residential areas:** The MVCC strongly opposes any change to LA City ordinances which would exempt taxis from restrictions prohibiting commercial vehicles from parking in residential areas for periods exceeding three (3) consecutive hours.

Bill Pope commented in favor of the motion.

Bill Scheduling asked when the prohibition would be effective.

Motion passed, 1 abstention.

**POLICY MOTION re: Cyclists Bill of Rights:** The Mar Vista Community Council supports the following 12 “Cyclists’ Bill Of Rights”:

i) Cyclists have the right to travel safely and free of fear.

ii) Cyclists have the right to equal access to our public streets and to sufficient and significant road space.

iii) Cyclists have the right to the full support of educated law enforcement.

iv) Cyclists have the right to the full support of our judicial system and the right to expect that those who endanger, injure or kill cyclists be dealt with to the full extent of the law.

v) Cyclists have the right to routine accommodations in all roadway projects and improvements.

vi) Cyclists have the right to urban and roadway planning, development and design that enable and support safe cycling.

vii) Cyclists have the right to traffic signals, signage and maintenance standards that enable and support safe cycling.

viii) Cyclists have the right to be actively engaged as a constituent group in the organization and administration of our communities.

ix) Cyclists have the right to full access for themselves and their bicycles on all mass transit with no limitations.

x) Cyclists have the right to end-of-trip amenities that include safe and secure opportunities to park their bicycles.

xi) Cyclists have the right to be secure in their persons and property, and be free from unreasonable search and seizure, as guaranteed by the 4th Amendment.

xii) Cyclists have the right to peaceably assemble in the public space, as guaranteed by the 1st Amendment.

Alex Thompson commented on the motion and stated that they are reaffirming the rights that are already law.  
Ian Marshbanks commented on the danger of riding in the roads and the positive impact of the motion.  
Brian Cooperman supports the motion and commented that he wants to be able to ride safely.  
Kate Anderson commented in favor of the motion.  
Marilyn Marble asked if cyclists are required to ride with the speed of traffic.  
**Motion passed, 1 abstention.**

Web Development Update:

Babak Nahid commented on the progress of the new web site.

**ADMINISTRATIVE MOTION: Choosing a tag line for use in header of new web site: Our Community, Our Future  
Motion passed.**

*ZONE REPORTS*

Tabled.

*OLD BUSINESS*

FUNDING MOTION: Purchase Sound Metering Equipment Motion to allocate and spend up to \$1500 to purchase a data logging sound meter to permit MVCC to better monitor noise from Santa Monica Airport. Further, the device will be used as part of a community outreach program to better inform the MVCC stakeholders about the timing and noise levels being generated by SMO.

Gwen Reinhart commented on the lack of public participation in the process for this motion.

Albert Olson commented about how the equipment will be used.

Sharon Commins asked where it would be placed and how often it would be used.

Marilyn Marble asked how long the meter can run.

Ken Alpern asked if the sound monitoring could have applications elsewhere.

Bill Koontz commented about needing a plan for implementation for data collection.

**Motion to table. Motion was tabled.**

*NEW BUSINESS*

None

*GRIEVANCES*

None

FUTURE AGENDA

None

Public Comment

Linda Lucks commented on the Budget and Finance Committee. She suggested working with the City Clerk to staff the elections.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Minutes submitted by Laura Bodensteiner on May 15, 2009.

**ATTACHMENT A**

Policy Motion - Letter to LADOT re Rose Avenue Speed Humps:

To: Mehrdad Moshkar, LADOT Neighborhood Traffic Management Section Supervisor

Thank you for helping our Rose Avenue residents address the speeding problem on their street, and for getting their Speed Tables installed before the City's budget reduction.

While we realize these Speed Tables were placed in response to a petition submitted by Rose Avenue residents several years ago, we also understand that these four Speed Tables constitute the entirety of the only Neighborhood Traffic Management (NTM) Plan LADOT has offered thus far to reduce cut-thru traffic volumes on:

- Rose Avenue-Beethoven Street between Walgrove Avenue and Venice Boulevard, and
- Beethoven Street between Venice Boulevard and the Los Angeles City border.

In recent years, non-residential traffic on the above street segments has outnumbered residential traffic as much as 4-to-1. In other words, cut-thru traffic constitutes 80% of the traffic on these residential streets.

The installation of the four Speed Tables has given the Mar Vista Community Council's (MVCC) Neighborhood Traffic Management (NTM) Committee the opportunity to evaluate the NTM Plan you recommended pursuant to the Residential Neighborhood Protection Plan of the Palms-Mar Vista-Del Rey Community Plan, i.e., to reduce cut-thru traffic volume on our residential streets in general and on Rose-Beethoven in particular.

Based on traffic surveys done by MVCC's NTM Committee and feedback from Rose Avenue residents, we regret to inform you that the Speed Humps you recently installed on Rose Avenue have made no significant progress toward accomplishing the Goal of the Residential Neighborhood Protection Plan, which as you know is to "Discourage non-residential traffic flow on residential streets".

This repeats the experience of the NTM Plan LADOT installed on Walgrove Avenue a few years back. In fact the measures installed on Walgrove actually increased its use by non-residential traffic rather than discouraged it.

It is our understanding that LADOT's Neighborhood Traffic Management Section was established specifically to implement the Residential Neighborhood Protection Plan that is part of all 35 of the City's Community Plans. We are displeased over the results achieved thus far, and with the fact that LADOT and/or the City has allocated only one Traffic Engineer to fulfill this Plan for all of L.A.'s four million residents.

Therefore we must strongly urge LADOT to offer additional cut thru traffic reduction measures that will effectively implement the above stated goal of the Residential neighborhood protection Plan of the Palms-Mar Vista-Del Rey Community Plan to "discourage non-residential traffic flow on residential streets.

Thank you in advance for your support of Community Plan.

Sincerely

Rob Kadota  
Chair, Mar Vista Community Council Board of Directors

Bill Pope  
Chair, MVCC Neighborhood Traffic Management Committee

Cc: Rita Robinson, General Manager, Los Angeles Department of Transportation  
Pauline Chan, Manager, LADOT Neighborhood Traffic Management  
LA City Councilman Bill Rosendahl  
LA City Council Deputy Len Nguyen