

Mar Vista Community Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS Meeting
September 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, Tara Mulski, Albert Olson, Babak Nahid, Maritza Przekop, Chuck Ray, Bill Scheduling, and Alex Thompson.

Public Comment

A stakeholder presented 3 dogs that need to be adopted.

Chuck Holloway from DWP gave an update on the Scattergood line. They identified the study area for the routes.

Noel Weiss discussed the rate payer advocate process and asked the MVCC to agendaize the issue.

A stakeholder commented on the mail advertisements that are delivered every week. He also commented on the tennis courts, and the professional lessons that occur there.

Audrey O'Donnell announced the Mar Vista Wise Connection launch on Oct. 1. Wiseconnections.net or 310-394-9871

ELECTED OFFICIALS AND CITY DEPARTMENT REPORTS

CD 11 Bill Rosendahl, rep. by Len.Nguyen@lacity.org, Field Deputy announced a Town Hall on Sept. 22 at West LA Animal Care Center to discuss raising the city pet limit. Also, a town hall on homeless issues on Sept. 23 in response to illegal dumping of sewage in Venice. He reported that the developer on the Bundy Village project asked for 120-day stay.

Mayor of Los Angeles Antonio Villaraigosa, rep. by Jennifer.Badger@lacity.org, Westside Representative (via e-mail) reported Sept. 24th "Student Recovery Day" and need volunteers to assist with the effort.

OFFICERS AND LIAISON REPORTS

Chair Albert Olson

1. Reminder: All new Board members must take the online Ethics Training, and all Board members must retake the Training every two years.

2. Notice of Los Angeles Triathlon, to be held on October 3. The route includes Venice Blvd. through the Mar Vista Community.

3. Update on EPA Green Power Partnership program: Correct figures based on MVCC boundaries have been received from LADWP, now need solar installation numbers.

First Vice Chair: Sharon Commins reported a meeting on the "future of NCs."

Second Vice Chair: No report.

Secretary: Laura Bodensteiner presented 2 designs for the PAK posters. She also requested newsletter submissions by Sept. 20th.

Treasurer: Alex Thompson reported on the quarterly reconciliation. He commented on allocating funds for the newsletter, and DONE said it would be ok.

Director for Animal Welfare: No report.

DWP MOU: Chuck Ray reported that the Term Sheet was unanimously passed, and it will be discussed at the next T&I committee.

Bi Monthly CD 11/LADOT Traffic Meeting Sub Committee: Linda Guagliano reported on the new procedure for the meeting. They are no longer open meetings. Next meeting on Nov. 10th.

LANCC Delegate Report: No report.

MVCC E-Calendar: Tara Mulski reported that she looks forward to working on her first e-calendar.

OLD BUSINESS: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive & Finance:

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

Alex Thompson described each charge.

Bill Scheduling asked about Survey Gizmo. Albert reported that it has the airport survey ongoing.

Motion passed.

Community Outreach Committee:

Maritza Przekop reported that the committee met last month and there were a lot of ideas. Next meeting on Sept. 22.

FUNDING MOTION: The MVCC allocates up to \$200 for the Hilltop Neighbors Association Block Party to be held on September 25, 2010, contingent on the following conditions:

- i) All publicity for the event must include a reference to MVCC sponsorship**
- ii) The organization or group putting on the block party must provide a forum for public introduction of the MVCC to the attendees at the party. In addition, the MVCC shall be allowed to host a booth or table where promotional materials can be distributed.**

Vice president of Hilltop Neighbors Association commented on the purpose of the meeting and presented a budget. The block party will be held at the CERT container. They are recruiting block captains.

Kate Anderson offered a friendly amendment to reduce the funding to \$200. Accepted.

Motion passed.

Education, Arts & Culture: Kate Anderson reported on the Venice volunteer day and hopes to support the event. She also reported on the idea to put solar panels on schools in Mar Vista. LASUD is putting solar panels on some local schools. New principle of Venice High came to the committee meeting. She also reported that an alum came to the meeting to announce the 100th year anniversary of Venice High and they are planning a celebration and parade.

Bill Scheding commented that Venice High and Palms are within MVCC boundaries. He also commented that they rededicated the statue.

Election and Bylaws: Geoff Forgione announced the next meeting.

Green Committee:

POLICY MOTION: MVCC to submit a letter of support for the Sierra Club's LA Beyond Coal Campaign and encourages the LA City Council to support a plan to eliminate coal from the electricity supply of Los Angeles.

Dear Council President Garcetti and Members of the Los Angeles City Council,

The Mar Vista Community Council supports eliminating coal from the electricity supply of Los Angeles by 2020 as well as providing 40% of our power from clean, renewable energy. We ask that you, our city's leaders, embrace these goals by ensuring the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power adopt and execute these critical goals.

The need for action to address global climate change, pollution, water resource protection and sustainability has never been more urgent. There is no better opportunity for Los Angeles to demonstrate its leadership in the area of sustainability than to take action now. The Mar Vista Community Council asks that the Los Angeles City Council:

1. Mandate the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power devise and execute a plan to end the city's use of coal-fired power by 2020.

2. Displace Los Angeles' coal-fired power through the implementation of aggressive energy- efficiency programs and a 40% renewable portfolio standard.

Coal is one of the dirtiest forms of energy and a major contributor to global climate change. In 2008, over 36% of U.S. carbon dioxide emissions came from the combustion of this dirty fuel. The city of Los Angeles owns significant shares in two of the dirtiest coal plants in the nation: the Navajo Generating Station and the Intermountain Power Project. Our dependence on coal is responsible for significant pollution and human health impacts at every phase of its life cycle. In 2008, Navajo Generating Station and Intermountain Power Project released a combined total of 32, 468, 461 tons of CO₂ into the atmosphere. Additionally, each year the plant uses nearly 8 billion gallons of water from Lake Powell for cooling – a shocking number in the water-starved southwestern United States.

Los Angeles has a responsibility to leave a legacy of leadership to our children and grandchildren. We must rebuild Los Angeles in a way that will protect us from the true cost of coal: polluted rivers and fish, increased asthma rates and health related issues, waste of billions of gallons of fresh water to cool coal plants, and the destruction of eco-systems through strip-mining, coal-slurries, and mountain-top removal.

We can address these ethical and moral concerns by doing our part and we want to help the timely and at-scale transition of Los Angeles to increased energy efficiency, demand response, and clean, renewable energy. In accomplishing this transition, Los Angeles will simultaneously create thousands of new family-wage jobs, while renewing our city's infrastructure and rebuilding our city for the 21st century.

Los Angeles should be a leader in meeting the challenges of today. We want L.A. to seize the opportunity to build a clean and renewable energy future that will stabilize our electricity rates over the long haul because once the system is paid for, the sun and winds are free. By making progress now, the city of Los Angeles will make investments in our long-term economic future.

The Mar Vista Community Council looks forward to working with the city to achieve these goals together. We appreciate your attention to this important matter and look forward to your response. Sincerely,

Chrissy Scarborough gave a brief overview of the proposal.

A stakeholder commented on dirty coal and the low efficiency of energy.

Andy Shrader commented in support of the letter.

Rob Kadota commented on the abuse and pollution at the Navajo reservation.

Maritza Przekop thanked Andy and Rob for coming to comment.

Chuck Ray commented that he agrees in principle.

Bill Scheduling said he is in support, but he wants solutions.
Kate Anderson commented in favor and said that this is a letter of aspiration.
Alex Thompson commented that this letter is mandating a plan and supports the motion.
Bill Koontz commented in favor of the motion.
Tara Mulski commented on the importance of the grassroots local movement.
Albert commented that the letter seems like a form letter.
Chrissy Scarborough discussed the date of 2020. She also discussed the Navajo grassroots involvement also.
Motion passed 10 for, 2 opposed (Chuck Ray, Marilyn Marble).

POLICY MOTION:

Whereas the Los Angeles Business Council has made numerous presentations to the Mar Vista Community Council, and Whereas the Mar Vista Community Council is encouraged by the direction of the 600-MW Solar Feed-in Tariff proposal, Therefore, the Mar Vista Community Council supports the concept of a feed-in tariff and encourages the LADWP to get the best independent review of the possibilities.

Noel Weiss commented that he was against Measure B.
Ken Alpern commented that he is not convinced that this is a cost-effective plan.
Sherri Akers commented on the renters 60% in Mar Vista. Last year FiT was part of the DWP's plan; this year it is not part of the plan.
Roy Persinko commented on the lack of incentive to install solar on rental properties.
Michael Millman commented on rent stabilization.
Joseph Treves commented in favor of the motion.
Maritza Przekop commented that she is torn. She commented on the aesthetic qualities of solar.
Chuck Ray offered a friendly amendment. It was declined. He then offered a motion to amend the motion. This will be 3% of power generated for DWP. He said solar is only available 27% of the time.
Marilyn asked what is a FiT.
Sharon Commins commented that she agrees with the concept.
Alex Thompson commented against the amendment.
Amended motion passed.

FUNDING MOTION: to allocate up to \$1,500 for the purchase of reusable bags. This funding motion must meet all City of LA DONE-Empower LA funding guidelines and be paid in the fiscal year in which it is passed, or it expires June 30, 2011.

A stakeholder commented on bacterial concerns.
Alex Thompson asked about the charge for reusable bags earlier this year. He also commented on the budget.
Tara Mulski made a motion to table. 3 for, 7 against. Failed.
Geoff offered amendment to do \$1,000 motion. Motion 3 for, 7 against., 1 abstention. Failed.
Motion passed 9 for, 2 against, 1 abstention.

Historic FS 62 Ad Hoc Committee: Rachel Swanger reported that the committee meeting will be on Sept. 22. Roy Persinko reported that there was a walk through with an electrician.

Planning and Land Use Management Committee:

POLICY MOTION: The MVCC recommends renewal of the Mar Vista Montessori School and Infant Care Center Conditional Use Permit, 3863 S Grand View Blvd., ENV-2010-2190-CE

John Kuchta supports the motion.
Maritza Przekop asked about the plan approval vs. conditional use.
Motion passed unanimously.

Tabled for next meeting: Policy Motion: WHEREAS: The City of Los Angeles Planning Department's contemplated Citywide Urban Design Guidelines Policy Motion regarding Mitigated Negative Declaration does not allow adequate time for Neighborhood Councils' to deliberate and input,
WHEREAS: The City of Los Angeles Planning Department has failed to post all background research documentation related to this issue (project),
WHEREAS: The City of Los Angeles Planning Department has failed to fully disclose the precise text of these proposed changes and how they fit into the General Plan Framework Element;
The Mar Vista Community Council endorses this resolution to:
Require the Planning Department to post all background research documents related to NEGATIVE DECLARATION-NG-10-280-PL: ENV-2010-715 online;
Provide full disclosure of the precise text of these proposed changes and how they fit into the General Plan Framework Element;
and Restart the Negative Declaration process at the time these documents are posted to provide for full review of the Guidelines and the Negative Declaration in accordance with CEQA notification and review requirements.

POLICY MOTION: to support VTT-71010-CC 4207 S McLaughlin Ave 90066 6-Unit Condo Conversion pending outreach by the applicant to the neighbors prior to the MVCC September BOD meeting.

Noel Weiss commented that he is concerned about the tenants. He urged conditions that are protective of the tenants.

Tara Mulski commented on construction traffic.

Motion passed unanimously.

Recreation Open Space Enhancement Committee:

FUNDING MOTION: The MVCC allocates up to \$3,000 to pay ABY Rentals for rental of awnings, tables, and chairs for the Mar Vista Community Fall Festival. In the event that they cannot acquire the necessary permits, a substitute vendor may be used.

Motion passed.

ADMINISTRATIVE MOTION: The MVCC designates Laura Island as the official honoree, to be recognized by certificate and proclamation, of the Mar Vista Community Fall Festival.

Motion passed.

Safety and Security Committee:

Withdrawn: Funding Motion: The MVCC allocates up to \$200 to assist with purchases of supplies and food for the LAPD Pacific Boosters Pancake Breakfast.

Santa Monica Airport Committee: No report.

Transportation & Infrastructure Committee:

Withdrawn: Policy Motion: *Whereas, Vehicle owners park their open vehicles in residential areas that contain scrap metal, broken objects, rusted objects, sharp objects, toxic items that may be attractive to children;*

Whereas, Vehicle owners on an ongoing, regular basis, sell or trade the contents of their vehicles with an explicit commercial purpose, engage in a process of replenishing the contents of their vehicles with newly acquired materials of the same or similar nature, such that said vehicles or parked in residential areas continuously;

Whereas, The purpose served by aforementioned vehicles is central to the operation of the commercial activity in that they are used to store and transport the inventory, and insure the ongoing availability of new inventory;

Resolved, That the Mar Vista Community Council believes that these trucks promote blight and deterioration, are injurious to the public's general welfare, reduce the value or private property, and disrupted the residential character of the neighborhoods;

Resolved, That the Mar Vista Community Council believes that the aforementioned activity violates L.A. City municipal code which prohibits business activities in residential neighborhoods;

Resolved, That the Mar Vista Community Council believes that the problem should be addressed through the immediate enforcement of Los Angeles Municipal Code §12.05 A 16 (B), as scrap metal and hazardous junk are not associated with normal residential use, they may not be stored or processed in residential neighborhoods, neither on the streets nor in residences, as sale of scrap metal and junk for profit are commercial activities, that may not be conducted in residential neighborhoods;

Resolved, That the Mar Vista Community Council communicate to enforcement personnel in the Los Angeles city bureaucracy including the City Attorney's Office, Department of Building and Safety and LAPD to uphold the law and stop illegal commercial activity in residential neighborhoods;

Resolved, That the Mar Vista Community Council support an amendment to Municipal Code §12.05 A 16 (B) be amended so as to include "Scrap Metal Businesses" and "Junk Businesses" on the list of prohibited business;

Resolved, That the Mar Vista Community Council publicly support the enactment of an ordinance in Los Angeles like that which was enacted in 2003 by the City of Monterey Park (Section 10.48.220 to Chapter 10.48 of the Monterey Park Municipal Code) that prohibits the parking of public nuisance vehicles, and the City of Los Angeles amend its Master Fee Schedule to establish a parking fine for violations of the nuisance vehicle ordinance.

POLICY MOTION: The Mar Vista Community Council supports the elimination of the MTA design option that includes the parking lot at the proposed Westwood Station for the METRO Exposition Light Rail line. It further moves that MTA provide lush landscaping and a ten foot tall sound/visual wall between the residents' property and the land to the train and green space securing the privacy of adjacent homes north and south. It further moves that MTA work with Westwood Gardens Civic Association and ROW residents to mitigate the impact that station and land use will have on adjacent homes. The MVCC support of this motion shall not be construed in any way as support of the At-Grade Crossing along the Expo Line.

Ken Alpern presented a letter from Westside Village Homeowners and WLA NC.

Geoff Forgione commented on placing unreasonable restrictions on public transportation. He made a friendly amendment, which was rejected. He presented an amendment to strike the elimination of the parking lot. 2 for, 7 against. Failed.

Motion passed, 1 opposed, 1 abstention.

POLICY MOTION: The Mar Vista Community Council supports the Sepulveda Blvd. elevated railbridge option, and does not support the at-grade option at Sepulveda Blvd., for Phase 2 of the Expo Line.

Ken Alpern commented that Overland and Westwood is at grade.
Motion passed.

Motion to table rest of agenda. 8 for, 4 against.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 PM.

Minutes submitted by Laura Bodensteiner on Oct. 4, 2010.