Mar Vista Community Council

BOARD OF DIRECTORS Meeting
October 12, 2010
DRAFT 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, Maritza Przekop, Chuck Ray, Bill Scheding, and Alex Thompson.

Public Comment

Tom Gilder: Head of School, Windward School: Presentation of Windward School Strategic Plan and its request for an adjustment to the School's CUP to allow for enrollment increase of 75 students.

Stephen Johnson, Director of Communications, of Windward School, gave the web site for more info: windwardschool.org/community

Steve Kierman, Director of Finance and Operations of Windward School, commented that they are committed to the neighborhood.
Tara Mulski asked if additional staff would be added.
Maritza Przekop asked about the Categorical Exemption in the application.
Bill Scheding asked about the school's hours.

Keith Lampert commented that the LA County Board of Supervisors has decided to manage the marina for the best use for highest revenue. There is an LCP amendment hearing on Nov. 3. He commented that this will devastate boater access to the marina. He gave an example of reducing the parking spaces. He commented that Mother's Beach is at risk. Visit wearemdr.com for more info.

Linda Guagliano commented on some errors in George Chung's newsletter, including the MVCC web site.

ELECTED OFFICIALS AND CITY DEPARTMENTREPORTS

CD 5 – Paul Koretz, rep. by Field Deputy David Giron, introduced himself.

CD 11 Bill Rosendahl, rep. by Len.Nguyen@lacity.org, Field Deputy reported on the proposed skate park. He investigated alternative sites and it will go to the Park Advisory Board.

OFFICERS AND LIAISON REPORTS

Chair Albert Olson: Reminded all new Board members to take the online Ethics Training, and all Board members must retake the Training every two years.

ADMINISTRATIVE MOTION: to appoint Sharon Commins as MVCC Representative to the Mayor's Budget Day. Motion approved.

First Vice Chair: No report.

Second Vice Chair: No report.

Secretary: Laura Bodensteiner reported that the newsletter was delivered and requested any missed streets be sent to her. She also presented the new reusable bags.

Treasurer: Alex Thompson reported that he will submit the newsletter demand warrants this week.

Director for Animal Welfare: No report.

DWP MOU: Chuck Ray reported on the Oct. 2 meeting. Two motions regarding not publishing deliberations of the Advisory Panel about the rate-payer advocate and the Scattergood-Olympic line is a significant project. He reported on the Nov. 5 Board of Commissioners meeting.

Bi Monthly CD 11/LADOT Traffic Committee: Linda Guagliano reminded the Board about the new structure of the meeting. Next meeting on Nov. 10th at 10 am. She commented that DOT questions are addressed first.

LANCC Delegate Report: No report.

MVCC E-Calendar: Tara Mulski reported the next edition will come out by Friday.

LADWP Recycled Water Advisory Group: Christopher McKinnon reported on Meeting4. It deals with stormwater and wastewater.

OLD BUSINESS: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Transportation & Infrastructure

POLICY MOTION: WHEREAS, it is unlawful to lodge overnight in a parked motor vehicle on a public street or in a public parking lot, or to park any motor vehicle on a public street for a period of 72 hours or longer within the City of Los Angeles, and

WHEREAS, Recreational Vehicles, Campers, and Cargo Vans have been and continue to be unlawfully utilized for lodging in violation of Los Angeles City Municipal Code Section 85.2,

Therefore, now be it resolved that the Mar Vista Community Council: 1) Requests that all appropriate Municipal Authorities be urged to engage in the intervention and resolution of this unlawful activity (identified above) which will include the removal of all vehicles unlawfully utilized for lodging, and prosecution of the offenders, and 2) Requests that the Council District 11 office continues to expedite the posting of the oversized vehicle signage, and 3) Requests that the Council District 11 office implements a program as soon as possible which seeks to provide assistance to those displaced by the Oversized Vehicle Ordinance.

Michael Millman thanked the board for their efforts, regardless of the outcome of the motion.

David Ewing, a resident of Venice, thanked the board for taking a balanced approach. He commented in favor of the portion of the motion addressing the problem.

Ken Alpern commented that this motion is in the interest of neighborhood preservation.

Kate Anderson commented that this is an issue that needs to be addressed and commented in favor of the balanced motion.

Bill Scheding commented on the wording 'from time to time.' Friendly amendment to strike was accepted.

Tara Mulski commented on doing committee work by changing motions at the board level.

Bill Koontz offered a friendly amendment to strike "or sleep" from the first sentence. Accepted.

Alex Thompson offered an amendment to specify what program. Declined.

Geoffrey Forgione commented that the committee considered adding a title.

Motion passed unanimously.

POLICY MOTION: The MVCC requests that the LADOT and Caltrans designate points of contact within their organizations that shall be charged with the duty of informing the public of significant alterations of traffic installations that affect the Mar Vista Community. The community would like to have at least 60 days notice before the construction of new or changed traffic installations so that they can ask questions of and make comments to the designated point of contact.

Chuck Ray commented on how the motion was brought.

Linda Guagliano commented on the protected left turn signal.

Motion passed.

Ken Alpern requested that the preceding motion be sent to Judy Gish.

The T&I meeting this month has been cancelled because it conflicts with the Scattergood scoping meeting. 5:30 – 8:30 at the West L.A. Municipal Building.

Recreation Open Space Enhancement Committee

Tom Ponton reported on the reduced park hours and the impact on the soccer field. He gave an update on Mar Vista Community Fall Festival. He thanked Albert Olson for his work on the festival. He announced on the stage entertainment and discussed the volunteer needs.

Planning and Land Use Committee

Motion to take agenda "Motion D" out of order. Motion passed.

POLICY MOTION: The MVCC opposes the renewal of alcohol license # 402592 at 12017 Venice Blvd known as the Venice Bikini Bar and also known as El Zacatecas.

The MVCC further requests the Council District 11 office write the California Department of Alcohol Beverage Control prior to the application renewal hearing to request this permit not be renewed.

The MVCC further requests the Council District 11 ask LAPD to submit police reports on activities at 12017 Venice Blvd to said California Department of Alcohol Beverage Control.

Monica Harmon commented on the business. She reported on the violations. Call 213-833-6043 Joanne Aguilar to complain. She commented that this bar does not belong in Mar Vista.

Christopher McKinnon commented that the bar is being advertised in the local papers.

Tara Mulski commented that the establishment should be changed. She commented that the establishment is primarily a bikini bar, with alcohol being secondary.

Maritza Przekop commented on the land use permit.

Marilyn Marble asked about the distance to schools and children.

Motion passed (10 for, 1 abstention).

Motion to take agenda "Motion C" out of order. Motion passed.

POLICY MOTION: The Mar Vista Community Council wishes to express serious concern regarding lead time for Department of City Planning outreach, review, discussion, and public comment cycles when drafting major policy documents such as the proposed Citywide Design Guidelines, Core Findings, and Community Care Facilities Ordinance. All background research, including precise text of proposed changes and how they fit into the General Plan Framework

Element, should be posted online early in the process for transparency and full public participation. The disclosure of ordinance text immediately prior to the City Planning Commission hearing thwarts adequate public input into the preparation of these proposals and prevents full discussion and vetting by Neighborhood Councils within their 60 day meeting cycle.

Ken Alpern commented in favor of the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

POLICY MOTION: Whereas the operation of illegal group homes is a priority issue not only for the Community of Mar Vista but for many other residential areas throughout the city of Los Angeles and stakeholders have approached the Mar Vista Community Council for help in obtaining stricter regulations

Therefore the Mar Vista Community Council requests additional language be inserted into proposed ordinance CPC- 2009-800-CA; ENV-2009-801-ND 'COMMUNITY CARE FACILITIES' to:

1. **Clearly establish an over-concentration distance metric requiring all community care facilities be located 300 feet or more from each other and 2,000 feet or more from schools and other sensitive uses; and**
2. **Specifically stating that there will be no public benefit test for any unlicensed home which serves seven (7) or more residents and/or specifically prohibiting unlicensed facilities serving six (6) or fewer residents in the R1 zone and**
3. **No "grand-fathering" in for existing community care facilities that are currently in existence but operating unlicensed or illegally licensed, and**
4. **Public hearings shall be required before City may make a determination relative to the "Public Benefits" test, and**
5. **Correctional or Penal Institutions, including group homes, shall be entirely prohibited from locating in residential zones – meaning that there is no chance for these operators to use the CUP process.**

Ken Alpern commented in favor of the motion.

Mary Singaus asked about the nature of the homes and commented about getting these people services.

Sharon Commins commented that this is not a Sober Living ordinance.

Alex Thompson asked the type of groups. He asked about the 2,000-ft distance.

Motion passed (9 for, 2 abstentions).

POLICY MOTION: CPC-2010-1572-CA; ENV-2010-1573-ND, aka 'CODE SIMPLIFICATION': proposed amendments to the Los Angeles Municipal Code to update common findings for conditional uses, adjustments, and other quasi judicial land use approvals.

Whereas the rewriting of the common core findings for conditional uses, adjustments, and other quasi judicial land use approvals contemplated in CPC-2010-1572-CA; ENV-2010-1573-ND, 'CODE SIMPLIFICATION' has far reaching implications for the everyday quality of life in our City,

Therefore the Mar Vista Community Council recommends:

Core Finding 1 is rewritten to read, "That the project will enhance the environment in the surrounding neighborhood and will not result in an over concentration of such uses in the immediate vicinity and that the conditions imposed upon the project are necessary to protect the public health, convenience, safety and welfare"

Core Finding 5 is rewritten to read: "That the project provides for an arrangement of uses, buildings, structures, open spaces and other private and public improvements that are compatible with the surrounding neighborhood and that the site for the proposed use is adequate in size and shape to accommodate the proposed use and all of the yards, setbacks, walls, fences, landscaping and other features required to adjust the use to the existing or future uses permitted in the neighborhood"

Core Finding 6 is rewritten to read, "That the project will not create an adverse impact on street access or circulation in the surrounding neighborhood; and that public access to the proposed use shall be adequate; and that there are adequate provisions for water, sanitation, and public utilities and services to ensure that the proposed use would not be detrimental to public health and safety"

See Explanatory Matrix attached.

Sharon Commins explained the motion.

Ken Alpern commented in favor of the motion.

Bill Koontz commented in favor of the motion. He does not want to weaken the laws.

Alex Thompson asked about Core Finding 5.

Maritza Przekop commented that the city is trying to standardize the code. She offered a friendly amendment to include the matrix. Accepted.

Motion passed unanimously.

Green Committee:

FUNDING MOTION: to allocate up to $300 to fund the Wise Power Use Expo to cover event expenses that the Green Committee cannot get donated. 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.Alex Thompson asked about where this would fall in the budget. Albert Olson suggested outreach meeting expense.

Motion passed unanimously.

Executive & Finance Committee

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

Motion passed unanimously.

POLICY MOTION: Whereas the city of LA faces an unparalleled budget crisis, and

Whereas escalating public pension and retirement benefits are estimated to surpass 36% of the City General Fund by the year 2015-2016,

Therefore the MVCC strongly urges the LACC to place a ballot measure to reform the existing fire and police pension system before the voters in March 2011 Municipal elections.

Elizabeth Ralston commented about the state of the pension system and explained the timing of the motion.
Monica Harmon commented on presenting the other side.
Chuck Ray asked if there is suggested language for the ballot measure.
Alex Thompson commented that this is an important issue to put before the voters.
Bill Koontz asked about salary spiking.
Geoffrey Forgione asked why this motion is limited to police and fire.

Motion passed, 8 for, 1 opposed (Chuck Ray), 2 abstentions (Bill Koontz, Kate Anderson).

POLICY MOTION: Although the MVCC has chosen not to take a position on ZONE VARIANCE CASE NO. ZA 2009-3395(ZV) ZONE VARIANCE CEQA NO. ENV 2009-3396-CE at 3544 Centinela Avenue, 90066, the Mar Vista Community Council strongly supports the maintenance of Ordinance 164475 and the Q conditions which established height and density limits along Centinela Avenue between Palms and Venice Boulevards.

Judy Deutsch commented on the variance and read letters from others against the variance.
Roy Persinko commented in favor of the motion.
Marla Rubin thanked the board and commented in favor of the Q conditions.
Maritza Przekop asked about the reason for the motion.
Sharon Commins explained that although the board is not taking a position on the particular motion, the stakeholders are supportive of maintaining the Q conditions.
Bill Scheding asked why not make this broad to cover all Mar Vista.

Motion passed unanimously.

Community Outreach Committee: No report

Education, Arts and Culture: Kate Anderson reported that the committee is working with other NCs.

Election & Bylaws Committee: No Report

Historic FS 62 Ad Hoc Committee: Sharon Commins reported that a spotter is coming out.

Safety and Security Committee: Bill Koontz reported that the committee meeting is being moved back to the 4th Thursday.

Santa Monica Airport Committee: No report

Zone Director Reports

Zone 1: No report
Zone 2: Bill Koontz reported on the Mega Garage Sale on Oct. 30 and Richland Ave School Haunted House.
Zone 3: Kate Anderson reported on the Hilltop block party. She reported that there is controversy at Ocean View Farms about a fence and there is interest in having a playground.
Zone 4: No report.
Zone 5: Appreciation Day on Oct. 16 for SoMar.
Zone 6: Marilyn Marble reported that there is a bunny that needs a home.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:33 PM.

Minutes submitted by Laura Bodensteiner on Oct. 27, 2010.