

Mar Vista Community Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS Meeting
January 11, 2011
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, Babak Nahid, Albert Olson, Maritza Przekop, Chuck Ray, Bill Scheduling and Alex Thompson.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes were approved as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Grant Francis, Venice High School Alumni Association announced Venice High's centennial celebration. There will be a parade on June 26.

ELECTED OFFICIALS AND CITY DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Liz Narvaez, Mar Vista Recreation Center Acting Director, reported on the Mar Vista Park. The park has a new dance instructor. Tennis lights and hockey lights will be replaced. New gym and auditorium lights will be on sensors and will go off when the rooms are not in use. New coordinator Damon Hooks starts on next week.

DWP Victoria Cross, DWP Neighborhood Council Liaison Victoria.Cross@WATER.LADWP.com reported on two emergency projects in the area. Fairfax airport project and splice repair near the airport. She commented on the EIR for the Scattergood-Olympic project and will be presented at meetings on Feb 23-24.

CD 5 – Paul Koretz, rep. by David.Giron@lacity.org, Field Deputy reported on the mobile billboard issue. P3 issue will be presented to City Council. He discussed traffic safety issues at Palms Middle School. Operation Pothole happened last weekend.

CD 11 Bill Rosendahl, represented by Field Deputy Len.Nguyen@lacity.org, reported the Transportation Committee tomorrow will discuss the bus-only lane on Wilshire.

US 36 Congresswoman Jane Harman, represented by Deputy Chief-of-Staff Kate Anderson, reported on the lame duck session. Extension of Bush tax cuts were supported; regarding the withdrawal from Afganastan, the Congresswoman wants to withdraw as soon as responsible.

OFFICERS AND LIAISON REPORTS

Chair: Albert Olson reported on an email complaint from the previous meeting. The complaint was regarding conversations in the back of the room during the meeting. He thanked Babak Nahid for his work on the web site in the past couple of months. He asked any remaining board members to complete the ethics training.

First Vice Chair: No report.

Second Vice Chair: No report.

Secretary: No report.

Treasurer: Alex Thompson reported that the purchase card was transferred to him.

Director for Animal Welfare: Lola McKnight reported that there is a new GM at Animal Services. New foster program for hard to adopt pets. The aim is to go no kill by 2015. There is a move to raise the pet limit from 3 to 5. SAAFLA is raising money for dog beds. Go to www.saafla.org to donate.

DWP MOU: Chuck Ray reported that the MOU will meet this weekend. The Executive Committee was invited to meet the new GM Nichols.

LADWP-BOS Recycled Water Advisory Group: Christopher McKinnon invited stakeholders to the March board meeting to hear the LADWP-BOS presentation to MVCC.

Bi Monthly CD 11/LADOT Traffic Committee: Albert Olson reported that the meeting will be held Jan. 12.

LANCC Delegate Report: No report.

OLD BUSINESS: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive & Finance Committee

ADMINISTRATIVE MOTION: The MVCC approves the submitted December 2010 statement for the US Bank MVCC Purchase Card.

Motion passed.

FUNDING MOTION: The MVCC approves the Community Improvement Grant proposal by Friends of Mark Twain Middle School and Marianne Brown to assist in the creation of a Learning Garden at Mark Twain Middle School and allocates a total of \$500.

Marianne Brown commented on the motion. Venice Neighborhood Council gave \$2,000 and asked the group to match the funds. The goals are to promote healthy eating and physical activity.

Bill Koontz commented in favor of the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE MOTION: Motion of Commendation for Mohammad H. Blorfroshan, the recently departed Senior Transportation Engineer of the Western District Office of the Los Angeles Department of Transportation.

Whereas Mohammad Blorfroshan, the departing Senior Transportation Engineer for the Los Angeles Department of Transportation Western Division serving the Mar Vista Community, has performed the duties of that position with the utmost professionalism and in a spirit of partnership, and

Whereas Mohammad Blorfroshan has performed these duties with distinction and integrity to help ensure the safety and well-being of all those using our community's streets and sidewalks,

Therefore, the Mar Vista Community Council hereby awards Mohammad Blorfroshan this commendation for Exemplary Service and Commitment to our Community and honors him with lifelong Stakeholder status in the Mar Vista Community.

Ken Alpern commented on Mo and how honorably he served the community.

Motion passed unanimously.

The MVCC will be putting together a short Stakeholder Forum, to be held the first hour of our February Board meeting, regarding the Ballot measures on the upcoming March 8 City of Los Angeles election.

Planning and Land Use Committee:

POLICY MOTION: The MVCC does not support approval of the request ZA-2010-3116-PAB [ENV- 2010-3115-CE]: El Zacatecas Bikini Bar as presented; furthermore the MVCC requests the ZA schedule a public hearing on this project and additionally requests initiation of a nuisance abatement investigation.

Sharon Commins commented on the motion. The applicant is applying to upgrade the use.

Wil Nieves commented that there is a dance floor on the property with a valid licence. He asked the board to strike down the motion. Add wine and patios to the existing operation. Only side patio is being requested. He questioned the vote at the PLUM committee meeting. He stated that bikinis are a legal use. He commented that the bar is a legally permitted business. He offered 17 voluntary conditions for the council to consider. He commented on the community accusations. He requested that Bill Koontz recuse himself from the vote.

Craig Lightner thanked the council for having him speak. He commented on the comments that Bill Koontz made to him.

Monica Harmon commented on the high ethics and morals of Bill Koontz. She commented on bar's violations. She commented that Mar Vista is a community neighborhood and this bar does not belong.

Ken Alpern commented in opposition to the bar. He is concerned about this type of bar proliferating in Mar Vista.

Bill Scheduling asked if the bar would implement the 17 voluntary conditions regardless of the outcome of the motion.

Mr. Nieves replied that the bar would not.

Tara Mulski commented on her concern about the bar meeting the laws and regulations.

Babak Nahid asked about security for employees.

Bill Scheduling asked if the owner would accept a 1-year sunset clause. Mr. Nieves replied that they would agree to a 1-year review.

Maritza Przekop commented on the change in marketing and the motion's request for an investigation by the ZA.

Kate Anderson asked to have the sign removed.

Geoff Forgione commented on the strategy of impugning a board member and asked why the applicant has not spoken on her own behalf. He commented that community standards are valid.

Bill Koontz commented on his findings about the bar. He went to zimas.lacity.org and reported on the findings for the location. He reported on the citation for the pool tables. He asked questions about the rear entrance and the width of the patio.

Bill Scheduling offered a friendly amendment to add a sunset clause, which was declined.

Sharon Commins commented on the standing rules of the motions.

Albert Olson asked about the front patio. He also asked about fortified wine.

Alex Thompson commented that he does not have a problem with go-go girls. He commented that this application has brought up issues with the business.

Motion passed, 1 abstention.

Sharon Commins recused herself during the following discussion because she sits on the MV Park Advisory Board which has received contributions from George Chung.

Policy Motion: The MVCC recommends approval of the variance request by George Chung for his property at 3487 South Beethoven St. to allow for continued use as a commercial real estate office.

Co-chair Steve Wallace presented the motion.

Motion to limit speakers to 1 minute. Motion passed.

George Chung presented the history of the property.

Tom Ponton thanked Mr. Chung for his many years of service to the community. He commented on home-based businesses in Mar Vista.

Robert Schpak commented that he is impressed that there is no signage.

Mark Fellman commented positively on Mr. Chung.

Jaime commented that Mr. Chung cares for the community and is willing to work with the stakeholders.

Barrett Hawkins shares the alley and is concerned about the increased traffic. He commented in opposition.

Curt Steindler requested that the audience not clap. He commented on what a variance is.

Terry Sweet commented in support of Mr. Chung.

Bob Fitzpatrick commented his conversation with the across-the-street neighbor who said that Mr. Chung's business is not a problem.

Daniel Gurrola commented in favor of the motion.

Dennis Smith submitted a written statement in favor of the motion.

David Nelson commented in favor of the motion.

Lynn Anderson commented in favor of the motion.

Lesley-Ann Lanigan commented in opposition and commented about property values.

Scott Sewell commented about the parking and in support of the motion.

Donald Blanchard commented in favor of the motion and that he believes that Mr. Chung delivers value to the community.

John Haight commented that Mr. Chung is a good neighbor and addressed the parking issue.

Alvin Bonar commented in support of Mr. Chung.

Dennis Mogerman commented about his concern about the congestion and requested that a green curb be added.

June Sewell commented that it is a zoning change, not a variance request. She commented about the land use issue and that this is a residential neighborhood.

George Kometani commented in support of Mr. Chung.

Randine Hamilton commented in support of Mr. Chung.

Keith Lambert commented in support of the motion.

Brian Chung commented in support of the motion.

Bill Cleary commented that the increase in traffic is not due to Mr. Chung's business.

Shel Plotkin commented in support of Mr. Chung.

Ken Alpern commented in favor of the motion.

Bill Christopher represents Mr. Chung. He described the notice process for the zoning change.

Grace Fadden commented in support of Mr. Chung.

Robert Choi commented in support of the motion.

Scott Sewel commented that there is not enough parking.

Brian Miller commented on parking solutions.

Bill Koontz commented about the size of the house.

Maritza Przekop commented on the need to resolve the parking issue and supports the application.

Bill Scheduling commented in favor of the motion.

Alex Thompson commented about the errors on the application.

Marilyn Marble commented in support of the motion.

Geoff Forgione asked about parking on Little Palms.

Albert Olson commented on not deciding the motion based on character.

Motion passed. 8 for, 3 opposed (Geoff Forgione, Bill Koontz, Babak Nahid)

Motion to table rest of the agenda. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:56 PM.

Minutes submitted by Laura Bodensteiner on Jan. 30, 2011.