

Mar Vista Community Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS Meeting
April 11, 2011
Minutes

7:03 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 March 2011 minutes were approved as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Michael Millman invited the board to the MVNA Annual Block Party.

Alex Thompson invited stakeholders to Budget LA in Hollywood 10 AM – 1 PM on April 16.

ELECTED OFFICIALS AND CITY DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Elizabeth Narvaez, Mar Vista Recreation Center acting director, reported on the reorganization of the park. She reported on the event to collect shoes for Japan. April 30 e-recycling event. There will be a meeting to discuss expanding the park's restrooms.

CD 5 Paul Koretz, represented by David Giron, reported that the councilmember attended the Westside Village Homeowner Association in March. He thanked Mar Vista for supporting the above-grade crossing at Sepulveda for the Expo Line.

US 36 Kate Anderson, Deputy Chief-of-Staff, reported on the federal budget situation.

OFFICERS AND LIAISON REPORTS

Chair: No report

First Vice Chair: No report

Second Vice Chair: No report

Secretary: Newsletter was delivered, please let Laura Bodensteiner know if any areas were missed.

Treasurer: Alex Thompson reported on the deadlines set by DONE to spend funds. He explained the potential overspending of the budget if the funding motions on tonight's agenda are passed.

Albert Olson thanked Alex Thompson for his work.

Kate Anderson commented that the school motions were passed knowing that the full amount may not be approved.

Bill Koontz commented that he would reduce the Safety & Security motion to \$2,000.

Director for Animal Welfare: No report.

DWP MOU: Chuck Ray reported on the April 2 committee meeting. The discussion included cleaning up the sub-surface water in the northeast valley and that the bills from DWP have been redesigned.

LADWP-BOS Recycled Water Advisory Group: Christopher McKinnon reported on the 6th workshop on March 24. Expanding purple pipe was discussed.

Bi Monthly CD 11/LADOT/MVCC Traffic Committee: Linda Guagliano reported that the past scheduled meeting was March 9, but the LADOT engineer was not present. She reported that the traffic meeting will change to the third Wednesday every other month, next one will be on May 18.

LANCC Delegate Report Chuck Ray reported that the city attorney came out with a report on sidewalk repair.

OLD BUSINESS: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Motion to move item 6b and 6c up. Motion passed.

Education, Arts and Culture:

FUNDING MOTION (community improvement grant): The MVCC approves the allocation of up to \$2,100 to assist in paying for xylophones to be used in the music curriculum of the Richland Avenue Elementary School Music Program.

All students will have supervised access to these instruments.

Kami Turrou, Booster Club president, presented the program and several Richland students sang a "round" with the music teacher and demonstrated the instrument.

Gwen Rinehart commented in favor of the motion.

Christopher McKinnon asked if other instrument programs have been funded by MVCC.

Maritza Przekop asked how many students at the school (approx 300). She asked how the other instrument were purchased.

Tara Mulski asked if MVCC would be acknowledged.

Laura Bodensteiner asked how many instruments would be purchased.

Motion passed. 11 for, 1 opposed (Maritza Przekop)

FUNDING MOTION (community improvement grant): The MVCC approves the allocation of up to \$2100 to assist in the creation of a Learning Garden at Walgrove Elementary School.

Marianne Brown discussed the program "Where Food Comes From."

A Walgrove teacher commented on the cafeteria area and hopes to bring a connection to the students between the food.

Babak Nahid commented on the Education Summit and asked parents to come.

Maritza Przekop asked if MVCC has funded other Walgrove motions. She commented on her concern for the amount of the funding motion and the timing of the grant.

Tara Mulski asked what is done with the produce. Emi Kuwata reported that the students eat some and donate some. She asked about the long-term plan to maintain the project.

Sharon Commins commented that this allocation is very fiscally responsible because it is important for children to learn that food doesn't come from a package.

Geoff Forgione asked for a sign to thank MVCC.

Kate Anderson asked that the board increase the grant amount if there are additional funds available later.

Marilyn Marble commented in support of Marianne Brown.

Albert Olson commented about the concern of the long-term care of the garden.

Bill Koontz asked if the motion could have a yearly report to the board.

Motion passed unanimously.

FUNDING MOTION (community improvement grant): The MVCC approves the allocation of up to \$1050 for the Venice High School Centennial Celebration Skateboard Parade.

This will assist in paying for engineering/design work needed for the routing of the parade on city streets.

Grant Frances explained that this pays for a portion of the permitting process, and it's contingent on if the parade is allowed.

Kate Anderson commented on the process to come to this funding motion.

Christopher McKinnon asked if it would be a street closure. Yes, 10 AM – 12 PM on the Sunday of the event.

Tara Mulski expressed concern for the expenditure. She asked if sponsorship has been secured by skateboard companies.

Babak Nahid explained his concerns with the funding motion.

Bill Koontz asked for acknowledgement of MVCC.

Kate Anderson explained why this is a benefit to the community as a community pride event.

Bill Scheduling commented in favor of the motion.

Marilyn Marble commented in favor of the motion.

Alex Thompson commented about MVCC's funds being spent equitably.

Albert Olson commented in favor of supporting Venice High School and about other ways to spend the money.

Motion passed 10 for, 1 opposed (Tara Mulski), 1 abstention (Babak Nahid)

Motion to move item 3 up. Motion passed.

Planning and Land Use Committee:

POLICY MOTION: The MVCC supports the 3261-3281 Sawtelle Correction Motion by Councilmember Rosendahl addressing 2006 condo conversion street widening requirements.

This motion will remove Bureau of Street Lighting Condition #7 and Bureau of Engineering Condition No.S-3(1)a) from subdivision case number VTTM64093.

Christopher Murray spoke on behalf of the applicant to explain the process.

Chuck Ray reported that the T&I committee supported this motion.

Maritza Przekop asked what type of road Sawtelle is at that point.

Babak Nahid asked for a visual to describe the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

POLICY MOTION The MVCC supports ZA 2011-451 CUB-ZV: Louie's of Mar Vista restaurant, 3817 Grand View Blvd, application for a ZV and CUB for alcohol, for a sit down restaurant with inside and outside eating and full line alcohol sales for onsite consumption with a daytime variance for parking.

The applicant presented the request.

Tara Mulski asked for clarification on the parking issue.

Maritza Przekop commented in support.

Bill Koontz commented in favor of the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

Safety and Security Committee:

FUNDING MOTION: Revise Neighborhood Watch Sign Posting Funding Motion – original motion approved for \$397.08 plus tax and shipping was for a 1/2” banding system w/o band it brackets, revise to include price of flared band it brackets (D02189) and should be for the 3/4” banding system - \$481.20 plus tax and shipping (\$481.20 - \$387.08 = \$94.12) Approve an additional \$94.12 plus tax and shipping.

Motion passed unanimously.

Rob Kadota announced May 6 golf tournament and Community Video Surveillance Project. He also presented the “Map your neighborhood” brochure.

FUNDING MOTION: Mar Vista/Venice Safety Expo Update Funding Motion for \$2,000.

Rob Kadota described the June 9 event.

Maritza Przekop asked about spending the funds.

Tara Mulski asked if Mar Vista vendors would be used.

Bill Scheduling commented about requesting discounts.

Babak Nahid asked if the funds would be matched by Venice NC. He asked about building community and how funds are best spent. He asked about mitigating the paper.

Motion passed unanimously.

Executive & Finance Committee:

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

Alex Thompson explained each charges.

Motion passed, 11 for, 1 opposed (Bill Scheduling)

POLICY MOTION: Motion to approve the following letter and resolution expressing support for the City Clerk’s Office retaining jurisdiction over Neighborhood Council Elections:

The MVCC expresses strong concern that a small group calling itself the Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Elections Task Force (the “Task Force”), on the strength of four gatherings condensed into a period of less than one month, has issued a recommendation that calls for the elimination of the City Clerk’s jurisdiction over the neighborhood council elections and implementation of internet-based voting for the elections.

The MVCC is concerned for the following reasons:

1. It appears that very few Neighborhood Councils participated in the Task Force, and there is no record of official approval or contributions by the Boards of any NCs that were involved at the time.
2. The Task Force assumed as a starting point that the City Clerk’s office should not be involved in the future of Neighborhood Council elections, stating in the Report that “The intent of the Task Force was to respond to concerns raised following the 2010 neighborhood council elections. Near unanimous opinion of those participating in town halls hosted by Councilman Krekorian was expressed in his report: “There were a few points of consensus during the town hall discussions and one was that the City Clerk should not administer neighborhood council elections.””
3. The Task Force’s report : (i) contains no specific findings of fact, but only summarily announces its recommendation, and (ii) fails to present any evidence that the City Clerk failed to manage the 2010 neighborhood council elections properly or effectively.
4. The Task Force provides no evidence that the imposition of an internet-based voting system would not disenfranchise or inconvenience many stakeholders who do not enjoy access to the internet from their homes.
5. The notion that there would be significant cost savings to the City by implementing an internet-based voting system does not take into account that:
 - (i) without oversight of the City Clerk, the likelihood of disputes over the validity of neighborhood council elections would increase exponentially, along with the costs of addressing those new disputes, and
 - (ii) neighborhood council elections are a laudable and worthwhile expenditure of taxpayer funds;

In response to these concerns, the Mar Vista Community Council has passed the following resolution regarding the future of Neighborhood Council elections:

Whereas, the MVCC strongly believes that the credibility and legitimacy of Neighborhood Council elections, and thus the credibility and legitimacy of the entire Neighborhood Council system, is enhanced by having NC elections run by the same official entity that runs all other City elections; and

Whereas, the MVCC believes that the Neighborhood Council system must maintain consistency and transparency in its elections and that all Neighborhood Councils will be tainted by the failures of an individual Neighborhood Council to

maintain the integrity of its election procedures; and that proposals to allow individual councils to choose among various other options, such as 'electronic,' 'town-hall' and/or 'incumbent-run' election systems, will result in elections marred by the limitations of those procedures, including the loss of transparency, accuracy, and legitimacy, and will lead to a proliferation of disputes.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Mar Vista Community Council:

- 1. expresses its strong support and preference for the City Clerk continuing to have jurisdiction over, and be solely responsible for, the more than 90 Neighborhood Council elections scheduled to occur in the Spring of 2012,**
- 2. urges the Los Angeles City Council, including CD-11 Councilman Bill Rosendahl, to take all necessary steps to ensure that the City Clerk continues to have jurisdiction and responsibility over the Neighborhood Council elections, and**
- 3. recommends that a geographically diverse group of Neighborhood Council representatives meet with the City Clerk's Office to discuss ways in which the election process can be made more flexible, cost-effective, and responsive to the scheduling needs of the NC system, including the feasibility of establishing a vote-by-mail alternative for all stakeholders.**

Bob Fitzpatrick reported on the meetings.

Bill Scheduling moved to strike "including the feasibility of establishing a vote-by-mail alternative for all stakeholders." Motion failed. 1 opposed, 9 opposed.

Chuck Ray commented on his reservations about the letter portion of the motion.

Bill Scheduling suggested adding a fourth point to designate a task force.

Tara Mulski expressed concern about the first portion of the motion. She offered a friendly amendment to split the motion into two parts.

Sharon Commins commented on volunteers representing NCs.

Motion passed, 10 for, 1 opposed (Chuck Ray)

ADMINISTRATIVE MOTION: The Mar Vista Community Council approves the involvement of the MVCC in the organization and promotion of the 2011 Annual Mar Vista Fall Festival.

Maritza Przekop commented about funding.

Motion passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE MOTION: The Mar Vista Community Council approves the partnership with the Venice Neighborhood Council to put on a 36th Congressional Special Primary Election Candidate Forum on April 27th.

Albert Olson commented on being asked to be involved in the event.

Maritza Przekop commented that the event overlaps with the Community Outreach committee monthly meeting.

Kate Anderson explained her abstention as an abundance of caution.

Motion passed 10 for, 1 abstention (Kate Anderson).

Election & Bylaws Committee:

FINAL READING: Amendments to MVCC Bylaws mandated by DONE to conform all NC bylaws to DONE Table of Contents template.

Albert Olson reported that the deadline has been extended.

Kate Anderson commented in favor of passing it.

Bill Koontz commented in favor of passing it.

Geoff Forgione commented in favor of passing them

Bill Scheduling asked about posting for special meetings.

Unanimously approved.

Community Outreach Committee:

FUNDING MOTION: The MVCC will allocate \$300.00 to the North Westdale Neighborhood Association to pay for an ad that will be placed in their next newsletter. 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 will expire. In addition, the MVCC requests that 100 copies of the newsletter be provided to the MVCC for distribution at the MVCC Farmers Market booth.

Laura Bodensteiner commented in favor of the motion.

Motion passed 10 for, 1 abstention (Bill Koontz)

Transportation & Infrastructure Committee:

ADMINISTRATIVE MOTION: The Mar Vista Community Council both honors and expresses gratitude to Los Angeles Councilmembers Bill Rosendahl and Paul Koretz for improving the mobility of all Westside commuters by routing \$5.3 million in West Los Angeles Transportation Improvement and Mitigation Specific Plan (WLA TIMP) funds to provide the extra funding needed to elevate the future Exposition Light Rail Line over Sepulveda Blvd.

Chuck Ray commented on the issue.

Ken Alpern commented about this being a big deal.

Motion passed unanimously.

POLICY MOTION: Whereas on March 8, 2011, the voters passed Measure I for the DWP Office of Public Accountability (OPA), and

Whereas Measure I creates a citizens committee to select the Executive Director of the OPA, and

Whereas the LANCC on March 5th passed a motion requesting the City Council to enact an enabling ordinance for an on-going citizens committee of the OPA, and

Whereas an on-going citizens committee will ensure that the OPA effectively carries out its responsibilities and brings transparency to the DWP,

Therefore the Mar Vista Community Council supports the LANCC request and urges the city council to speedily enact an ordinance that adheres to the principles articulated in the LANCC motion.

Chuck Ray requested this be sent to the appropriate Council File.

Motion passed unanimously.

Recreation Open Space Enhancement: No report.

Historic FS 62 Ad Hoc Committee: No report

Santa Monica Airport Committee: No report

Albert Olson announced that Stephen Boskin's photo opening this week has been postponed. The official opening of the jogging trail at MV Park on April 15.

ZONE DIRECTOR REPORTS

1. Babak Nahid thanked Mirja Bishop.
2. Bill Koontz reported on Richland Ave's In-N-Out truck fundraiser. CERT trainings available.
3. Kate Anderson reported on Hilltop annual meeting. Westdale discussed need for more CERT volunteers.
4. Tara Mulski reported on a tree fall. RV frequents the area.
5. No report.
6. Marilyn Marble reported on pothole repair.

NEW BUSINESS: None

GRIEVANCES: None

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 PM.

Minutes submitted by Laura Bodensteiner on May 4, 2011.