

Mar Vista Community Council
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
Chair: Albert Olson
Vice Chair: Chuck Ray
Tuesday, July 28, 7-9:30 PM
Santa Monica Bundy Campus Multi-Purpose Room #123
Draft Minutes

1) The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Albert Olson, at 7:05 p.m. In attendance were Laura Aka, Jonny Forman, Dorothy Garven, Linda Guagliano, Allen and Gigi Lissan, Marilyn Marble, Renee Marcus, Eric A. Nelson, Len Nguyen, Albert Olson, Chuck Ray, Gia Rideau, Ellen Strenski, and Alex Thompson.

2) Introductions and Public Comments on topics not on the agenda:

Chuck Ray reported that on June 30, 2009 the LSDOT installed the signs on the 3100 block of Corinth Avenue indicating that this area has become part of Overnight Parking District 505.

3) Approval of minutes:

After corrections of the spelling of two names the minutes were approved unanimously.

4) Report on Recent MVCC Board Actions relating to T & I motions:

Since there was no T & I Committee meeting last month, there were no MVCC Board Actions to report.

5) T & I Related Committee Reports:

LA DOT Bi-Monthly Meeting - Linda Guagliano:

At the last meeting, the LAPD officer did not attend. This is due to his supervision not supporting his participation in this committee. Lind asked the Councilmember's office to make a special request to have LAPD representation at future meetings.

A work order has been written to have a center stripe painted in the straeet at the intersection of Woodbine Ave. and Butler Ave. This is a blind intersection, particularly for traffic moving east on Woodbine Ave.

The next meeting will be at 10 a.m. September 9th at the Council District 11 West Los Angeles Office.

Neighborhood Traffic Management Committee - Bill Pope:

No report was available. Bill Pope was out of the city. According to the last communication from this committee, it has suspended operations since the LA DOT has not been sending a delegate to attend the meetings.

6) New Business

a. Discussion of parking issues on South Barrington Ave. just north of Venice Blvd, and the possible request by the Ohr Ha Torah Temple for red-painted curb parking spaces that could be used for short-term handicap parking and the parking spaces could be designated as 8 a.m. -12 midnight. (With possible motions):

Ms. Renee Marcus discussed the Temple's need for some form of restricted parking that would allow congregation members to safely drop off children and elderly members to attend services, school and other events. The area is heavily congested due to businesses on Venice Blvd. and rehab and sober living centers in the area. Ms. Marcus suggested that the community might support the suggestion from the LA DOT that some parking places on Barrington Blvd. just north of Venice Blvd. be designated 15 minute parking at all times.

Several neighbors, including Laura Aka, Gia Rideau and Jonny Forman, spoke in opposition to the Temple's plan as presented. They believe that the suggested solution will add to an already congested situation. Some suggestions that were made include renting space on the weekends from the medical center and office building on Venice Blvd. and realigning the existing parking lot in front of the Temple so that its patrons can queue up off the street for the loading and unloading of passengers.

Ken Nguyen and Albert Olson suggested that a meeting be held with the Temple representatives, neighborhood stakeholders, and others to try to narrow the gulf between the various viewpoints.

b. Discussion of the Bicycle Plan Update Draft Maps (Alex Thompson) (with possible motions):

Alex Thompson projected the maps from the LA DOT showing existing and proposed bicycle routes to be included in the upcoming Bicycle Master Plan. He believes that the proposed routes are inadequate. The following motion was proposed and seconded:

The MVCC finds that, with respect to Mar Vista, the maps for the draft Bicycle Master Plan show that the plan does not offer a significant improvement over existing conditions for cyclists riding in Mar Vista. We therefore recommend that the scope of work be rewritten to position the Bicycle Plan as an inspiration and aspiration document that will support cycling as a transportation choice.

This motion was approved unanimously and will be forwarded to the MVCC Board for consideration.

c. 3115 Sepulveda Blvd. Development Project: Red Mountain Retail Group (Eric Nelson)

Update and Discussion of Traffic-related issues regarding this proposed mixed-use development. This topic is only a discussion for this meeting. Any motions regarding this project will be considered at a later date, at either the T & I committee, or the PLUM committee.

Eric Nelson presented a brief update on this project. He suggested that his company might be willing to set up a fund with LA DOT of up to \$500,000 to be directed by the Mar Vista Community for mitigation of traffic issues. These monies would be above and beyond any requirements that come out of the traffic study. Further discussion will take place with the T & I committee and the PLUM committee as the project moves along.

d. Discussion of the issue of improving the safety and convenience of transportation connectivity for Mar Vista pedestrians. (Ellen Strenski) (With possible motions):

Ms. Ellen Strenski made a presentation about her concerns for pedestrians who wish to use the Santa Monica Big Blue Bus lines that originate at the Budy Campus of Santa

Monica College. The lack of sidewalks on Palms Blvd. makes it unsafe to walk to Centinela Blvd. to catch the bus. Further, the locked gate on Stewart St. at Stanwood St. restricts access to the campus from the local neighborhood.

In the discussion, it was pointed out that the major burden for providing sidewalks falls on the property owners along Palms Blvd. Unless the property owners would volunteer to construct sidewalks or agree to a special assessment district so the city can construct sidewalks, it is very unlikely that sidewalks can be constructed. However Mr. Len Nguyen of the Council District 11 stated that he will refer the question to the city's Street Services Department for possible creation of an assessment district or inclusion in the city's limited free program.

The closed gate was at the request of the neighborhood in response to fears that the students from Santa Monica College would park their vehicles in the adjacent neighborhood.

7) The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.