

**Mar Vista Community Council  
Education, Arts, and Culture Committee**

Tuesday – October 29, 2013 – 7:00 pm  
Mar Vista Recreation Center Auditorium  
11430 Woodbine Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90066

*Attendees:* Amy Lawrence, Albert Olson, Sharon Commins, Sara Roos, Rick Selan

*Draft Minutes*

1. **Introduction** – Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.
2. **Public Comment** – Sharon asked everyone to sign and publicize the petition at Change.org regarding the location of a “pot shop” in Mar Vista. Rick spoke regarding the elimination of a school governance voice for Title One parents.
3. **Approval of letter re Santa Monica library cards** – The committee passed a motion to approve and forward to the Board a draft letter (in the form attached hereto as Appendix A) addressed to Santa Monica regarding its decision not to offer reciprocity of library card privileges to non-residents of Santa Monica.
4. **Discussion of iPads in the classroom** – The committee discussed the issue of LAUSD implementation of its plan to provide iPads in classrooms. Concerns raised included the fact that no pilot program was tested first, the curriculum is owned by one company, and students are able to surf the internet during class time, and other issues. The committee will discuss this matter at further length in the future.
5. **Dissolution of NPG application information on the MVC website** – Amy will prepare changes to the website to clarify and summarize the requirements for submitting an NPG application.
6. **Public comment** – Sara discussed a proposed resolution sponsored by LAUSD district members Tamar Galatzan and Monica Ratliff regarding lowering the Title I eligibility threshold back to 40%. Sara discussed the effect of the threshold having been raised two years ago and the loss of funding to various schools in Mar Vista.
7. **Future Agenda Items** – NPG funding issues; iPads in the classroom.
8. **Adjourn** – Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

## Appendix A

Dear \_\_\_\_\_:

It has come to our attention that since July 2013, effective as individual library cards expire, nonresidents of Santa Monica must pay a \$25 yearly charge for a Santa Monica library card. We respectfully request that Santa Monica, in line with Los Angeles and most every municipality within the County of Los Angeles, return to its pre-July 2013 policy of allowing nonresidents to obtain Santa Monica library cards without charge.

We appreciate that Santa Monica, like every other local government (including ours), is looking for ways to raise needed revenue. We do not think, however, that moneys should be raised by charging nonresidents for library cards. It makes our libraries less accessible, especially to the poorest segment of our population who may not be able to afford the new charge. Our nation's longstanding tradition of free libraries is based on the principle that public libraries are fundamental to an informed public necessary for democracy. We believe the cherished principles underlying free public libraries should override the financial reasons behind the charge.

In sum, we respectfully request that the City of Santa Monica rescind this new charge and return to its former policy of not charging nonresidents for library cards.

If you have any questions, or if we can be of assistance in this regard, do not hesitate to contact \_\_\_\_\_.