



Mar Vista Community Council



MAR VISTA COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
Tuesday, February 16th, 2016, at 7:00 P.M.
Mar Vista Recreation Center Gymnasium
11430 Woodbine Street, Mar Vista, CA
90066

MINUTES

1. **Call to order and Welcome** – Chair (1 min)
Meeting called to order at 7:08 P.M.
Quorum present: Bill Koontz, Mitchell Rishe, Melissa Stoller, Bill Scheduling, Yvette Molinaro, Robin Doyno, Sherri Akers, Ken Alpern, Michael Millman, Michelle Krupkin
2. **Presentation of flag and Pledge of Allegiance** (1 min)
3. **Approval of February 9th, 2015 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes** (public comment permitted; 1min per speaker)
Motion to approve by Bill Scheduling, 2nd by Sherri Akers.
Corections: Change heading from “AGENDA” to “MINUTES,” add “motion tabled” to each tabled motion.
Minutes as amended unanimously approved.
4. **Public Comment & Announcements** - for items not on the agenda (max 1 min each unless waived by the Chair)
Michael Millman: Bill Rosendahl not doing well. Asking for contributions to get card/flowers; made \$10 donation.
Sherri: Bill not very cognizant; Visits mean a lot. Family caregivers might appreciate something.
Bill Koontz: Perhaps send food from a local restaurant.
Sarah Auerswald: MVCC now on Instagram: marvistacc.
5. **Officers and Liaison Reports** (Action items included with public comment permitted; 1min per speaker)
 - a. Chair-Bill Koontz
 - b. First Vice Chair – Mitchell Rishe
 - c. Second Vice Chair – John Kuchta
 - d. Secretary –Melissa Stoller
 - e. Treasurer-William Scheduling: NOTE: All funding motions must conform to all Empower funding guidelines and must be funded and paid in fiscal year 2015-16 or they will expire. All NPG and CIG grants approved by the Mar Vista Community Council are restricted funds according to Department of Neighborhood Empowerment regulations and must be used for the exact purpose approved by the MVCC. All Neighborhood Council Funding reports are available online at <http://done.lacity.org/onlinefunding/ncfunding.aspx>.
 - i. Report on current financial status
 - ii. **APPROVAL** of December Monthly Expense Report (MER)
Motion to approve by Bill Scheduling, 2nd by Bill Koontz.
Discussion:
Sara Roos: Submitted several questions; never received response. Some items put to incorrect budget. It matters: Budget is a political document; shows priorities.
Melissa Stoller: Found errors in every MER to date.
Mitchell: Line C1 (Outstanding Checks) isn't filled in. Important for determining how much we can still spend.

Bill Scheduling: Hasn't been filling it in—it's hard to know what it is. To his knowledge, there's no carry forward of funds from last year. DONE said we should start year with zero balance.

Melissa Stoller: So we know what expenditures have cleared and we know what total we want, and we just put in line items to reach that total? What are we trying to balance to?

Michael Millman: How much money do we have left?

Sarah Auerswald: All the MERs should be corrected. We all need to know how much money there is.

Bill Scheduling: February MER will match the money in the bank.

Melissa Stoller: Knowing how much money is in the bank doesn't tell us how much we have to spend.

Friendly amendment: change dates on lines A1 & A2.

Motion to place all three MER motions on consent calendar by Sherri Akers, 2nd by Yvette Molinaro. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion:

Melissa Stoller: Question to Bill Scheduling: are MERs supposed to reflect bank balance? Bill: MERs are so we don't overspend accounts and spend according to budget. Melissa Stoller: But we have money allocated to incorrect budget items, and the MERs only include cleared items.

Mitchell Rische: We're looking at funding motion of \$23,000. As of end of February, we have \$14,000 left according to MER.

Sherri Akers: Do we know, with ongoing commitments and outstanding checks, how much we have available? Suggest we table MERs.

Bill Scheduling: Don't see any reason to change the MERs.

Michael Millman: Is there a limit on what we can spend at Copyland? Melissa Stoller: I believe limit is \$500 a month. Bill Koontz: Limit wouldn't include special printing such as posters.

Motion to table MERs until next meeting by Sherri Akers, 2nd by Mitchell Rische.

Bill Scheduling: Won't redo all the MERs. Can put number in February.

Motion to table carries: 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 abstention (Bill Scheduling).

iii. **APPROVAL** of January Monthly Expense Report (MER)

Motion tabled.

iv. **APPROVAL** of February Monthly Expense Report (MER)

Motion tabled.

v. **Funding Motion: MVCC Election** (submitted by Outreach & Elections Committees)

~~MVCC approves the reallocation of funds in the MVCC budget to the Outreach and Elections/Bylaws Committees not to exceed \$23,400 as needed for the following expenses for the 2016 MVCC election as mandated by the City of Los Angeles to ensure maximum community outreach to recruit candidates and maximize voter turnout.~~

- ~~• City is requesting 3 direct mailers. Cost to reach 30,000 plus households is \$8,465 plus tax. We are proposing two mailers at a total cost of \$18,600~~
- ~~• 100 yard signs —\$600~~
- ~~• Banners —6 to be placed at park (2), Farmers Market (at tent), Venice High Learning Garden, Old Fire Station, Walgrove School —\$50 each, \$300 total~~
- ~~• Flyers \$200~~
- ~~• 4 page newsletter (previously allocated in budget) printing, layout and distribution —est. \$3,500~~
- ~~• Postcards or bookmarks for handout (quote of \$32 for \$2,500) —\$200~~

~~Whereas the MVCC is mandated to hold elections for a new Board of Directors in 2016,~~

And whereas compliance with the mandate that Neighborhood Councils reflect the diverse interests within their area (Charter Sec. 906(a)(3); Plan Art. II Sec.1) and the Standards and Best Practices for following this rule states that "NCs should focus their external communication efforts to reach all of the groups (neighborhoods, ethnicities, race, gender, age, homeowners and renters and Sexual orientation) for elections and participation at Board meetings and special events;

And whereas MVCC wishes to improve upon past outreach efforts to abet a diverse makeup of the Board of Directors and to ensure maximum community outreach to recruit candidates and maximize engaged voter turnout;

And whereas MVCC will make use of all methods of outreach available to them, including and especially, methods that incur no cost at all, such as email blasts, Facebook posts, Nextdoor posts, the weekly booth at the Mar Vista Farmers' Market, and in-person discussions, such as at every MVCC Committee meeting and BOD meeting between now and June 4th;

And whereas doorstep distribution of MVCC newsletters excludes the large number of Stakeholders who reside in Multiple Dwelling Units with restricted access;

And whereas there are still important items that must be funded, such as postcards, lawn signs, banners, newsletters and Every Door Direct Mail (EDDM) postage

Be it therefore resolved that MVCC approves the allocation of funds in the MVCC Budget to the Outreach budget for the following expenses for the 2016 election:

- 10,000 postcards to hand out: \$750
- EDDM delivery to select postal routes within Mar Vista (1 mailer): \$1500
- 50 yard signs: \$600
- Banners—9 to be placed at park (2), Farmers Market (at tent), Venice High Learning Garden, Old Fire Station, Walgrove School, and Zone 1, 2 and 3 locations to be determined: \$450
- Flyers: \$200
- Day-of election expenses—ballot printing, tent rentals, chairs, volunteer t-shirts, etc.: \$1500
- 4-page newsletter (of the \$8500 previously allocated in budget, \$2,518.57 remains) printing, layout and distribution: \$5000
- Total funding request: \$10,000

Motion to approve by Melissa Stoller, 2nd by Ken Alpern.

Friendly amendment by Bill Koontz accepted.

Discussion:

Sarah Auerswald: Elections outreach includes lots of things that are free.

Yvette Molinaro: Who will hand out 10,000 postcards, the flyers, etc.? Will put postcards, signs at her Farmers' Market booth.

Sarah Auerswald: Will give out at Farmers' Market, EDDM to apartments, give to lead officers and others to pass out, etc. Yard signs are just like those used for block parties. Flyers will go into kid's backpacks.

Sherri Akers: Newsletter doesn't reach 60% of our community.

Michelle Krupkin: When are we going to get website that we can update?

Bill Scheduling: Wants to be sure there's fair distribution of multi-lingual. EDDM must be multi-lingual.

Melissa Stoller: \$4500 was initially budgeted for election; newsletter was separately budgeted. So we're only asking for an increase of \$500 in the elections budget.

Mitchell Rishe: Is fine with motion. Wants to make sure there are no complaints of newsletters littered all over. It severely impacts Mar Vista's green cred.

Bill Koontz: CBS (current distribution vendor) is the cheapest. He can write letter to them stating that, if they don't do a better job, we will take our business elsewhere.

Michael Millman: Not convinced that if you are a property owner, you don't have the heart to consider diverse issues. A lot of people who reside in apartments tend to be apathetic. Having run MVNA, he would use yard signs, dump the newsletter. In favor of \$4500 in budget, think it can be done for \$3000.

Melissa Stoller: The Newsletter will be delivered in March and will not include candidate statements. It will tell about MVCC, encourage Stakeholders to run and describe board member responsibilities. It will also publicize the Eco Car Expo.

Ken Alpern: Has wanted renters so bad, he's approached all apartments in Zone 1, but most renters don't care what we do.

Sarah Auerswald: It's our mandate to try.

Bill Scheduling: Attended a couple of election administration meetings downtown. It's a one size fits all elections solution; Mar Vista is being hammered same as NCs that get 5 people.

Bill Koontz: Board has storied history of renters on board; he was on the board for 5 years while a renter. Has problem with candidates having to do own flyers—past experience of candidate asking people only to vote for him to increase his chance of winning. Doesn't want candidates to be main source of outreach, wants MVCC to be. At community meetings he attends, he asks "How did you hear about MVCC?": everyone gets newsletters, many saw signs, got emails from neighborhood association.

Bill Scheduling: Anyone running for office shouldn't hand out general purpose election stuff.

Sherri Akers: Budget not just to get voters out, also to recruit candidates.

Bill Koontz: ...and going forward, get more people involved.

Motion carried unanimously as amended..

vi. **Funding Motion: Webster Middle School NPG** (submitted by Education, Arts & Culture Committee)

WHEREAS **Webster MS** is a community school strongly and increasingly appreciated by our local northern Mar Vista residents.

WHEREAS support of its resurging reputation among the community is very important to Mar Vista's reputation as a residence with strong educational opportunities.

WHEREAS the current highly popular robotics offerings are insufficient to serve more than a single classroom despite great demand for more equipment to teach more, and eager, students.

BE IT RESOLVED that MVCC eagerly grants \$2419.70 toward Webster MS's request to partially fund more robotics equipment for a second classroom to reach avid STEAM students.

Motion to place school funding motions on consent by Bill Scheduling, 2nd by Ken Alpern.

Bill Scheduling accepts pulling out 5.e.ix (Venice), 5.e.x (Walgrove), and 5.e.xi (Richland).

Discussion:

Motion to place 5.e.ix-xi on consent calendar unanimously approved.

Discussion:

Melissa Stoller: Passage of all of the funding requests would not leave MVCC with a sufficient cushion to unanticipated expenses. Would like to amend one or more to make funding contingent upon available funds.

Sara Roos: In EAC committee would like first four requests (5.e.vi-ix) funded at level requested. If need to cut down, slice from Richland and Grand View. Some of the grants are discrete—can't do if funding is reduced.

Ken Alpern: Agrees with many of the concerns pro and con, doesn't want to lose a well functioning education committee. We should put our faith in education committee.

Michael Millman: We're just talking about consent motion.

Sherri Akers: We asked EACC to take another look at their requests; they did everything we asked.

Motion to approve consent calendar by Bill Scheduling, 2nd by Ken Akern. Motion carried unanimously.

- vii. **Funding Motion: Mark Twain Middle School CIG** (submitted by Education, Arts & Culture Committee)

WHEREAS **Mark Twain ES** has attracted considerable attention of late concerning its public properties and community aesthetics, and

WHEREAS social injustice in the relative public spending among local primary school campuses is of local public concern, and

WHEREAS the outdoor play equipment and public spaces at Mark Twain are long in need of enrichment and beautification, it would address the public's focus to

BE IT RESOLVED that MVCC would support Twain's outdoor spaces through a Community Improvement Grant for \$1719 matching the cost of Outdoor PE Equipment (\$969) with the local West Mar Vista Neighborhood Association that organized local activism in this regard.

Approved on consent.

- viii. **Funding Motion: Grand View Elementary School NPG** (submitted by Education, Arts & Culture Committee)

WHEREAS **Grand View Elementary School** serves over 500 children a packet of processed food daily.

WHEREAS despite being a school of high poverty concentration, still appreciable amounts of this biodegradable meal head for a landfill every day.

WHEREAS this school has an active gardening program with instruction on high quality, home-grown foodstuffs and earth sciences that would benefit pedagogically from the component that shows the ecology of waste.

WHEREAS salvaging the food waste and transforming its nutrients into a form compatible with growth, learning and the school's learning garden will benefit all available parties and constructs.

BE IT RESOLVED that MVCC recommends applying \$1300 toward a Neighborhood Purpose Grant that will facilitate closing the knowledge circle on food, food waste, decomposition and regrowth.

Approved on consent.

- ix. **Funding Motion: Venice High School NPG** (submitted by Education, Arts & Culture Committee)

WHEREAS **Venice High School** (VHS) is Mar Vista's local westside secondary school, enrolling more than 2000 children of whom approximately two-thirds are "socioeconomically disadvantaged", and distributed ethnically with a population that is two-thirds Hispanic and equal measures among one quarter its students that is Caucasian and African-American.

WHEREAS VHS students and community alumni are integrally connected with a history and culture of both beach and conservation honoring its "Dogtown" and "green" roots.

WHEREAS hundreds of students commute daily in a self-propelled mode that fosters traffic mitigation and clean, green, healthy community values that merit support from the community at large.

WHEREAS publicly and monetarily supporting the values reflected by our community confers encouragement of beneficial community values that itself attracts families and community-spirited individuals.

BE IT RESOLVED that MVCC will contribute \$1949.90 toward funding purchase of securable wheelbase lockers that encourage studious behavior, sustainable commuting and healthful living among our community's young scholars.

Motion to approve by Bill Scheduling, 2nd by Mitchell Rishe.

Discussion:

Michelle Krupkin: Has neighbor on administrative staff, is sympathetic to his desire to get the skateboards out of his office. If students had bought smaller skateboards, they would fit in their lockers.

Ken Alpern: 1st response was I'd rather spend on books. I realize that there are alternative forms of transportation. But this is way to keep people out of cars, kids exercising.

Michael Rische: Will support motion out of friendship and belief in the committee system. Questions statement that it will "encourage studious behavior."

Mitchell Rische: It's not for us to tell a school what they need. They asked for lockers.

Melissa Stoller: Requests friendly amendment to make conditional on funding available. Bill Scheduling rejects the amendment.

Sar Roa: This motion addresses what the school says is their problem. Venice High is a community of 2200 kids. Students are riding skateboards on campus. New principal says, his is what she needs to get things under control—do what kids need to get them to work with us. This is a movement toward huge community that feels disenfranchised.

Bill Scheduling: He's hearing that there are board members who don't want to tell the community we're spending money on skateboard lockers, and he understands.

Bill Koontz (to Sara Roos): We asked you to look for other funding, maybe go halves with Venice NC.

Ken Alpern: Skateboards are cheaper overall than bicycles. This will make the students play by the rules, not act as hooligans. Wants to have MVCC logo on this.

Michael Millman: Has his vote, but there are students with skateboards who were out of control. Principal asked "what will it take to get you to store your skateboards."

Now we're going to reward them with lockers.

Motion carried: 7 ayes, 1 nay, 0 abstentions.

- x. **Funding Motion: Walgrove Elementary School NPG** (submitted by Education, Arts & Culture Committee)

WHEREAS **Walgrove Elementary School** is situated in the increasingly popular westernmost edge of Mar Vista.

WHEREAS private fundraising at Walgrove has become critical in supplementing operating funds lost as a result of district-wide austerity measures.

WHEREAS Walgrove's popularity has been growing though less steadily recently so that anchoring enrollment is imperative not only for this school but for the integrity of the whole community as well.

WHEREAS community outreach is not only fun and good but crucial toward sustaining the school, its community and what makes the community so attractive.

BE IT RESOLVED that MVCC will contribute \$1250 toward supporting this community interaction which showcases current student's beloved Studio Lab learning and conveys its appeal to neighbors and their prospective students.

Motion to approve by Bill Scheduling, 2nd by Melissa Stoller.

Friendly amendment offered by Melissa Stoller: to the extent funds are available.

Withdrawn.

Discussion:

Sara Roos: Event is in Spring. Is something they will go ahead with or without MVCC funding. A teacher has been paying for this out-of-pocket.

Motion carried unanimously.

- xi. **Funding Motion: Richland Elementary School NPG** (submitted by Education, Arts & Culture Committee)

WHEREAS **Richland Elementary School** has initiated a dual language French instructional program.

WHEREAS materials at the school formerly devoted to conventional English-only instruction are wanting in French resources.

WHEREAS the MVCC has explicitly supported instigation of this popular program, commending it as an important aspect of local living that recommends Mar Vista to young families.

WHEREAS fundraising potential and discretionary budgeting among the school and its community are scarce.

BE IT RESOLVED that MVCC allocates up to \$1K for the purchase of dual language resources to the school as most befits its dual language learners.

Motion to approve by Bill Scheduling, 2nd by Sherri Akers.

Michael Millman recused himself—wife volunteers and teaches in French program.

Motion carried: 6 ayes, 1 nays, 0 abstentions, 1 recused.

- xii. **Funding Motion: Budget Balancing** (directors motion submitted by Bill Scheduling)

Whereas the MVCC budgets need an adjustment,

Therefore be it resolved to move \$5000 from acct 300 (CIG) to acct 100 (Operations) and

Therefore be it resolved to move \$6000 from acct 400 (NPG) to acct 500 (Elections).

Motion to approve by Bill Scheduling, 2nd by Ken Alpern.

Discussion:

Melissa Stoller: All expenditures should be booked to the correct budget category before we adjust the budget.

Motion carried: 6 ayes, 1 nay, 1 abstention (Mitchell Rishe).

6. **Public Comment**

Sarah Auerswald: How do I request an audit?

Sara Roos: Now there isn't funding for motions just passed.

Sherri: Akers Would like us to find out what other NCs do. Agrees that MER is just a report, not an accounting system.

7. **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 P.M.

* *In compliance with Government Code section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the board in advance of a meeting, may be viewed at <http://www.marvista.org> or at the scheduled meeting. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please contact secretary@marvista.org.*

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