



# Mar Vista Community Council



## MINUTES

Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors  
<http://www.marvista.org/minutes-and-agendas.php>  
Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019, at 7:00pm  
Mar Vista Recreation Center Auditorium  
11430 Woodbine Street, Mar Vista, CA 90066

### 1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m.

### 2. Presentation of Flag and Pledge of Allegiance

Mary Hruska led the board and the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### 3. Roll Call – Call of the roll and certification of a quorum

#### Attending Board Members:

Robin Doyno, Susan Klos, Mary Hruska, Rob Kadota (Vice-Chair), Elliot Hanna (Chair), Sara Roos (Secretary), Holly Tilson (Treasurer)

*With 7 members present, the board had a quorum. Additional board members arrived after roll call by 7:17 p.m.: Aaron Elster, Ken Alpern, Stacy Shure, Michelle Krupkin, Heather Kamins*

#### Non-attending Board Members:

Nanxi Liu

### 4. Community Memorial Observations

None.

### 5. Announcements

None.

### 6. Public Comment for Items NOT on This Agenda

**Brennan Lindner:** His company Generic Events produces fitness events in partnership with many Los Angeles non-profits. They have partnered with Herbal Life Nutrition to produce the new Herbalife 24 Triathlon, which will be on June 2<sup>nd</sup> starting at 6am at Venice Beach. It starts with a swim at Venice Beach, then cyclists will bike down Venice Blvd to La Brea, up La Brea to Olympic, right on Olympic and then they head downtown. They are expecting around 2,000 athletes to participate, including 30 pros. They are also training some people who just got out of a homeless program to compete in their first triathlon. They are currently reaching out to various neighborhood councils to let them know about the event. He used to be the outreach chair of the Venice NC, so he understands the need to communicate with all the NCs along the route. You can go to [herbalife24tri.la](http://herbalife24tri.la) for more information. The route is on election day but they will be off the roads by 8 a.m.

**Michelle Krupkin:** She said as Zone 5 director she represents Venice Blvd and the business district. Recently, a representative from the triathlon went to several business owners and had them sign something. The owners did not know that perhaps they were signing something that said that they agreed to support closing Venice Blvd. **Lindner:** He clarified that those documents did not have to do with supporting the event, but rather were notifying the owners Venice Blvd would be closed that day as required by the Bureau of Street Services. **Krupkin:** She recommended sending out someone who speaks Spanish because there were some issues with merchants that do not speak English. **Lindner:** He asked if there were any businesses in particular she would like him to go back to. **Krupkin:** The barber shop on Grandview.

**Harrison Hopkins, a resident of Zone 5:** He wanted to comment on a few of the zone 5 items in the input document for the Department of City Planning pertaining to the Community Plan (see Agenda Item 11.3). The document stated that for Zone 5 the board wanted to “Encourage family home ownership with R2/R3 lots as condos/townhouses NOT apartments when adjacent to R1 areas.” But, Mr. Hopkins commented, this language implies that apartments cannot be owned despite the large number of long-term family-owned apartments in the area. He read another quote from the Zone 5 “Design Elements: Building Height” sections: “Maintain the California life style. Mar Vista was originally developed for housing for Douglas employees and for returning veterans.” He said that such language came off as tone deaf as neither of these groups will be able to afford Mar Vista. Concerning, “Reduce motorized scooters and bikes to 5 mph on all streets,” He noted that 3 mph is the average walking speed, and said that since those vehicles are allowed in travel lanes they do not necessarily hinder traffic within zone 5. As for “Eliminate the protected bike lane (unsafe for all modes of transportation),” he said there is no data to back up that statement.

**Phil Ganchev:** He is volunteer with the Food & Water Watch and he asked for an opportunity to present an agenda item for the next meeting. He asked if this was the right time to do that. **Elliot Hanna:** He said it was not the right time, but Mr. Ganchev could ask now and that he would give Mr. Ganchev his contact information later. **Ganchev:** Mayor Garcetti recently announced that LA will abandon rebuilding gas-powered power plants. Ganchev asked for the MVCC board to express their support for that decision. He said that gas-powered facilities are dangerous on a local level and that communities have already long suffered from health defects from exposure. There was recently an explosion at a facility in Marina del Rey nearly killed a person and has made several residents sick.

**At 7:17 p.m. Elliot Hanna Noted for the record that MVCC board members Stacy Shure, Ken Alpern, Michelle Krupkin, Heather Kamins and Aaron Elster had arrived.**

**MVCC Board Member Robin Doyno:** He said the filing period to run for the Mar Vista Neighborhood council will be up next week, on Tuesday. He encouraged members of the Mar Vista community to run and get involved. He said a council member was once elected with as few as 16 votes. He distributed fliers.

**MVCC Board Member Susan Klos:** She said that the homelessness committee is putting together two educational presentations for the community. The first, “Homelessness 101” will deal with municipal codes and any sort of legal issues pertaining to the homeless. She has been trying to work with Adrian Acosta and Claudia Martin for three months on this but she still did not have a date yet for the presentation. “Homelessness 102” will be about service providers. The Los Angeles Homelessness Authority, got back to her within 24 hours saying they were interested in participating. Homelessness 102 will discuss the difference between bridge, transition and preventative support housing as well as outreach and anything pertaining to services for the homeless.

**Kalani Whittington:** She recently read an article that stated that 50,000 people a year are losing their residence in LA due to a number of factors including rising rents. She encouraged the community to contact the LA City Council to encourage them to modify rent control guidelines. Currently only buildings built pre-1978 must adhere to rent control guidelines. Since there are very few buildings left that were built before 1978, she believed that the city council should adjust that year to 1990 or 2000.

**Selena Inouye, representing the Westside Los Angeles Neighbors Network (WLANN):** She gave an update on WLANN’s CEQA appeal in front of the LA City Council. The City Council proper did not take a public comment on the appeal. The council delegated it to the transportation committee, which is not a decision-making body. She thanked the members of the MVCC that came and read their CIS in front of the transportation committee, despite being denied the opportunity to read it in front of the City Council. There were 174 letters sent to the transportation committee and 260 sent to City Council in support of the CEQA Appeal. She said they are currently having issues getting those letters attached to the council file. She also informed the MVCC that this will now move to the court because they were not able to resolve this on the city council level.

**MVCC Board Member Ken Alpern:** As the co-chair for MVCC's Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, he announced that the deadline to submit pothole locations to the LA City Bureau of Street Services (BSS) for their quarterly "pothole blitz" was tonight (3/12/19). He asked members of the community to contact him that night or the next day if there were any potholes they wanted to report so that he could inform the BSS in time for the blitz. He also said the BSS had done a good job with these repairs in the past.

**Bill Baine:** He said he is a Mar Vista resident, he coaches soccer, and his kids go to Mar Vista Elementary School. He wanted to inform the community about the "10-day escrow cash pitch" scheme that a lot of "generational door knockers" are using on Mar Vista's elderly residents. Often, realtors will knock on the doors of Mar Vista residents who have owned their homes for over 20 years and offer to buy those homes for cash. Those realtors target the elderly population and convince them that selling their homes off-market for cash is in their best interest, which Mr. Baine said is simply not true. Developers will pay realtors extra to find them off-market houses. The developers will then sell those properties for significantly more than they paid, using the realtors that found them the property in the first place. He believed it was important to inform his neighbors that it is in their best interest to preserve the integrity of this neighborhood and the long-term value by selling their homes on-market.

**7. Ex-Parte Communications and Conflicts-of-Interest - Each board member shall declare any ex-parte communications or conflicts-of-interest pertaining to items on or related to this agenda.**

**Holly Tilson:** She talked to several board members about community plans and other Treasurer matters – nothing she could benefit from, so no conflicts of interest.

**Ken Alpern:** He had a lot of T&I related communications and his City Watch articles, none of which benefitted him.

**Michelle Krupkin:** She has had a lot of communication with stakeholders and chairs about Great Streets. The MVCC Transportation & Infrastructure committee went to City Hall twice to attend the LA City Transportation Committee and City Council sessions. Nothing benefitted her.

**Heather Kamins:** She had conversations with stakeholders and other board members regarding city planning, the community plan, transportation, and Great Streets.

**Sara Roos:** None to report beyond conversations with stakeholders and other board members.

**Elliot Hanna:** He had some discussions primarily with Ms. Shure and Ms. Roos regarding the mechanics of the Community Plan.

**Rob Kadota:** None to report.

**Mary Hruska:** She had conversations with stakeholders and other board members concerning the community plan, transit issues and Great Streets Venice Blvd.

**Susan Klos:** She had conversations with stakeholders and the LAPD about homelessness issues. She also disclosed that daughter Rainbow volunteered and got a small payment from the board for her involvement with the Art Walk. However, Ms. Klos herself did not attend the Art Walk.

**Aaron Elster:** None to report.

**Stacy Shure:** She had sessions with the Dept of City Planning and its staff, the Planning Deputy for Council Member Koretz, and the HOA regarding the community plan Zone 1 information. She also spoke with CM Koretz's Planning Deputy about the CIS she planned to present at this meeting (see item 15.2).

**Robin Doyno:** He spoke to city worker concerning the Mar Vista election coming up, otherwise he had nothing to report.

**8. Adoption of the Agenda**

*With no objections the agenda was adopted.*

**9. Reading and Approval of Minutes – Reading and approval of the minutes from the most recent regular meeting(s) of the Board of Directors.**

The January 2019 minutes were available. Secretary Roos said the February 2019 minutes would be available on 3/15/19, so the vote on the Feb 2019 minutes was deferred until the next meeting.

**Mary Hruska** moved to approve the January 2019 minutes. **Susan Klos** Seconded.

*With no objections, the minutes stood approved.*

## 10. Reports

### 10.1. Elected Official and City Department Reports

**Joseph Galloway, Westside Deputy District Director for Councilmember Paul Koretz's office:** He had a few announcements:

- Councilmember (CM) Paul Koretz introduced a resolution regarding Senate Bill 50, which was reintroduced by State Senator Scott Wiener. The resolution asked for the city to oppose Senate Bill 50, which would allow construction of higher density multi-family housing developments near major transit stops that are out of compliance with local land use regulations and procedures unless amended to exclude the city of Los Angeles from its provision. He said if anyone would like to discuss this topic with CM Koretz's office to please call its number at City Hall – 213- 473-7005.
- CM Koretz and Councilmember Mike Bonin teamed up to celebrate LADOT's new Micro-Transit Shuttle Van Service. You can order a ride through LAnow's smartphone app and meet the shuttle at the scheduled LAnow pick-up and drop-off spot within the service area. The pickup drop-off spots are never more than a few blocks or 1/4 of a mile away. Or you can meet them at the LAnow rideshare hub at the Palms Expo station. Children 4 years and younger ride for free, adults ride for \$1.50 and seniors for 75 cents a ride. If you do not have a smartphone and cannot use the app you can call 818-493-6211.
- Metro has rolled out the new bike share stations in CD5, Westside Village. They were just installed at Sepulveda and Palms.

**Hannah Levien, Field Deputy Mar Vista and Del Rey for Councilmember Mike Bonin's office:** She had a few announcements:

- The first two rides with the LAnow shuttle van service are free. She brought informational fliers on the service.
- The Great Streets application now open.
- On February 21st, the CM Bonin, in partnership with Mayor Eric Garcetti announced that they are working to close down the LADWP's Scattergood Gas Plant in District 11 as part of a plan to allow the city to get 100% recycled Water by 2035.
- Athens, the trash collection company, reached out to her to announce their recycling ambassador program.
- With Budget season approaching, their office is prioritizing filling in potholes and resurfacing streets. She urges the community to contact her if they want help with that.

**Ami Fields-Meyer, West Area Representative for Mayor Eric Garcetti's office:** He had a few announcements:

- The Mayor has announced that he plans to phase out three gas power plants across LA and that the city will recycle 100% of its wastewater by 2035.
- Last week the Mayor announced this year's campaign to provide low to moderate-income households with free tax preparation services. It is called Free Tax Prep and you can contact him for more information.
- The Mayor's office in coordination with Supervisor Sheila Kuehl's office, CD5, CD11 and a few other officials will be hosting a Homeless Connect Day in Westwood on April 24th. They are currently looking for volunteers, so please contact him if you are interested.
- He said that he is starting a sporadic newsletter for the community. He passed out a clipboard for community members to write down their emails if they were interested.

**Venessa Serrano, with DONE:** She said that DONE was at the Mar Vista Farmer's Market this past Sunday talking with potential candidates for the upcoming elections and there were some questions about signatures. Per MVCC's bylaws, each candidate must collect 20 signatures from the Mar Vista Community Council stakeholders who are eligible to vote for them. Candidates can file their application on March 19th. There is a 3-day grace

period to submit all their documentation. The Elections Administrator will follow up with candidates to make sure all their documents are submitted by the final deadline on March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

- Also, the Empower LA awards are on March 28<sup>th</sup>.

## **10.2. Officer Reports**

### **10.2.1. Chair – Elliot Hanna**

He said he has had correspondence with the insurance company regarding the storage unit robbery. The claim is still in progress and they said it will close “soon”. He will report when he knows more.

### **10.2.2. 1st Vice-Chair – Rob Kadota**

He said that he had copies of the signature list for candidates for anyone who needed them.

Art Walk was this past Thursday. It was a lovely outreach event. The MVCC supported it with canopies.

He said that the MVCC does outreach at the Mar Vista Farmer’s Market every Sunday. If you are on a committee and want to participate, contact him and he will get you into the calendar. He said it is a good way to get the public’s reaction to a committee’s work.

He said he is currently working with MV rec center for the annual egg hunt. To encourage the community to ride their bikes to the event there will be a bike valet and repairs. It will be on Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup> 9am-12pm

### **10.2.3. 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair – Mary Hruska**

Nothing to report other than finding last-minute special meeting venues for various committees including PLUM.

### **10.2.4. Secretary – Sara Roos**

She said she filed two CISs with the City.

### **10.2.5. Treasurer – Holly Tilson**

The Neighborhood Watch signs should be arriving toward the end of this month. This signs project was two years in the making. The MVCC will notify the neighborhoods when they arrive.

## **10.3. Zone Director Reports – None due to length of agenda**

## **10.4. Committee Reports - None due to length of agenda**

## **11. Special Orders**

### **11.1. Presentation from L.A. City Sanitation – Brief presentation from LA Sanitation & Environment Public Information Director Tonya Durrell of the Los Angeles City Department of Sanitation regarding the Venice Interceptor Sewer Project.**

**Ali Poosti from the LA Sanitation Department:** He led a Powerpoint presentation explaining the need for and the scope of the Venice Interceptor Sewer Project. It will be the installation of a new sewer line along Venice Blvd. The current sewer system along Washington Blvd is running out of space. It will be almost 75% full in the near future. With that sort of sewer line there is a potential for overflow. The point of the project is to protect beaches and the environment from sewer water overflowing. It will also reduce the impact on the Washington Blvd sewer line and prevent flooding out of the sewer lines. They already have a contractor for the project who wants to do a combination of micro-tunneling and open-cut between Lincoln Blvd and Beethoven St. From Beethoven to Maplewood Ave it will be open-cut, and they will use micro-tunneling from Maplewood to Lincoln. It will take around 18 months to complete the project if they do it that way.

But LA Sanitation instead is proposing an entirely open-cut project on both the east and west side of Venice Blvd. They would put metal plates on the cuts during traffic hours to prevent any traffic issues. This method would allow the project to be completed faster.

They did an extensive study into whether it would be feasible to install alternate alignments on the narrow streets north and south of Venice Blvd, rather than Venice Blvd itself. The study showed that working on those narrow streets would have a huge negative impact on the neighborhood. It would prevent free flow traffic.

He said that in areas of LA where they have not addressed the sewer overflow issues properly there have instance of flooding. And the likelihood of overflow and flooding increases as the climate changes.

They considered upsizing the existing Washington Blvd Sewer system, which is typically the least expensive choice in this scenario. But, the subcharges in the Washington Blvd sewer do not allow for upsizing.

**Information Director Tonya Durrell:** She said that she and Mr. Poosti had come to the meeting in the spirit of partnership with the MVCC. There will be robust community outreach program in place for this project, that will include one on one briefings with stakeholders, an interactive website, community information line, and going door to door to stakeholders with updated instruction notices. They have also been in contact with the Venice neighborhood Council, Mar Vista Neighborhood Association, East Venice Community Association, and Venice High School. They have been communicating with Venice High School for a couple years, since it is a key stakeholder in the area.

There will be a Community Briefing on the project on March 20<sup>th</sup> at Mark Twain Middle school.

Throughout the project, the community can reach out to their team via its interactive website, their Clean Water Outreach email, an 800 customer care center number that is available 24/7 as well as a dedicated project hotline number.

#### **Board Comments:**

**Michelle Krupkin:** She said that as Great Streets co-chair she was concerned about the impact on both residential and commercial. She asked if the project would impact commercial stores along the route.

**Tonya Durrell:** She said they would be doing coordination ahead of time with small business stakeholders. They have already identified a number of them. They will be made aware of the construction and LA Sanitation and will work closely with them.

**Krupkin:** And this goes all the way up to Beethoven? **Durrell:** Yes.

**Krupkin:** She asked how this project will affect parking. Parking has been especially tight east of Beethoven. As there is no business improvement district, have they reached out to the Mar Vista Chamber of Commerce? **Durrell:** Yes, they have. LA Sanitation has invited them to the community briefing and they are on the contact notification list.

**Elliot Hanna:** He asked Ken Alpern if he could invite the LA Sanitation representative to a T&I committee meeting, as he felt that would be better venue for questions about the project.

**Stacy Shure:** Zone 1 is currently being impacted by a construction project at Venice And Sepulveda. She asked when this project would start and would it be ongoing at the same time as the Venice/Sepulveda project.

**Durrell:** She was not aware of the Venice/Sepulveda project. Their Venice Interceptor Sewer Project does not yet have a finalized schedule. But, the stakeholders will have advance notification as soon as LA Sanitation knows the start date.

**Krupkin:** She clarified that the construction at Venice/Sepulveda is a DWP project.

**Sara Roos:** She strongly requested that LA Sanitation coordinate with DWP.

**Durrell:** Their engineers have done a lot of pre-coordination with utilities and will continue to do so.

**Hanna:** He thanked them for their presentation and encouraged them to contact the T&I committee.

**11.2. Presentation Regarding Drawdown – Brief presentation from Jeanne Kuntz regarding Drawdown, information that suggests that global warming can be reversed.**

**Jeanne Kuntz, Chair of MVCC green committee:** She said there used to be a committee but now it is pretty much just here. She is not an environmental expert so she has invited environmental experts to come to her green tent at the farmer's market and share their information with the community one-on-one which has gotten people more involved. Her goal is to revitalize the green committee. She showed a chart that demonstrated that the US hugely contributes to greenhouse gasses and said that contribution is why it is incumbent upon us morally to do something about this, especially since we have the resources to do so. She said that Santa Monica is already taking steps to prepare for the draughts and rising sea levels that will result from global warming.

She encouraged members of the community to educate themselves on climate change and mention what they learned in casual conversation. She said you do not need to be an environmental activist to affect change. There are many educational resources including great podcasts and Anthony Bourdain's film "Wasted," which shows how other countries and communities are reducing food waste.

The Drawdown outlines the result of a lot of research by top scientists and lists the top 100 solutions that will reverse global warming not just slow it down. The top 10 solutions are: refrigerant management, wind turbines, reducing food waste, a plant rich diet, tropical forests, educating girls, family planning, solar farms, silvopasture and rooftop solar panels.

Many of those solutions have what she called collateral benefits. She talked about how reducing food waste could prevent giga-tons of greenhouse gases from being released into the atmosphere. Americans throw away 10% of their food budget. Being aware of how long food lasts can help the environment and save Americans money. She gave the example of choosing to buy an apple over a pear. An apple will last longer and you will be more likely to eat it before it goes bad and less likely to throw it out. She also said that a plant rich diet – even just a weekly "meatless Monday" – is good for both the environment and a person's health.

She encouraged the community to go to [drawdown.org](http://drawdown.org) to learn more and to contact her to get involved.

**11.3. [POLICY] [PLUM] Input Document for Department of City Planning – Discussion and possible action regarding an input document for the Department of City Planning pertaining to the Community Plan.**

**Mary Hruska:** She said that both she and Stacy Shure have been working on this since September of last year. They had monthly meetings and input from the community. The Department of City Planning (DCP) did not give them any sort of plan or idea of what the Input Document was supposed to comprise of. The plan is supposed to cover many things including mobility, zoning and infrastructure. So, they divided the input document up into the same accommodating sections. The first part is general considerations and the second part is zone specific input. The general considerations are a summary of the input from the entire community. And the zone specific inputs come directly from the 6 zone directors. They have opened the input document with a link to another document called "Distant Business," which was published by one of the docents at the Mar Vista Historical Society. This is the first input document will be sent to the Department of City Planning. The entire input process will take place over the course of about 3 years.

**Stacy Shure:** She said she was informed today by DCP that after they submit the input document to DCP that DCP will announce that they are holding open events and feedback seminars in the Mar Vista neighborhood at end of April or in early May. She and Hruska will have more information on that within two weeks, at which point they and DCP will explain what the next process is. The next process will involve beginning to review DCP's data and collaborating together on how they can use this information to start drafting the actual document that will guide

development and improvements in Mar Vista for the next 10 years. When DCP gives them dates for the events and seminars they will put them on the calendar and send out email blasts.

**Hruska:** She added that this input document would be available on MVCC's website tonight. She also thanked Catherine Wheeler for helping to format the document in a highly professional way.

#### **Board Questions:**

**Rob Kadota:** He asked them to talk about the outreach they used to develop the document.

**Shure:** Using Zone 1 as an illustration for other zones, they distributed 1300 questionnaires that had specific questions via email blasts and hand delivery. It had 2 pages for feedback on what residents did not like in the community, what they felt was missing or what they wanted to preserve. At an annual meeting in Zone 1 and they took notes on the resident's in-person feedback and collected questionnaires. Since then they have done a door-to-door collection effort and used email to get more questionnaires returned.

**Kadota:** Asked if that format used in all the zones.

**Shure:** She said a similar format was used because they had a questionnaire provided by DCP. So, she and Hruska took that and added additional questions for MV stakeholders. They also gave out links to the DCP website and had participation from a lot of stakeholders from all of Mar Vista. As a result of DCP's outreach efforts and kick off events, some stakeholders went directly to DCP's website to provide feedback which DCP will incorporate and share with MVCC PLUM later. There was also outreach through neighborhood associations and personal events. At the market, about 2 dozen stakeholders filled out questionnaires.

**Hruska:** Said that they also meet individually with each zone director to go over a rough draft of how they would do outreach in their particular zone. Also, there was an event that DCP came to at the fall festival and the zone walks.

**Kadota:** He said he was not aware of any of that happening in zone 4. He was aware of the questions going out in two zones but not in all 6.

**Sara Roos:** She said that outreach is difficult and imperfect. They have had monthly meetings and she knows that it is never enough. She said Ms. Wheeler got involved because she felt a bit disenfranchised with outreach events having to do with another project. This is an ongoing issue for every organization she knows of. She said DCP is planning more community events. She said that feedback is always requested and desired. The people who have been involved in this project have been working really hard, which she said she knew was never enough. But no one ever intended to disenfranchise the community. The meetings on this process will be ongoing for the next 3 years and the community will have many more opportunities to offer input.

**Hruska:** She said that this is not the end of input period. MV residents can still go to the Planning Westside website and fill out the survey which will go directly to DCP. Individual input is encouraged and available.

**Robin Doyno:** He asked if there a location in this document where he might find congruence between stakeholders and Sacramento concerning MV's density?

**Elliot Hanna:** He reminded the board that there must only be clarifying questions at this point.

**Shure:** The first portion of this document actually describes historical data that they got from DCP other sources that describe density, population and growth patterns here. It uses the city data and maps to clearly illustrate "who we are." At the end of the document, on page 46, each zone director has a description of their zone, what exists in their zone and a summary of feedback. These brief descriptions are not the description that will appear in the final document. There was also input from Art Walk. She spoke with DCP today and encouraged them to appear at Art Walk and other events. This is a preliminary document and the entire process will take three years – and they have already requested additional time. It is supposed to happen every 10 years, but it has not been done in 16 years because it is such a long process. PLUM is committed to getting as many people in the communities involved as possible, but they



have limitations. So, if she encouraged the community to direct others to the website to give feedback directly.

**Hanna:** He said the board was morphing the time allotted for technical questions into a general discussion. To clarify, he said technical questions are “what do you mean by this sentence” or things of that nature.

**Kadota:** Is there a due date for this document.

**Shure:** The due date for this first input document is March 13<sup>th</sup>. It is considered phase one of this process.

**Roos:** She asked if there was still time for Harrison Hopkins to submit the comments he made earlier.

**Shure:** Yes. She said she is still scanning documents.

**Harrison Hopkins:** He said he would email his comments to Ms. Shure.

**Michelle Krupkin:** She encouraged the community to come to meetings to be involved with this process.

**Public Comment:**

**A unidentified community member:** Asked where they can see the input document.

**Hanna:** He said it was on the MVCC website right now.

**Board Discussion:**

**Hanna:** Said that since this a first draft he would like to consider approving without amendment. He asked if there was a motion to approve the draft.

**Kadota:** He said that it does not say “first draft” on the document. He commended the effort the PLUM committee had put into it but noted that the document has not yet been vetted in a public forum. It was only published in this format today at 5 pm.

**Shure:** She expressed her frustration with DCP. PLUM has asked DCP what to do and what format to use. DCP has not given answers. DCP said to get feedback from the community, provide historical information which DCP provided the links to and to describe what information they had gathered so far. She said this is not the community plan update. This is just the first input phase.

**Kadota:** Asked if she would you be opposed to amending the title from “master input” to “initial input”

**Shure:** She had no objection to that. They asked DCP what to call it and DCP told them they did not even know what to call the document.

**Hanna:** He asked if there was any objection to changing the name from ““master input” document to “initial input” document.

*Stacy Shure moved an amendment to change the title from “Master Input Document” to “Initial Input Document” and to change the date to March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Ken Alpern seconded.*

**Amendment Motion Discussion:**

**Sara Roos:** She suggested wordily saying “first draft of the community plan committee approved by the MVCC but without public input.” This could clarify that the board supports that work but that it was not made by the whole body.

**Kadota:** He said committees do not operate independent and that the board will approve everything going forward. So that language would make a differentiation that doesn't really exist.

*Ken Alpern moved to end discussion and vote on the amendment motion.*

*The motion to end discussion and move to a vote on the amendment unanimously passed.*

*The motion to amend the language unanimously passed.*

**Hanna:** Asked if there were any further board comment on the document as amended. Hearing none, he took a vote.

*The chair abstained, otherwise the board unanimously voted yes and the document stood approved.*

**Shure:** She commented that the community plan committee meets the 4th Tuesday of every month at 7:30 pm at St. Andrew's Church. It is open to the public and she encourages the community to please come to the meetings and get involved.

12. **Consent Calendar – The Consent Calendar is reserved for items deemed to be routine and non-controversial. Any board member may pull an item or items for further discussion.**
  - 12.1. **[ADMINISTRATIVE][Executive and Finance] Monthly Expenditure Report – Approval of the Monthly Expenditure Report for ~~January~~ February, 2019**
  - 12.2. **[ADMINISTRATIVE] [Executive and Finance] Revised FY2018 – 2019 Budget – Approval of the revised budget for FY2018 – 2019**
  - 12.3. **[FUNDING][Elections and Bylaws] – Discussion and possible action regarding a request from the Elections and Bylaws Committee to appropriate an amount, not to exceed \$2,000, for signs to promote the upcoming MVCC election.**
  - 12.4. **[FUNDING][Emergency Preparedness] – Discussion and possible action regarding a request from the Emergency Preparedness Subcommittee to appropriate an amount, not to exceed \$300, for a “Disaster Survival Seminar.”**
  - 12.5. **[Funding][Education, Arts, and Culture] – Discussion and possible action regarding a request from the Education, Arts, and Culture Committee to appropriate an amount, not to exceed \$500, for a mobile graffiti wall at the Mar Vista Farmers' Market.**

**Holly Tilson:** She asked to make a correction to the agenda. This vote was meant to be for the February MER, not the January MER. It was corrected.

**Mary Hruska** moved to approve the Consent Calendar. **Susan Klos** seconded.

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Yes (11):** Robin Doyno, Susan Klos, Mary Hruska, Rob Kadota, Sara Roos, Holly Tilson, Aaron Elster, Ken Alpern, Stacy Shure, Michelle Krupkin, Heather Kamins

**Abstain (1):** Elliot Hanna

*The chair abstained, otherwise the motion passed unanimously.*

13. **Excluded Consent Items – Discussion and further action on items excluded from the Consent Calendar.**
14. **Unfinished Business and General Orders –**
  - 14.1. **[POLICY] Stakeholder Petition Regarding Venice Blvd. – Discussion and possible action regarding a stakeholder petition pertaining to the “Venice Blvd. Great Street.”**

**Selena Inouye, author of the item:** Said the Item was originally brought in November because at the March open house the community was promised a follow up open house or town hall in December to discuss the one your data, which did not happen. She directed their attention to the last paragraph of the motion as that language was what she was requesting the MVCC to declare. Furthermore, she no longer planned to send a letter but asked the MVCC to consider withdrawing their support for the pilot program given all that has happened with it.

Her concern was the MVCC was still on the record continuing to support it, which could reflect poorly on them especially if something adverse happened because of the pilot program.

**Public Comment:**

**Selena Inouye:** Speaking as a stakeholder, she said she felt that MVCC should withdraw its support from the program. She said Mike Bonin is not interested in working with MVCC anymore. The spirit of the pilot project is gone and it is no longer a collaboration, it is a political agenda. She said CD11, LADOT and Mayor Garcetti all disrespected the MVCC by not including the MVCC in the decision-making process. And this would dovetail with the resolution of disapproval the MVCC has already passed.

**Vanessa Diaz:** She said that not everyone is against the pilot program and that there are varying levels of opinions.

**Sheri Odere:** She said has been here before and it would be nice if the MVCC would support the majority of stakeholders who are against to this pilot and have been suffering with cut through traffic and other issues.

**Kalani Whittington:** Said that in her research on this issue she was reminded that wealthier communities like Playa del Rey, Playa Vista and Manhattan Beach were able to have the Vision Zero Great Streets reversed immediately. She was reminded of the Tuskegee Syphilis Project, a project that was forced upon the poor by the government. Mar Vista is not a poor community, but it is not as affluent as other communities beach bordering areas. She said it seemed to her as though Mar Vista was being targeted as an experiment to see if this project could work. And that LA City Council is disregarding all the evidence showing that it is not improving safety. She asked if they're concerned about safety, what about helmets for scooter riders, traffic congestion and all the studies that LADOT ignored?

**Harrison Hopkins:** He said wanted to echo Ms. Diaz statement, that not all stakeholders in the area are against the project. He also pointed out that the motion that was passed by the board against the program was not against the entire program itself but rather the communications surrounding it. He said it sounds like even within the MVCC there are communication issues. He has lived in both Zone 5 and at the corner of Barrington and Gateway and he never got any community plan updates, which made him feel disenfranchised. He is a renter, and he felt there is not a lot of outreach made toward renters or younger people. He said that just because there was a communication issue with Great Streets that doesn't mean that they should "throw the baby out with the bathwater." The traffic data that has been released has shown that traffic flows just as it did before. Cross street traffic is increasing but there are different methods that can be used to reduce that, like stop signs.

**Gabriel Hill, co-chair of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the Great Streets Committee:** He said he has supported the program from the beginning and continues to support it, despite the communication problems. Venice Blvd did not start with 6 lanes, it started with 2 lanes. Now the community has 4 lanes and one bike lane. He asked the MVCC to step back and consider which side of history do they want to be on. He asked if they want to continue on this track where there are cars everywhere.

**Kathryn Wheeler:** She said she got involved with the MVCC because she did feel disenfranchised. When she was recently getting signatures to run for the board, the majority of the people she talked to hated Great Streets. So, she said she wanted to talk with Ms. Diaz and others who do like Great Streets, so that she can hear from all sides. She felt it was important to have that conversation. Unfortunately, CM Bonin has not followed through on his promises. If Bonin had not said on Facebook that it was permanent, she thought things would be different. She wanted the board to use a little stronger language to request that Bonin come out and talk to the MVCC. They need to somehow hold him accountable. She also said she supports renters. Many of her friends are renters. Great Streets had torn the community apart which she said hurt because she loved everyone in it.

**Angeline Jacobs:** Said she has lived in Mar Vista since 1964 – she is 90 years old. She wanted to take issue comment made earlier about the traffic being the same on Venice Blvd. Venice is fine, but Palms Blvd in the evening is car-to-car like a parking lot going eastbound beginning at Maplewood. It has interfered with her driving at that hour of the night. She said she sided with the people against this project. Many people used to frequent shops on Venice Blvd that are now closed. And she cannot even get to her hairdresser without risking her life trying to get across the bicycle lane.

**Russ House:** Said he has been neutral on the project in general. He lives west of the area and it does not affect him personally. But he has been unimpressed by the whole communication and decision-making process about this. When the 1-year pilot program was announced there was no criteria given by which would be decided whether to continue the program. That made it a lot easier to just say nothing for six months and then announce it was a success after they had time to cook the numbers in a way that would look attractive. If you look closely at the data there was only a reduction in accidents because they withheld accidents at the Wade/Venice intersection. They also ignored that west of Centinela accidents still happened, even though east of Centinela they went down. This is intellectually dishonest. If this was this is a private sector investigation, somebody would have gotten fired the very least called out for the poor planning and lack of criteria that was set. This is troubling because the “1-year-pilot” phrase is used for a lot of other things in LA, notably the scooter pilot. There is no criteria for whether the scooter pilot will be considered a success or failure.

**Tyler LaFerrier:** He said he lives in Zone 1 but spends a lot of his off time on Venice Blvd. He wanted to “echo his fellow millennials,” by telling the board that almost everyone he has talked to in the area is actually deeply in favor of the Great Streets initiative on Venice.

**Wayne Wheeler:** He said that he thought the main issue was that this was a top-down push into the community. No one feels it was the community’s plan to do this, but rather DOT and downtown Los Angeles’ plan. This has resulted in a lot of anger in the community. He said he hoped the MVCC could develop some communication with CM Bonin. It did not happen in the right way and he wanted to make sure other things did not get pushed top-down into the community.

**Elliot Hanna:** Said that CM Bonin has made it abundantly clear that he is not interested in what the MVCC has to say. There is no action that the MVCC can take that will change Bonin’s mind. There is a lawsuit in process and the court will eventually make a ruling on whether to reverse it or not. Hanna said he did not plan to try to kill this item but he felt that the MVCC needed to come to the reality that these items they spend time on month after month are dead on arrival when they sent to CD11. He said he is not a proponent of the project, but he is practical.

#### **Board Comment:**

**Sara Roos:** She agreed with Hanna. She said the public comments reflected the anger in the community and recalcitrance from the CM’s office. There are distinct parts to what the community is discussing – some people were talking about the concept of having a bike lane, others about the furtherance of data and its possible manipulation, and others about the communication issues. This leaves the MVCC with a practical problem in front of them, given the political reality that has been imposed on the community. She is not sure what the MVCC can practically get out of continuing to insist that CM Bonin come speak when he is clearly is not interested in speaking to them. She said that a private company is doing this project and that they are not being open about the process as they should be. Also, many people in the community have approached her, from millennials to people in their 40s-50s, and literally whispered in her ear that they support the road diet but they do not feel comfortable saying it. She did not know what the true spectrum of options in the community were. Regardless, she asked how passing their 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> resolution to try to get CM Bonin to come speak to them was going could help solve the practical problem of the anger in the community.

**Elliot Hanna:** Asked Hannah Levien if the board had mischaracterized their communication issue with CM Bonin – that Bonin has made his decision and nothing from the MVCC can change that.

**Hannah Levien:** She said the decision for Great Streets to remain as is, as the configuration stands, is final.

**Ken Alpern:** He said there is a reason we have the Brown Act. A loud minority that speaks over the overwhelming majority is not democracy, it is tyranny. When the Expo Line was being planned every single motion supporting the Expo line that came from the MVCC was voted on and Brown Act compliant. Alpern told Ms. Levien that he respected her but to please let CM Bonin know that he had the right to make it final but he does not have the right to not speak to the MVCC, to do this behind closed doors, and to do this non-democratically. Alpern said that was tyranny and “God hates cowards.” Even the proponents of the road diet think that this is horrible. If Bonin had followed civics rules then the project could have been modified as projects once were with Bill Rosendahl. For 15 years, under CM Bill Rosendahl, there was Brown Act complaint work to create a downtown Mar Vista on Venice Blvd only for it all to be thrown away and done without warning. The Great Streets project could have been better. Most of the cyclists Alpern has talked to hate this configuration and are afraid for their safety. Firemen and police officers have said that they are concerned. This project is one lawsuit away from being overturned. When this goes through with the false narrative that the community was equally divided, Alpern said he wanted it on the record that he was concerned about Public Safety

**Michelle Krupkin:** She said the lack of transparency has been unbelievable. She is a democrat and she canvased for Bonin’s reelection. She founded the Great Streets committee in Oct 2014 and has been running that committee with various co-chairs ever since. But now she believed she “was sold a bill of goods” and that the lack of community input was abysmal. There are other configurations of Venice Blvd on the books that would have made bicyclists safer. They would have cost more money but they would have been better. A Mobility deputy told her that all they used for the pilot was paint and ballads. They did not reach out to whole community even though the surveyor, Fehr & Peers, said they did. Krupkin said that Seleta Reynolds, the head of LADOT, used to be an executive of Fehr & Peers and now regularly awards them contracts. They only surveyed 420 people, 100 of which were highschool, non-voting people. She said they were lied to – they were told that if they did not like it, it would be put back the way it was and there would always be engagement. She said the stakeholder petition was about that lack of engagement.

**Mary Hruska:** She said the project had the veneer of righteousness and nothing else. It has done nothing to make Venice Boulevard safer. It has possibly created new safety hazards and it has caused a feud that has split the community apart. She believed that would be the legacy of Great Streets, Venice Blvd.

**Rob Kadota:** He said that it is not the decision, but how we act toward one another and how we treat one another that is divisive.

**Robin Doyno:** He said this item was introduced by its maker tonight as a veiled threat for something that the MVCC has indemnity for. He also said that he thought the community needed to stop focusing on just this one issue and start focusing in its other issues.

**Holly Tilson:** She said did not like the way CM Bonin handled this. She lives Zone 6 and while she does care what gets done on Venice Boulevard personally, her zone 6 residents do. They have been impacted by it and the community has been lied to. She felt that the whole project was a bait-and-switch and that is what the community is upset about. The MVCC has been treated with disrespect and she wanted an apology from CM Bonin.

**Ken Alpern:** Asked Selena Inouye to repeat her suggested amendment to the motion.

**Selena Inouye:** She asked the board to focus their attention on the last paragraph of the petition. Based on what they have heard from CD11, that there will be no townhall or discussions, she said that her suggestion was for the MVCC to withdraw its support from the pilot project.

**Ken Alpern** moved for an amendment, in the form of a substitute, for the MVCC to withdraw its support from the Great Streets Pilot Program.

**Board Questions:**

**Kadota:** He asked if the support can be retroactively withdrawn for the pilot project. He said the project wasn't even a pilot project anymore.

**Doyno:** Point of order – he said the current board does not consist of the same members that it did when the support was issued and therefore cannot withdraw its support.

**Alpern:** He said his response to the POI is that it makes no difference. The board was reconstituted because the stakeholders made it clear that they were tired of being misrepresented. And it makes no difference that the make-up is not the same because the MVCC is still the same representative body. Just because there are different phases doesn't necessarily mean the MVCC can't go back on something especially when the makeup of the board changes because they felt that their support was used against them and based on a false narrative.

**Hanna:** He said the chair is prepared to rule on the Point of Order. The Point of Order was not well taken. The constitution of the board changes all the time. That is not a reason that the board can't go back and revisit it. The point of order is overruled.

**Aaron Elster** moved to amend the last sentence of the document to say *"Furthermore, the letter will withdraw the Mar Vista Community Council's support for the Venice Blvd Great Streets Pilot Project."*

**Public Comment on the Amendment:**

**Roos:** She said the second clause of the document is extremely declarative. She found that language ambiguous and angry.

**Sara Roos** moved for an amendment of the second rank to delete the second clause starting with *"No transportation project..."* and ending with *"without the approval of MVCC and its stakeholders."*

*The was no second and the amendment died.*

**Continued Public Comment on Aaron Elster's amendment:**

**Gabriel Hill:** He asked what MVCC would replace Great Streets with and if they would they support another project in its place.

**Hanna:** He said he could not answer that because it was not an item under consideration right now.

**Selena Inouye:** She thanked Mr. Elster for the amendment.

**Ms. Odere:** She told the board to please vote in favor of supporting the stakeholders.

**Vanessa Diaz:** She asked if at some point the board could move on from this topic so that it does not spend every meeting discussing this one issue and can focus on other issues in the community. She said she agreed with Mr. Doyno's earlier similar comment.

**Kalani Whittington:** She said she agreed with Ms. Inouye and said that those who wish to get into detail about this or other issue should attend committee meetings. She also commented that this issue has at least brought out 5 new people to the meeting.

**Harrison Hopkins:** He rhetorically asked what the goal of the motion is. What does withdraw support for the project mean for the community? Why would Bonin start listening to them now when he never has before? And could this hurt potential attempts at communication with Bonin in the future?

**Vern Tuck Taylor:** He said he is a 34-year resident of Mar Vista and has several properties here. He is in support of a concept to reduce automobile transportation in the world. He urges the MVCC to try to find another way since this project did not work.

*Vote on Mr. Elster's amendment:*

**Yes (7):** Elliot Hanna, Mary Hruska, Sara Roos, Holly Tilson, Ken Alpern, Aaron Elster, Michelle Krupkin

**No (3):** Rob Kadota, Robin Doyno, Susan Klos

**Abstain (2):** Heather Kamins, Stacy Shure

*With 7 yes votes, the amendment motion passed.*

*Vote on the motion as amended:*

**Yes (5):** Mary Hruska, Holly Tilson, Ken Alpern, Aaron Elster, Michelle Krupkin

**No (4):** Rob Kadota, Robin Doyno, Susan Klos, Heather Kamins

**Abstain (3):** Stacy Shure, Elliot Hanna, Sara Roos

*With 5 yes votes the motion passed.*

*Stacy Shure asked to move 15.2 directly after 14.1. With no objections the item was moved.*

**15.2 [POLICY][PLUM] Support of resolution protecting buildings considered for historical designation (CF# 16-0988-S1) - Discussion and possible action regarding a Community Impact Statement in support of Councilmember Koretz' protecting buildings considered for historic designation.**

**Stacy Shure:** Said that CM Koretz, seconded by CM Bonin, introduced a resolution that closes a loophole that did not prevent developers from demolishing building while they were still being nominated and considered for historical preservation. She this has happened in Mar Vista the community lost a historical building. The proposed CIS states that MVCC supports Koretz's resolution to put an immediate moratorium on any historical building pending a final determination of its historical status. Koretz's office specifically requested this CIS from the MVCC.

**Robin Doyno** moved to approve the CIS. **Sara Roos** seconded.

*Without objection the motion was approved.*

**14.2. [POLICY] [Great Streets] Independent Traffic Study – Discussion and possible action regarding an item - requesting a community panel and an independent traffic study of the Venice Boulevard Great Street project - amended at the 11/13/2018 BoD meeting and committed to the Great Streets Subcommittee.**

There was no time to hear this item before the meeting's hard stop at 9:30. It will be rescheduled for a future meeting.

- 14.3. [POLICY] [Great Streets] ADA Evaluation of Venice Blvd. – Discussion and possible action regarding an item requesting an ADA evaluation of the Venice Blvd. project

There was no time to hear this item before the meeting's hard stop at 9:30. It will be rescheduled for a future meeting.

15. **New Business**

- 15.1. [POLICY][PLUM] Potential impacts of SB50 (CF#18-1226) – Discussion and possible action regarding a Community Impact Statement in support of Councilmember Koretz' motion instructing the Planning Department to report back on the potential impacts to Los Angeles from Senate Bill 50.

Withdrawn without objection.

- 15.2. ~~[POLICY][PLUM] Support of resolution protecting buildings considered for historical designation (CF# 16-0988-S1) – Discussion and possible action regarding a Community Impact Statement in support of Councilmember Koretz' protecting buildings considered for historic designation.~~

Moved up.

- 15.3. [POLICY][Transportation and Infrastructure] – Opposition to Rose and Sepulveda traffic signal – Discussion and possible action regarding a resolution opposing the proposed traffic signal at Rose and Sepulveda.

There was no time to hear this item before the meeting's hard stop at 9:30. It will be rescheduled for a future meeting.

16. **Adjournment**

*Ken Alpern moved to adjourn. Elliot Hanna seconded.*

*Without objection the meeting was adjourned at 9:32 p.m.*

Underlined text indicates further details can be found in supplemental materials available at the meeting.