



# Mar Vista Community Council



## MINUTES

### Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

<http://www.marvista.org/minutes-and-agendas.php>

Tuesday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019, at 7:00pm

St. Andrew's Lutheran Church  
11555 National Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90064

#### 1. Call to order

Meeting called to order at 7:03 by Elliot Hanna

Roll Call: Rob Kadota, Selena Inouye, Andrea Ambriz, Christine Stemar, Gabriel Hill, Armond Seretti, Elliot Hanna, Mary Hruska, Kathryn Wheeler, Stacy Shure, Martin Rubin, Holly Tilson, Michelle Krupkin

Floor yielded to Vanessa Serrano who oversees various neighborhood councils throughout Los Angeles. She takes care of the installation of the board of directors. Tonight she will oversee the election for new executive board, then board chair will take over. New board members have her card should there be additional questions. There are also training opportunities in West Los Angeles. If there are ideas about additional training not currently offered, please let her know.

#### 2. Special orders

##### 2.1. Installation of newly-elected Board-of-Directors

Roll call confirmation and confirmed zones for each board member. All present board members stood and took the Neighborhood Council Oath. Board members were sworn in by reading the oath. Copy of the oath is available in Spanish as well. No translations needed.

##### 2.2. Election of new executive board – Nomination and election of Chair, First Vice-Chair, Second Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer for FY2019-2020.

Vanessa explained the nomination and election process. Each candidate will get 2 minutes. By-laws state majority will win. Every officer serves for a one-year term.

*Public comments on the election of the executive board:*

**Robin Donyo**—Expressed concerns and asked attendees if they want to be represented by this particular group of people since 4 members engaged in illegal electioneering. Suggests a consultation to remedy and to get to a point of ethics. Donyo stated that the City of L.A. said a letter of reprimand is a sufficient response for the behavior of Elliot Hanna, Michelle Krupin, Selena Inouye, and Christine Stemar—all of whose behavior, according to Donyo, resulted in clouding the election for one community representative candidate, one Zone 5 candidate, nine At-Large candidates and 1,200 plus voters. One candidate lost by only 2 votes. This must be addressed. Believes the only resolution is another election, which could be viewed as too expensive. Disqualifications could injure some mostly innocent candidates and a random drawing for these four seats would raise objections.

**Harrison Hopkins** – Feels there is no rush to have wrongdoers on the council. Suggests the offending members be required to write letters of apology to candidates and to the community before they are officially seated on the board. This could be the first action of this new board.

**Michael Millman** – Thank people who brought the egregious electioneering to our attention. When you have real fact, bring in proper format—not hearsay. If the board was compromised, need an official person from the City

with accusations presented on time in advance so they could respond. Ambushing without evidence is reprehensible. No competent lawful evidence to challenge the board.

**Jason Fineis** – Robin was electioneering 70 feet from election board for hours on election day.

**Vanessa Diaz** – Mike and Jason are engaging in personal attacks. Some of the challenges were affirmed. Some were elected the right way. Others not. She would like this to stop.

**Adriana De La Cruz** – Whatever the findings of the city, differences of opinion are normal. We are all one community. Board members are neighbors so let's meet each other.

Nomination and election for the Mar Vista Community Council. Vanessa read the rules.

**Opened Nominations for Chair:**

- Vanessa read duties of the position
- Martin nominated Elliot Hanna for Chair. Elliot accepted the nomination.
- Kathryn nominated herself.
- Rob nominating Andrea. Andrea declined.
- Vanessa closed nominations.
- Elliot and Kathryn took two minutes to address the board.
- Gabriel wanted to know if the allegations should be addressed before the nomination.
- Vanessa said this should be set on a future agenda.

Elliot: Thanked Rubin for nomination. He's been Chair for past year. Some like what he's done. Some don't. His sole desire is for this board to represent the stakeholders--not the council office or the Mayor. He will do this fairly. During his term as Chair, he appointed committee members, many of whom did not agree with him. But it gave a balanced voice to the community. He will continue to do that.

Kathryn: To be true to the stakeholders who put me into office, I have to acknowledge that Outreach is essential to representation.

MVCC's Outreach issues are not new; yet, could have been mitigated by granting the REQUEST of an Outreach co-chair who "BEGGED" to be replaced.

Plus, there has been a couple of divisive years where two sides have tried to silence each other.

Providing Mar Vista with new leadership is a good step towards bringing Mar Vista together again.

As an independent, I can freely work with all sides without reservation or concern about the past or the next election.

My qualifications begin with the last five months of what I have been able to achieve as a stakeholder.

Other qualifications include:

President of an incorporated limousine service for over a dozen years.

Local chapter President for a national organization. The Board seated 18. Duties included accountability to both the national and local organizations. After two years of my leadership, monthly meetings with six attending grew to roughly 200 attending twice a month.

A Social Media Director for a national campaign supervising 45 volunteers, handling over a 100 Facebook Pages with additional Twitter and other social media accounts.

I will always tell you the truth, I will always tell you if I can or cannot do something before I commit to doing it. I am not perfect and I will make mistakes. I will apologize for them, and I will need your forgiveness.

Unlike other candidates, I am not encumbered by a 40-hour job, children, or even retirement. I am free to spend my time and energy working to empower each of you and everyone in Mar Vista.

I would greatly appreciate your vote. I will not let you nor Mar Vista down. Thank you.

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Vanessa allowed two questions from the board.

Gabriel asked did either of them receive a letter of reprimand. They both responded no.

Andrea asked if they would commit to addressing the issues/allegations of electioneering.

Elliot will take the matters into consideration.

Kathryn will talk to people who feel disparaged and see what can be done. It is news to her. Would like stakeholders to feel confident in every election. Public disclosure is needed.

Robin Doyno – Point of clarification. Elections division did sustain the challenges against the four people.

Stacy asked if the city found that the effect of any complaint had an effect on voting. Complaints were investigated. Did not make anyone's candidacy invalid.

Vanessa is going to use the official list of candidates from the city clerk which was sent after any complaints were reported and investigated.

Robin says the sustaining of charges may not have arrived yet. Elections department sent out a letter of reprimand.

Vanessa took the vote (No one needed to recuse themselves based on the issue of electioneering)

VOTE:

- Elliot – voted for Elliot
- Stacy voted for Elliot
- Martin voted for Elliot
- Mary voted for Elliot
- Armand voted for Elliot
- Michelle voted for Elliot
- Holly voted for Elliot
- Christine voted for Elliot
- Selena voted for Elliot
- Andrea abstained
- Rob abstained
- **Kathryn voted for Kathryn**
- **Gabriel abstained**

ELLIOT HANNA wins and is voted in as Chair

**Election of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair**

Vanessa read duties of position.

**NOMINATIONS:**

- Armond nominated himself.
- Kathryn nominated herself.
- Stacy nominated Martin. He accepted.
- Rob nominated Andrea. She accepted.
- Vanessa gave each candidate one minute to speak.

Armond – Has concerns with process. Will look into problem for honest review of the problem. New blood needed on executive board. Would like to learn the process and what it is to serve on board. Genuine reasons.

Kathryn – reiterated what she said before. Would like someone not on a slate to win. She wants to rep community.

Martin – Activist for 20 years. Experience in meetings like this. Can step in when Elliot is unable to chair. He knows how to do this. Not part of the slate. Ran as individual. Hopes we can all move forward for benefit of entire community.

Andrea – Represent together the neighborhood residents and business owners. In the past few months, we have been engaging with stakeholders. We engaged them as volunteers, intending to use our experience to build a more communal Mar Vista. It is important to bring in new energy and representation to the board. Labor of love. Intention to build community. Experience in government and community engagement.

**VOTE:**

- Elliot voted for Martin
- Stacy voted for Martin
- Martin voted for Martin
- Mary voted for Martin
- Armond voted for Armond
- Michelle voted for Martin
- Holly voted for Martin
- Christine voted for Martin
- Selena voted for Martin
- Andrea voted for Andrea
- Rob voted for Andrea
- Kathryn voted for Kathryn
- Gabriel voted for Andrea

MARTIN RUBIN is elected 1<sup>st</sup> Chair

**Election of 2<sup>nd</sup> vice chair.**

Vanessa read duties of the position.

**NOMINATIONS:**

- Kathryn nominated herself
- Martin nominated Michelle. Michelle accepted
- Rob nominated Andrea. Andrea accepted
- Holly nominated Armond. Armond accepted.

Each candidate was given one-minute to speak.

Kathryn – Asked that they vote for her.

Michelle – On council since 2013. Knows procedure. Honored to be nominated and would like to serve. Wants to be part of team that reaches out to community orgs to increase more business impact.

Andrea – Continuation of former statement. Engage organizations in a conversation about what the rules and responsibilities of an NC would be.

Armond – Nothing to add to previous statement.

**VOTE:**

- Elliot voted for Michelle
- Stacy voted for Michelle
- Martin voted for Michelle
- Mary voted for Michelle
- Armond voted for Michelle
- Michelle voted for Michelle
- Holly voted for Michelle
- Christine voted for Michelle
- Selena voted for Michelle
- Andrea voted for Andrea
- Rob voted for Andrea
- **Kathryn voted for Kathryn**
- **Gabriel voted for Andrea**

MICHELLE KRUPKIN is voted in as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice chair

**Election of Secretary.**

Vanessa read duties.

**NOMINATIONS:**

- Stacy nominated Mary. Mary accepted.
- Elliot nominated Armond. Armond accepted.

Candidates have 1 minute to speak.

Mary – Always wanted to serve the community. Will do whatever is required to best of her ability. Been on board since 2017.

Armond – Nothing to add.

VOTE:

- Elliot voted for Armond
- Stacy voted for Mary
- Martin for Mary
- Mary voted for Mary
- Armond voted for himself
- Michelle voted for Mary
- Holly voted for Mary
- Christine voted for Mary
- Selena voted for Mary
- Andrea voted for Armond
- Rob abstained
- Kathryn abstained
- Gabriel abstained

MARY HRUSKA is voted in as Secretary

**Election of Treasurer.**

Vanessa read duties of position.

NOMINATIONS:

Elliot nominated Holly. Holly accepted

Andrea nominated Gabriel. He declined.

VOTE:

- Elliot voted for Holly
- Stacy voted for Holly
- Martin voted for Holly
- Armond voted for Holly
- Michelle voted for Holly
- Holly voted for Holly
- Christine voted for Holly
- Selena voted for Holly
- Andrea voted for Holly
- Rob voted for Holly
- Kathryn voted for Holly
- Gabriel voted for Holly

HOLLY TILLSON unanimously voted in as Treasurer.

Vanessa closed elections and turned the meeting back over to the Chair.

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

Done and completed

**4. Public comment for items NOT on this agenda**

**Melissa Stoller** – congratulated board on election. Many signs during election West Los Angeles Neighbors Network in close proximity to Selena’s sign. She is part of the network. The signs encouraged voter participation. People said they were official signs. Govoteneighbors.com was on the signs and also links to candidate endorsements including Elliot, Selena, and another person she can’t recall. Re: elections, the site states “we are working collaboratively by doing community outreach and social posts.” As a stakeholder would like to know what the collaboration was between this political organization that endorsed the slate and the counsel.

**Robin Doyno** – Elections division did not send out the letters. No question that this is not a bogus charge. Four of his challenges were sustained. Michelle, Selena, Christine and Elliot found to be electioneering. There was an improperly placed sign. He followed the rules. Believes there should be some clean up.

**Suzanne Hines** – welcomed the new board. Addressing the future. Wants to see Mar Vista with a dog park. Rec. Center is enormous and has room. Forced to pay money to Santa Monica to use their dog park. Santa Monica and Culver would pay to come here if we had a dog park. Wishes them all luck in new positions.

**Tyler LeFerriere** – Good way for board to commit to representing stakeholders would be to create a Renters’ Subcommittee (60-61% of Mar Vista). He is happy to lead it. Create a Children and Family subcommittee as well. Elliot asked that they talk.

**Michael Millman** – Will not relitigate the election. June 29 is a chance to show that Mar Vista is about loving each other at the MV Neighborhood Association annual block party and picnic from 12-4. Winward football field. Outstanding food and music. Neighbors come and have a good time. Mayors, president of city counsels and assembly people, state senators and politicians come. Considered one of the largest block party in the entire city. Invited everyone to come.

**Adriana De La Cruz** – Aging subcommittee should be created. Good skill sets. Her heart is also set on a Green subcommittee.

**Hanna Levien** – on behalf of counsel member Mike Bonin covering Mar Vista and Del Rey. Shared a letter. Development proposed on McLoughlin and Charnock. Wrote to ask that it not be approved. She will give a letter to the board.

Rob Kadota left 8:01pm

**Harrison Hopkins** – Please support the Green Committee. Background in organic gardening. Ran it at his art school in NC. Hopes to see this come back. Looking forward to the renters committee. Reminds them that they rep all stakeholders. Everyone here are stakeholders, including homeless people. Beholding to them. There has been rhetoric re: renters and homeless.

**Stacy Shure** clarified that though these statements [that Harrison Hopkins references] were reprehensible, they were not made at a public meeting. She would never allow that.

Public comments closed.

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

Stacy requested that the minutes be in a bigger font as she can't read them so she can't vote on them.  
Holly moved to postpone vote to July meeting. Martin 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion carried without objection.

**6. 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.

Elliot explained what this is. It is in Bylaws. Have you had discussions outside of the meeting about anything on this agenda. That must be disclosed here.

Michelle discussed the need to meet and vote on budget with some board members and stakeholders.

Selena - Question of when budget has to be done

Armond spoke to board members about running for the board.

Elliot spoke about it as well

Mary spoke about board elections and concerns about meeting scheduling

Stacy discussions re: soliciting positions on the exec board

Martin spoke with member re opinions or qualifications for officers

Holly spoke about admin packet and board members re: why we need to do it. People wanting to be an Exec. Board member. No money. No conflict.

**7. Adoption of the agenda**

No objections to agenda order. Approved as written

**8. 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.

MER –

**Stacy** – received an email that one of the funding requests was rejected because it was for future expenses. Elliot didn't know. Holly said it was \$1,200 for Mar Vista Famers Market. City clerk allowed us to pay at end of year, but not this year, so she will resubmit in September with new board.

**Selena** – MER represents period when she was not a board member. Would like to abstain from conversation about it.

Elliot says she may abstain should she so chooses.

Elliot asked if everyone completed training. Andrea did not so must abstain. Martin also did not take it but was not informed that he needed to. He must abstain from this vote.

Motion to approve the consent calendar by Kathryn. Second by Mary.

VOTE:

Eight ayes

Zero noes

Four abstentions (Andrea Ambriz, Martin Rubin, Selena Inouye, Elliot Hanna)

Approval carries (1 Absent: Rob Kadota)



**[FUNDING][ExFin] Approval of May MER** – Discussion and possible action regarding the Monthly Expense Report for May, 2019

**9. Excluded consent items** – Discussion and further action on items excluded from the Consent Calendar. NONE

**10. Unfinished business and general orders** – None

**11. New business**

**11.1. [FUNDING][Tilson] FY2019-2020 administrative packet** – Discussion and possible action regarding the administrative packet for FY2019-2020 including the appointment of financial officers (card-holder, second-signer, and alternate-signer).

Holly explained that board members have received draft budget in Fiscal Administrative packet. We have \$42K.

Can carry over up to \$10K. There is currently approximately \$7,500 left over and it will carry it over.

Packet includes who will be cardholders, 2<sup>nd</sup> Signer, Alternate Signer and Treasurer. . Must submit it to the city so financial officers can get the credit cards and pay bills. Actual budget is broken into Office/Operational, Outreach, Elections, NPGs, and Community Improvement Projects (CIPs) Detailed monthly expenses are on page one. Won't need motions for each expense, according to instructions. . Budget will cover monthly expenses. Itemized things such as newsletters will need motion to spend it. The funds are reserved and a motion must be produced in order to spend it.

Other NPG categories using the \$10K are TBD. There is \$4K in community improvement.

A check was received from the insurance company for last year's stolen items. Will be deposited in our account after July 1st, so we can receive the full amount.

NPG is a Neighborhood Improvement Grant. Past uses include a Winter Wonderland - LAPD puts on a toy give away and we help fund it with other neighborhood councils.. Nothing is mandatory. There was a green garden showcase one year,

Art projects:

- Fire Station 62 had open house we funded their booster club money (\$700/800)
- Discussed a Graffiti Wall at farmers market. Art activities planned for library.
- A Fall festival was put on by Land Keepers and we cannot take in money but we can partner with 501.c.3's to help fund it.
- Have funded art walk through NPGs and Outreach. Last three years we paid for printing expenses.

Elliot asked what the 2<sup>nd</sup> signer and alternate signer are.

Holly explained the 2<sup>nd</sup> signer is for board action (BAC) in the absence of the Chair. Alternate signer is I for BACs in place of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Signer or Treasurer. Helps things move forward.

Chair is first bank cardholder. This is the first year 2<sup>nd</sup> bank cardholder is allowed. 2<sup>nd</sup> signer is normally First Vice-Chair but can be anyone.

No public comment

**Michelle** - Commended Holly for her work.

**Selena** – would support as much of the budget going towards outreach. Would also like to think of a board development line item for training classes and conflict resolution.

**Holly** – Can be added to the budget. There will need to be a motion before she can adjust the budget. Credit cards can take six weeks to get.

Normally there is a training or board retreat and the changes to the budget can be made throughout the year. Some NPG money can be shifted as well.

**Elliot** - Clarified that the budget is a living document. If there are ideas, please make them known.

**Mary** – At previous Board meeting, motion was approved to pay Windward \$25/meeting to align with what we pay other venues. Must ask for an invoice to pay it. And each has to have a contract, ADA inspection and be approved by the City.

Elliot says lease agreement with city will need to be altered.

**Kathryn** – Who of board members will be convenient for Holly to be second signers and cardholder?

**Holly** - Says we should follow in the tradition.

**Andrea** – is there a way to incorporate different locations in Mar Vista. Clarification from Holly: Should we need translation services will city cover it or does it come from the budget?

**Vanessa** – let the Chair know and cc the Department. City Clerk may refund some of the money. Can also revisit the budget to include it. Elliot has no objection to that.

Andrea asked if website service offers option for Spanish site or does the city offer it.

Vanessa says vendors are chosen by the council via approved vendor list. Should work with the vendor on this. If none of them do it and you find a different one, the approval must come from the city clerk.

Discussion on 2<sup>nd</sup> cardholder. Will table the discussion to the next meeting.

Stacy moved to postpone discussion of 2<sup>nd</sup> cardholder. Martin 2<sup>nd</sup> motion. No objections

2<sup>nd</sup> signer/alternate signer

Elliot suggests 1<sup>st</sup> vice chair as 2<sup>nd</sup> signer. 2<sup>nd</sup> vice chair as alternate signer.

Elliot made motion that the 2<sup>nd</sup> signer will be Mr. Rubin. Alternate signer is Mary. Second by Ms. Wheeler. No objection. Motion carries.

Kathryn Wheeler made motion to approve the budget. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mary Ruska.

VOTE:

Eight ayes - Michelle Arupkin, Selena Inouye, Christine Stemar, Gabriel Hill, Armond Seretti, Mary Hruska, Kathryn Wheeler, Holly Tilson, Stacy Shure

**Zero noes**

Three Abstentions – Martin Rubin, Elliot Hanna, Andrea Ambriz

Rob absent for vote

Motion carries. Admin Packet approved

#### **11.2. Board operations for FY2019-2020** – General discussion regarding board operations for FY2019-2020.

Public comments

**Tyler Laferriere** wants shorter meetings

**Nanette Pastor-Hanna** – outreach is important and difficult. Would like to see outreach chair. Come up with creative ways to do outreach. She is on the board of a neighborhood association. Please engage everyone to be part of this process.

Elliot agrees with this.

**Vanessa** advises that they participate and attend the trainings to meet other leaders of other councils. It may be helpful. She sent email for upcoming trainings. Networking is great and useful information.

**Vanessa Diaz** – please abstain from online bullying

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

**Stacy** – community expressed interest in a subsection for an interactive map to post notices and updates on pending developments. Reminds Chair that there is one opening for civic U.

**Martin** – Gave out flyers earlier. Invited board members to St. Andrews campus in Fellowship Hall at 7pm on June 26<sup>th</sup> to introduce themselves to Zone 2. Mike Bonin will be the guest speaker. There should be donuts.

**Kathryn** – Lots of ideas re. outreach and website. Wants people to easily put in their address to find their zone. Wants to see chats, newsletters, mailers and flyers, as well as a volunteer director to help bring in volunteers to get them involved.

**Gabriel** – Reiterates interest in dog park and green and renters committee. Let's be serious about it as a board.

**Elliot** – Says if we can find the labor, we can do it

**Michelle** – Wants to see more community involvement on committees. Manifest these subcommittees. Let's get back to being a civil community. Everyone should pitch in and be part of the community.

Elliot - Pointed out that he and Gabriel did not agree on transportation matters but he appointed him anyway because he brought balance and a different perspective.

**Kathryn** – How do stakeholders apply for a position?

**Elliot** – Last year, he sent out a request via social media (ND, FBetc), he talks to people who express interest and also uses other outreach efforts. Can also refer people to him and he will have a conversation with them. [elliott.hanna@marvista.org](mailto:elliott.hanna@marvista.org).

**Mary** – Reiterated that there was positive feedback from folks re: newsletter. May be expensive but its money well spent. Need all board members and actions on website.

Hasn't been done since 2017. Would like to start doing that again. Make them easily accessible. Elliot agrees and believes in transparency.

**Andrea** – Would like to see a retreat or training. Need to sow seeds of reconciliation for future votes of confidence. Elliot says there will be a retreat this year. Will send ideas around. Public will be encouraged to participate. Would like the selection of chairs to be transparent and include transparency in committees. Would like all board members to send names for email list. Can there be a more formalized way to invite community to learn about board members where they can have open dialogue? Councilmembers Koretz and Bonin should be invited to the next meeting.

**Michelle** – Echoes the need for training. Committee chairs and vice chairs should also be trained as well, not just the board members. Elliot agrees.

When running committees, regular scheduling will help with getting venues. Should be ADA compliant and on 1<sup>st</sup> floor.

**Armond** – asked about appointment of new board members to committees. Are old board members still co chairs of committees? Elliot says there will be a fresh slate of appointments at next meeting. Limited number of committees/spots. When asking for committees, give Elliot a 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> choice. The Chair will present the slate and there will be a vote.

**Martin** – when considering appointing for committees, vote on capability to do the task. Elliot agreed and will balance new with experienced people.

**Andrea** - Made motion to instruct the chairs to invite Counsel members Bonin and Koretz to attend the next meeting to hear about priorities of their office and they can hear from us as a board. Gabriel 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. No objections. Elliot will extend the invitation.

**Armond** - Expressed concern about this meeting being used as a forum for improper questions or comments.

## 12. Adjournment

Motion made by Stacy. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mary. No objections.

**Meeting adjourned at 9:04 pm**

**Bold, underlined** text indicates further details can be found in supplemental materials available at the meeting.

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  - \* **RECONSIDERATION AND GRIEVANCE PROCESS** - For information on MVCC's process for board action reconsideration, stakeholder grievance policy, or any other procedural matters related to this Council, please consult the MVCC Bylaws. The Bylaws are available at our Board meetings and our website, <http://www.marvista.org>.