



Mar Vista Community Council



MAR VISTA COMMUNITY COUNCIL
GREAT STREETS AD HOC COMMITTEE
Thursday November 12, 2015, 6:30 to 8:00 pm
Mar Vista Library
12006 Venice Blvd., Mar Vista, CA 90066
(SW corner of Venice and Inglewood Blvds.)

Chair: Michelle Krupkin

MINUTES

1. Call To Order and Welcome – Chair (1 min.) 6:36 p.m.
2. Introductions and Public Comments (for items not on the agenda) (2 minutes)
Robin Doyno announced that the first utility box would be painted soon as a pilot for the utility box art project. Located at Grand View and Venice, the utility box is to contain images of 4 jazz musicians: Miles, Mingus, Charlie Parker and Billy Holiday.

Patty Jausoro, of Safe Streets Silverlake (SSS), spoke about her experience with the Rowena Road Diet in her Silverlake neighborhood as it related to the upcoming Road Diet pilot program for Great Street Venice Blvd.

Patty's experience stems from her Silverlake neighborhood traffic intensifying when nearby Rowena Avenue was reduced from four lanes to two lanes. The plan was nicknamed the "Rowena Road Diet."

Patty shared how they were told it was initially to be a temporary program that would last three months. Two traffic lanes were taken away on Rowena between Glendale and Hyperion Blvds. after a fatal pedestrian accident in 2012. Then Councilman Tom LaBonge pushed for the change, which also added a center turn lane and later added two bicycle lanes.

Patty spoke about the huge uptick in traffic that created cut through traffic on several streets. Most of these streets do not have sidewalks and some have street parking on one side of the street only. It is unsafe for kids for walk to school on these cross streets and unsafe at times for homeowners to get their mail.

Patty said that this is a habitual problem with or without the Waze app. On Angus Street, there are an average of between 600-800 cars per hour during rush hour. Additionally, Patty spoke about how there were no additional mitigations such as traffic islands or additional cross walks added as well as no new bus routes.

There has been no improvement to that area since traffic is going just as fast during non-rush hour times. In the last 48 hours prior to the 11/12/15 meeting, there were two accidents on Rowena. One month ago, a pedestrian was hit and injured at the T intersection who may never walk again.

Patty's group asked DOT what the intention of the Road Diet was and did not get a real answer. DOT said that they thought traffic rates would decrease.

Patty shared that DOT had an intern perform traffic studies via a hand count method after the Road Diet and they were not thorough or accurate with their studies. Safe Streets Silverlake group did traffic surveys as well and found that over the period of six (6) hours, there were 90 bicyclists. Per hour, there were 1000 cars in each direction.

Parking is also a concern as there are only 25 parking spaces on one side of the street.

Sharon Commins gave an overview of low-density concept.

Nat Gale, of the Great Streets Studio, discussed an overview of the surveys done by Council District 11 in Mar Vista. Stakeholders gave the feedback that Great Street Venice Blvd. should not be a highway, but should be a Main Street. Nat Gale stressed that the Great Street Venice Blvd. Road Diet is a pilot program only. There will be pneumatic tube studies and intern hand counting of traffic prior to the implementation of the Road Diet.

Nat Gale said that the design process for Great Street Venice Blvd. Road Diet was currently taking place and that the implementation would be during early to mid 2016.

Patty said that Safe Streets Silverlake (SSS) had met with current Councilman David Ryu who wants to work with the community on fixes. Patty also share that SSS was told by DOT that a reversal of the Rowena Road Diet would be expensive, including the DOT paint needed to restripe.

Nat made a note that he would look into that and try to reach out to those affected by Rowena Road Diet, even though it is not a Great Streets project.

There was a discussion of mid-block crosswalks and the need to align of traffic lights.

3. Motion to approve October 2015 minutes (2 minutes) was tabled for time consideration.
4. Reports (15 Minutes)
 - a. Great Streets Program brief definition –Michelle Krupkin.
 - b. Report from Mar Vista Chamber of Commerce member was tabled.
5. New Business (30-65 minutes)
 - a. Discussion of planning for the 11/28/15 Make It Mar Vista/Small Business Saturday event. Volunteers are needed.
 - b. Steppin' into the Art of Mar Vista was discussed. Lenore was unable to attend due to a family medical emergency, but interested parties (for volunteering, etc.) were told to contact Lenore through Facebook and Twitter.
 - c. There was a short discussion and overview of Smart Bus Benches for Great Street Venice Blvd. There is the issue of Caltrans still owning the Blvd. and possible locations for the Smart Bus Benches being limited. The Smart Bus Bench, being an LA City and Great Streets project, will be located on the south side of Venice in front of the Mar Vista Library.
 - d. Public Comment
 - e. Future Agenda Items
 - f. Adjournment at 7:51 p.m.

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