



Mar Vista Community Council

Agenda and Meeting Packet Online at MarVista.org



**DRAFT MINUTES of the
Joint Meeting of the Ad-Hoc COVID-19 Community Response Committee & the MVCC Board of Directors
Saturday May 2, 2020 - 10:00 to 11:30 am
Co-Chairs: Andrea Ambriz, Christine Stemar and Selena Inouye**

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83407587133> | **Meeting ID:** 834 075 87133

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Other numbers: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83407587133> | **Meeting instructions:** <https://bit.ly/2yhhvGS>

1. **Call to Order**—Andrea Ambriz, Christine Stemar and Selena Inouye presiding
2. **Introductions and Public Comment for Items Not On the Agenda** (10 min)
3. **Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting** (5 min)
4. **Old Business** (30 minutes)
 - a. Updates on the following committee priorities:
 - i. **SENIORS:** Outreach to seniors in Mar Vista (Christine Stemar, Selena Inouye)
 - ii. **RESOURCES:** Creating and maintaining a resource list/webpage/website (entire committee)
 - iii. **RENTERS:** COVID-19 Renters Protections (Gabriel Hill, Tyler Laferriere)
 - iv. **FOOD:** seniors, children, unemployed individuals & their families (Andrea Ambriz, Rob Kadota)
 - v. **PARENTS AND CHILDREN:** Connect families to services and resources to help with homeschooling (Vanessa Diaz, Andrea Ambriz)
 - b. Further discussion about funding motions passed for: 1) the creation of a “Mar Vista Helps” website and 2) a Mar Vista Neighbor-to-Neighbor community building campaign.
 - c. Further discussion and possible funding motion for a paid Mar Vista Neighbor-to-Neighbor physical mailing to all Mar Vista stakeholders using USPS [Every Door Direct Mail](#) or a similar service
5. **New Business** (30 minutes)
 - a. Discussion about new resources and initiatives on the local, City, County and State level
 - b. Discussion about arts programs and other community resources to help stakeholders cope with staying at home
 - c. Discussion and possible funding motion for an automated call/text to stakeholders in Mar Vista
 - d. Discussion and possible funding motion for a donation to the Westside Food Bank
 - e. Discussion and possible funding motion for a donation of distilled water to the Disability Community Resource Center (DCRC)
6. **Future Meetings and Agenda Items** (10 minutes)
 - a. Next meeting Saturday, May 9, 2020 at 10:00 am online via Zoom
 - a. Solicit input from committee members regarding future agenda items
7. **Public Comment and Announcements** (5 minutes)
8. **Adjournment**

DRAFT MINUTES

1. Call to Order—Andrea Ambriz, Christine Stemar and Selena Inouye presiding

2. Introductions and Public Comment for Items Not On the Agenda (5 min)

DRAFT MINUTES for the 05/02/2020 Joint Ad Hoc COVID-19 Community Response and MVCC Board meeting

Introductions conducted verbally over Zoom call.

Public Comment

Evie Shapiro, St. Joseph Center: Joining the conversation to speak about some of the work we're doing

Deborah Groening Rother, founder and the President of Well Baby Center, joining to commune and to work things out as a community to help those folks who are at home with children and any parents.

Selena: Skip to Old Business, so we can get an update from Elliot regarding a conversation that he had this week with the city attorney's office and with DONE regarding our committee and what we can and can't do go ahead. Elliott

Elliott Hanna, Chair of MVCC: If anyone has questions regarding the guidance I shared previously via email to the Committee., please ask.

Christine: Confused because we were given different information from what we were told as an Ad Hoc Committee versus other rules.

Selena: Please explain the email and information for those who haven't heard it.

Elliott: Under rules of order, this is an Ad Hoc committee. The Brown Act committee is considered an ad hoc committee, meeting. This committee is subject to the same rules as any other committee. No ex parte Communications between the majority of the committee and an agenda has to be posted.

Christine; This ties our hands from we feel that needs to be done given the situation. We are in a pandemic. I'm looking to give that information to our stakeholders so that they can better their lives during this situation.

Elliott: The city's position is that when we as an arm of the city puts a list up of organizations that is a tacit endorsement by the city and the city will not allow that without vetting the people on that list now. What it means is that you have to send me what you want and I just need to send it in and say hey mother may I, and then they'll come back and then when they say yes, we'll post it.

Christine: My fear is that it may take too much time.

Andrea: Perhaps we can send everyone the same information and CC everyone at the same time.

Elliott: Sure. And as far as using voter rolls, they are consulting with the elections division to see if there is a use of voter rolls at the city will permit.

Christine: Is their understanding that the registrar recorder themselves permitted this information, who is the gatekeeper of that list has allowed this?

Elliott: Yes, they are aware, but that's the county and this is the city.

Andrea: I have a follow-up question to what were these issues of concerns that were raised by a member of the community or by DONE or the City Attorney, or did we seek out this perspective from them?

Elliott: I was contacted by Vanessa a few days ago. I don't know how they became aware of it. She may have looked at the agenda that was posted and had some concerns. I don't really know. I'm pretty sure Vanessa would be available to answer questions. I will send any inquiries to the city and I will be happy to ping them every couple of days to try to accelerate it.

Selena: I know that we have a lot of Grassroots groups that have popped up since this began who are providing services that many traditional non profits aren't, and I'm looking at the email again and it says here that the city is going to vet these organizations. How do you know how that's going to happen? And what we have to provide in order to help that happen. I know Bonin has been promoting ground game LA, as they have expertise in setting up Mutual Aid groups, but I know that they are 501c4.

Annie: Ground game has a 501c3 attached to it. I don't know that Mutual Aid is formally Affiliated under the C3, but they have a C3 and C4.

Selena: And what additionally Elliot do you need from us with regards to the voter rolls issue?

Elliott: I don't think I need anything at this point. I understand. The City Attorney asked me how you came about them, which I knew the answer to. He just needs to check with the elections division. See if that's permissible under the city a city guidelines and City Rules. I don't think I need any additional information from you regarding that.

3.Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

Andrea: We are preparing the minutes. Since we've been moving so quickly to meet and actively engage in the community, we've been doing a lot of work to prioritize this. We will be posting information shortly.

4.Old Business

- a. Updates on the following committee priorities:
 - i. **SENIORS:** Outreach to seniors in Mar Vista (Christine Stemar, Selena Inouye)

Selena: So I finally received the complete list from the registrar recorder's office this week. I have all the data that we need to move forward with our Outreach calls to our senior citizens. So as Elliot was mentioning, this now has to be vetted by the City attorney and the city clerk's office of the election division. So unfortunately, we cannot move forward until we get the go-ahead from then so in the meantime, I have people that are helping us with sorting the list and we'll go ahead and continue on that work until we get the go-ahead to make the phone calls.

Kathryn Wheeler: I have the resources to make sure that the people from the list are in each zone. So because I think the list you get is with the different zip codes and we're Mar Vista is in three zip codes. So I have the ability to take those lists and delineate which is in each zone.

Robert Watkins: What's the approximate number of phone numbers? How many people do we have? Is it like a hundred or a thousand or five thousand? What's the guesstimate ballpark number?

Kathryn: That's a good question. And I don't know that just yet. But definitely let you know when we do. I think the suggestion was to start with the people who are the oldest and then work our way down to people who are younger.

Robert: Ok, and we have addresses on that list as well?

Selena: Yes. When people register to vote, they give their address, phone number, and their email, but those two are optional.

Robert: The most interesting question is how many people are there to call, which I totally am in favor of calling people because I think we'll learn a lot about what they actually need by talking to them the other biggest. Bonin was also encouraging people to call 211.

Kathryn: I wanted to answer Robert's question about mailers. It's roughly 20 cents for postage, the cheapest that we can do and the least expensive we can do it. If we do it by mail route if we want to do it / address then it goes to the norm.

Andrea: Question for Selena: What was the universe requested? Was it the entirety of the Mar Vista Council district. Was it just an orbit that encompassed all zip codes, that still needed to be sorted, or was it just seniors who were identified over 65?

Selena: We have house numbers, date of birth, phone numbers and we have emails and that's the limited list given to me. The County Registrar recorder's office cannot provide me any additional assistance in terms of whittling the list down to what we need.

Christine: Maybe we consider fliers or postcards dropped off, just like when we distribute our quarterly newsletter. We can walk the street and hand them out and perhaps that would at least get the information out as quickly as possible. That might save us time as well.

Andrea: In our area, through households we have about 68,000 just within the council District. We're looking at a whole lot of money needed for printing and mailing. We have to figure out what is the most either cost-effective and/ or the most time effective way for us to use our resources. Through mail, we're looking at potentially around \$25,000K for us to put something in print in the mail. Automated phone calls are cheaper.

Selena: Again, there are going to be some expenses that we were not going to be able to fund simply because of the fact of the state home order. So there may actually be money to do some of this stuff may be a rare opportunity where we're at where we can do this stuff.

Andrea: I took a look at the MVCC outstanding budget balance last night for reference, and as of the March MER, we had around \$20-22K left, without April expenditures.

ii. **RESOURCES:** Creating and maintaining a resource list/webpage/website (entire committee)

Selena: Currently the resource list has been taken off of the website. I can go ahead and review it and remove all of the non-governmental links on it. So I can put a list back up and then I will go ahead and work to get the existing list approved for all of the nonprofit grassroots groups.

iii. **RENTERS:** COVID-19 Renters Protections (Gabriel Hill, Tyler Laferriere)

Gabriel: Wanted to share the County housing department. Would like to include information on the process of addressing eviction; there is a phone number or website available too. Also the Education, Arts, and

Culture committee is open to engaging.

Kathryn: If we get a list of resources approved by the City Attorney, we can link that to another MVCC website.

- iv. **FOOD:** seniors, children, unemployed individuals & their families (Andrea Ambriz, Rob Kadota)
- v. **PARENTS AND CHILDREN:** Connect families to services and resources to help with homeschooling (Vanessa Diaz, Andrea Ambriz)

Andrea: I'd like to talk about both the food outreach as well as support for parents and families.

We've identified various community organizations serving community members within our district, to explore how we can actually leverage our support and maximize results and efficiency. Though we have limited resources, they can be considered to be put to a productive use.

We talked about food access and distribution. We talked about health wellness and support for parents and children and families and we talked about Family Resources. We have an opportunity to leverage our resources to maximize our impact today for our community. We can consider the various populations that are within our community including our most vulnerable community members-- low-income members, children, seniors, the disabled, children's growth learning, health and wellness and services.

So to that end, we had a couple of conversations. I know Rob had spoken very closely with Diana over at the farmers market additionally. I wanted to provide a summary of all of the conversations that I've had with folks as briefly as I can and then I'm happy to answer any questions in addition. So St. Joseph center right now is really helping to feed the community. They mentioned that they have seen at their food pantry an increased demand/need of around 73% for families in need and for individuals who are visiting the food pantry. They feed around 250 people a day through their food pantry, and also seek to provide home deliveries and assistance for those who can't visit the food pantry.

The Mar Vista Farmers Market: they have ongoing relationships with various nonprofits organizations. They have suggested vendor support to present prepared meals and boxed deliveries to seniors or NYA or DCRC. There's more they can do with volunteers.

Mar Vista Family Center: They've also seen an exponential increase and serve some of the lowest income families in this community. They are trying to give at least one meal a day for each member of their family. So they're spending a lot of effort doing that. They also have ongoing relationships with these family members and the staff is supporting one-on-one. All of these vulnerable families in need they're providing for their children and for youth learning true tutoring and coaching and also a lot of those young people that are in those families are graduating right now. And as well, they mentioned that there's a lot of support for adults and aiding them with financial assistance and coaching and wellness, which is I think really important that we hadn't talked about previously.

The Well Baby Center is doing such an incredible job and has such incredible ideas about how they can continue supporting the community and children in our area. They suggested putting together kits. They mentioned this potential opportunity for us to support them in providing and preparing the kits that would have learning activities within the kit and then at the home they could potentially join onto a zoom call with other children and parents that are in need of support right now. They are seeking to help children ages 0 to 6, and they've seen just an increased need to support the developmental needs of children and specifically for parents and families.

826LA is working to support young students and young people in our community. They've mentioned that they had to pivot all of their work to do online and digital training. So now they're purchasing platforms for training sessions, tutoring meetings and online workshops. They're also providing school supplies and created a virtual Hub of resources for folks. Many parents don't either know how to homeschool their children and or potentially in some cases some parents don't speak English. They have also explored creating care packages that would distribute books and worksheets and created materials and glue sticks and scissors, and different school supplies specifically to help the ongoing learning of these young people. They mentioned that they started on Virtual training and tutoring they're doing it twice a day four days a week with students in each session and it's really an effort to provide one-on-one training. They, as well as every other nonprofit, is leveraging Volunteers in the community to support their staff.

All of these organizations mentioned that operationally, they're struggling, but they are reinvesting all of their efforts into what they can do to most appropriately serve the community that they need to to help at this time. So In Sum, I think there are a lot of opportunities.

I would love to get resources on the ground to people today that really need it. I think it's important for our Council to really show up for our community members and the work of this committee is to do that.

Annie: Westside Friends has also partnered with the Katz Collins YMCA thanks to Rob's introduction. And in addition to the individual requests that people can submit, we are now distributing about 250 to 300 bags of fresh produce. At the YMCA families are welcome to come pick up bags from the YMCA on Thursdays between 11:30 to about 1 p.m. And then we're also delivering them to some local organizations. So we've been serving a senior home. We brought some groceries to a safe place for youth. So we're really just trying to add value to existing efforts and to families directly. We welcome volunteers, but we also welcome hearing from people who need those items. Thank you.

Rob Kadota: The Mar Vista Farmers market and the Collins Katz YMCA-- the food is coming from an organization called food forward and they are food Gleaners. The Gleaners can get food from Farms or produce distribution centers or farmers' markets. So the Collins Katz YMCA is coming from food forward and is being directed to Gardena. I took my truck and we had about two other three vehicles this past Thursday to transport food back to Collins; then Westside friends created the bags last week. We implemented the food forward program at the Farmers' Market. The Market food forward pick up is on hiatus given the stay at home order, so there is a need to fill in. So last week, a volunteer from St. Joseph Center and I picked up approximately 30 boxes of food from the farmers market and pulled some of it for the neighborhood Youth Association, and then the rest went to about 25 boxes of produce and food from the market went to St. Joseph's center. Our first goal is to support the priority pre-existing relationships that the Farmers Market has and then to be able to also pull for others as viable for tomorrow. So one of the things that we discovered is we need the boxes back from St. Joseph's. So if you're available ping me to help with this process tomorrow at about 2 o'clock.

Andrea: All of these organizations did mention that they were of course in need of volunteers and one additional way that MVCC can support beyond maybe funding assistance is really to get the word out about these organizations and let folks know about them and some of the good work that they're doing and any volunteer opportunities that are available

Selena: What exactly do all these organizations want or need from the MVCC, and what can we help them with?

Andrea: A lot of these organizations will take anything and everything at this moment, but they are really struggling and really want to make sure that they're meeting the needs of their Community. I was able to understand how every dollar could potentially support some of their operations and some of their service for COVID 19 relief conducted.

For example, I've learned at the food bank for the St. Joseph's Center, it costs about \$500 a day just to feed all of the individuals that come in. 826LA needs assistance on providing the platform and the online learning opportunities and ensuring that they have a staff member for each session.

The Well Baby Center has a vision to put these kids together and serve 150-200 families and children that could really support it.

So I would offer that any and every dollar helps. Finding support for these organizations at this time is critical. I think on behalf of this committee again, we can recommend that we prioritize our resources to those that are most in need and doing the work right now immediately, so we can be most effective with our limited resources. I would recommend that we do share the funding with these organizations in an even distribution and offer a motion that we provide maybe \$3,000 to each of these organizations for their work and see how far we can actually go in supporting our community right now, contingent upon Board approval.

Selena: So I want to let you guys know that I had a conversation with our Treasurer Holly Tilson this week and usually the way that money is given to nonprofits in our community is that they go through a Neighborhood Purpose Grant process, and actually Deborah and Donna, I know that you have an NPG that's in front of the executive and finance committee this coming Monday. I don't know that all of these organizations however have the time and energy to put together NPGs. And so I'm wondering how we can direct money to groups. We want to support without having to necessarily have them go through the NGP process, especially if they don't have the time, energy or resources to do so, I know that Del Rey neighborhood council is somehow doing this without going through the NGP process. So I think it's something we need to figure out and it may be a conversation with the funding folks in the city clerk's office that support DONE.

Andrea: I really appreciate that you said that's when I think you're absolutely right if they put a lot of these organizations need support and either don't know how to go through the NPG process, don't have time; and I'm also aware that our funding for the mvcc for this year is going to be expired at the end of this month with all payments set to be made by the end of June. I want to make sure that we don't miss the opportunity to utilize funding as appropriate and and you're right. I've heard a couple of other neighborhood councils also direct funding and assistance.

Selena: I know the Board of neighborhood Commissioners is hearing during this coming Tuesday at their meeting to rollover unspent funds from neighborhood councils and not just the ten thousand dollars a year, but actually whatever people's balances are so I'm feeling confident that we're not going to lose any money over 10,000 that we don't spend I think we will be able to spend it in the next fiscal year, but I'll keep you updated on that Deborah and Donna. Let me give you an opportunity to talk about your NPG.

Donna: Well the emphasis of the NPG is separate from what we're discussing today. Is that correct? Do you want to hear about the npg?

Andrea: Yes, what I just mentioned is separate from I suppose your NPG, but I do know that when we spoke you mentioned that the NPG would complement.

Donna: The NPG was a request to provide an emergency scholarship fund basically because the County and services were overwhelmed and people need services at very low or no cost. We wanted the ability to offer free services to the Mar Vista families that are seeking help right now and that scholarship fund was intended to go directly to the cost of providing support groups and mental health care services to the local families who have lost their ability to pay anything. There are a lot of people right now who are falling through the cracks either because for one reason or another they don't qualify for city or county services or because they just can't access them right now. We just heard about somebody who was waiting two weeks for a meal program. We're available immediately, but we need the ability to cover the costs of providing services for no cost to the

local families that need them.

Separately, the survival kit proposal is intended to get some very immediate help in a little ray of sunshine to the families that are just right in the neighborhood and need something right now. These kits would be distributed to hundreds of local families, you know, right this minute that they can use right this minute

Deborah: Well Baby Center is a Community Center, parenting Center, and a counseling center. And so our objective is Wellness-- Community wellness. We began WBC seeing middle-income families squeezed where they couldn't qualify for Medicare, but they needed help and couldn't afford services. So, you know emotional health to us is just as important as you know other aspects of health. So that's what our objective is to provide a preventative model of care for the Mar Vista community by asking the question what makes communities thrive. And that's not just Mental Health Services, but it's supportive relationship support services. And that's the meaning behind this survival kit that we present you just presented online, which is that we know because we are on the front line.

Donna: At home emotional support is not a not a luxury item at the moment. It's very necessary and increasingly as this goes on, there're children that are suffering on their own. It's really important to provide services to everybody and all we want to do is connect with the community so we can make the biggest impact.

Annie: I want to attest to the overwhelming demand that we've heard as volunteers. We've heard from dozens of nonprofit organizations that are just desperate for basic items to provide the people they serve like rice and beans, hand sanitizer, masks--really basic items that people cannot get access to; and now feels like a time to use resources to meet those needs. We have been doing our best to provide individual support, but the impact of even just a few thousand dollars on organizations that are providing essential services right now is huge. A lot of them are overwhelmed and have uncertainties related to their funding moving forward, and they need us. I think that call for help from the organizations in our community that keep our community stable just feels like the best use of resources that we could do.

I would assume that these organizations know how to access the supplies that they need that they usually provide. But so my tendency would be to just give them the money that they need to go buy it. But of course if there are hard to access supplies. They just need more money to buy the food because they don't a lot of them don't do that normally or they don't do it at this scale and if they don't have budget line items available right now.

Selena: We can't make donations, so I'm trying to figure out a way how we could buy the items and give them to people if we can get funding motions through that way versus just giving a non-profit money with that within the absence of an NPG Grant.

Rob: There may be an outreach material way to put our logo on items and give them out to the community, like sanitizer, or crayons, etc.

Selena: Holly suggested we might consider putting a logo on bandanas. It might require a couple conversations though with the city clerk's office and maybe with some of these other neighborhood councils to figure out how they're doing this.

Rob: Maybe a way that is feasible is buying stickers and putting them on things. Maybe that's the thing that we can control versus ordering from China which most promotional organizations take a month or two in the best of times.

Kathryn: The Outreach committee is putting before the board purchasing for swag hand sanitizer little hand sanitizer bottles. So that will be coming up.

Christine: f that actually passes how quickly so we have them?0

Kathryn: I haven't contacted the company but it's a company that's been used before and I'm told they have a pretty quick turnaround because they actually already have the bottles in stock. They just have to stick labels on them.

Andrea: I think there is an urgency for us to deliver services and support immediately whether or not we have the opportunity to roll over funding from the council and certainly something that we can consider in the long run. However, let's not wait for that funding to have.

Selena: So how can we follow up?

5. New Business (30 minutes)

- b. Discussion about new resources and initiatives on the local, City, County and State level
 - i. None
- c. Discussion about arts programs and other community resources to help stakeholders cope with staying at home
 - i. None
- d. Discussion and possible funding motion for an automated call/text to stakeholders in Mar Vista
 - i. Tabled
- e. Discussion and possible funding motion for a donation to the Westside Food Bank

Andrea: On the agenda, I'd move to amend Item 5D to address these issues:

Funding motion to provide \$3,000 to six organizations for the purchase of:

- St Joseph Center, for their food pantry supplies and operation;
- Mar Vista Farmers Market, for the purchase of produce or prepared food (directed toward DCRC and NYA)
- Mar Vista Family Center, to support low-income families with food, financial wellness-money management-coaching, and youth support
- Well Baby Center, to support the creation of their parent survival family kits and aid in developing children and supporting wellness
- 826LA, to support student assistance efforts, including care package supplies and virtual learning/tutoring sessions for youth
- Westside Food Bank, for \$0 funding, as they donate to the St Joseph Center

Vanessa: second the motion; Christine seconded the amended motion.

Robert Watkins: If DONE has to run through this and approve, then I am in support of this to ensure it moves forward.

Vote: Yes: Andrea, Christine, Rob Kadota, Rob Watkins, Annie, Deborah, Donna, Robin, Kathryn, Selena

Abstain: Janis

No.

- f. Discussion and possible funding motion for a donation of distilled water to the Disability Community Resource Center (DCRC)
 - i. Tabled, and Andrea and Annie will follow up.

6. Future Meetings and Agenda Items (10 minutes)

- g. Next meeting Thursday, May 7, 2020 at 5:00 pm online via Zoom
- h. Solicit input from committee members regarding future agenda items
 - i. Nonprofits will be invited to present during the next meeting to share additional detail.

7. Public Comment and Announcements (5 minutes)

Rob: We should also consider DCRC.

Andrea: Mar Vista Farmers Market provides prepared meals for DCRC.

8. Adjournment