

MAR VISTA COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Education, Arts, and Culture Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 13, 2024

1. CALL TO ORDER 06:43PM

2. ROLL CALL AND EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS/CONFLICTS-OF-INTEREST - roll call shall include each attending board member declaring any ex parte communications outside of their duties and conflicts of interest pertaining to items on or related to this agenda.

Present: Ahmadyveasi, Mack, Vanek, Carolyn Honda, (stakeholders SEE LIST)

Juan Esparza (LADWP), Elena Stern (LADWP),

No ex parte or conflicts declared by any committee member.

3. WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Formal introduction to EACC read by Ahmadyveasi.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – SEE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS FOR DETAILS

4.1. APPROVAL OF MAY 13, 2024 MINUTES

APPROVED - Motioned by Vanek, Seconded by Mack. No objections. Motion passed. 4-0-0 (Ahmadyveasi yes, Mack yes, Vanek yes, Honda yes)

5. CHAIR REPORTS

a) CHAIR – Delaram Ahmadyveasi

b) MEMBER – Yulie Mack

c) MEMBER – Aaron Vanek

Comments Discussed:

No reports.

6. SPECIAL ORDERS – NONE

7. STANDARD ORDER OF BUSINESS - NEW

7.1 [FUNDING] Discussion and potential action regarding Richland Elementary Booster Club - SEE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS FOR DETAILS

Comments Discussed:

Della XXXX from Richland Booster club presented NPG.

Vanek commented about procedure for NPG and others have been refused and asked about timing, are we in the new budget year.

Mack asked about materials being vetted through LAUSD process of permissible materials. Vendor is LAUSD approved vendor (according to Della).

Honda said schools are different than the baseball field.

Public comment: Questions about soil being tested. Question about why city hasn't paid this already.

Ahmadyveasi asked about a plan for the rest of the funding; they have \$3K remaining from last year, only need about \$1000.

Motion: Mack motions to approve NPG as submitted. Vanek seconds.

Honda and Ahmadyveasi abstain.

No objections. SEE LIST OF YES.

7.2 [ADMINISTRATIVE] Discussion and potential action regarding Palms Art Figures & DWP Comments Discussed:

Three sets of speakers: artist, DWP, and a note from Traci Park's office.

Lori Powers (artist) – Explained she has been putting up art on DWP poles without permission for ten years. Started the art to give back to her community. They were metal guitars with messages and whimsical characters. Put first one up, waited nine months before doing more. Continued adding them, and could see community was appreciating it. Like to leave it as a mystery as to who was doing it or why. Didn't let anyone know she was doing it.

Last week got call from LADWP to take art down.

They are there for everyone and free—public art, no private sales. Reused and recycled materials.

How did this happen? How can we make a partnership?

Heard from Matt Halden in Traci Park's office, and they said they were talking to LADWP to delay the takedown. But LADWP came in this morning and took two down, but enough people stood at poles to prevent DWP from continuing. The two taken down were returned to Lori.

Thanked supporters, wants to continue art for community. Doesn't want to stop.

Honda left at 7:18pm.

LADWP presentation: Elena Stern and Paul Habib at legislation division.

Apologies for miscommunication. DWP wants to have conversation with Artist and Park and sees this as collaboration. Art cannot happen on their poles. Regulated by Public Utilities Commission. Nothing can be installed or hanging from these poles, but will work with community to relocate them. Every day they are out of compliance, they will be fined that comes out of ratepayer dollars. DWP wants to work that everyone is safe, but something could happen. For safety of community, they have to keep poles clear. DWP commitment is to be a good community partner and to be in compliance with state regulation and to help relocate her work.

They want to work with artist and CD11 for them to be displayed.

Ahmadyveasi reads comment email from Matt Halden in Traci Park's office.

Committee comments:

Mack – If voting on anything, it is to go to city council.

Public Comments:

Juan Fregoso in Traci Park's office in attendance to receive comments.

Donna Speckman: question to DWP on why it has taken so long? DWP responded that there was a formal complaint from someone in neighborhood, and they legally must respond. DWP follows state regulations and must keep poles clear. There is no grey area. Park's office wants to work with DWP to relocate them.

Heather McAdams – neighbor and teaching artist; her art is creating an open gallery for kids who normally cannot see art. Sculptures creates a sense of community.

DWP emphasizes that if CPUC sees DWP out of compliance, they will fine DWP and the fines will be paid by consumers.

Max Powers (Lori's son) – appreciates the art, and enjoys the feeling it generates

Aaron Thompson – challenges notion of it a hazard. Is this biggest priority of DWP? Look at regulations and find a way to make it work.

Paxton Farrar – art needs to remain in neighborhood. Concerned that DWP will take down with not replacement offered. DWP answered: they are looking at option to work with

CD11. They want to dialogue to find existing poles and or add poles. Fregoso in CD11 wants to also work with artist to make sure new locations are also compliant.

Nasim Thompson – believes general climbing area is on one side of pole only

Deirdre Breen – wants art to stay in neighborhood

Ray Cirino – problem can turn into a solution

Esther Rauclov – surprised DWP listened to a complaint. Art in this area is iconic. Does not want to see it become a myth.

Paul Van Blum – 35-year resident, UCLA professor, teaches Lori's work, remarkable, vibrant addition to community, cannot be allowed to disappear.

Alessandra Pasquino – do not keep works in one spot, keep in neighborhood, can authorities propose to us where they can put the sculptures?

Ian Kimbrey – part of charm of art is that it is on telephone poles; does not understand the danger of art being on the poles. Are there dead utility poles that can be used?

Paige Morrow Kimball – filmmaker, made award winning 24-minute documentary about Lori Powers. Workers kept art and put them up on new poles. Suggests have another pole placed next to the current ones with a plaque. Lori has a safety chain is attached to each sculpture. Wants them to be maintained.

Dan Moroni – question about fines; but DWP just found out a few weeks ago, and they have regulatory obligation to investigate and put into compliance. Who made complaint? DWP cannot out the person.

Joe King – question about person withdrawing complaint, but DWP cannot rescind it if they do. Juan Fregoso says that banenrs nad wreaths can go on some poles through a permit process (but not DWP poles).

Eileen Erickson – loves the sculptures, and makes me drive slower in neighborhood. Does not want a second pole in front

Ryan Murphy – question about cameras on poles. DWP responds, yes, but that is installed by city. Fregoso corrects, that city has cameras on light poles, not utility.

Sara Darsky – ideas for motion to investigate hazards, and asks DWP not to remove art unless there is a place to go and keep it on Palms Ave. and Marco Pl. Fregoso states that Park's office is already having discussion with DWP. No solutions yet, looking at options.

Darcy Stamler – we seem to have time. Keep them on park strip? In some places, they might be damaged. Let's find a way to keep them where they are.

Louise Mingenbach – sad if they leave the neighborhood, horrible if they were in one spot

Udhav Detha – this is a brainstorming exercise for engineers and architects. Can we add more people to come.

Vanek motions to bring proposal to board Mack seconds.

1 abstention Ahmadyveasi

Passes at: 38-1-0

Recess 5 minutes 8:48pm, return at 8:55pm.

7.3 [ADMINISTRATIVE] Discussion and potential action regarding EACC Meeting Date & Time

Comments Discussed:

Meetings must be either or Zoom or in person, but not both.

Discuss Zoom or in person and changing day or time.

Vanek motions to change September EACC meeting to second Wednesday at 6:30 via Zoom. Ahmadyveasi seconds. Passes 3-0-0.

Ahmadyveasi motions that if second Wednesday does not work, we move to first Wednesday at 6:30pm alternating between in person and zoom, starting on zoom in September. Macks seconds, passes 3-0-0.

Tentatively trading off in person and zoom meetings bi-monthly.

7.4 [ADMINISTRATIVE] Discussion and potential action regarding Tap Card Art Contest

Comments Discussed:

Skipped

7.5 [ADMINISTRATIVE] Discussion and potential action regarding Mar Vista Stairs

Comments Discussed:

Ahmadyveasi says that years ago there was a partnership with Girl Scouts and MVCC where girls would clean it once a year. Stairs behind Mar Vista Elementary School.

Joe King (stakeholder) who attended MVES initiated a volunteer clean up and got about 25 people to help clean the stairs on 4th of July.

Ahmadyveasi says any committee can organize a cleanup.

Ahmadyveasi motions that MVCC community cleanup of Mar Vista Stairs in February 2025. Mack seconds. 6-0-0 passes.

8. STANDARD ORDER OF BUSINESS – OLD

8.1 [ADMINISTRATIVE] Discussion and potential action regarding Walking Tour

Comments Discussed:

We have three submissions. Almost all suggested Lori Powers' artwork.

We don't know our budget until ExFin committee meets.

This issue should be tabled until the Powers art is resolved.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THIS AGENDA - *The Brown Act provides for a "part of the meeting where the public can comment on any item of interest that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the local agency." The MVCC is an advisory board to the Los Angeles City Council and, as such, its jurisdiction is restricted within Los Angeles and most importantly, the Mar Vista Community. Therefore, please keep public comments within the MVCC jurisdiction. Thank you.*

Comments Discussed:

No public comments

10. ADJOURNMENT – Vanek motions, Mack seconds 3-0-. Adjourns **9:24 PM** motioned to adjourn, seconded. No objections. 2-0-0 (Ahmadyveasi yes, Mack yes)