



Mar Vista Community Council



Green Committee

Sunday, November 23, 2014 - 9:30 A.M.

Mar Vista Farmers Market

Grand View at Venice Blvd.

Tables Adjacent to the Post Office

Minutes

Attendees: Melissa Stoller, Sherri Akers, Shelley Wiseman, Christy Wilhelmi, Andy Shrader, Robin Doyno, Steve Fox, Christopher McKinnon, Ed Crowe (West Valley NC), David Anderson and Ravi Sankaran, (USC graduate students)

1. Meeting called to order at 9:34 A.M.
2. Public comment
 - Sherri: Aging in Place committee will be guest at Green Tent on February 1.
 - Sherri attended Green Alliance organizing meeting. Her hope is that it will focus on mentoring other neighborhood councils as they start green committees, networking, and presentations. It may go in a different direction.
 - Sherri and Steve will attend city hall meeting on December 9, 1:30 P.M., to review and comment on City Council's master plan for neighborhood councils.
3. October minutes approved
4. Reports
 - MVCC Green Tent
December 7 is rain barrel giveaway. Must order in advance. Tree People will be at the Green Tent. Sherri suggested that we have somebody at the tent to explain how to use and take care of a rain barrel.
 - 2015 Green Garden Showcase
Robin will test the draft questionnaire.
Need to submit a budget and request for funds at the January meeting.
Consider making water capture and water conservation the themes for the Showcase. Make sure all of our gardens have the H2O sign.
5. Discussion
 - Green Committee's role in climate change activism
 - Car wash water recycling
Robin will research existing regulations.
 - Green Committee logo
Ed Crowe has started a Green Committee separate from the West Valley NC and asked if we would be okay with a logo for it based on the MVCC Green Committee logo. He has graciously agreed to change his design so as not to cause any confusion.
6. Old business update

- MVCC passed the motion to sponsor Mar Vista Chamber of Commerce's Pop-Up Mar Vista event.

7. New business

- Motion to purchase a portable laptop battery charger

The Mar Vista Community Council authorizes the expenditure of up to \$100 to purchase a portable universal battery charger capable of charging laptops and tablets for presentations/displays at the Green Tent as well as at Showcase Central.

Motion tabled. Discussion about getting a solar powered charger. Christy and Steve will research and present a more specific request at the January meeting.

- Motion to purchase Green Tent/Green Garden Showcase supplies

The Mar Vista Community Council authorizes the expenditure of up to \$155 to purchase the following items for Green Tent/Green Garden Showcase displays:

- | | |
|--|-------|
| - Heavy duty display easel | \$100 |
| - 100 sheets 8 ½ x 11 glossy photo paper | \$40 |
| - 100 sheets 5 x 7 glossy photo paper | \$15 |

Motion passed.

- Motion supporting Councilman Paul Koretz's methane gas motion:

The Mar Vista Community Council supports Councilman Paul Koretz's motion (Attachment A) addressing methane gas operations and methane gas plumes in the City as well as methane gas leaks.

Passed with one absention.

- Motion regarding SoCal Gas franchise renewal (as amended)

Whereas the 20-year SoCal Gas Company franchise agreement will be soon coming before City Council for approval and recent studies

(<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/solving-the-case-of-californias-extra-machine/>) find that finds that the main sources of methane in LA air are attributable to:

- Leaks from pipeline distribution systems (aka, So Cal Gas Company); and
- Emissions from oil and gas drilling operations

The Mar Vista Community Council (MVCC) recommends that any franchise agreement include strong and required leak mitigation measures and strong short- and long-term benchmarks for moving away from natural gas to renewable energy alternatives.

The MVCC further recommends that before any 20-year SoCal Gas franchise negotiation comes before the City Council, it would be prudent to check in with and possibly work with Bart Croes from the California Air Resources Board, the California Energy Commission, Jeff Peischl from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Paul Wennberg from the California Institute of Technology, in order to put together a full report on the problem and possible solutions.

Amended to strike "be for a maximum of five years" and change "strict" to "strong." Passed as amended with one abstention.

- Motion endorsing City Council's support of SB1132

Senate Bill 1132, jointly authored by Senator Holly Mitchell and Senator Mark Leno, will impose a moratorium on extreme oil extraction methods in California. This includes hydrofracturing, or fracking, and acid well stimulation. Council File Number 14-0002-S32 is a City Council resolution supporting SB 1132. The Mar Vista Community Council

thanks Councilmembers Mike Bonin, Paul Koretz, Bernard Parks and Herb Wesson for their leadership on this issue and encourages the City Council to actively pursue a fracking/acidization moratorium.

Motion withdrawn. New motion for January meeting should include a thank you to MVCC for passing our previous fracking motion.

- Motion supporting divestment

The climate crisis is a serious threat to current and future generations in Los Angeles and around the world. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fourth Assessment Report found that global warming is already causing costly disruption of human and natural systems throughout the world including the melting of Arctic ice, the ocean's rise in acidity, flooding and drought. Almost every government in the world has agreed through the 2009 Copenhagen Accord that any warming above a 2°C (3.6°F) rise would be unsafe, and that humans can only pour about 565 more gigatons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere to maintain this limit. In its "Unburnable Carbon" report, the Carbon Tracker Initiative found that of the two hundred publicly-traded fossil fuel companies with the largest coal, oil, and gas reserves companies possess proven reserves that would release approximately 2,795 gigatons of CO₂ if they are burned, which is five times the amount that can be released without exceeding 2°C of warming.

The City of Los Angeles has a responsibility to protect the lives and livelihoods of its inhabitants from the threat of climate change and support a future where all citizens can live healthy lives without the negative impacts of a warming environment. To further these goals, the Mar Vista Community Council urges the City to:

- Review the investment portfolios of all city departments and agencies to identify any holdings that include direct or indirect investments in fossil fuel companies
- Immediately cease any new investments in fossil fuel companies or in commingled assets that include holdings in fossil fuel companies;
- For any investments in commingled funds that are found to include fossil fuel companies, contact the fund managers and request that the fossil fuel companies be removed from the funds
- Ensure that none of its directly held or commingled assets include holdings in fossil fuel public equities and corporate bonds within 1 year
- Seek out investments in opportunities to limit the effects of burning fossil fuels or help to mitigate its effects including, but not limited to, clean technology and renewable energy, sustainable companies or projects, and sustainable communities

Motion tabled until January meeting. Andy will tell us then how renewables can be profitable. Maybe we should amend the motion to say *future* investments, not all *existing* investments.

8. Public comment

David Anderson and Ravi Sankaran are doing a social enterprise project at USC focused on removing lawns. Working on getting funding to offer people a rebate of \$1.50 in addition to DWP rebate so that homeowners can use "more attractive plants." Plants will come from Native Sons, labor from social service organizations such as Chrysalis. They are hiring irrigation specialists.

9. Meeting adjourned at 10:47 A.M.

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14-0469

APR 11 2014

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

MOTION

It was recently reported that the Obama Administration will propose rules to reduce methane gas emissions at landfills and coal mines in order to improve the air quality. To guide this effort, the Administration will direct the federal Environmental Protection Agency to study the impact of methane gas emissions from these sources.

Methane gas is a colorless, odorless hydrocarbon that is the primary element of natural gas. It is produced through the decomposition of organic materials; however, it is considered a significantly more harmful greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide.

The City's landfill operations capture and transmit methane gas as a revenue enterprise. In addition, methane gas plumes exist underground in various parts of the City. It is critical that these sources do not leak and cause a potential threat to public health and the environment.

In order to protect City residents and the environment, the Bureau of Sanitation and the Department of Building and Safety should report as to the status of methane gas operations and known methane gas plumes in the City. They should also report as to steps they take to identify and control methane leaks.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Bureau of Sanitation and the Department of Building and Safety be directed to report to the Council in 30 days as to the status of methane gas operations and methane gas plumes in the City; and the steps they engage in to identify and control methane leaks.

PRESENTED BY:



PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, 5th District

SECONDED BY:




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