



MVCC Green Committee Meeting

Sunday, September 22, 2013 – 9:30 A.M.

DRAFT MINUTES

Mar Vista Farmers Market

Grand View at Venice Blvd.

Adjacent to the MVCC Green Tent (at Pacific)

Co-Chairs – Jeanne Kuntz, Melissa Stoller

Attendees: Melissa Stoller, Christy Wilhelmi, Sharon Commins, Andy Shrader, Susan Klos, Steve Fox, Sherri Akers, Christopher McKinnon, Jeanne Kuntz, Shelley Wiseman, Brett Steinberger, James Brydon

1. Called to order at 9:32 A.M.
2. Public comment

Susan is supporting the National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI) 2013 fundraising walks and asks that friends look up Westside Green Real Estate on Facebook and “like” it; for every “like,” she will donate 50 cents to the walks.

Melissa urged all to attend the annual Congress of Neighborhoods September 28, 2013.

Sherri urged all to attend National Plug In Day September 28, 2013. She will be there with her car.

Sherri also announced that the South Robertson Neighborhood Council voted to NOT support the LADWP suspension of the DWP feed-in tariff (FiT) program.

There was a suggestion to look at the web site: <https://marvistahilltop.nextdoor.com/login/> for discussion about the Santa Monica airport.

Chris suggested that we find a quieter location within the Farmers’ Market to hold the monthly Green Committee meetings—possibly nearer the post office?

3. Motion to approve August minutes. Approved unanimously.
4. Reports

- MVCC Green Tent
 - Some previous exhibitors would like to come back to the tent: SKANSKA/LA Metro, Bloomers! Know and Grow. Potential guest: Jeanne will contact Don Smith (solar-powered scooters). Susan Klos can come back even with last-minute notice. Want to have more presentations/presenters ready to fill in on short notice.
- 2014 Green Garden Showcase
 - We need to reduce the amount of work that falls on Jeanne and Melissa. Biggest burden is finding and recruiting gardens each year. This year’s goals are clustering gardens for easy viewing and upgrading the quality. Ideas:
 - Green Committee members take photos of gardens as they see them and email pictures to Melissa and Jeanne; must get out of the car and make sure the gardens qualify. Don’t forget to include the address of the gardens! To prevent redundant effort, Melissa can provide a list of gardens that are already on tour or that have been considered and eliminated for various reasons (e.g., owners not interested).
 - Recruit community members with the skill, interest and commitment to find and recruit gardens in a defined area.
 - Hire somebody knowledgeable to find and select gardens.
 - Find a sponsor who can contribute major man/woman power?

- Changes already implemented in 2014: Split the tour into two segments, 10 A.M. –1 P.M. and 1 P.M. – 4 P.M. to allow gardeners to see other gardens. Showcase Central would stay open all day. Garden owners could choose to stay open all day.
- Consider discontinuing garden tour after 2014. Sherri suggested that we take a message to the MVCC Board framing the discontinuation as an evolutionary success rather than failure. The tour has morphed from something that inspires the community to something that has branded the community. Use that brand to turn to other kinds of activism.

OR, take a motion to Board suggesting that MVCC create a garden tour committee and take control of tour. Point out the discrepancy between the large number of volunteers who plan and carry out the Fall Festival with the lack of Garden Showcase volunteers.

- Ballona Institute presentation on “Water & Energy Conservation and How That Links to Native Plants.”
 - Presenter asked for ideas as to where to show this presentation. Green committee suggested schools; LA Green Festival at WLAC (contact Mike Maedor to see if he needs more speakers); Temple Isaiah; and Environmental Changemakers.
- Parkway Gardens motion: Passed by Board.
- Developing a definition of Mar Vista as a livable community ([refer to the Vision 2021 LA study by UCLA](#))
 - Follow “Recode LA” Facebook page. Advisory Committee is looking for more volunteers, Sherri urged applications.

5. Discussion Topics (no pending Green Committee motion)

- Green Committee vision and challenges
 - Melissa expressed concern that committee needs more focus and more man and woman power.
 - Sherri expressed pride at what committee has accomplished.
 - Ideas: Put together a list of ways that volunteers can help and match people with tasks. Seek committed volunteers rather than extra warm bodies who don’t follow through. The person who brings up an idea should be responsible for follow-through. Recognize that committee can’t do everything; select modest, narrow priorities at beginning of each year and allow room to respond to unanticipated opportunities.
- BOD proposal for DWP STAKEHOLDER MEETING to be calendared in early to mid-November pending availability of guest speakers. Topics to include: the new 4 year IBEW contract/work rules; FIT [feed in tariff] 100 cost-benefit; and the massive Bay Area Delta Conservation Plan tunnels project.
 - It’s critical to have a Green Committee member involved in this planning. Andy can take it on if we get a CD5 neighborhood council involved – possibly South Robertson. Will likely be in January, not November.
- Discussion: FIT Motion
See New Business

6. Old business update

- Stationary. Melissa had samples to look at—nice.
- Ratepayer Advocate Account for Externalities Resolution (see Attachment A).
 - Passed with 1 abstention.
- Bay Delta Conservation Plan/Ratepayer Advocate Resolution (see Attachment B).
 - Passed with 1 abstention.

7. New business

- FIT Motion
Melissa introduced the following FIT motion at the July MVCC Board meeting because there wasn’t time

to bring it to the Green Committee.

The Mar Vista Community Council applauds the creation of the Feed-in-Tariff program, as authorized by the Los Angeles City Council and DWP Commission, because it

- *Provides clean, local solar energy, thus reducing our reliance on polluting, coal-fired power plants and costly long distance transmission lines.*
- *Generates local, well-paying jobs in the Green Energy sector so important for our city's economy now and in the future.*
- *Encourages private investment and provides \$300 million in federal tax credits for local businesses.*
- *Will, over time, lead to a decrease in the cost of "going solar," thus increasing its prevalence and lessening the need for incentives.*

MVCC urges LADWP and the city to maintain the FIT energy buy-back prices at a level sufficient to encourage participation in the program and, also, to expand the program from its current 150 megawatts to 600 megawatts.

The Board put it over, asked Green Committee to hold joint meeting with Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, and said must have presentation of "other side" from Dr. Pickel. Melissa suggested some times for a joint meeting, but no meeting is currently scheduled.

Melissa sought Green Committee approval of the motion. Andy said FIT isn't coming before City Council for reconsideration, so no action is required now. Motion set aside.

8. Public comment

Sherri suggested that a motion to support the Bonin-Koretz ordinance to ban fracking in LA County should be on next month's Green Committee agenda.

Chris mentioned the great display related to water at the Hyperion Sewage Treatment Plant. Melissa requested help doing a "Shower to Flower" bulletin board for the Green Tent.

9. Meeting adjourned at 11:05 A.M..

RATEPAYER ADVOCATE ACCOUNT FOR EXTERNALITIES

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Office of Public Accountability (OPA) is a Los Angeles City department established by voter-approved Charter Amendment I (adopted March 8, 2011) in order to shed greater light on the DWP's operations and finances and to serve as an independent watchdog, charged with analyzing proposed increases in water and power rates on a timely and continuous basis; and

WHEREAS, the term "environmental externalities" refers to the economic concept of uncompensated environmental effects of production and consumption that affect consumer utility and enterprise cost outside the market mechanism; and

WHEREAS, "natural capital" has been defined as "the finite stock of natural assets (air, water and land) from which goods and services flow to benefit society and the economy. It is made up of ecosystems (providing renewable resources and services), and non-renewable deposits of fossil fuels and minerals;" and

WHEREAS, without including the costs of negative externalities to natural capital in accounting for the production of energy and water, costs of production tend to be misreported; and

WHEREAS, some proposals may have positive externalities, such as the creation of local jobs as with building a local water supply and with the Feed In Tariff; and

WHEREAS, a 2013 report by TruCost, "Natural Capital at Risk: The Top 100 Externalities of Business" (NCR), estimates that the global top 100 environmental externalities are costing the global economy some \$4.7 trillion a year in terms of the economic costs of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, loss of natural resources, loss of nature-based services such as carbon storage by forests, climate change and air pollution-related health costs; and

WHEREAS, also according to NCR, coal power, natural gas power and several other high-impact business sectors face an economic loss when accounting for damages to natural capital; and

WHEREAS, the Community of Mar Vista considers accounting for natural capital in financial decisions an essential part of being a sustainable community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that by adoption of this resolution, the Mar Vista Community Council respectfully requests that the Ratepayer Advocate include in all analyses of power and water rates a complete accounting of the positive and negative externalities to natural capital of the various available power and water options facing the City, so that the ratepayers of Los Angeles may have a more complete picture by which to base their support and opposition to DWP proposals.

BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN/RATEPAYER ADVOCATE

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Office of Public Accountability (OPA) is a Los Angeles City department established by voter-approved Charter Amendment I (adopted March 8, 2011) in order to shed greater light on the Department of Water & Power's (DWP) operations and finances and to serve as an independent watchdog, charged with analyzing proposed increases in water and power rates on a timely and continuous basis; and

WHEREAS, the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta (Delta), the hub of California's water supply, is facing major challenges, including aging levees, seismic instability, increased urbanization, ecosystem degradation, a lack of fresh water, and a reduced and inconsistent annual snowpack and potential sea-level rise and flooding resulting from the climate crisis; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles purchases, on average, 50% of its water supply from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD); 90% of the City's MWD water is from the Delta via the State Water Project (SWP); and

WHEREAS, the proposed Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) includes building at a cost of tens of billions of dollars, two 35-mile tunnels to divert a portion of the Sacramento River in a stated attempt to achieve a reliable water supply for California and a healthy Delta ecosystem. The City's ratepayers would be expected to contribute substantially to pay for the BDCP; and

WHEREAS, the DWP has previously announced a policy of purchasing less imported water and pursuing lower cost options of increasing the City's local water supply -- its Urban Water Management Plan includes taking the local water supply from 10% to 37% by 2035. These options include greater conservation, wastewater recycling, stormwater capture, grey water systems, new building and fixture standards, aquifer cleanup and infrastructure repair and maintenance. As the production of "local water" by the City will benefit the entire state, the costs should not fall exclusively upon the Los Angeles ratepayers; and

WHEREAS, in early August, 2013, the Brown Administration released a draft statewide economic report of costs and benefits of the BDCP. The Public Draft Plan of the BDCP is scheduled to be released in October. As of August 25, 2013, the City's Ratepayer Advocate has not yet released a report detailing the BDCP's impact upon the City's ratepayers;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that by adoption of this resolution, the Mar Vista Community Council respectfully requests that the Ratepayer Advocate provide an independent, peer-reviewed, cost-benefit analysis of the impact of the BDCP to Mar Vista ratepayers, including an analysis of the externalities – environmental or otherwise, including the expansion of the local job market when building a local water supply – involved in the BDCP, contrast these costs per acre foot with other sources of water, including efficiency-demand management, recycled water, stormwater capture and desalination; and publicly submit this analysis to the Mar Vista Community Council, the other Neighborhood Councils and the Los Angeles City Council for their consideration and comment before the BDCP moves forward.