



Minutes – Regular Meeting Thursday, February 4, 2016

Social – 6:30; Meeting 7 – 8:55

Montana Branch Library

1. The February 4, 2016 meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM. A quorum was present. Attending Board members were: Danilo Bach, Nancy Coleman, Evelyn Lauchenauer, Caryn Marshall, Jane Wiedlea, Todd James, Meyera Robbins, Sonya Sultan, Phillis Dudick, April Smith, Jeff Gordon and Steve Lissik. Victor Fresco was absent.
2. Approval of the Minutes of the January 30, 2016 Annual Meeting Minutes. The Minutes were unanimously approved as written. Moved by Jane Koehler, seconded Nancy Coleman.
3. No Treasurer's Report, because of Treasurer's absence.
4. Introduction of the newly elected NOMA Board members.
5. Public Comment by Ann Hoover, Samohi PTSA: In support of students' Sports Field at Santa Monica Civic Auditorium Park. SAMOHI football, soccer, baseball, softball, lacrosse, track & field and Marching Band critically need more practice area near campus instead of traveling to remote locations throughout the city to find spaces to practice. In 2005, after enormous community input, City Council agreed to include a regulation-size sports field at the Santa Monica Civic Center as part of the Civic Center Specific Plan.
The City Staff and Council envisioning process may favor more commercial development as a means of financing and operating the Civic that would include a hotel, commercial and retail space, instead the much-needed Sports Field for the students and community. Says the support of the NOMA Board and members is needed to reinforce the need for the Students Sports Field at the Civic Center.
6. Introduction of our new mayor of Santa Monica Tony Vazquez.

The Mayor began by saying he grew up here in Santa Monica and has served as a City Council Member. He is an advocate of a playing field at Memorial Park at the former Fisher Lumber site. The Civic Working Group was set up a few years ago to study the Civic Center and develop a School District and City property joint use plan there. The Mayor also provided updates regarding several major city projects, Expo rail arrival this year, the California Incline and new bridge, the Circulation Plan as it relates to Expo, BBB, parking, the Coastal Plan, DT Community Plan (DTSP or DCP).

About trees in the city: root failure of the Canary Island Pines in Sunset Park; city's UFTF

needs more staff to support trees at risk and in trauma due to the water cutback and the drought.

There were public comments and questions to the Mayor regarding watering trees on City parkways adjacent to sidewalks and who is responsible for watering them.

The Mayor responded that the City needs to do a better job to inform the homeowners they should water the trees and for them to request "camel" bags of water for trees at risk. Another public question was regarding streets without streetlights, the Mayor responded that streetlights could be added with an assessment to each homeowner of \$2,500. with the cost spread over 10 years. The last question was about the latest water bills seeming higher than usual and their being contested

7. Rob Schwenker, Publisher and Matt Hall, Editor of the Santa Monica Daily Press the focus of the DP is public safety, the urban forest, education/schools, the issues of the community, investigative reporting, art and entertainment. DP experienced a server crash and is rebuilding their site
8. Affordable Housing Report by Richard Dellamora
Suggestion for financing 15 million dollar budget is ½ from the General Reserve Fund with a sales tax increase of .0025 cents to be shared by the entire population and visitors spending money in Santa Monica. Study shows Santa Monica is losing 400 – 500 units a year that are leaving the market.
9. 9. Membership report from Caryn Marshall on new members and from Evelyn Lauchenauer on success of annual meeting.
10. Report on courtyard apartment at 419-423 Ocean Ave., a city Landmark.
Owner/developer with new proposal to rehab 50% per one of the options given in the DEIR and to build new units allowed under the previous city zoning code on remaining site. An unsatisfactory option -- need to remain more of original courtyard buildings.
11. Hedge and fence height variance for 201 21st Pl. discussed with owner. No decision to take position.
12. Jule Lamm spoke on drive for councilmanic districts in city.
13. Meeting adjourned at 8:47 pm.

(Next meeting March 3, 2016, at 7 pm at Montana Branch Library.)

