

NOMA
October 4th, 2018
Monthly Meeting
Montana Ave Library Community Meeting
smnoma.org
Santa Monica Council Candidates
and
Santa Monica Ballot Measures (Pro/Con)

- I. Call to Order: 6:30 pm
- II. Board Member Attendance: Nancy, Danilo, Jim, Jane, Evelyn, Caryn, Jeff B
- III. Council Candidates
 - A. Ashley Powell
 - 1. Born in SM. Bachelors in sociology from Occidental College. Supports term limits. Homelessness is the biggest crisis in our city. Social services, workforce dev, affordable housing, children mental health experience.
 - B. Geoffrey Neri
 - 1. Lawyer. Formerly a teacher. Law & order is the chief concern. Change in leadership is required. Hire private security such as the company Block For Block. West Hollywood has had success with this group.
 - C. Scott Bellomo
 - 1. 30 year SM resident. Marketing & advertising as profession. Homeless person attacked him and his son. This was his inspiration for entering the race. Feels that city council does not represent him as a resident. Affordable housing needs improvement.
 - D. Greg Morena
 - 1. From Santa Monica. Public school system of SM has played a large role in his life. Student council, sports, entrepreneurship. Future concerns of housing prices and diversity. Endorsed by Ben Allen, Richard Bloom, Ted Winterer.
 - E. Kevin McKeown
 - 1. 20 years ago he was the chair of Wilmont. He played a role in starting NOMA. Hasn't taken corporate or development money. Slow growth advocate. Directory of clean power alliance of Southern California. His plan is to replace SCE with 100% renewable electricity. California doing this by 2045. SM will do this next year.
 - F. Jon Mann
 - 1. He is a write in candidate. Don't vote for incumbents or anyone endorsed by SMRR.
 - G. Sue Himmelrich (absent due to prior commitment)
 - H. Pam O'Connor (invited but not attending)
 - I. Member Question: What should happen with airport land and 4th & Arizona
 - 1. Kevin: Airport was voted as a public use property. The city has purchased much of the 4th & Arizona area. Many proposals from the developer.
 - 2. Greg: Airport is pre-determined. Can't be developed. Public garden idea is interesting. Existing shortened runway area should move forward. 4th &

Arizona is half building and half open space. Homelessness is a challenge for the open space. Town center idea would be nice.

3. Scott: Airport park is a slam dunk. 4th park only and no development.
 4. Geoffrey: Airport could be the "Central Park" of Santa Monica. Current proposal has included 6 artificial grass soccer fields - this is not a good use of the land. Multi-use is key. 4th & Arizona should have minimal development.
 5. Jon: Brevity is my strong suit.
- J. Member Question: For Kevin, you talk about extending the promenade, yet we can't keep stores like Barnes & Nobel and the Toy store open.
1. Kevin: We didn't lose Barnes & Nobel because we didn't want a bookstore. That company decided to leave. SM tried to keep this store. The city has no say is what stores stay and go. Retail is changing. People are looking for more experiences than stores. This is what we're aiming for with any expansion.
 2. Scott: Retail-tainment is key.
- K. Member Question: The R1 Zoning Interim Ordinance limits degradation of our neighborhoods. We await a permanent ordinance. Would you support.
1. Unanimous yes.
- L. Member Question: I feel that people are no longer safe in SM. E-scooters and bicycles make me afraid to walk and drive. What would you do in the near term?
1. Kevin: I ride bicycles in the bike lane. The scooter companies are now under contract and the city is getting the situation under control.
 - a) Chair: Jump bicycles are parking illegally at public bicycle lock ups and breeze bike share locations.
 2. Scott: I have developed transportation apps similar to e-scooters. The city could shut down this activity if they wanted.
 3. Geoffrey: I hit a bicycle with my car today. It was not my fault. The bicyclist ran a stop sign. E-scooters need to be policed by the business operators. They should be taxed and fined.
 4. Jon: Google Jon Man Steve Lopez.
 5. Greg: Public safety is the number one concern. We need about 50 public service officers. This enforcement along with the use of technology will solve providing enforcement on the issue.
- M. Member Question: Greg, I have never heard of you. What have you done for the betterment of the city for the last 40 years?
1. Currently, city audit commissioner. Sit on the transit board. Long running pier leases board member. Mentoring children in the city is a passion.
- N. Member Question: What one thing would you do for SM?
1. Kevin: Focus on public safety. Hiring more officers in short order is the first thing that we should do.
 2. Greg: Public safety is his number one issue. Hiring more officers.
 3. Scott: Primary focus is reduction in crime. Arrest and refer for prosecution regardless of length of sentence.
 4. Geoffrey: Law & Order and crime prevention is the key issue. A private security force is needed.
 5. Jon: The police 3-day work week should be stopped.

IV. NOMA Announcements

- A. NOMA initiated landmark status for 505 Georgina and The Landmarks Commission will be having a hearing on the matter. When you see demolition signs in the neighborhood, inform the neighborhood association. There is a 75 day waiting period once the demolition signs are posted on properties before demolition can begin and during which landmark application for property can be submitted if qualifying.
- B. Crime seminar - October 24th at the Brentwood Country Club. Featured speaker will be the chief of police.
- C. SCE will hold a Wildfire Mitigation Community Forum at the King Gillette Ranch in Calabasas next Tuesday for high fire-risk areas.
- D. This Sunday is SM Coast event.

V. Adoption of NOMA September 6, 2018 Meeting Minutes

- A. Short on time. Will address another time.

VI. Ballot Measures

- A. Nancy: Visit smvote.org for detailed information.

- B. **MEASURE SMS SANTA MONICA CLASSROOM REPAIR AND 21st CENTURY EDUCATION BOND:** To improve, repair, and modernize outdated Santa Monica classrooms, science labs, libraries, instructional technology and other school facilities; improve school safety/security systems; shall Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District's School Facilities Improvement District No. 1 (Santa Monica Schools) issue \$485 million of bonds at legal interest rates, averaging \$27.4 million raised annually to repay issued bonds through final maturity, from levies estimated at four cents per \$100 assessed value, with citizens' oversight, annual audits, and all funds benefiting Santa Monica schools?

1. PRO: Jennifer Smith

- a) NOMA resident with 2 children in the public school system. Upgrade campus security, earthquake & fire security, remove asbestos, energy efficiency. There are no state funds to address these needs. All funds raised will be used only in SM. The sound education of our children stabilizes our neighborhoods and raises property values. Endorses by many SM organizations.

2. CON: Nikki Koloff

- a) Parent of 2 children in the district. PTA member. Professional finance lawyer. Concerns are lack of specificity of fund use and lack of accountability. Total cost will near \$1 billion. Comparable bond issuances have specific master plans for the usage of the funds. In comparison, SMS is a blank check. The bond oversight committee cannot enforce a non-specific mandate. School board meetings are not available to the public. We can do this in 2020 with specific projects and a master plan.

3. Stan Epstein Question: Why should we feel assured that the board will be more responsible with this money than they were with the Double Tree lease?
 - a) Jennifer: We should ask our board to be accountable. The board meetings are public. The CFO and leadership have changed. They have encouraged greater transparency and accountability.
 - b) Nikki: There is no accountability on the back end. It needs to be presented beforehand. Joint use agreement of the Double Tree is a perfect example of nebulous funds.
 4. Jim Williams Question: What is the cost to NOMA? What is the debt per parcel?
 - a) Nikki: \$400 to \$1 million of assessed value.
 5. Member Question: Nikki, you mentioned several other bond measures. Where do we access this information?
 - a) Nikki: There is no list attached to these bond measures.
- C. **MEASURE TL** Shall the Santa Monica City Charter be amended to prohibit any person from serving as a member of the City Council for more than three terms, whether consecutive or not, where a term includes any full term of four years as well as any partial term of more than two years?
1. PRO: Diana Gordon/ Lawrence Eubank
 - a) The power of incumbency is the power of name. They can run for reelection for much less money. A term limit is in our interest. It will encourage youth, women, and diversity. We don't think it can hurt us. 3 term limits and 12 years. Vote yes on TL.
 2. CON: League of Women Voters (invited, but no response)
 - a) None available/ none responded
 3. Member Question: If voted for, when will the measure take effect?
 - a) Answer: It will take effect as of those elected this term.
 4. Member Question: What was NOMA's vote?
 - a) Answer: 2 nay & 12 yes.
 5. Member Question: Is there any link between the term limit and the districting issues?
 - a) Answer: No.

VII. Mayor Ted Winterer

- A. If you want to learn more about the ballot measures, go to smvote.org
- B. **MEASURE SM** Shall City Charter Section 615 be amended to require, for a period of ten years, the votes of five Council members to amend (a) the Land Use and Circulation Element or (b) Downtown Community Plan, where that amendment would increase the maximum height limit or floor area ratio in any land use designation, with exceptions for 100% Affordable Housing Projects and property owned by Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District?

1. When the LUCE passed in 2018, there was intended to be a downtown plan with separate zoning ordinance. Any property over 7500 sq/ft would need a development agreement. This resulted in an exhaustive process. This has been corrected with more clear and established guidelines.
2. There is a concern that future city councils could ease these restrictions. This bill would require 5 yes votes from city council instead of 4 in order to make changes to these restrictions.
3. Question: Why does the language of the bill not include lowering the maximum height or floor area.
 - a) There is not much concern for lowering the limits. This would still require only a 4 yes vote.

C. **MEASURE RR** Shall the City Charter be amended to change the eligibility requirement for service on the City's Library Board, Personnel Board, and Airport Commission from that of "qualified elector" of the City to "resident" of the City and to ensure compliance with applicable laws related to compensation and reimbursement.

1. There is some antiquated language for various city boards. This causes cumbersome restrictions on who can serve on boards (e.g. must be a US citizen). This language may only be altered by the voters.
2. Member Question: Does this conflict with the bill that Governor Brown vetoed on non-residents serving on boards?
 - a) Answer: It does not. As a charter city, SM has purview over these matters.
3. Member Question: Why is there no language about the length of residence?
 - a) Answer: People who just moved to SM will not likely be selected to serve on these boards.
4. Member Question: Is there a limit to how many people would be selected to a board if they didn't live in SM?
 - a) Answer: Most boards require that you be a resident of SM. This bill is simply removing the "Qualified Elector" distinction. Does not apply to ad hoc committees.
5. Nancy Coleman Question: We had a question earlier to the candidates about e-scooters. There continue to be violations despite newly enacted contracts.
 - a) Any bike racks can be used except for Breeze bike racks.
6. Member Follow up question 1: I have found that there have been 63 citations for sidewalk riding in 2018.
 - a) Answer: The numbers are skewed. Sidewalk violations are cited for helmet violations.
7. Member Follow up question 2: Bikes parked on the sidewalk have blocked bus stops preventing people from exiting buses.
 - a) Answer: The SMPD is understaffed due to many factors. The short term solution is to email photos to kyle.kozar@smgov.net. We are working on long term solutions with the companies.
8. Member Follow up statement 3: Residents feel like e-scooter companies get their way.

- a) Answer: Most residents are also concerned with traffic congestion. Solutions like e-scooters are key to solving this problem.
- 9. Member Question: How many police do we have?
 - a) Answer: ~225 sworn officers.
- 10. Nancy Coleman Statement: Sheriff recruitment is extraordinarily hard. Many reasons that the Mayor has already laid out. Also, there is a shortage of people in the age ranges needed to be a police officer.
- 11. Mayor Ted Winterer Statement: Big picture, new developments present challenges and solutions take time.
- 12. Phil Brock Question: Sunday event?
 - a) Ted Answer: Coast festival Sunday from 10am-4pm. Arts and Entertainment for all to enjoy!

VIII. Public Comment

The November 1st meeting: Candidates for the School Board, the College Board and the Rent Control Board will be invited to make presentations.