

NOMA Monthly Meeting

November 1, 2018

Montana Branch Library, 17th and Montana

- I. Attendance: Nancy Coleman, Danilo Bach, Jim Williams, Jeff Gordon, Evelyn Lauchenauer, Todd James, Caryn Marshall, Jane Koehler, Sonya Fox Sultan, Jeff Brechts
- II. Welcome and Announcements
 - A. Having annual meeting in February as to not overlap with annual marches.
 - B. Brentwood country club meeting discussed NOMA crime. 2-3% increase in street crime regarding vehicle break ins. Homelessness has spread to the NOMA area. Scooters and bikes being left throughout the neighborhoods is a problem. A controversial topic was residential hedges being over the Santa Monica limit of 42 inches - research shows that taller hedges cause more problems.
- I. Nominations Committee, Danilo Bach
 - A. We are hoping to have nominees by December 1st. Some board members are leaving. I would like to encourage anyone interested to join the board. smnoma.org has Danilo's contact information.
 - B. Those interested in becoming a board member should familiarize themselves with expectations of board members. These can be found on the NOMA website in the board members section.
- II. Acceptance of the October 4th Minutes
 - A. Danilo moves, Sonya seconds, approved
- III. Tentative Plans for February NOMA Celebration at the Aero Theatre
- IV. Liaison from the Senior Community
- V. 7:15 School Board Candidates (there is a School Board Meeting at the same time some of the Candidates may attend our meeting)
 - A. Ann Thanawalla is a 19 year resident of SM. One son in 5th grade. Participating with the city of SM for a number of years including the art committee, site council at Roosevelt Elementary, visual & performing arts advisory committee, local control & accountability plan. She would be the only parent with a child actively studying in SM public schools. Goals are to give parents more of a voice on the board, determine appropriate uses of technology, develop healthier school lunch programs, bringing back middle school sports. Ballot designation is "Mom"

1. Member Question: How do you feel about conflicts of interest and corruption within the school board members and city council.
 - a) Answer: It is important to have the ability to take clear actions that support our kids.

2. Danilo Question: Have you been interviewed in any other places?
 - a) Answer: smvote.org school board section, Santa Monica Daily Press.

VI. Santa Monica College Trustees:

- A. Louise Jaffe: Running for reelection. The college is a fabulous resource for everyone. Has been involved in various state boards for the last 4 years. She has learned that this has a great impact on the college. She is especially valuable to the board due to this experience. She has made a difference in recent years by streamlining the high school to college experience. Experienced with legislation that allows students to get their first year for free if they go full time.

- B. Nancy Greenstein: Running for reelection. Just retired from day job at UCLA Police. Supporter of emeritus college. Experience making sure student necessities are accessible (food, shelter, etc). Multigenerational approach to education. Values community resources like the Broad Stage and swimming pool.

- C. Sion Roy : Cardiologist at UCLA. Access to quality education is important. His wife went from low income beginnings to Harvard Medical School. Live in SM because it is a diverse community with a strong public education system. Would use more college resources to better prepare high school students targeting a college education. He would be the first physician on the board and this could help to facilitate ties to local hospitals.

- D. Patrick Acosta: Born and raised in Santa Monica. He is running because he thinks the college is a great place. He was an honor roll student there while working two jobs. He completed his education at UCLA studying urban and regional planning. Serving on the board would be a great opportunity to contribute as someone who has experienced it firsthand.

- E. Barry Snell: Current chair of the board. Day job is CPA. How we handle money is important to him. He has been an advocate for education in Santa Monica for 16 years. All three of his children went through the public school system including SMCC. He is an advocate for the emeritus program. Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion are key tenants. Goals moving forward: clean financial records, fund programs for those that need them the most. Currently has a 12 year old going through the public school systems.

- F. Q&A
 1. Member Question: Sion, tell us more about your vision for medical programs.

- a) Sion Answer: My role would not be to establish curriculum. I could, however, create the ties to these resources. These fields are in high demand throughout California.
2. Jeff Question: Sion, is it true that only 18% of SM high school grads go to SMCC?
 - a) Sion Answer: The health and well being report from 2014 describes 18% of SM high school grads as “being college ready” regarding English and math.
3. Member Question: Some rent control housing in SM goes to students. Sion, how do you address the housing concerns of students? Would you consider building dorms?
 - a) Sion Answer: It is a complex issue. It is a huge problem throughout the state. We should study it.
4. Member Question: Is a conflict of interest converting SMCC to an international school?
 - a) Barry Answer: We are considered an open campus. SMCC students can attend other colleges. This creates a great level of diversity within our programs.
5. Ann Thanawalla Question: School district report says students are having difficulty obtaining A through G credits (state school requirements). Can we revert to former programs that were more successful in helping students obtain basic credits?
 - a) Louise Answer: 30 years ago would have shown less diversity among those obtaining these credits.
6. Member Statement: Most of our kids want to go to a 4 year college.

VII. Rent Control Board

- A. Nancy Coleman: The rent control board has term limits.
- B. Steve Duron did not respond to NOMA's invitation.
- C. Lori Brown: Her experience with the rent control board has been very negative. She believes that building owners have been vilified. She believes that building owners provide a valuable service to the community.
- D. Naomi Sultan: Veterans rights attorney. Grew up in NOMA and lives in Ocean Park. Running for the board to protect those that are at risk. Every home converted into short term housing degrades our communities. She is experienced in matters involving housing, eviction, etc. Endorsed by SM Democratic Club, SMRR, Local 11, and others.

- E. Jon Mann: Man of the people. He has been running for city council since 1992. He believes that a deep state runs Santa Monica. He does not recommend voting for anyone that has been endorsed. He believes that the city operates with the sole function of enriching city employees. He intends to use the rent control board as a springboard to city council.

- F. Nicole Phillis: Has lived in SM for 7 years. She is a litigator. She is a current member of the rent control board. She believes that housing is a human right and that people should be allowed to age in place. Her record includes establishing an initiative that bans renting rent control units to corporations, and aggressive pass through restrictions. She is working towards rules that would add more transparency within the board.

VIII. Public Comments

IX. Closing Statement: Next meeting will include our new police representative.