

Minutes NOMA Meeting held March 1, 2018

Main Library Community Room 2nd Floor

The Meeting was called to order at 7:10.

Board Members Present: Nancy Coleman, Caryn Marshall, Jane Kohler, Phillis Dudick, Jeff Gordon, Jim Williams, Todd James and Evelyn Lauchenauer.

Absent: Danilo Bach, Jeff Brecht, Victor Fresco, Steve Lissik and Sonya Sultan

The acceptance of the Minutes of the January 27, 2018 Annual Meeting were moved by Evelyn Lauchenauer and seconded by Phillis Dudick.

Santa Monica Police Department

There were more than 75 people present to discuss crime issues in the neighborhood. Captain Bob Almada, a burglary detective, Sergeant Robert Villegas, Officer Capri Redondo and Crime Prevention Coordinator Suzie Lockwood gave an update on the burglary that had taken place the night before. The Captain took questions from residents after explaining crime investigation strategies being employed in the City to solve crimes.

A question raised by several residents was related to increasing the number of police officers patrolling the streets. Such an increase would be quite costly according to City Manager Rick Cole and NOMA member also stated that a new Police Chief would be named in the next few weeks.

During the incident of February 28th the LAPD did a helicopter scan of the area. Additional helicopters were from news groups that were limited to 5000 ft. An LA County Sheriff's bomb squad evaluated an object under the car of the person who had crashed the car after leaving the Montana Ave. jewelry store.

Officer Capri Redondo reminded residents to remember to lock their doors (including cars) set their alarms, and if they have cameras make sure that the lens are set so that they are lower and can see faces. The SMPD will provide security checks, help with the organization of Neighborhood Watch groups as well as return to future NOMA meetings.

Term Limits for Santa Monica City Council Members

Mary Marlow representing Santa Monica Transparency described a ballot measure to limit City Council Members to three four year terms. Term Limits exist across California for cities, LA County Supervisors, statewide office holders, and the state legislatures. This is for good governance, new ideas, and turn over of the Council. Cities with limited terms include, Los Angeles, West Hollywood, Rosemead, Thousand Oaks, Santa Barbara, San Francisco, others.

The ballot measure would limit City Council to no more than 12 years. If a member were appointed to fill a vacant position and serves for more than 2 years then that period would be considered to be a full term. If the measure passes the effective date would occur after the November election. Each member running for City Council in November would prospectively be limited to three terms.

Santa Monica is a Charter City requiring the ballot measure to be an amendment to the Charter. The effort to obtain signatures has begun. The City Clerk's office will verify the number of signatures gathered following a check for validity by the County Register of Voters. 15,000 signatures will need to be gathered by the end of April. Residents were asked to volunteer for this effort. See santamonica Transparency.org or email smtransparency@verizon.net for more information.

Interim Zoning Ordinance (IZO) for R 1 neighborhoods

The IZO was established for 60 days to limit the lot coverage of homes in R 1 neighborhoods. These neighborhoods include NOMA, Sunset Park, Northeast Neighbors, and parts of both Pico and Ocean Park. The limit reduces lot coverage from 61% to 50%. The IZO also includes a reduction of the height of homes in NOMA from 32' to 28', the height limit throughout the rest of Santa Monica.

City Manager Rick Cole stated that the R 1 issues are a priority for the City Council in 2018. He stated that NOMA and the other neighborhoods should provide advocacy regarding this issue.

The City Council will vote again on this IZO on March 27th to extend it and set out a process for the implementation of the IZO. NOMA participates in a working group with representatives from other neighborhoods in the City.

Santa Monica City Council Audit Committee's Compensation Advisory Committee, Jim Williams

Due to the limited time Jim Williams explained that the Council's Audit Committee and the Advisory sub-Committee on Compensation had received a draft report from the outside auditor. There were 12 recommendations that will be considered at a future Audit Committee Meeting. Jim will update NOMA at the April Meeting.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:50.

The Next NOMA Meeting will take place will take place at the Montana Branch Library on April 5, 2018.