

Minutes of NOMA Monthly Meeting of Thursday, August 3, 2017

Call to Order:

Nancy Coleman, Chair of NOMA, called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm at the Community Room of the Santa Monica Public Library, Montana Avenue Branch.

Board Members Nancy Coleman, Danilo Bach, Jeff Gordon, Evelyn Lauchenauer, Caryn Marshall and Jim Williams were present, constituting a quorum.

Announcements:

Nancy Coleman reported that NOMA is looking for volunteers to join our committees: the San Vicente Historic Courtyard District to help the Landmarks Commission in setting standards for contributing and non-conforming buildings; additional members for the Land Use Committee to help set standards in R1 neighborhoods, including relating to mansionization and lot coverage issues; and additional volunteers for membership. The most important is to find a new board member to be Secretary.

Danilo Bach discussed the formation of a crime and safety committee. So far there has been a good response and an initial meeting will be set, perhaps for late in August. The concept for the committee is that it would deal with both crime and safety, including traffic safety and emergency preparation.

Those members interested in finding out more about these committees and joining should email NOMA at nomaboard@gmail.com or U.S. mail at NOMA, 1112c Montana Avenue #516 Santa Monica, CA 90403.

There was no financial report this month (please see previous minutes.)

Presentation by City of Santa Monica Public Landscape Division, Including About Our Trees and Landscape

Presenting were SM Urban Forester Matthew Wells; Public Landscape Manager, Hector Kistemann; Public Landscape Superintendent, Darrell Baker; Senior Administrative Analyst in Public Landscape, Carlos Collard; and Sustainability Analyst in the Office of Sustainability, Thomas Fleming. During the presentation, they each answered numerous questions from the audience and heard specific comments and feedback.

The Public Landscape Division is part of SM Public Works Department, responsible for managing all SM parks, taking care of the wellbeing of our urban forest, maintaining the SM state beaches, maintaining the downtown, city facilities and our medians.

Residents and businesses were urged to report issues to the Public Landscape Division, to let them know of problems with trees and landscape, as well as to enquire about tree trimming

schedules in your area, removal and plantings and other issues of concern in the areas of its responsibilities. If there is a problem you have or noticed, they will come out and check it out. They promised to respond promptly. Provide as much reasonable detail as possible.

Ways to contact Public Landscape Division:

1. Use GO Santa Monica App
2. Online at www.smgov.net/GO
3. Call 1.310.458.8974
4. Email public.landscape@smgov.net
5. Follow on Instagram @santamonicapubliclandscape or Facebook.

Santa Monica removes about 400 trees a year, and plants about 700/800 specimen size trees. Presently, the removed trees are not automatically replaced, as new plantings follow a schedule they have developed. In 5-7 years the schedule should be completed and removed trees mostly automatically replaced. 1881 trees were pruned last year. A couple hundred trees were lost or prematurely removed because of the drought.

The City said it is responsible for the trees in the public parkway (between sidewalk and street), while the property owners are supposed to water them, though not legally mandated to do so. The property owners own the parkway land, but the City has tree and utility easements.

They advised that we all go on the Public Landscape portion of the City website for tips on maintaining trees on our land, including ¾” deep mulch around the base, breaking up the soil around trees to make the ground more porous, and using caution to not over-prune trees. Sprinklers need to be adjusted for seasons, rain, etc. We are not out of drought conditions.

Public Comments:

Zoë Muntaner of Compassionate Santa Monica made a presentation and asked for support about the precarious situation of street vendors and their legalization. For further information you can contact her at: compassionatesantamonica@gmail.com

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made by Danilo Bach and seconded by Jeff Gordon, passing unanimously at 8:35pm.

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