

NOMA Meeting Minutes September 7, 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 present: Nancy Coleman, Evelyn Lauchenauer, Caryn Marshall, Jim Williams, Sonya Sultan, Jeff Gordon, Todd James and Steve Lissik constituting a quorum. Absent: Victor Fresco, Jane Koehler, Danilo Bach and Phillis Dudick.

Announcements:

CERT: a free training is available for Santa Monica residents. The course starts on October 7th. Sign-up on the Santa Monica website.

September 9 - Buy Local, Health & Fitness Festival, Reed Park 11-4 pm

October 1 - "Coast" A free engaging way to explore the city. Closing of Main Street, Colorado Blvd and Ocean Avenue 10-4 pm

Plans for the City Service Building and "ECLC", the Early Childhood Lab School have been sent to the Coastal Commission for approval. The Coastal Commission took it off of its September Agenda and will schedule it for a future meeting. The City is not required to give notice to residents beyond the "notice on the front door of City Hall and the parking lot in the civic center." The applications made by the City and SMC were not made available to residents.

Bob Posek discussed R1 Zoning. According to the Santa Monica City website there are 40 demolition permits in NOMA at this time. Sunset Park also has 40 demo permits. He says it is a citywide problem. He is working with Friends of Sunset Park, Northeast Neighbors. A survey of residents in R-1 neighborhood is being developed. Those working on this issue will meet with members of Council and members of the planning commission. We need your support, take the survey that will be emailed to you by NOMA.

A motion to accept the prior month's minutes was made by Evelyn Lauchenauer and Caryn Marshall seconded it.

Bob Sevy, NOMA member, is a new volunteer of the Crime and Safety Committee. The committee has had two meetings so far. What three initiatives should we take on? 1.) Lock doors and windows. 2.) Paint reflective home address on the alley side of the property for emergency services. 3.) Start or join a neighborhood watch group. There are neighborhood watch groups in the north of Montana Avenue area. These groups are talking to Lauralee Asch, Crime Prevention Coordinator.

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, 1112 Montana Avenue #516 Santa Monica, CA 90403.

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

The main topic Presentation: Water -- A Crisis for Santa Monica or Not?

Where is our water to be obtained and how allocated in these times of climate change and drought?

Santa Monica has a commitment to “water neutrality” and becoming water self-sufficient. The city adopted a “Sustainable Water Master Plan” in 2014. The assumption was that the city’s growth would be just over 92,000 by 2035. How does this square with the needs of our newly-adopted Downtown Community Plan and our continuing growth?

Residents have been under reductions in water usage since 2013. How is “water neutrality” to be attained? How will residents be affected? How will all in the City – single-family residences; multi-unit housing; commercial buildings; municipal facilities, schools, public parks, etc. -- be accommodated?

Speakers: Gil Borboa, P.E., Water Resources Manager
Thomas Flemming, Office of Sustainability Analyst
Karina Sandique, Office of Sustainability Analyst
Thomas Watason, P.G. Water Resources Program Administrator
John Zimmer, Urban Planner

75% of the city’s water comes from local well sources. 25% of the water supply is imported water primarily from northern California. Santa Monica is planning to become self-sufficient by 2020. It is a challenge. “Stop building”, was a comment by someone in attendance. The Sustainable Master Plan lays out how to get there. It is in the process of being updated taking into account population, new building projects, water needs, etc. It may take until 2025 for the city to reach water neutrality.

What is water neutrality? It is a code that caps water use for new developments by limiting the project to the historical five-year average water use for that individual parcel. The ordinance went into effect July 1, 2017.

Go to SMgov.net/water for details.

Any questions email: savewater@smgov.net or call 310-458-8972 x 2 to reach Karina Sandique. All newly built apartment buildings must sub metered so rental tenants will be paying for water.

NOMA’s next meeting is October 5, 2017 at the Montana Branch Library.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made by Jim Williams and seconded by Evelyn Lauchenauer, passing unanimously at 8:45 pm.