

NOMA Meeting Minutes November 2, 2017

Call to Order:

Nancy Coleman, Chair of NOMA called the meeting to order at 7:02 at the Community Room of the Santa Monica Public Library, Montana Avenue.

Board Members present: Nancy Coleman, Caryn Marshall, Jim Williams, Sonya Sultan, Jane Wiedlea Kohler and Todd James constituting a quorum. Absent: Phillis Dudick, Danilo Bach, Jeff Gordon, Evelyn Lauchenauer, Victor Fresco and Steven Lissik.

Announcements:

- A. There will be a meeting sponsored by WSA Real Estate regarding crime in Santa Monica. It will be held on November 15 at the Brentwood Country Club. WSA should be contacted for reservations.
- B. The Draft EIR regarding reduction of the runway length is available for review. Comments should be sent to the City by November 30.
- C. The NOMA cash account contains about \$15,000.
- D. Nancy Coleman asked the members to consider whether landmark status should be requested for the house in the 400 block of Georgina. The house is scheduled for demolition. Todd James said that the house is on the historic inventory and that it should be landmarked.
- E. Jane Wiedlea Kohler said that there should be special conditions regarding taxes and building code requirements for older homes. Nancy Coleman asked if there was member interest in this proposal.
- F. Nancy Coleman asked if there was any member who was interested in taking the lead for further training in emergency planning. If so, they should contact Caryn or Nancy.
- G. The Annual Meeting is scheduled for January 20, 2018. Persons interested in being on the Nominations committee or being a candidate for the Board of Directors should contact Nancy.

Santa Monica Airport Discussion:

The Santa Monica Airport was represented by Suja Lowenthal, Senior Advisor to the City Manager on Airport Affairs. Christian Fry, President of the Santa Monica Airport Association (SMAA) spoke on behalf of that organization.

Suja Lowenthal began the program stating that runway shortening work began October 23 and is scheduled for completion January 18, 2018. The runway will be 1,500 feet shorter. The temporary restraining order to stop the work was overturned and an

updated construction schedule will be available next week. During construction the airport will be closed at night. During the last ten days of construction the runway will completely closed.

The design for park expansion will be completed within one month and the Draft EIR is available for review. Comments should be submitted by December 11. The Draft EIR will be received by the City Council on January 23, 2018.

The Friends of Sunset Park requested an Air Quality Study and a Noise Study. Proposals for the Air Quality Study are due to the City Manger on November 15. Regarding the question of increased noise Ms. Lowenthal said that she would provide further information.

Comment was made by persons present that there is increased helicopter noise at night.

Christian Fry, President of the Santa Monica Airport Association commented regarding the reasons the airport is of value to the city and should remain open. Among those comments are the following:

1. The airspace required for the Santa Monica Airport prevents Los Angeles International Airport air traffic from flying below 5000 feet over Santa Monica. Flying below that level would increase the noise in Santa Monica. Comment was made by persons attending that LAX had adopted a new approach and departure path that would require aircraft to fly above 7000 feet over Santa Monica. Mr. Fry stated that this was not correct.
2. Within a 3.8 mile radius around the airport buildings cannot exceed a 200 foot height.
3. The decision by the city council to close the airport in 2029 will provide time for discussion of whether the airport should remain open to aircraft operations.

There followed a lively and quarrelsome discussion among those attending regarding the pros and cons of retaining the airport. There were no physical injuries to persons present. Among comments made were the following.

1. In the event of emergency the airport can serve to provide supplies and necessary evacuations can occur. Jule Lamm noted that the airport was open and available following the 1994 earthquake.
2. The airport provides economic benefit to the city through its use by corporate aircraft. There is income to the city through taxes on gasoline sold at the airport, building rents and fees charged.
3. Comment was made that there is a lack of civility during discussions about the airport .

4. Discussion about the future of the airport should be continued and the side supporting airport closure should be better represented.

Discussion of Other City Issues:

The city survey was discussed and persons present stated that it did not adequately cover some of the key issues of the city such as traffic. Debbie Lee, from the City Manager's public relations office said that the survey would be further revised. Ms. Lee said that new TV programs to discuss city issues were being planned.

A heritage eucalyptus tree in Palisades Park died. The need to adequately protect other such trees was discussed.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Jane Wiedlea Koehler adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Caryn Marshall. The meeting adjourned at 8:46 PM.