

## **Minutes – Regular Meeting Thursday, November 3, 2016**

**Meeting 7:02 – 8:44 pm**

### **Montana Branch Library**

1. The November 3, 2016 was called to order at 7:02 pm. Quorum was present. Attending Board members: Danilo Bach, Nancy Coleman, Jane Koehler, Caryn Marshall, Jim Williams, Sonya Sultan and Steve Lissik. Absent were Evelyn Lauchenauer, Phillis Dudick, Jeff Gordon, Victor Fresco and Todd James.
2. Approval of the Minutes of the October 6, 2016 meeting, moved by Chair Danilo Bach and seconded by Steve Lissik.
3. Treasurer's report: approximately \$12,300 in account, with bills outstanding.
4. Our Beat 4 Neighborhood Resource Officer Capri Redondo reviewed with us crime stats in NOMA. There were fewer residential and commercial burglaries than in the previous year. The coming holiday season usually brings more residential mail and package thefts from porches and at front doors; please be vigilant. The SMPD cannot access messages on Nextdoor social website, so please SMPD should be contacted directly on suspected crime.
5. Santa Monica's Urban Forest: Matthew Wells, City Forester and Hector Kistemann, Public Landscape Manager. The Urban Forest Task Force recently revised the Urban Forest Master Plan's street tree designations. The revisions were based on criteria, such as, drought tolerance, nursery stock availability and the right trees for the space, considering parkway width and the absence of overhead utilities. The main goal of the revisions is to add diversity and resilience to our urban forest for sustainability and canopy. Information at <http://www.smgov.net/portals/urbanforest/>
6. R-1 Zoning In NOMA: Jane Koehler, Nancy Coleman, Bob Posek. There seems to be an increase of variance requests in new construction in the direction of "Beyond Monster Mansion" proportions. The requests appear designed to get around the Zoning Code. Zoning variances are not a right and should be requested for defined circumstances as they impact neighbors and neighborhood. NOMA's Land Use Committee will be working on this issue, including number of variances applied for, justifications, impact on traffic, parking, neighborhood scale, how roof heights are calculated, etc. In general, focus to be put on the deficiencies in our current R-1 which allow for oversized construction.
7. Planning Committee Public Hearing re 423–429 Ocean Ave. Landmark Courtyard Apartments After hearing community concerns regarding the proposed project the P.C. has agreed to direct Staff to review and reconsider parts of the present proposal so to reduce mass, height of the project, and to retain more of the landmark buildings.
8. Preparation for the Annual NOMA Meeting January 21, 2017, and Board election. The meeting will be at the Aero Theatre from 2 – 5 pm. At meeting we will elect our Board. There is a nominating committee headed up by Vice Chair Nancy Coleman. If you wish to serve and would like to be considered contact Nancy Coleman or Chair Danilo Bach.

9. Announcements

- i) Citizens Against Crime event at Brentwood Country Club November 9; RSVP to Ron Wynn.
- ii) Sustainable Work Fashion Show November 17<sup>th</sup> from 7 – 10pm; RSVP on-line registration
- iii) YMCA Winter Program is beginning.

10. Public Comment

Mike Soloff and Sue Himmelrich on benefit to schools of Props GS and GSH.

11 Adjournment at 8:44 pm.

(Our next meeting will be December 1, 2016, starting at 7 at the Montana Branch Library, with reception with light refreshments preceding at 6:30 pm.)