



## **Minutes - Regular Meeting Thursday, December 5, 2013 7- 9 pm DRAFT Montana Avenue Library**

1. The December 5, 2013 meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM. A quorum was present. Attending were board members: Danillo Bach, Patricia Bauer, Albin Gielicz, Todd James, Evelyn Lauchenauer, Doris Sosin, and Mary Jo Stenger. Victor Fresco and Carol Landsberg were absent. Also attending were Phil Brock, Chair of the Recreation and Parks Commission and Gleam Davis, City Council member, present as a NOMA member.
2. Adoption of Agenda and Approval of the Minutes for November 7, 2013. The motion to approve the minutes as written as made by Pat Bauer, seconded by Evelyn Lauchenauer and unanimously approved. The motion to adopt the Agenda as written was made by Pat Bauer, seconded by Evelyn Lauchenauer and unanimously approved.
3. Mayor Pro Tem Terry O'Day. Terry has been a Santa Monica resident for 15 years. He spent 7 years on the Planning Commission and helped formulate the Land Use and Circulation Element, which represents how our city will look or the next 20 years through innovative strategies for development and traffic circulation. He supported Measure R, sales Tax. He likes public service and how we adapt and change. His lifelong pursuit is "Sustainability". He likes the schools in Santa Monica, the public participation, and the quality of life here. He is interested in business and used to work for a company that solved environmental problems and his wife, Tiffany, worked for GM. He started the first electric car rental company and is now building electric car stations.

Pat indicated to Terry than we are interested in addressing growth and development, with specific concerns about a number of issues. She suggested that we are not a group that holds unanimous opinions and set the format where there would be 3 or 4 questions from the moderator and then 2 minutes to address each question from attendees.

When asked why he felt more development is important, Terry said that the LUCE preserves 93% of the City and neighborhood preservation is an objective. Now the City is embarking on a Zoning Code update. About 1/3 of the projects have a right to be built because they are privately owned. Development Agreements (DAs) are a way to control the development. Right now there are a lot of Development Agreement applications. Since the LUCE, very few projects,

maybe 1 or 2 have been built. The Bergamot DA is 4-5 years old. The LUCE is a tool to control traffic demand.

The revitalization of downtown is important: there is not enough family housing, sustainability, jobs to housing ratio, new bike lanes, lower BBB fares. Santa Monica is a great walkable city.

When asked if he would vote against the Trainers in Palisades Park if the issue was brought up again before the 1 year trial was complete, he said the pilot program should be able to run its course. There are increased fees, limited areas designated for classes, and no Sundays are way to limit trainers.

When asked if he would consider having a survey done to compare salaries in other cities the size of Santa Monica, what about A-Lots and updating earthquake survey, he said that Santa Monica is an incredible city which takes a lot of good people to run it. Most employees are union workers with negotiated contracts. We are a city that asks a lot and gets a lot. And that Santa Monica already does salary comparisons with other cities. He also said he would continue to examine earthquake situation and that A-Lots are being considered in the revisiting of the Zoning Ordinance.

When asked if he would consider an outside planner to determine if our capacity is too much already, he said that ¾ of our residents are native Santa Monicans.

When concern voiced that the City is catering to young professionals, not to families and residents which will be detrimental to our schools because loss of federal dollars, and things like bike lanes make the streets too narrow, he said that the City Council has pushed back on small apartments, proposing more family units, and investing in making bike lanes safer - painting them green.

When asked if he thought about goals: the 1975 the city plan proposed a city of 75,000 and now we area at 90,000, he said he hadn't seen the 1975 plan.

When asked if an apartment lease should come with parking, he said no parking spaces is a significant way to reduce traffic.

When asked how the City is going to handle the financial problems if not from development, he said we have a structural deficit because of payroll and we need tighter negotiations on new contracts.

When asked if the City Council is listening to public input, looking to other cities for ideas about the deficit and how does he see our roll as a neighborhood group, he answered that the City Council is open to new concepts such as surveying other cities, local politics, traffic and development. They do listen.

4. Update on burglaries: Public Safety Officer Scott McGee, SM Police Department, neighborhood Resource Officer. The burglar responsible for the Montana Avenue break-ins has been apprehended. He had a fetish for breaking glass. There have been 6 burglaries on Montana Avenue, 1 on Main Street and 1 on Wilshire. And there have been some car break-ins as well. It is possible that the burglar was on a bike because only cash was taken. Santa Monica has a 10-man plain clothes crime impact team that sometimes watches neighborhoods. Uniformed officers chase potential burglars into other neighborhoods. They are working on crime analysis all the time. Construction sites should be watched for pick-up trucks and cars that linger after work. Gleam Davis said there was an attempt to break in to her home while she was at a City Council meeting. The police were quick to respond.

When asked about the possibility of slowing traffic on Montana as was discussed with the traffic person who visited NOMA before, Scott said it is better to have more police present to stop offenders. If people would think "community" instead of "King of the World", then there would be a lot fewer accidents.

Other comments to Scott:

It's hard to see pedestrians wearing dark clothing, especially around 15<sup>th</sup> and Montana because the hill puts headlights at such an angle they can not shine on them.

It's dangerous when trucks park in red zones especially when there's a drive-way on one or both sides.

Enforce rules for bikers, please!

5. Street lighting and Tree Maintenance north of Montana, Martin Pastucha, Director of Public Works, and Lee Swain, City Engineer

There are lots of street light failures. The City invests a lot in infrastructure as well as in sidewalks and trees.

When asked about changing the policy for getting street lights, Martin said that the policy governing street lights is not a city law. It is a state law. We cannot change the policy even though we have an old city. The current process:

1. Get application from the City.
2. Get signatures from 70% of residents per block.
3. Submit signatures within 3 months of receiving application.
4. Wait. City reviews the application and signatures and calls for a public hearing
5. Wait. City mails notices to all residents of said block
6. Then requires 50% of residents in favor of splitting costs which are approximately \$2500 paid once or over 10 year period
7. Wait. It may take up to two years if only one block wants them. And you might have to wait longer – if you have to wait until some other blocks in Santa Monica get approval

When asked about all the power outages, Martin said that it is less expensive to put lights on established poles and Lee said that Edison is investigating the power outages and infrastructure. When asked if there was an assessment district on Georgina, Martin said the City doesn't have the money.

When asked if Edison is adding voltage because residents have problems getting on line, Martin said that there's more usage and demand than ever before.

When asked about trees, Martin said that on 7<sup>th</sup> Street there are 11 Eucalyptus that need to be removed, 30 need further analysis, and 56 need structural pruning necessary to reduce liability. Student volunteers were hired to check trees 2100 trees in Santa Monica. In July, Public Works took over maintenance of Public Parks. The Coral trees on San Vicente and Olympic Boulevard need trimming and Palms and Ficus, too. The power runs in alleys so power is not affected.

When asked about the empty spaces where trees have been removed and who decides what trees to plant, Martin said that the City can plant 300-400 trees per year and will replace one of these trees if it dies within 18 months after planting. If you want to have a specific tree planted, you can buy it and the City will plant it at no labor costs. Phil Brock, Chair of the Recreation and Parks Commission added that the Recreation and Parks Commission has asked for increase in funds for tree planting because the City has decreased planting due to budget in last 2 years. "We should all ask the CC to find funds for trees." Perhaps a partnership where residents buy trees and city plants them might work.

## 6. The Palisades Park Ordinance: Phil Brock, Chair Recreation and Parks Commission.

When asked who will monitor the Trainers in Palisades Park during this trial year period, Phil answered that the Ordinance takes place 1/1/14. We should all monitor it, take cameras and pictures. Report anything that is not in the new law. Most residents want the park for peace and quiet.

If you see something, email Phil at:

**CommissionerBrock@gmail.com**

Trainers will have a medallion to show they are Permitted. The City has already begun to give them out. There are to be no trainers between Marguerita and Georgina and no trainers anywhere on Sundays. The Ordinance will be reviewed in July and Dec. at City Council.

You can also meet and walk with Phil.

FYI, 50 LA Parks have added workout equipment.

Several organizations, some churches, one restaurant in Pacific Palisades bring free food to Reed park which attracts homeless. This happens, Friday afternoon,

Fri evening, Sundays. The Health Dept does not work Sat and Sun which is why they bring food then. Monday-Friday hot food falls under the Health code

7. Committee Updates: Pat Bauer:

- a. Land Use: Bergamot Plan and Planning Commission
- b. Richard: The Housing Element is part of the city's General Plan and has not yet been approved by the City Council- however, it must be approved by December 31, 2013. It is required to be updated every 8 years or so.

The current plan to be approved is for 2013-2021. The Draft Plan has already been considered by the Planning Commission Nov 6, 2013 and by the City Council Oct 12. By state law the Element is required to produce programs to develop, Improve, and preserve housing stock in the city. The city must also provide a metric (i.e.,numeral targets).

Dellamora pointed out in the report that, at least on the basis of accounts published in the public media, the focus of the element appears to focus on providing new affordable housing. The Draft includes robust proposals in this area: but there may be little or nothing directed towards mandates #2 or #3.

"I would have suggested that CC address all three elements."

CC will consider the Housing Element at an upcoming meeting.

It was suggested that NOMA may want to consider recommending to City Council that it not approve the current draft element before measures have been prepared, discussed and included that will address the need to improve and preserve existing multi-unit residential stock in the city. It was also mentioned that Santa Monica has previously overachieved on affordable housing by surpassing its goal by 230% and now our reward is to raise our requirements? The requirements for Beverly Hills and Culver City are very much lower.

Gleam Davis, City Council member said that we need to show the process. The City does not have to build housing.

8. Nominating and Governance Committee Report: Pat Bauer

This committee has been meeting throughout the year. Doris Sosin and MaryJo Stenger are retiring from the Board so there are two vacancies as well as 2 other seats. The election will be held at the Annual Meeting next month. We will have a member of the League of Women Voters present to monitor the election. Because of personal matters, Pat must step back from NOMA for the next 6 months.

9. Announcements:

NOMA Annual Meeting- January 18, 2014 from 2PM to 5 PM- Aero Theater

Memberships- please be sure to pay your dues soon to vote at the Annual meeting.

Montana Holiday Walk- December 5, 2013  
"Urbanized", documentary about urbanization- free showing Santa Monica  
Main Library- Monday January 27, 2014 from 6-9PM

10. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9 PM

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Meyera Robbins for Carol Landsberg, Secretary