

North of Montana Association Meeting

Thursday, May 3, 2012
Montana Branch Library

Minutes

1. The May NOMA meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM.
2. A quorum was present: Attending were: Albin Gielicz, Danilo Bach, Victor Fresco, Todd James, Carol Landsberg, and Evelyn Lauchenauer. Absent were: Patricia Bauer, Doris Sosin, Mary Jo Stenger, and Rolfe Wyer.
3. Updates and Announcements:
Nominations to the Urban Forest Task Force are open until June. Anyone interested, please contact them. They are in need of arborists. Anyone knowing an arborist who might be interested in serving, please tell them about this opportunity.

Expo Lite Rail Line: History: every development project that comes before the Planning Commission or City Council is accompanied by an environmental review of possible impacts which, until now, included a legal mandate that developers must evaluate a reduced size project option. Now the Southern California Association of Governments has eliminated the requirement to include a reduced size option on certain types of development in certain areas. In Santa Monica, these areas include the part of Santa Monica about to be built out to accommodate the new Expo light rail line. Discussion: DAs should include a study of reduced project alternatives. This requirement should be put back into the legal requirements.
Motion: NOMA supports DAs providing complete information, including a study of reduced project alternatives, on all Development Agreements by Albin Gielicz seconded by Victor Fresco and carried by unanimous vote.
RESOLVED: NOMA supports DAs providing complete information, including a study of reduced project alternatives, on all Development Agreements.

4. Minutes: The minutes were approved as written.

5. Reports:

Treasurer: NOMA has \$4,800 in the One West Bank account. We will be creating a second account for the grant from the City of Santa Monica. These funds are to be used for non-lobbying activities. The City of Santa Monica pays for the annual May mailing of each of the neighborhood associations. This year's NOMA Newsletter is attached to these Minutes.

Neighborhood Council April 21, 2012 meeting: The 21st Santa Monica Festival will be held on May 19, 2012 at Clover Park from 11 AM until 6 PM. It offers live music, dance, food, art workshops, and shopping as well as information booths about local resources offered by City, environmental and local non-profit organizations.

Neighborhood Meeting with the Planning Department, April 12, 2012: Attended by Albin and Todd. Due to the increasing demand for Development Agreements the Planning Commission has to meet every Wednesday in May and it would be good to slow this schedule down. Also, they want to educate the public about the DA process. The NOMA website might be a good place for this information and definition of terms such as "float up", "community benefit".

Membership: We will create a Membership subcommittee.

6. Miramar Update and Discussion: The Santa Monica City Council passed the Miramar development float up 6 to 1. NOMA will wait to see what the new proposal from the developer will be before taking a position. We will use the web site and possible newsletters to inform and get feedback from the NOMA residents.

7. Old Business:

NOMA received a thank you letter from the SAMOHI for our donation to their Graduation Night.

8. New Business:

How NOMA is represented publically:

Motion: Anyone identifying himself or herself at a public hearing as a NOMA officer or NOMA Board member and who is speaking on an issue which NOMA has not taken a position, upon identifying himself or herself as a NOMA officer or NOMA Board member must also state, "I am not speaking on behalf of NOMA which has not taken a position on this issue" moved by Victor Fresco and seconded by Carol Landsberg- carried by unanimous vote.

RESOLVED: Anyone identifying himself or herself at a public hearing as a NOMA officer or NOMA Board member and who is speaking on an issue which NOMA has not taken a position, upon identifying himself or herself as a NOMA officer or NOMA Board member must also state, "I am not speaking on behalf of NOMA which has not taken a position on this issue"

Main Santa Monica US Post Office: This main branch of the US Post Office in Santa Monica is scheduled to be closed. It cannot be landmarked to protect it because it is a Federal building. There is a meeting of the Government Affairs Committee to discuss this at the Chamber of Commerce on Monday May 7, 2012 at 4 PM.

Motion: NOMA takes the position of wanting to save the Post Office and will write letters to our US Senators and our US Congressman by Albin Gielicz seconded by Victor Fresco and carried by unanimous vote. NOMA Secretary will send letters stating this position by US Mail before May 15, 2012.

RESOLVED: NOMA takes the position of wanting to save the main branch of the US Post Office in Santa Monica.

Annual meeting: The NOMA Annual Meeting will be held Thursday, September 6, 2012 from 6 PM until 9 PM. We will have guest speakers, a raffle, and food. Suggested topics for guest speakers are: issues of traffic and parking. We will invite speakers on these topics to our June meeting for a "test run".

9. Project Ideas:

The Santa Monica Festival: We want to have a presence there.

Motion: NOMA to participate in the Festival up to \$100 for hand-outs about NOMA and possible booth rental or booth-sharing by Todd James seconded by Albin Gielicz- carried by unanimous vote.

RESOLVED: NOMA will participate in the Santa Monica Festival May 19, 2012 up to \$100 for handouts and a possible booth rental or booth share.

Montana Avenue Merchants: the Neighborhood Association of Wilmont has asked NOMA if we would like to join with them to offer dual business memberships to the Montana Avenue Merchants. We will have decals made to put in merchant's windows and form a committee to carry this project forward.

Motion: NOMA will join with Wilmont to offer Montana Avenue Merchants joint memberships by Albin Gielicz seconded by Evelyn Lauchenauer and carried by unanimous vote.

RESOLVED: NOMA will join with Wilmont to offer Montana Avenue Merchants joint memberships.

4th of July Parade: NOMA wants to participate. Would we like to have a float to announce we are back. Albin is on the Parade Committee and will get information for us.

10. Next meeting will be held on June 7, 2012.

11. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM

Carol Landsberg, Secretary