



Special Meeting Monday March 21, 2016

Meeting 7 – 8:50 pm

Montana Branch Library

1. The March 21, 2016 Special Board Meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM. A quorum was present. Attending Board members were: Danilo Bach, Nancy Coleman, Evelyn Lauchenauer, Jane Wiedlea, Jeff Gordon, Caryn Marshall, Phillis Dudick, Todd James, Sonya Sultan and Steve Lissik.
2. Chair Bach explained that a Special Meeting was called by the Board to provide a forum for review and discussion of the LUVE Initiative and what action if any the Board would take on behalf of NOMA. Whatever the Board decides is separate from what individual members decide. Tonight the Board is looking for more information about what the Initiative contains and what would the Initiative mean to us in the near future as well the long range future for Santa Monica.
3. Speaking for the LUVE Initiative are Armen Melkonians and Tricia Crane who are active proponents of the Land Use Voter Empowerment Initiative: The intent of the Initiative is to give SM voters the right to decide how much development is best for Santa Monica as a way to stop the overdevelopment facilitated by staff by City Council. The Initiative would require voter approval for any projects greater than Tier 1 and for major changes in the City's Land Use Policy or documents. This, to protect the existing low-rise beach town character and preserve the open skies, ocean breezes and quality of life in Santa Monica.
4. Kevin McKeown speaking in opposition of the LUVE Initiative: Eight years ago he supported a voter initiative to control commercial growth, which is still a concern. While that previous measure would have established an annual cap, allowing Santa Monica to pick only the best projects, what is currently proposed by LUVE dissuades all kinds of moderate-sized projects, including affordable housing. It also appears to give developers the ability to initiate special elections, where they can pour unlimited corporate financing into local low-turnout balloting. We need housing, and we do not need more developer influence in our politics.

5. A q&a followed and a lively discussion with members participating followed that. Chair Bach announced that the Board meeting would not adjourn but would continue by email for the purpose of allowing a vote to be taken by the Board within 48 hours on what action if any would be recommended.

6. The result was this decision and letter sent to membership 3/24/16:

'Dear NOMA Member,

The Board met Monday night, March 21, in special session, to which all regular NOMA members were invited, to inform ourselves about the LUVE Initiative now being circulated and to decide what if any recommendation to make regarding the petition. Afterward, the Board continued deliberation and a majority decided to endorse the position that the initiative be put on the ballot for voters to decide on in November.

If you agree that the initiative should be on the ballot, we recommend you sign the petition. At least 6,404 valid signatures of registered voters in the city are required for its qualification, and Information on signing can be found at the Contact address on the proponents' website: www.residocracyluve.org or at (310) 453-0605.

At this time, however, the Board is taking no position on how to vote should the initiative qualify for the ballot.

The NOMA Board'