



**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Thursday, April 4, 2013 7-9 pm
Montana Branch Library**

1. **The April meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm.** A quorum was present. Attending were: Albin Gielicz, Danilo Bach, Patricia Bauer, Todd James, Evelyn Lauchenauer, Doris Sosin and Victor Fresco. Absent were: Carol Landsberg and Mary Jo Stenger.
2. **Albin introduced Steven Keesal and Shawn Bernardi** regarding the 3rd Annual Walk for Warriors on May 27, 2013. A Memorial Day 5K run and walk on the West Los Angeles Veterans Affairs campus, will help provide assistance for veterans through transitional housing, job training and placement, counseling, adult basic education classes and family reunification services.
3. **Albin introduced Richard McKinnon**, City of Santa Monica Planning Commissioner. McKinnon provided an update on traffic and parking. The deferment for one year did not pass. Forty-five people made public comment planning meeting yesterday, followed by a 3.5 hour debate, which is unusual for the planning commission. Montana Avenue will no longer be considered a transit corridor. One and two story buildings should be the maximum on Montana Avenue for a "special village feel". He suggested doing a community consultation hosted by each neighborhood group.
4. **Santa Monica Pier Presentation** - Rod Merl, Office of Pier Management and Jay Farrand, Marketing Director Office of Pier Management. Rod asked the group - "What should we do better on the pier?" and handed out a survey to be completed during the presentation of the history of the pier. The pier is now being leased by the city instead of a separate corporation with the following changes to make it relevant to the community:
 - New website www.smpier.org
 - New board members
 - Year-round programming
 - Two new restaurants
 - The pier will be updated replacing planks, removing high curbs
 - Street performers
 - Merry Go-round gift shop to be a pier history shop
 - Sidewalk barrier to keep cars and people separate
 - 365 ft. of the pier will be closed to replace the 1920's pilings
5. **Trainers in Palisades Park: Rec and Parks Commissioner Phil Brock and City Staff Julie Silliman** came by to give any updates and answer any questions regarding the trainers in Palisades Park. There were about 50 speakers at the meeting, mostly trainers, many of whom do not live in Santa Monica.

Palisades Park is the first and only park in the city to be landmarked. The park is all of our front yards. Doris Sosin said this park shouldn't be used by trainers at all. It is a picnic park, a family area for strolling. The park is on cliffs and they are eroding all the time. The group agreed that Goose Egg Park should be included as well.

Patricia Bauer asked how the noise would be handled. "I strongly suggest noise time frames. No training before 7 am for example" **Julie said "There is city noise ordinance but it does not apply to parks."** Danilo Bach asked what parks are excluded. These are Joslyn, Muscle Beach, Ozone, Pacific, Park Drive and Schader. Margaret Bach, wearing her Landmark's hat, said it is a tug of war with the city. With an appointed commissioner it was placed on the agenda, finally. We are now allowed to agendize the

issue. Comments included: discriminatory for people who can afford private training, non-egalitarian. One person as an individual is ok, ban exercise equipment, Julie says. How do you tell the relationship of the individuals?

Question the rate structure, \$100/hour. LA, Chicago \$60/hour, Newport Beach is higher. Beverly Hills allows no equipment. Other cities are watching what we are doing. Doris Sosin requested a motion for absolutely no training and equipment in Palisades Park. Victor Fresco seconded the motion.

The Board of Directors of the North of Montana Association approved the following motions regarding the use of the city's parks:

1) We urge the City of Santa Monica to ban all organized exercise and training in Palisades Park and Goose Egg Park, and also to ban the use of all exercise equipment there.

2) We endorse the recommendations by the city's Recreation and Parks Commission for regulations governing the use of the city's other parks (see below), with the following amendments:

a. We urge the city to develop an enforcement mechanism that can be used to penalize those who would seek to use the city's parks improperly; and

b. We urge the city to limit the time in which city parks can be used for recreational classes and training for compensation, setting 7 a.m. as the earliest time that such training and noise will be permitted.

a. Park amenities may not be used for exercise activity, including; light poles, wooden pergolas, picnic tables, trees, benches, railings, chain link fencing, free standing signs, bike racks, BBQ grills.

b. Adults may not exercise on playground equipment.

c. Required: application form, City business license, police permit, release of liability, proof of insurance naming City as an additional insured, certification in area of expertise.

d. Permit holders may not request other park users or permittees to move to another location

e. Instructor Permit required – cost \$100 per year.

f. Charge of 10% or 15% of gross receipts payable within 15 days of the end of each month or each quarter.

6. Approval of the Minutes from the March meeting.

7. **Treasurer's Report - Victor Fresco** - \$150 for annual newsletters. We learned the annual newsletter will be mailed in a plain white envelope, addressed to "Resident" which may look like junk mail.

8. Announcements:

- NOMA Social Mixer April 5, 2013 at Semi-Precious Salon on Montana Ave.
- Santa Monica Festival on June 1, 2013
- Website contents updated
- Palihouse - Laura Wilson seeking NOMA support opposing residential areas getting liquor license. Hearing in eight weeks.
- The next NOMA Board meeting will be May 2, 2013

9. Meeting adjourned at 9:02pm