



**Minutes - Regular Meeting Thursday, July 11, 2013 7- 9 pm  
Santa Monica Main Library Multipurpose Room**

1. The July 11, 2013 meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM. A quorum was present. Attending were board members: Danillo Bach, Patricia Bauer, Victor Fresco, Albin Gielicz, Todd James, Carol Landsberg, Evelyn Lauchenauer. Doris Sosin, and Mary Jo Stenger were absent.
2. Adoption of Agenda and approval of the Minutes for June 6, 2013 meeting. The minutes were approved as written. The Housing Element presentation by Liz Bar-El and Andy Agle has been postponed. Susan Animoff, Santa Monica College Board member did not make her report.
3. Santa Monica Conservancy- John Zinner and Sherrill Kurshner. The Santa Monica Conservancy was formed as a 501 (c) (3) public charity in August 2002 by a group of residents who wanted to celebrate and protect Santa Monica's unique architectural and cultural heritage. The Santa Monica Conservancy works to promote widespread understanding and appreciation of the cultural, social, economic and environmental benefits of historic preservation- focuses on advocacy, outreach, historic preservation, teaching, cultural tours, and adaptive reuse. Through educational programs, assistance and advocacy, the Conservancy reinforces the importance of preserving the historic resources of Santa Monica's unique urban landscape.

Downtown Post Office was replaced by the Annex at 7<sup>th</sup> and Olympic- across from the Bus Yard. The conservancy opposed this, appeals were denied and the Post Office building will be sold off. The National Historic Act says that there has to be a covenant created to accurately describe the "defining historic features" of the building. There are many discrepancies in the current description which need to be addressed. It is hoped that the City Council will do for this building what they do for landmarked buildings and also protect it legally. What is needed is a covenant, and an entity to enforce the covenant. This must be done before it is sold. A state agency cannot be the entity.

You can find more information at: <http://www.smconservancy.org/>

4. Recent Board Actions taken since the last meeting:
  - a. NOMA wrote a letter to the CC and copied the PC regarding the Downtown Specific Plan.
5. Downtown Specific Plan: The City Council vote on this issue was postponed by the City Council until August 13 because only 4 members of the Council were present on July 9<sup>th</sup>. The members of the public who spoke to this issue on July 9 will not be able to speak during the "Public Comment" time on August 13. The Planning Commission voted to discuss this issue before it comes back to the City Council and set a date for a Special

Session on this issue alone- for July 17. The numerous emails and conversations with neighborhood groups regarding the issue have gotten the Council's attention. The question is, "What should the downtown look like?" The current downtown buildings are substantially shorter than what the current zoning allows. Some use the clock tower (150 feet to the main roof) as a point of reference.

This Plan is only about half done at the present time. So the request is, "If we are only half way through drafting the Plan, then let's finish it before trying to make any further decisions." We need to have the 3D modeling done before making decisions about specific heights for all downtown streets and boulevards. There are 3 different "camps" in the City: 1) a majority of residents have said they want the downtown heights and density to stay "as is" built right now. 2) The Chamber of Commerce who want greater height and density; 3) The developers who feel the limits are too restrictive.

The City has committed to: 1) a 3D model of the City and 2) a survey of resident views \$30,000. Talk with or email City Council members and tell them what you would like to happen in this situation.

Heights and Density Community Forum - held on June 29 at Water Garden; panel discussion hosted by Frank Gruber and Michael Feinstein

- Open exchange of information and discussion
- May do another such meeting to focus on other aspects of development

#### 7. Committee Updates:

- a. Treasurer's Report: NOMA has about \$9,000 in the bank.
- b. Development Committee: will be attending City Council and Planning Commission Meetings and reporting back.
  - Bergamot Plan- was at the Planning Commission last night- developers would like to have the roads and sidewalks considered part of the open space which could increase density. It is 140 acre site upon which is already proposed 2 million square feet of development and 20,000 daily car trips.
- c. Social Committee:
  - The next NOMA Social Mixer will be held on September 20 at Stacia ([shopstacia.com](http://shopstacia.com)) at 808 11<sup>th</sup> Street (at Montana) from 6 - 8 PM
  - The Montana Ave Art Walk will be held on Thursday July 18 from 5 – 9 PM
    - NOMA will have a table at 10<sup>th</sup> and Montana.
  - 4th of July Parade
    - NOMA pre-parade tailgate party was a success. We hope to have a bigger one next year. The Parade had a large crowd- great turnout- 75 groups participated.
  - A Holiday Mixer would be fun- perhaps at a private home- any ideas?
- d. Neighborhood Council: The Neighborhood Council is a loosely woven organization of the 7 different neighborhood groups. They meet once per month for a forum whereby they exchange information, ideas and discuss issues that face their neighborhoods and/or the City. They also meet with David martin once per month to discuss issues with his staff members and him.
- e. Nominating Committee: The NOMA Annual Meeting is held in January and we are looking for people who want to be on the committee and people who would like to join the Board.

8. Emergency Volunteer Air Corps (EVAC), CPR and First Aid classes- Jule Lamm  
The Emergency Volunteer Air Corps was founded in 1980- promotes and coordinates effective and useful additional General Aviation volunteer participation in emergency relief efforts, especially following disasters. EVAC is intended to operate on a more informal, grass-roots level than the Civil Air Patrol or the American Red Cross. EVAC volunteers work at the local level with local agencies, and devise simple programs designed to involve pilots, airport businesses, and others in very basic preparations for disasters and other emergency situations.

Many personnel key for implementing emergency plans in SM don't live here. Small aircraft can see non-compromised routes they can take to get here to help. SM vulnerable if the freeways go down. Will need supplies, tools etc. Individuals need to prepare with water, food and tools- water most critical. No US govt agency has done well by the civilian population in an emergency. It will be days and possibly weeks to get food and supplies to SM and the SM airport can help drop them. Small aircraft can help. Also needed are ham radio volunteers for communication in case of disaster. Aircraft radio is only line-of-sight. The Red Cross wants the SM Airport to be operational for emergencies. Even now, traffic is so bad that emergency vehicles can not get through to assist people.

Dr. Harris gives CPR and First Aid classes at the Red Cross.

<http://www.evac.org>

9. Future Agenda Items: Will do via email- lack of time

10. Announcements

NOMA Meetings:

- The **August 1, 2013 NOMA meeting will be held from 7PM to 9 PM at the Montana Branch.**
- The **September NOMA meeting will be held on Thursday, September 12, 2013** because September 5 is Rosh Hashanah.
- There is a vacancy on the Landmark Commission. Applications are being taken until August 1, 2013.
- Buy Local Conference- September 21, 2013
- Henry Waxman will convene a group on Monday July 15 in the City Council Chamber on gun violence- 10 am
- SM City hosting a Neighborhood Organization Meeting- How to run a non-profit on Saturday, July 27, 2013- 9 AM-12 Noon- Ken Edwards Center.

11. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 PM

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Carol Landsberg, Secretary