



Minutes - Regular Meeting Thursday, August 1, 2013 7- 9 pm Montana Branch Library

1. The August 1, 2013 meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM. A quorum was present.
Attending were Board members: Danillo Bach, Patricia Bauer, Albin Gielicz, Carol Landsberg, Evelyn Lauchenauer and Mary Jo Stenger. Victor Fresco, Todd James, and Doris Sosin were absent.
2. Adoption of Agenda and approval of the Minutes for July 11, 2013 meeting.
The minutes were approved as written.
3. Suzie Kim- Police Department- National Night Out- August 6, 2013. NOMA will have a table along with other neighborhood groups. Civic Center parking lot- 6-9PM. Rides, City Groups, Police cars, horses, food, Police Equipment, CERT Training information, Animal Control and much more. Crime in NOMA has been low this summer. The ongoing problem is cars on the street being broken into- do not leave valuables in the cars. If you leave home- even for a short time, close and lock all doors and windows and set your alarm system if you have one. If you see someone/something suspicious- going door-to-door ringing door bells, etc.- do not hesitate to call the police- 310 458-8950.
4. Big Blue Bus (BBB) Transit Community Relations Officer Linda Gamberg. The BBB has started to serve the EXPO station in Culver City. They will soon launch an internet survey regarding the use of the BBB to get to the EXPO stops here in Santa Monica- there will be printed surveys as well. They also evaluate each route, route frequency, and each individual trip on each route every three years. There will be some service changes in the lower performance routes. The idea of smaller vehicles has come up and it could be possible- it is up to the City Council- they will hire a consultant in January to get ready. There is some discussion about having a way for the busses to pull right up to the station, but the design doesn't show this. There is an interactive process involved- in the Dept. of City Manager- Special Projects has oversight over the EXPO. The BBB is operating at a deficit- transit funds were reallocated to other priorities by the last governor. They are actively pursuing funds and the deficit has been cut from \$9M to \$4.5 M. It is market demand that drives the planning- looking at DA community benefits that would be separate from the General Fund- pay for bus lanes, stops, vehicles. There's lots of competing services. Linda.gamberg@smgov.net 310 458-1975 ext. 6326.
5. 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. NOMA requested that the Downtown Specific Plan be completed before the sites identified as opportunities were addressed. (See more information in item 6).
6. 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 9th. 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) Many 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 providing:

- 1) a 3D model of the City
- 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. Also ask for a vetting of a survey expert and formation of oversight committee from the Neighborhood Council - construction, administration, data collection, survey analysis.

Resident comments/questions voiced at the meeting:

- How many square feet exist now? What is planned?
- We need a press conference for TV and press before City Council meeting about the Downtown plan/EIR process.
- The City has no projection of anticipated growth - 20% for 2020- way over what the LA County is supposed to grow by in 50 years.
- What does the EIR cover?
- EXPO stops parking structures
 - There is parking for 600 cars in Culver City and a 5-story parking structure at the Robertson station.
- Age discrimination is supported by City planners.
- Only 2 of the Planning Staff have Urban Planning backgrounds.

7. Committee Updates:

- a. Treasurer's Report: NOMA has about \$9,300 in the bank and \$84 in the City Grant account
- b. Development Committee: Meetings and reporting back:
 - City Council : 75 people showed up for the Public Comment period regarding the Downtown Specific Plan. Since there were only 4 of the 7 members of the City Council present, they decided to postpone this important decision until there was a full Council- August 13. - Bergamot Plan- postponed until Aug 13 or 14.
 - Planning Commission: Postponed the Downtown Specific Plan.
- c. Social Committee:
 - The next NOMA Social Mixer will be held on September 20th at Stacia (shopstacia.com) at 808 11th Street (at Montana) from 6 - 8 PM
 - A Holiday Mixer is a possibility. We need ideas.
- d. Neighborhood Council (NC): 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 him and some staff members.
 - SM City hosted a Neighborhood Organization Meeting- How to run a non-profit on Saturday, July 27, 2013- 9 AM-12 Noon- Ken Edwards Center. It was well attended and NOMA will be using some of the ideas about Board development from the Training. We need a Membership Committee.
 - We need to compile questions for the "Can We Talk" meetings to get information specific to our neighborhood.
 - The Mayor asked for a survey of residents to determine where we stand on height and density.
- 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. Airport Report- August 1, 2013: The 5 person Airport Commission acts in an advisory capacity to the SM City Council. It meets the fourth Monday of the month in the City Council Chambers at 7:30 PM. It does not

meet in August and December. On July 22 Suzanne Paulson was sworn in as an Airport Commissioner. She is a Professor of Atmospheric Chemistry at UCLA; Vice Chair of the Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences; and, also the Director of the Center for Clean Air. She was also on a team of scientists that measured pollution around SMO in 2009. Thus, she is in a unique position to understand the air quality issues at SM Airport.

As of today, August 1, 2013, the new landing fees voted for in April 2013 by the CC go into effect. These fees are now higher and pertain to aircraft based at SMO. Up until now only transient and itinerant aircraft paid these fees, with based aircraft exempt. The fees themselves have gone from \$2.07 per 1,000 pounds of Maximum Certified Gross Landing Weight to \$5.48 per 1,000 pounds.

July 18, 2013- Congressman Henry Waxman invited the FAA to talk with residents about priorities, and options for the future of SMO when the agreement between the City and the FAA expired in 2015. Waxman said it is time to begin a frank discussion on the matter.

An audit of the FAA's Civil Aviation Registry shows that it doesn't provide all the info needed on the identity of noncitizen aircraft owners. It seems that approximately 54% of the noncitizen owned aircraft registrations are incomplete. The information on pilot registrations is also incomplete, making it difficult for law enforcement to use the Registry to conduct security screenings as required.

Web site for the SM Airport Commission is
http://www.smgov.net/Departments/Airport/Commission_Meetings/2013/20130722/AGENDA.aspx

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

10. Announcements

NOMA Meetings:

- The **September 12, 2013 NOMA meeting will be held from 7PM to 9 PM** at the Montana Branch Library.
- Buy Local Expo - September 21, 2013
- Traffic enforcement will focus on unsafe speed and stop sign violations during July, August and September.
- SM first licenses pedicabs are on the streets. Working on pricing.

11. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM

Carol Landsberg, Secretary