



Minutes - Regular Meeting Thursday, October 1, 2014

Social- 6:30; Meeting 7-8:55 PM

Montana Branch Library

1. The October 1, 2015 meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM. A quorum was present. Attending Board members were: Danilo Bach, Nancy Coleman, Victor Fresco, Albin Gielicz, Jane Koehler, Carol Landsberg, Evelyn Lauchenauer, and Caryn Marshall. Jeff Gordon, Todd James, Meyera Robbins were absent.
2. Approval of the Minutes from the September 3, 2015 meeting. The Minutes were unanimously approved as written. Victor Fresco - moved; Evelyn Lauchenauer – seconded.
3. Treasurer's Report: Victor Fresco. We are holding at about \$8,100.
4. Scott McGee: SMPD Neighborhood Resource Officer. There was a water main break on Montana Ave. A rolling stop sign is illegal. You are supposed to come to a complete stop at the white line even with the stop sign itself. 300 block of 22nd Street- Home owner saw shadowy figure going into her garage- told husband. Called police and went out. Police found him and arrested him. PAY ATTENTION! DO NOT CONFRONT ANYONE- CALL POLICE! If you see something, say something. 1100 block of San Vicente- resident saw someone in neighbor's car- dome light on- called police and they arrested him. DON'T LEAVE STUFF IN YOUR CAR!
5. Ed King- Director of Transit Services, Big Blue Bus (BBB): They are developing an "On Demand" service for the 17th Street EXPO Station. It would operate from 8 PM until 3 AM on Friday and Saturday nights, picking you up at the station and delivering you to your door for \$3.00. Could be a van or taxi or even a car. There will be apps to contact this service when it begins.
Fares are being restructured. No funding for the BBB comes out of the SM general fund. It is subsidized by fares and grants from LA County Metro as well as state and federal grants. Fares are being restructured. The senior /Disabled/Medicare cash fares and passes are not scheduled to change.
There are new buses coming into the fleet. In 2013- 14 they added 58 new buses and in 2015, 7 60 foot buses and 7 40 foot buses have been added. Now 30 foot buses are being bought. The fleet is powered by CNG.
The parking lot at the Culver City EXPO station will be closing.
There are changes being made to the system.in 4 phases. **Phase 1** went into effect August 2015: Rapid 3- new weekend service and weekday frequency improved; Route 4- Weekend service discontinued; Route 5- service E of Century City discontinued and intro limited service to Palms Expo Station; Route 6, 13 and 20- service discontinued; Route 7 – terminus moved to 7th St and Olympic and schedule frequency changed; Route 8- services Ocean Ave between Pico and Santa Monica Blvd; Route 9- Services 4th St between Wilshire and San Vicente and schedule changes on all days; Route 14- services the future Bundy Station, services extended S. on Centinela Ave to Playa

Vista, Service N or Montana and Barrington Ave discontinued and replaced by the new 15 service, service discontinued on Washington, Culver and Inglewood Blvds; new Route 15 serves Barrington Ave and the future Bundy station; Rapid 20- service discontinued.

Phase 2 goes into effect in February 20, 2016: Route 1- Route change to serve Marina del Rey and downtown SM, Route 8- Change to serve downtown SM Expo Station, New Route 16- serves Marina del Rey and future Bergamot Expo Station and provides connection between SM College Academy of Entertainment and Technology to the main SNC campus; Route 18 Route 3M becomes the new Route 18 and serves Montana Ave and Venice via 4th Street, Route 41- change routing to service 17th Street/SMC Expo Stations, change weekday frequency during peak hours to approx. every 10-15 minutes.

Phase 3 goes into effect in June 1016.

Phase 4 goes into effect in August 2016.

For more information: <http://bigbluebus.com/Routes-And-Schedules/>

6. Armen Melkonians, Founder of Residocracy. Proposed Residocracy LUVE Initiative- LUVE stands for Land Use Voter Empowerment. There is an e-petition on the Residocracy web site to give residents an opportunity to show their support for going ahead with the LUVE Initiative. Go to the website to vote if you want to go ahead with the Initiative. So far, there are 1,000 signatures on the e-petition pledging 10,000 signatures. The goal to launch the Initiative is 1,300 e-petition signatures pledging to gather 13,000 signatures from friends, family, and neighbors who are registered to vote in Santa Monica.

This kind of initiative has been successful in other cities in Southern California: Encinitas, Yorba Linda, and Sierra Madre. All are vibrant cities.

The LUVE Initiative will:

Give voters the right to decide how much development is right for Santa Monica;

Protect the low-rise character of a beach town;

Remove incentives given to developers in the new Zoning Ordinance;

Preserve our quality of life- open skies, ocean breezes;

Protect renters by stopping gentrification of neighborhoods and the demolition of existing rent-controlled apartments to replace them with non-rent controlled buildings;

Prevent traffic from getting even worse;

Get special interests out of our City Hall.

It will give voters the final say over:

Development Agreements – (are for projects where the developer wants to exceed the Zoning Codes- like the Miramar Hotel where the developer wants a height of 320 feet in a zone where the code says 50 feet);

Any project with heights above the Tier 1 level (2 to 3 stories across most of the City and 4 stories downtown)

Major amendments to planning policy documents like the General Plan, Zoning Ordinance, the official Land Use and Circulation Element maps, etc.

Residents' voices have not been listened to since at least 2007. Melkonians said we must change the process so residents are considered stakeholders. Residents say the City is built out now- at 2 stories. We are now vibrant and a "destination".

Melkonians adds: there will need to be voter education process so residents are informed. The average voter doesn't know about the Tiers, but they do know there is too much development, too much traffic. The LUVE initiative adds another step to the

approval process of development projects in SM- the residents' opinion- which we don't have now. We will have to give voters the whole story- a dimensional idea of the project in relation to the other projects and neighborhood. He says the voter approval process will reduce the number of DAs because of the uncertainty, high expense and publicity surrounding the proposal. Any deal will no longer be decided by 4 votes on the City Council, but by 32,000 resident votes. An Initiative needs City-wide support. The entire community needs to get behind it. The movement must come from the residents. <https://www.residocracy.org/LUVE.php>

7. Council response to our request to review the Elizabeth Riel hiring/firing. In a unanimous vote, the City Council agreed to set up an independent review of this process. The issue is now- Who is the reviewer? This will require additional funds. The City Council has the power to obtain documents and do interviews. Need an fact finder attorney who has a background in prosecution or good governance. Idea of looking at policy and flow chart of how this process worked. The goal is to learn how to prevent this in the future.
8. Committee Reports:
 - NOMA E-newsletter- Evelyn Lauchenauer: NOMA will email our 2-page e-newsletter in the next few weeks to update members on what NOMA is doing. It will include remarks made by Rick Cole, new City Manager, at the September NOMA meeting and information on affordable housing.
9. Announcements: Danilo Bach
 - a. Incline Pedestrian Bridge Design Public Workshop
 - b. Gray Water Action's "Laundry to Landscape" presentation
 - c. 500 Broadway Development Agreement (Fred Segal site) Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) now on the City web site for review and comment until November 12, 2015
 - d. City Council Special Meeting- on the Plaza At SM – October 20. Information will be sent to members prior to the meeting.
 - e. Housing Commission Meeting- October 15, 2015 Main Library
 - f. Crime information event- Brentwood Country Club- Nov 11.
10. Public Comment: NOMA member Jule Lamm: we need to have term limits for our City Council members and residents need to be able to vote for the Mayor directly. Jule circulated a sign-up sheet to get this movement started.
11. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM, early due to prep for carpet cleaning in the meeting room.

Carol Landsberg, Secretary

Join us for the next NOMA Meeting: Thursday, November 5, 2015 at the Montana Branch Library: Light refreshments/social at 6:30, Meeting begins at 7 PM