



Minutes - Regular Meeting Thursday, November 6, 2014

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

Montana Branch Library

- A. The November 6, 2014 meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM. A quorum was present. Attending Board members were: Danilo Bach, Albin Gielicz, Todd James, Jane Koehler, Carol Landsberg, Evelyn Lauchenauer, and Meyera Robbins. Victor Fresco was absent.
- B. Approval of the Minutes from the October 2, 2014 meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved as written: Meyera Robbins - moved; Jane Koehler- seconded.
- C. Treasurer's Report: Evelyn Lauchenauer for Victor Fresco. Current Balance \$8,700. Expenses were \$600 for web site services.
- D. Board Action. The NOMA Board has regretfully accepted the resignation of Patricia Bauer. Jeffrey Gordon was unanimously elected to finish her term. He has lived in Santa Monica since 1988. He is a retired attorney, doing award winning pro bono work. He is a founding member of the Board of the Robert M. Takasuki Public Interest Fellowship, providing fellowships to law students and a member of the Advisory Board of the Pacific Resident Theater in Venice. He is concerned about traffic gridlock in our city caused by overdevelopment and preserving the character of our wonderful NOMA neighborhood and city as a whole.
MOTION: Carol Landsberg; seconded by Meyera Robbins. NOMA Board of Directors shall elect Jeffrey Gordon to this Board to fill the term vacated by Patricia Bauer's resignation. Passed unanimously.
- E. Mike Cveyich, SM Police Department Community Affairs and Crime Prevention. No major incidents at Halloween. There are 2 trends in NOMA and other neighborhoods: 1-"Smash and Run". Car side window is smashed, Thief grabs valuables left in the car and runs away. Do not leave anything of value in a car. 2- "Proficient Amateurs" Theft of the third seat of an SUV. There have been 4-5 incidents in the last month throughout the City. Remove the seat if you don't use it, activate the alarm system, put SUV in garage. Also, theft of packages left on porches- have neighbors take them in for you. Important: If you have an alley behind you house, put your address in an easily visible place- on the back gate or wall so police in the alley know which house is yours!
- F. Santa Monica Urban Forest; Matthew Wells, City of SM Urban Forester, Public Landscape Division. PowerPoint presentation: Urban Forest Management- NOMA; Urban Forest Master Plan Tree pruning program-cycle of 5 years depending on the species and location, risk management, ie: pedestrian traffic. City divided into 3 parts. Prune 7,000 trees per year and take measures to avoid spreading disease. 2 types of pruning: Structure for young trees and maintenance for older trees. Last year (July to June), 323 trees were removed. 20 new palm trees were planted in Palisades Park. Focus is on tree sustainability and resilience. Important to have a variety of species so a disease or

fungus can't wipe them all out. Diversity of species (planting only 5-10% per species) and also age are necessary for health.

Drought: Trees are actually resistant to drought and can defend themselves against attack, but drought affects the vitality of the trees and makes them more susceptible to pathogens that change during dry cycles. Maintenance performed on drought impacted trees will be minimized because pruning causes additional stress. Guidelines are being developed with the Office of Sustainability and the Environment for lowering parkway irrigation while sustaining healthy street trees. Public Works is looking into using recycled water for the Young Tree Care Program. Public Works is responsible for publically owned trees, not trees on private property. Reducing water usage will dictate that certain species requiring lots of water will not be viable in homeowner gardens. Recommends: a diverse palette of low-water species.

The species designations in the Urban Forest Master Plan are being reconsidered because of the drought.

Planting: 500 trees were planted in the last 5 years- 66 trees are missing- stolen and a few were run over. Planting done only in the winter months when it is usually cooler with some rain. 805 of the new trees are surviving. One factor is the quality of the nursery stock purchased and their "wind firm" condition.

So far this year: 139 trees removed; 2,688 trees pruned; 38 emergencies; 5,813 small trees have received care; 12 trees planted (mostly done in winter months)

San Vicente coral trees: are pruned every year, but are over mature and still have failures: broken limbs and trunks. It is a very challenging species to maintain. If one tree is lost, then the others on either side of it are susceptible to wind.

Urban Tree Canopy Study: is planned to start in mid-January and will take 6 months to complete. The report detailing findings and recommendations will be posted on the SM Urban Forest website

Construction-site trees: They need water. City needs to be more precise as to what the contractor responsibility is in regard to trees – a source for water- and there needs to be follow-up to be sure they are doing so. Call Matt if you see trees that aren't being watered (310) 458-8974 or report using the GO app for the smart phone.

Trees do have the ability to improve air quality.

Matthew Wells has been the Urban Forester for the City of Santa Monica since January 2014. A Chartered Arboriculturist, he has 19 years of unique international experience in urban forestry and municipal tree management as the Director of Tree Preservation for NYC Parks and Tree Officer in Central London as well as past Trustee of the Tree Research and Education Endowment (TREE) Fund and is a. He specializes in historical tree preservation, public tree protection and tree risk management.

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G. Reports: Evelyn Lauchenauer

1. Executive Committee Report- Evelyn Lauchenauer- Annual meeting- January 24, 2015
Location- either at the Aero Theater or the MLK Auditorium at the Main Library. We need help on committees for this event. Anyone interested in becoming a Board member please let us know.

2. Land Use Committee:

a. Zoning Ordinance Update (ZOU) Redline review- Jane Koehler

The new Zoning Regulations are very important to our way of life and should

not be ignored. Please consider helping Board members follow the wording of the new regulations - almost 500 pages- and attending City Council meetings. The City Council needs to understand that the zoning is an issue that many people are concerned about- not just the familiar faces who come to talk. The deadline for the Zoning Ordinance is July 22, 2015 when the current Zoning Ordinance expires. The Red Line staff report is out December 3, 2014. This zoning report involves many, many changes that will affect the quality of life in NOMA. Please become involved in this process.

- b. 419-423 Ocean Ave Draft EIR comments until Nov 16 NOMA sent a letter; Please email your comments to the Planning Commission and the City Council. It is a Landmarked property and should be rehabilitated, not demolished.
- c. San Vicente neighborhood conservation overlay zone: very important to protect the extraordinary, archetypal courtyard apartments on San Vicente from 7th Street to Ocean Ave. At the Nov 25th City Council meeting the First Reading and Introduction of Proposed Ordinance Modifying the Landmarks Law By Eliminating the Provision Authorizing Automatic Nullification of Petitions for Designation of Historic Districts
- d. Civic Center: Survey on line: Please go to take the survey at this link:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/10DedUqTbBBSy1i6unECrZWPYyaf3s84jiRr9MfUYetg/viewform?embedded=true>
- e. Plaza at Santa Monica: Report from the September meeting is now on line
<http://theplazaatsantamonica.com/files/Community-Meeting-Sept-8-Final-Summary.pdf>

G. Announcements: Danilo Bach

- 1. SM Conservancy Awards Committee:
- 2. A mixer at Kiehl's Skin Care: Nov 21- 6 to 8 PM. Preholiday clothing drive - Albin Gielicz
- 3. Santa Monica Talks- three meetings where residents can learn about what's happening in the City: .Nov 13, 18 and 20. Notice will go out.

H. Public Comment: Issue of construction in NOMA- too many houses under construction on the same street. There are about 50 houses under construction or remodel in NOMA right now- 6 of them are spec homes. There are restrictions (staggering building permits) in multi-family neighborhoods, but may not be any in R-1.

12.) Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM

Carol Landsberg, Secretary

Join us for the next NOMA Meeting: Thursday December 4, 2014 at the **Main Library- Multi-purpose Room**: Light refreshments/social at 6:30, Meeting begins at 7 PM