



OPA Monthly Meeting Minutes

April 5, 2010

Time: 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Location: Joslyn Park Auditorium

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

David Auch	Lori Nafshun
Pauline Bohannon	Susan Lewis
Dana Ehrlich	Jan Ludwinski
Nina Fresco	Mary Marlow
Ross Furukawa	Bob Taylor
Jeffrey Jarow	Ted Winterer

NOTICED BOARD MEMBER ABSENCES: Nina Fresco, Susan Lewis, Ross Furakawa

Members from the public:

6:30 to 8:30 PM REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

Kim Brand, Manager of Santa Monica Solid Waste Management, gave a presentation on the activities of the department highlighting the increase in recycling as evidenced by the recent LA Marathon which ended in Santa Monica. Kim answered questions on how to get rid of furniture and appliances - call the city for pick up at a charge of \$25; and what light bulbs must be disposed of as hazardous waste – all, including incandescent. She passed out refrigerator magnets showing recycle items by category and cards with number to call for questions or special services – 310 458 2223. **(Report only; no action taken)**

Sherri Davis and Dennis Crane of the PTA spoke on behalf of Measure A, the school parcel tax of \$198 per parcel for 5 years, which will be a special mail only election beginning in early May. She stressed that ballots must be received by May 29 to be counted and that a 2/3 vote is needed. Main points were that there is an immediate budget crisis as state funding accounts for 70%+ of funding and cuts of 18% are expected in addition to over 10% cuts last year. If no new money replaces state cuts staff of teachers, librarians, etc. must be cut by 15% and support for music and computer programs will also be cut. Excellent schools are part of the desirability of Santa Monica and add to value of living here. Our children will be disadvantaged if teachers and programs are cut and class size will increase dramatically.

Don Gray, former Board Member of Pico Neighbors and Member of School Parcel Tax Committee, spoke in opposition of Measure A. He is in favor of good schools but feels this parcel tax is inadequate and ill advised because it only covers about ½ the shortfall and penalizes homeowners and renters unfairly. The parcel tax as proposed is the

same on all city parcels regardless of use or size. He would support a parcel tax that recognized these differences such as those in effect in cities in northern California. Although, developers and businesses have fought these graduated taxes, most have settled out of court and are paying more tax on commercial property. **Action: Board voted to endorse Measure A and support a longer term solution of school funding that includes assessment based on parcel size and use or other means to be determined in the future.)**

1. Introduction to OPA: President Marlow

2. Announcements

- Green Building Expo at Santa Monica Civic May 7 & 8 from 10 – 5 PM
- FAA flight path trial for IFR aircraft ends June 1; feedback needed on noise and safety impacts on residents
- Census forms are due now, please send in ASAP
- Long Term Care Forum on April 10 at Main Library from 10-5 PM By Wilmont
- Vacancy on Parks and Recreation Commission

3. Review and approval of March Meeting Minutes.

Motion: Approved with correction of Nimish Patel as speaker on behalf on Measure A.

Action: Minutes approved 9-0

4. Nomination and election of Roger Swanson as Board member.

Motion: Ted Winterer nominated Roger Swanson, seconded by Jeff Jarow.

Action: Passed unanimously.

5. Jan Ludwinski volunteered to act as secretary until July when a permanent secretary may be chosen.

Motion: Bob Taylor nominated Jan Ludwinski as temporary secretary, seconded by Pauline Bohanon.

Action: Passed unanimously.

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

1. **Endorsed Measure A and supported a longer term solution of school funding that includes assessment based on parcel size and use or other means to be determined in the future.**
2. **Elected Roger Swanson to the Board of Directors.**
3. **Elected Jan Ludwinski as temporary secretary.**

Meeting Close: Adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Next Meeting: May 2, 2010 at Joslyn Park Auditorium, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.