

OPA MINUTES

Date July 11, 2010 Time 4:30 PM Location Joslyn Park

Board Members in Attendance

David Auch
Nina Fresco
Jeffrey Jarow
Susan Lewis
Mary Marlow
Lori Nafshun
Roger Swanson
Bob Taylor

Noticed Board Member Absences

Pauline Bohannon
Dana Ehrlich
Ross Furukawa
Jan Ludwinski
Nicole Picard
Ted Winterer

Topics Discussed

Topic Discussion

Introduction to OPA Introduction to OPA: President Mary Marlow called the meeting to order at 4:35 PM.

Palisades Garden & Town Square Karen Ginsburg, from the Santa Monica City Planning Department, discussed the proposed revision to the Civic Center: Palisades Garden Walk and Town Square.

Slide presentation summarized key information:

- Total of seven acres.
- Capping of freeway, first at Ocean and Colorado Avenues then to 4th Street over the 10 Freeway.
- James Corner Field Operations, of NYC Highline renovation, selected from multiple design firms to do the design.
- Design team joined by local firms in support roles.

\$25 million budget includes widening Ocean Avenue, but not full freeway cap, which will be a separate project.

The community review will include:

- Community Workshop: July 24 from 1 to 4 PM at old Rand site, across from City Hall.
- Future workshops through January.
- Workshops will look at all design aspects of project.
- Review process includes multiple city departments through Planning and City Council.

Karen asked all to complete the brief survey at www.smciviccenterparks.com and sign up for the interest list.

Nina recommended that plans should maintain the large trees on the site, particularly the large fig tree near Colorado and Main.

Question/answers and Comments:

Why are the park and freeway cap separate? The park is funded; the full cap is not since it involves both Cal Trans and the Holiday Inn.

Kay Pattison: Discussed Palisades Park history. Suggested naming the park Arcadia (Bandini Stearns de Baker) Sunset Garden Walk in honor of woman who donated much of Palisades Park land and improvements.

Mary Marlow requested that Bob Taylor serve as the OPA liaison for this project.

Bob Taylor suggested that all involved departments attend workshop meetings.

Lori Nafshun suggested that she could be Bob Taylor's alternate since she has been appointed liaison to this project for the PRC.

Motion by Bob Taylor, second by Mary Marlow:

OPA write letter urging all City Departments to attend workshops; Bob Taylor agreed to be the primary liaison to the City on this project. Lori Nafshun to be back up liaison. Motion passed unanimously.

Website for Civic Center Park: <http://www.smciviccenterparks.com/>

Community Workshop + Open House + Site Walk:

Saturday, July 24th from 1:00 – 4:00 pm

Meet the Design Team, led by James Corner Field Operations, and make your mark.

Farmers' Market & Heritage Museum Lawn Toby Smith discusses the status of the Heritage Museum and Victorian (c.1894). Museum receives small grant from the City, but is mainly supported by private funds. Docents and other personnel are primarily volunteers. Have staff of three people, with annual cost of \$300,000.

Skateboard show currently the main exhibit, which is the most popular museum in 25 years. Next exhibition: Watercolor show.

The museum is having financial difficulties: Corporate and private donors not contributing as much today; membership, entry fees and annual fund raising not sufficient to make up deficit.

So, the Museum Board of Directors decided to use the lawn for additional booths during the Sunday Farmers' Market. Since the lawn is part of the Museum's 50-year lease, they earn \$1,000/week. The Museum's income on Sundays has reportedly dropped since the Farmers' Market was moved from Mondays to Sundays. In the past, the City reportedly paid the Museum for use of lawn.

Museum need ideas for funding and wants to add food trucks on Monday nights with coupons for discounts at Main Street businesses. Non-restaurant merchants want it, but restaurants not yet polled or do not like it.

Question/answers and Comments:

What about other things like movie nights?

Main Street merchants support? Yes.

How is Abbot Kinney doing what they do on First Fridays?

Motion by Jeff Jarow, second by Susan Lewis:

OPA write letter of support to City Manager/City Council for Museum's six month pilot plan for locating food truck in the Museum parking on Monday nights. Allow Main Street merchants first priority to have food trucks (amendment by Lori Nafshun). And, encourage other events.

Jodi Low, the Farmers' Market supervisor, discussed a Farmers' Market survey and other recommendations to help reclaim the lawn on Sundays:

Survey results indicated that people attend to purchase fresh produce, buy prepared foods and socialize.

Suggestion to offset Museum revenue: Move prepared foods to Lot 10 and expand number of booths. Additional booth rental revenue would be paid to the Museum for use of the lawn.

Question/answers and Comments:

Suggestion to close off Main Street for Sundays to allow market.
Or, move market to beach lot.

Motion by Lori Nafshun, but no second: Write letter to City to look at expanding and improving the Farmers' Market.

Motion by David Auch, but no second: Write letter to City to encourage the Farmers' Market to make changes to allow the lawn to be reopened for eating and socializing.

Meeting Minute Approval Motion to approve June meeting minutes passed unanimously.

Announcements Ted Winterer needs 150 signatures tomorrow to sign form to support at Peets on Main Street on July 12, 2010 at 10 AM.

Airplane Flight Path Thomas Paccioretti spoke about the SMO 250 Heading (with additional comments by Mike Salazar and Michelle Perrone):

Requested that OPA sign petition to obtain FAA data without fees (\$100,000); signatures will offer support for request of "public" entities, not individuals, or single organization.

Write letters asking City Council members to support the efforts in this matter.

Question/answers and Comments:

Where are the politicians? Waxman, Boxer, Feinstein?

City not the decider here; just need to keep pressure on City.

Oaks Law & Nov. Election Because OPA received more than \$10,000 from the City for 4th of July parade, OPA Board members are prohibited from making campaign contributions to City Council

incumbents. Spouses of Board members are allowed to give to incumbents, however. Contributions to non-incumbents is not restricted. There is a \$250 limit for individual contributions to any one candidate.

General Plan & LUCE The Land Use and Circulation Element General Plan passed unanimously by City Council on July 6, 2010. OPA, along with other neighborhood groups and most residents, wanted height limits of 65 feet for all future development, as proposed in the Draft LUCE.

After pressure from the Chamber of Commerce and other developer supported entities, the Planning Commission recommended higher limits in a 6 to 2 vote. The final maximum height approved by the City Council was 86 feet.

Motion by Lori Nafshun, seconded by Roger Swanson:
OPA write letter to local papers questioning their silence and/or meager coverage of the changes to the Draft LUCE height limits that were adopted by the City Council. The vote by the Planning Commission recommending said changes should also be discussed. Also, want the papers to identify the votes in the City Council and the Planning Commission.

Closing Rounds of applause for Lori, parade volunteers and a successful 4th of July parade.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM.