

Minutes

OPA Meeting Minutes 2/6/12

Board Members in Attendance

David Auch
Pauline Bohannon
Ross Furakawa
Patty Godon-Tann;
Sadat Huq;
Jeffrey Jarow;
Susan Lewis
Jan Ludwinski
Mary Marlow
Lori Nafshun
Michele Perrone
Roger Swanson
David Tann
Bob Taylor
Marcy Winograd

Noticed Board Members Absent Susan Lewis

Guests: Suzanne Post, Fire Safety Coordinator, Santa Monica Fire Dept.; Paul Weinberg, Emergency Services Coordinator, City of Santa Monica; Jason Wells, Fire Captain, City of Santa Monica; Richard McKinnon, Planning Commissioner, City of Santa Monica.

7:02 Jan called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

Representatives of The Red Cross were on hand, selling emergency kits.

Emergency Response Reports

Santa Monica Fire Captain Jason Wells (lives in Long Beach)

Wells, who operates out of the fire station at 2nd Street and Hollister, gave a report on the fire dept.'s emergency response operations: 4

fire depts., 6 fire engines, all staffed with paramedics; 1 ladder truck; 1 HASMAT unit & airport rescue unit; 1 urban search and rescue team, funded by the federal government, which covers Santa Monica, Venice, Malibu, Culver City and Beverly Hills.

Wells said in an emergency, the fire department prioritizes search and rescue, saving human lives over property damage mitigation.

The Fire Dept. will:

- a) check to make sure there are no leaking gas pipes
- b) operate emergency generators
- c) set up triage: make a priority responsibility list
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Since most of the fire fighters do not live in Santa Monica and will have to first take care of their respective families, residents must have water, food, and supplies to last 7 days.

Paul Weinberg, Office of Emergency Management for City of Santa Monica

Paul urged residents to be prepared for an emergency and not depend on the government. He spoke of the importance of CERT training, and urged attendees to stock up on food and water. To inform residents about emergency preparedness, the city hosted pop-up shops at the library and civic center, bringing together vendors who sell supplies.

Paul brought literature and suggested attendees read the 7 steps to prepare for an emergency; most importantly he urged the audience to stock up with a 7-day supply of water, which can be purchased at Jaffee or COSTCO. Water, he said, is good for 5 years; after that it loses its fresh taste but is still good. He also stressed the importance of having extra medicine bottles on hand; even an expired bottle with the correct dosage can help get a prescription filled.

In an emergency, he urged residents to “text, text, text,” and use their cell phones (Don’t jam the phone lines), provided they have power, to notify loved ones. Paul said to have a plan for where families can meet or which out-of-state person they should all contact.

He pointed out the city is posting Tsunami signs, though the risk of a

tsunami jeopardizing lives is minimal because it is unlikely the sea level could rise high enough to do damage, maybe Main Street would have ankle-deep water. Certainly, he said, if you're near the beach and you feel an earthquake, run to higher ground. In the event of a tsunami, we might evacuate to 4th Street.

Paul invited the audience to attend the city's "Pet Emergency Fair" to be held from 9-3 pm, Feb. 25th in Clover Park. Unlike other events that may not draw a crowd, Paul said the Pet Fair can draw up to 1100 people.

Paul said his office's goals include: 90 CERT-trained community members; residents can take care of themselves for 7 days. 1) Organize yourself/get your supplies 2) Organize your block 3) Organize your neighborhood. Patricia reminded everyone that in an emergency you can charge your phone in your car. Jan added that a full gas tank "keep it topped" can provide the much-needed power.

Marcy Winograd, Chair of the OPA Emergency Preparedness Committee, distributed surveys to assess the emergency skills and needs of the audience, and to recruit block captains. She shared her vision of a fully-organized Ocean Park, with block captains organizing their streets to be fully prepared.

David Auch urged Marcy to prepare a page for the OPA web site, where residents could learn more and take the survey.

Santa Monica Arboretum

Project arboretumsantamonica@gmail.com (arboretumsantamonica on fb)

Richard McKinnon, planning commissioner for Santa Monica, informed the audience of the arboretum project and the work of the city's Urban Forest Task Force. Richard described an arboretum as a "plantation of trees" and said his group's vision was inspired by Boston's Arnold Arboretum and Emerald Necklace, a 7-mile long network that knits greenery together. He noted almost all of the county's arboretums and grand parks are on the east side, in or near Pasadena, while the west side of Los Angeles has little in the way of awe-

inspiring greenery. The group's goal is to get the city of Santa Monica declared an arboretum.

Richard said the city needs an arboretum lobby group to get the city to plant more trees & transform the city into an arboretum; too much attention is focused on roads, development, and traffic – and not nearly enough on greenery and nature. He said north of Montana enjoys great canopy and coverage, while the further south you go in Santa Monica the less greenery. To plant a tree, he said, typically costs \$1,000 (not for the life of the tree, just for the planting) and the city needs to set aside the budget to green Santa Monica, particularly the southern end and Lincoln Blvd, which the city will take back from CALTRANS in March, 2012. On Lincoln, his group would like to plant a species of trees every 10 yards.

The Arboretum Project envisions planting trees along the #10 freeway, providing canopy coverage in parking lots.. He said the city has:

**80,000 trees (approx. 80,000 residents)
30,000 trees on public land
50,000 trees on private property**

The Urban Forest Task Force, he said, envisions planting 1,000 new trees in the city. For more information, visit this [concept paper](#):

<http://www01.smgov.net/ccs/RPC/Arboretum-SantaMonicasNextPark.pdf>

Bowl-a-Thon/Westside Coalition Fundraiser

Jan reported the Bowl-a-Thon fundraiser raised \$421.00 for the Westside Coalition (an organization that provides food and shelter), and that the OPA Board donated another \$150 to the organization.

Corrections to the Minutes (Jan. meeting) Patricia noted the following corrections needed to be made: Include David Tann among attendees. Change Patricia's last name to the properly

spelled: Godon-Tann and include the following information regarding the July 4th parade: the city expenses were budgeted at \$11,346. in addition to the amount spent by OPA. \$2318.47 of unspent city money was given to OPA in support of parade production.

Treasurer's Report

Patricia reported OPA received the city's \$4,000 grant (deposited on 1/20/12) to give OPA a balance of \$5,150 in the OPA General Account.

Committee Reports

Newsletter/Communications/Outreach Susan needs copy by the end of the week for the newsletter. David suggested Marcy write a note about the emergency preparedness committee.

Membership Sadat moved, David seconded a motion to raise membership fees (The motion passed, with 1 opposed, no abstained, 13 in favor.

Ross moved & David seconded to switch the OPA membership to an automatic renewal system with an opt-out. The motion passed unanimously.

Jan moved, Michelle seconded, to have the agenda created three days prior to the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Ross reported that a neighborhood association in San Diego regularly draws 300 people to its social events at a local Happy Hour. Typically, the association conducts its business in 30 minutes, at 5 pm, prior to the event. Most come for the social and community-building aspects of the gathering, not to advocate for issues. Sadat reported the membership committee is exploring a monthly OPA Happy Hour. Marcy and Jan suggested an OPA Bowl, a trivia contest at a local bar. Pauline will follow up with O'Brien's management.

Lincoln Blvd. Roger reported he, David T. and Bob plan to connect with Gloria Garvin about future plans.

Emergency Preparedness Committee (report given earlier in minutes)

Santa Monica Airport

Jan moved, Mary seconded, a motion to survey Ocean Park members about the Santa Monica Airport. The cost of the survey is not to exceed \$500. Ross said the survey could be distributed two ways: a) through a city mailing b) on-line/email. The motion passed unanimously.

Michele shared the committee's draft survey. Patricia suggested some of the questions be ordered differently. David and Bob wanted to see negative impacts included under the "vision" section. Jan moved, Marcy seconded, the OPA Board be given two consecutive 48-hour periods to submit survey revisions/suggestions to Michelle and to have a final vote on the survey language. The motion passed unanimously.

9:05 – David introduced a motion to adjourn; Mary seconded the motion.

Meeting Adjourned