

OPA Draft Minutes 3/04/13

Jim Lawson called the meeting to order at 7:08.

Board Members in Attendance

Andrew Gledhill, Patty Godon-Tann, Sadat Huq, Jeffrey Jarow, James Lawson, Jan Ludwinski, Mary Marlow Evan Meyer, Thane Roberts, Jodi Summers, Roger Swanson, David Tann, Bob Taylor, Marcy Winograd

Noticed Board Member Absences

David Auch, Pauline Bohannon, Evan Meyer, Michele Perrone, Lori Nafshun

Announcements

Roger: Thurs. 3/21 Santino's OPA mixer; Sat., 4/20: Earth Day Clean Up; Sun., 4/21 Cyclovia – 12 mile ride from downtown to Venice

Actions Taken Since Last Board Meeting

OPA mailed its letter to City Planning Director David Martin, regarding “steps to increase resident confidence in the downtown specific plan (DSP)” at a time when multiple development projects are under consideration. The letter expressed concern that “none of the three community workshops vetted heights and density for the DSP” and the need for improvement in the “role and management of consultants to the Planning Department”. The letter called for a 3-D rendering of the DSP if new heights and densities are adopted – studies on the negative effects of building height on sea breezes – a parking plan – and a circulation and traffic mitigation plan.

Jodi: Spring newsletter was finished. Jim thanked Jodi for an excellent job on the newsletter.

Approval of Minutes

Bob T. moved to approve the 2/04/13 minutes; Mary seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Pier Restoration Project Presentation (Kori Jones, Rod Merl, Pier Management; City of Santa Monica) City representatives provided an overview of the project, conducted a short survey, and shared the pier visioning website: www.santamonicatownhall.org. The restoration project includes demolition and reconstruction of a wide section of the pier, from the high tide line to the westerly concrete pier constructed in the 1980s.

Merl: Santa Monica wants to partner with OPA in soliciting feedback on the Santa Monica Pier Visioning Process and, more specifically, to bring local residents back to the pier. Goals of the Pier Restoration Project include bridge replacement; repairs to aging infrastructure; greater integration with the local community; enhanced entertainment and lifestyle offerings: concerts, movies, fitness classes; crepe and organic food cart offerings; increased educational opportunities with displays on the pier's history.

Report from /2/06/13 Neighborhood Council Meeting

Mary: The Neighborhood Council expressed concern the city is moving too quickly in its negotiations with developers and landlords on some 35 proposed development agreements: 5 hotels (Miramar, Gehry, Courtyard, Hampton Inn, Holiday Inn); 20 apartments/retail; 2 car dealers; 2 large office complexes; Village Trailer Park. The Miramar and Gehry buildings would dramatically change Santa Monica with 21-stories. Though the LUCE set height and density limits at 86 feet (eight stories) for all areas of the city, it did not restrict height or density in the downtown area. Two area plans are under review: Downtown Specific Plan and Bergamot Plan. The city is studying a new parking plan, which would cut back on parking in the downtown area. The Planning Commission is looking at in-lieu parking fees to pay for future city lots.

OPA member Judy Abdo suggested that if tall buildings are approved, the top floor should be dedicated to public use to enjoy the expansive views. It was reported that the Gehry development agreement does include public space at the top of the building.

Treasurer's Report

Patty: Special Events Account: \$15,461.85; General Account: \$3,980.88

Ocean Park Alley Project

Visitor Stephanie Speights informed OPA of her senior masters thesis on urban sustainability and her intention to transform her Ocean Park alley (at Highland and 7th) into a living street, where neighbors can gather, garden and share resources. Stephanie spoke of "place making" or engaging neighbors in taking ownership of common space (like alleys), something that is being done on a broader scale in Portland. She urged OPA to support her vision when she presents it more formally to the city.

Lincoln Blvd. Survey Project

Roger: The Lincoln Boulevard Task announced the results of its two opinion surveys: a resident survey for all Santa Monica residents and a business survey for businesses along Lincoln.

The Task Force's goal is to facilitate the transformation of Lincoln into an attractive, pedestrian-friendly, neighborhood-serving street that reflects the needs and desires of the neighborhood residents and local businesses.

The Task Force, which is supported by the Ocean Park Association, Friends of Sunset Park, Pico Neighborhood Association and Borderline Neighborhood Group, was formed in February 2012 to help make Lincoln Boulevard "Safe, Clean, Beautiful, and Green."

Link to the Survey Summary presentation: <http://www.opa-sm.org/AAAAA>

Roger: Much of what the data shows was common knowledge: Lincoln is a congested roadway that appears to be neglected and over-represented by auto serving business. Much of the neglect is attributed to four high priority issues: public safety, weeds and trash, graffiti and homelessness.

Residents want more restaurants, cafes and coffee shops, and other neighborhood serving businesses; they also would consider relaxing parking requirements for these businesses. Business owners want more off-street/shared parking and join residents in desiring a multitude of street amenities: "smart" crosswalks (with flashing lights), better street and sidewalk lighting, and more trash cans.

Specific Data

Roger: 638 responses representing 1,524 residents, 91% south of SM Freeway
55% favored Big Blue Bus priority lanes; 58% favored bike sharrows; 91% wanted more trees;
77% wanted flower boxes.

The OPA Board thanked Roger, David T., Evan M. and the rest of the Lincoln Blvd. Task Force for their hard work collecting survey data and following up with the city on needed code enforcement.

Committee Reports

SM Airport

Thane:

Sequester and Airport Tower Closure

The Sequester – budget cuts part of the Budget Control Act of 2011 – may hit Santa Monica's airport, as it is one of many local airports on the list of possible tower closures. It is uncertain how many or when flights would actually be impacted.

Commissioner Resignation

At the December 11, 2012 Airport Commission Special Meeting, the Santa Monica Airport Commission (SMAC) passed a motion asking that the City Council direct Staff to include additional information and measures into the Phase III Airport Visioning process to reflect community input from Phase I, Phase II and Phase III workshops.

The SMAC's efforts to convince the City Council to take up their motion have fallen on deaf ears. and possibly as a result of the City Council's lack of consideration, an Airport Commission member has now resigned, citing his desire to work in a more effective and efficient manner on the airport issues facing the City, inferring that cannot be done as an Airport Commissioner.

City Plan

Mary moved; Jan seconded, and the board unanimously approved sending an email to its list, giving people an opportunity to sign on to a letter to the City Council urging the council to dismiss planning consultant Jeffrey Tumlin because of his "dismissive" attitude toward community concerns over development. The letter says "In his own bio (on his website, as of 2/24/13) Mr. Tumlin describes Santa Monica residents concerned about overdevelopment and traffic as '... NIMBYs who used traffic fear as their primary tool for stopping development.'" The letter continued, "The development history of Santa Monica is one of rapid growth, with over nine million square feet of new development added during the period Mr. Tumlin cites. No one can reasonably say that 'NIMBYs' have stopped development in Santa Monica ..."

Communications

Jodi suggested OPA sponsor a school poster contest for the July 4th parade. She will work on writing up the details of the contest.

OPA voted to spend \$85 on a booth for the June 1st Santa Monica festival.

Lincoln Blvd.

Roger: The city will remove news racks not in use. Evan spearheaded the colorful painting of Metro Cleaners on Lincoln, adding to the street's revitalized facades. David T. reported the city has 19 pending code compliance issues on Lincoln.

Disaster Preparedness Committee

Marcy: The OPA website now has a [map with block captains](#) who can serve as point people in the event of an emergency.

Ocean Park Blvd. Project

Bob T.: Saturday, February 10th, 2013 2 p.m. OPA and friends celebrated the completion of the Ocean Park Blvd. Green St. project. The ribbon cutting ceremony took place in front of the SMASH/John Muir Schools on OPB between 5th + 6th St and featured speeches by city council members and neighbors praising the revitalization effort.

Jim moved to adjourn the meeting; Marcy seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10.

Press Release

LBTf Press Release, December 10, 2012

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 10, 2012

Lincoln Boulevard Task Force Announces Opinion Surveys

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roots organization releases opinion surveys for neighborhood residents and businesses along

Lincoln Boulevard south of the I

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0 Freeway to the Venice border.

SANTA MONICA, CA, December 10, 2012

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The Lincoln Boulevard Task Force has released two opinion surveys: a Resident Survey for all Santa Monica residents and a Business Survey

for businesses along Lincoln. The Task Force wa

nts to transform Lincoln into an attractive,

pedestrian

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friendly, neighborhood

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serving street that reflects the needs and desires of the neighborhood residents and local businesses.

Survey link:

<http://www.opa>

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sm.org/lincoln

The Task Force, which is supported by the Ocean Park Association, Friends of Sunset Park,

Pico Neighborhood Association and Borderline Neighborhood Group, was formed in February 2012 to help make Lincoln Boulevard "Safe, Clean, Beautiful, and Green."

According to Task Force Chair Roger Swanson, "We have dedicated volunteers from each of

the supporting neighborhood associations, as well as many business owners."

The Task Force is working with the Santa Monica City Staff in preliminary discussions to

consider what can be done now that Caltrans has relinquished ownership of Lincoln to the

City.

The current activity of the Task Force anticipates the City's public design process that will start

next year

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and the two surveys will allow the community to lead the design process rather

than have outside interests determine what improvements are made.

The Opinion Surveys address a variety of issues

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from streetscape design (trees, medians, and public art) to priority bus lanes

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to zoning standards

and adaptive re

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use of existing buildings,

to traffic speed and additional crosswalks.

The Resident Survey is for all Santa Monica residents. The Business Survey is designed to get

the opinions of businesses already located on Lincoln south of the I

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that might consider re

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locating to Lincoln. These surveys can be accessed at:

[-](http://www.opa</p></div><div data-bbox=)

sm.org/lincoln

This is an opportunity for the c

Mary

Santa Monica 2013 Issues

Zoning Update

In lieu parking fee

Parking Plan

TDM Update

Bike Plan

Pedestrian Plan

Residential Update

Downtown Specific Plan

Parking

Circulation

Opportunity Sites

Height and Density

Bergamot Area Plan

Land Use regulations

Design guidelines

35+ Development Agreements

5 Hotels (Miramar, Holiday Inn, Gehry,

Courtyard & Hampton)

20+ Aprtments/Retail
2 car Dealers
2 Large Office/Apartment complexes
Village Trailer Park

California Incline Repair

Pier Bridge Repair

Civic Center Closing

Expo Construction

Airport Land Owned by City

OPA Airport Committee Report

March 4, 2013

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AIRPORT PARKING LOT PROPOSAL

The City is moving forward with a proposal to build a new parking lot specifically for auto dealer inventory. The lot is projected to make \$100,000 annually, and the City thinks it will provide an additional

source of funds in an effort to reduce/eliminate the subsidy from the city's General Fund. This lot is

estimated to cost \$507,000, and is located on 1.7 acres at the north-east corner on city land.

NEW STATE SENATE REPRESENTATIVE

Santa Monica is now represented by Ted Lieu in the State Senate, an advocate of tighter oversight on

SMO, and has been a leader at the State level in dealing with airport concerns raised by the public, and

organized the California State Senate Committee on Air Quality.

AIRPORT ART WALK

The Santa Monica Airport Art Walk is taking place Saturday, March 16th.

SEQUESTER AND AIRPORT TOWER CLOSURE

The Sequester – budget cuts part of the Budget Control Act of 2011 – may hit Santa Monica’s airport, as it is one of many local airports on the list of possible tower closures. It is uncertain how many or when flights would actually be impacted.

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION REDUCTION PLAN

Santa Monica Office of Sustainability and the Environment has put forth an ambitious plan to cut SM’s greenhouse gas emissions by 15% by 2015, and 30% by 2030, but has conspicuously omitted SMO from the latest greenhouse gas reduction considerations, all due to an allowance in State law to not have to consider reductions at local airports.

Gleam Davis noted that reducing emissions is a team sport, but agreed with leaving off the heaviest hitter in town

– the airport. The 15% reduction by 2015, dubbed the “15 x 15” plane will eliminate up to 3,600 metric tons of

greenhouse gasses. The 15% reduction relies on the elimination of 13,000 daily vehicle trips, diverting waste from

landfills and increased walking and biking.

“Only 7% of Santa Monica’s emissions comes from municipal operations, although that excludes the mostpolluting

aspects of the Santa Monica Airport – specifically jets and airplanes and the fuel they burn.” – SMDP

And it was reported in the Daily Press that those airport emissions have risen 605 since 1990.

CITY COUNCIL IGNORES SMAC MOTION

At the December 11, 2012 Airport Commission Special Meeting, the Santa Monica Airport Commission

(SMAC) passed a motion asking that the City Council direct Staff to include additional information and

OPA Airport Committee Report (cont.)

March 4, 2013

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measures into the Phase III Airport Visioning process to reflect community input from Phase I, Phase II

and Phase III workshops.

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possibly as a result of the City Council’s lack of consideration, an Airport Commission member has now

resigned, citing his desire to work in a more effective and efficient manner on the airport issues facing

the City, inferring that cannot be done as an Airport Commissioner.

The SMAC motion includes:

1. Augmenting Staff matrix on Phase II Visioning to include information on flight school operations, number

of tied-down spaces, number of aircraft permanently housed at SMO, number of transient aircraft regularly requiring tie-downs.

2. A survey of sale of fuels as similar airports

3. A copy of the City’s facilities survey with information about facilities that house aviation-related operations

at SMO, including leases;

In addition, the AC recommended the City Council direct Staff to clarify/expand Council’s previous instructions

(per May 8, 2012 workshop) to include:

Information about how all aviation related operations would continue after the expiration of the 1984 agreement, evaluating such items as FAA claims of further legal obligations of City; cost/benefit of altering operations with potential neighborhood effects (expansion or reduction of aviation operations, evaluating flight schools, tie-downs, fuel sales, ownership/lease issues, elimination/reduction of FBOs; removing the Western Parcel from aviation use; types of leases at airport.

The SMAC also included a statement to requesting the formation of an ad hoc committee to contact the City

Council members to make a personal request to place the above motion on the City Council calendar.

RESIGNATION OF AIRPORT COMMISSIONER

Santa Monica Airport Commissioner Ofer Grossman, a 12-year veteran of the Commission, resigned after

last week's SMAC meeting. Grossman reported "fear" among some City representatives he spoke with

that the FAA might be planning some type of preemptive injunction against adopting the SMAC recommendations. He also said that communication between SMAC and the City is not "effective or efficient,"

and that the "public" is most effective when speaking with the Council.

He intends to stay involved in the airport debate, and said he may take on a different role. During the AC meeting,

he spoke of his interactions with several City Council members and the City Manager in an effort to get the AC

recommendations supported by OPA adopted, and to promote the muffler incentives.

PHASE III AIRPORT VISIONING

Monday, April 1, 2013 is the "Special Meeting" of the Airport Commission as the Phase III Airport Visioning Workshop. The meeting will be at City Hall, scheduled to start at 7:30PM. The deadline for

submittals for this "special" Airport Commission Phase III meeting agenda is March 26, 2013. As a result,

the regularly scheduled March 25, 2013 AC meeting is cancelled.

Also, tentatively April 30th will be possibly the final Citywide Phase III Airport Visioning Workshop/meeting regarding the airport with the City Council.

(end)