

Draft OPA Minutes

8/5/13

Meeting held at Joslyn Park.

Attendance: Pauline Bohannon, Andrew Gledhill, Sadat Haq, Jim Lawson, Mary Marlow, Evan Meyer, Roger Swanson, Bob Taylor, Marcy Winograd. There were not enough members in attendance for a quorum.

Noticed Absences: David Auch, Patty Godon-Tann, Jeff Jarrow, Jan Ludwinski, Lori Nafshun, Michele Perrone, Thane Roberts, Jodi Summers, David Tann

Announcements

Azuka Hisa, Director of Education and Public Programs at the Santa Monica Museum of Art, announced the Tour de Arts (8/18, 11:00 AM check-in, 1:00 PM start), an annual bike event which starts and ends at Bergamot Station. Approximately 200-300 bike riders will take a bike tour around Santa Monica to tour the arts in the city. education@smoa.org

Mary Marlow: OP Library will be hosting an historic photo exhibit of Ocean Park, beginning in August and running through the fall. See the photos, learn OP history, and meet the librarian, Karen.

Heather Roseman, representative for Skanska (contractor on Expo line), announced the contractor will next week set concrete barriers (k-Rail) to delineate the future guideways along the center of Colorado Ave., between 5th and 17th Street. Colorado will be reduced to one eastbound and one westbound traffic lane. There will be limited street parking (no parking on the north and south side of Colorado during construction; metered parking on the north side once construction is complete). Access to businesses and residences will be maintained. Pedestrians will only be allowed to cross at Colorado and 5th, 7th, Lincoln, 11th, 14th and 17th.

The rail line is operational now from downtown LA to Culver City. The Culver City to downtown Santa Monica line is under construction now.

Metro will test for safety of the Expo line at the end of 2015, then train conductors. The line should be ready by mid-2016.

Edgemar Cross-Fit Training Facility & Community Concerns

Carter Gaffney and Kaj Larsen, business owners of a coming crossfit facility in the back of the Edgemar complex, addressed OPA to alleviate community concerns about noise, parking and traffic. Carter explained that there had not been a successful retail store in the location and that the building's owner wanted to see a successful outfit. Carter added he would be happy to meet with neighbors who signed a petition opposing the facility. He said there will always be 50 spaces or more available for free in the parking lot next door, so there should be no reason to park on 2nd Street; floors and walls have been sound-proofed; all the activities will take place within the Edgmar complex. Hours of operation: 6:30 AM – 9 PM, Monday through Friday; 8-5 weekends; 20 participants per class. Neighbors with questions may contact Carter.gaffney@gmail.com or 617-320-8347

Jeff and Janet Gilbert of Edgemar Neighbors expressed their concerns about traffic, noise and parking. Jeff said homeowners on 2nd Street hear everything (cell phones, doors closing, etc.) at the Edgemar complex and do not want further disturbances. They complained no one enforces the existing conditional use permits and that there are on-going violations. Jeff added Edgemar Neighbors will seek OPA's support when they appeal the Planning Commission's approval of the business.
edgemarneighbors@gmail.com

Jim L.: National Night Out – SM Convention Center area, Tues., 8/6 evening

Janie Yuguchi Gate, Principal Olympic HS, announced the school will oversee a repainting of the woods mural on the side of their building that faces Ocean Park Blvd. Janie estimated the project will cost approximately \$35,000 – with funds coming from BB bond construction project funds, as well as local fundraising. The original artist Jane Golden would oversee a whole new design for the mural painting in 2014. Evan and Roger suggested the school look to local volunteer artists and students to trim costs. Some suggested the woods design be replaced with an association with Olympic – Mount Olympus, Zeus and the gods.

Neighborhood Council

Mary Marlow/Neighborhood Council: met on Sat., July 20th, with representatives from the City Manager's office to suggest their downtown citywide meetings return to the previous format whereby the City Manager and neighborhood associations co-host meetings in respective neighborhoods.

Mary Marlow: Wed., 8/7 – Planning Commission to discuss heights and density limits for downtown; City Council on Tues., 8/13, will look at the draft downtown plan

Zoning Update

Mark Gorman, a member of OPA's zoning committee, reported the city is updating the LUCE's zoning ordinance to curtail visitor parking on Main, Lincoln and Pico. A proposed "activity center" at Lincoln and Ocean Park Blvd. is seven stories high. Roger noted that OPA's Lincoln Blvd. survey found over 70% of respondents wanted to limit the building to three stories or less. On another note, Judy A. said preparations to appeal demolition of the bowling alley at Pico and 3rd is on hold, with few details fleshed out concerning next steps.

3-D Model Presentation of Proposed Development

To show the potential negative impact of overdevelopment in Santa Monica, Armen Melkonians, civil/environmental engineer and former City Council candidate, presented his own Power Point presentation using Google Earth to create a 3-D model of proposed development agreements along Ocean Ave. and much of the downtown area. Armen urged OPA to life his fb page: residocracy to empower residents in the planning process.

Committee Reports

Lincoln Blvd./Evan Meyer/Art Project

Evan said his art team has met their goal of painting 20 walls in two years at a cost of \$5,000, made possible because of the generosity of Naylor Paints, which offers reduced prices for the project, and individual donors. Evan said he believes that if you cluster art work, property values in the area will rise accordingly. The biggest challenge is convincing local businesses on Lincoln to let volunteer muralists repaint their walls, though some who refuse are repainting the walls themselves (example: local motel owner). Evan asked for OPA's support for hosting a fall Lincoln Blvd. art walk featuring music and vendors. He needs volunteers to help organize the event. Marcy suggested OPA officially sponsor the event. Discussion will continue at next week's meeting with an expected quorum.

[Beach Trees](#)

Andrew reported there is an ongoing dispute between the supplier of the city's failed Torrey Pine beach trees and the Urban Forest Task Force, with the supplier arguing against replanting the same species, and the Task Force unconvinced and keen to stick with the pines. Resolution of the dispute is not expected to precede the arrival of a new, yet-to-be-appointed City Forester.

Before the meeting closed, Judy A. said she hoped to see OPA members at the free pier concerts on Thursday nights.

Jim L. adjourned the meeting at 9 PM.

##