



DRAFT FOR BOARD REVIEW 2-19-14

OPA Minutes – 2/3/14

Joslyn Park, 633 Kensington Rd, Santa Monica, CA 90405

Jim Lawson, President, called the meeting to order at 7:00.

Members in Attendance (Enough for a quorum) 18

Jim Lawson, David Auch, Jodi Summers, Mary Marlow, Andrew Gledhill, Thane Roberts, Sadat Huq, Pauline Bohannon, Lori Nafshun, Roger Swanson, Patty Godon-Tann, David Tann, Evan Meyer, Jonah King, Michele Perrone, Bob Taylor, Ferris Gluck, Mark Gorman

Noticed Members Absent: Jeff Jarow

1. INTRODUCTION TO OPA – Jim Lawson

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Patty: did federal and state tax
- b. Mary: City Council meeting on Hines Bergamot project Tuesday night 6pm 6:30; may want to attend rally before
- c. Mary: Wednesday Feb. 12th Zoning Commission meeting re: commercial streets
- d. Evan: "Corner of Love" is live at Pier and Lincoln; inspiring wall, bench mosaic, sculpture
- e. Judy: requested others interested in planning with So Cal Edison re: random power outages; Patty joined; Judy: Edison volunteered to meet with OPA, but we should plan internally first
- f. Judy: Big Blue meeting Feb 13th asking for input re BBB integrating with Expo Line; Judy attending

3. Communications Committee Report (Jodi Summers)

- a. 4th of July Parade poster contest has been accepted as part of Santa Monica HS arts project this semester; Jodi is working to extend it to other schools
- b. More newsletter items needed

4. Meet our New Urban Forrester (Matthew Wells)

- a. 17 years in urban forestry, most recently New York
- b. 22,000 mature trees in S.M.; 25% mortality on average on new trees
- c. Emphasis on preserving big and historic trees
- d. Clearer maintenance requirements/schedule
- e. Working on tree valuation protocol to defend from construction damage
- f. Just pruned Ficus trees on Pier St. in OP
- g. Judy: asked about Beach trees condition; need attention—Matthew: some bad stock, no replacement plan yet



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- h. Roger: looking for 33 trees for Lincoln Blvd.
- i. Matthew: promote homeowners supporting neighboring street trees (esp. water, weeding, damage)
- j. Evan: Expand adopt a tree program to businesses? Explore option?
- k. David A: OP Blvd Committee—replacing dying trees from planting one year ago?
- l. Matthew: must balance preservation with public safety

5. Medicinal Marijuana Dispensaries in Santa Monica (Kenny Morrison, Michael Chernis)

- a. Michael Chernis, attorney for company seeking right to dispense legal marijuana in S.M., said Planning Commission drafted ordinance in August 2013 allowing two regulated dispensaries in health/hospital district on Wilshire. He believes four should be allowed, as originally suggested.
- b. Michael: Planning Commission staff today submitted report that urges City Council NOT to allow any dispensaries. This is a mistake because all studies debunk crime correlation. Huge momentum in favor of legalization. He hopes OPA supports SM being leader in medical cannabis and not hold policy of prohibition.
- c. Michael: West Hollywood allowed four dispensaries, with no problems
- d. Kenny Morrison: Been in cannabis industry since 2005 and owns Farmacy on Abbott Kinney. Community members must speak out because city wants zero dispensaries. Having local shops helps education about medicinal qualities and raises tax revenues; smokeless alternatives make delivery not viable
- e. Meeting Weds. Feb 12th, planning commission discussing issue
- f. David A: Santa Monica is a progressive community. We should support it but do it right.
- g. Patty—Great that we're progressive city that tolerates many activities, but not best crowd hang out at place near her home
- h. Evan: This is not new; we should get research to decide position

6. Firehouse 1 Project/Public Outreach (Fire Station Design Plans) (Alex Parry, Public Works Dept., and Chiefs from S.M. Fire Dept)

- a. Preparation for official outreach event in March seeking early feedback to take into official event
- b. Five years ago, study found seismic, egress and ADA upgrades needed, which will take away critical space
- c. Proposed new firehouse will be twice as big, with five not four bays
- d. Current schedule: Design firmed by Fall 2014, Construction contracted by Spring 2016, Construction finished by winter 2018. \$31 million cost funded by lease-revenue bonds on city properties



- e. David: Current issues with facility are alarming from disaster preparedness POV
- f. Patty: Concerns raised about traffic hindering fire vehicle arrival times. Since it's a big concern, department is looking at alternative deployment and apparatus until new facility built. The city manager is aware of situation.

7. ACTIONS TAKEN SINCE LAST BOARD MEETING

- a. [None discussed]

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. November 2013 and January OPA Board Meeting Minutes approved by unanimous motion

9. TREASURY REPORT

- a. \$2858.06 general
- b. \$6271.10 special accounts

10. REPORT FORM JANUARY NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETING

- a. [No report]

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. AIRPORT COMMITTEE

- a. Thane briefly updated status on the lawsuit. Also, Michele mentioned concern that Bergamot Transit Village may add to airport traffic.

B. GENERAL PLAN

- a. [No report] Jim brought up the matter raised in various Board emails of an OPA public position on the Bergamot Village project.

C. COMMUNICATIONS

- a. [Addressed earlier]

D. OUTREACH

- a. [No report]

E. PARADE/SPECIAL EVENTS

- a. Need to schedule discussion of Fourth of July Parade status

F. MEMBERSHIP

- a. [No report]

G. OCEAN PARK ZONING

- a. [Addressed earlier in announcements]

H. LINCOLN BOULEVARD

- a. [No report]

I. GUEST SPEAKERS

- a. [No report]

J. BEACH TREES

- a. [Addressed with Urban Forrester]