



DRAFT FOR BOARD REVIEW 4/1/14

MINUTES for March 3, 2014 OPA Closed Board Meeting

6:00 – 9:00 PM Joslyn Park 633 Kensington Road, Santa Monica CA 90405

Members in Attendance: (Enough for a quorum) 17

Jim Lawson, Judy Abdo, David Auch, Andrew Gledhill, Ferris Gluck, Patty Godon-Tann, Mark Gorman, Sadat Huq, Jeff Jarow, Jonah King, Mary Marlow, Marc Morgenstern, Thane Roberts, Mike Salazar, Jodi Summers, David Tann, Bob Taylor

Noticed Members Absent: Michele Perrone, Evan Meyer

1. Introduction to OPA (Jim Lawson - 1 minute) Meeting called to order at 6:10

2. Announcements

Mary: Marathon Sunday on March 9. Big changes this year, particularly tightened security, parking lot and street closures (Main St. and Ocean Ave.). Agreed that OPA will distribute email blast on it.

3. Actions taken since last Board meeting

Patty: 2 email votes re: Letter to City Council concerning Hines project

First vote: 2/8 11 yes, 7 no: 1 abstain

Second vote: 2/10 amended letter 12 yes, 2 no, 1 abstention, 4 absent

DECLARED PASSED

Upon reflection, 12 yes votes equaled passage. But 13 votes to pass should be correct number since with 19 members; a fraction of a person pushes us to 13 (2/3rds of entire board even if whole board doesn't vote, according to bylaws)

David A: Proposed a set discussion period to ask questions of other board members on issue.

Patty: Voting policy says no discussion after voting starts.

Bob: Obligation is on voters to be educated on issue or abstain.

Marc: Email votes should be kept to a minimum.

Patty: Email voting only used 4 times to hammer out policy when "total chaos"; someone needs to make the issue clear before a motion is made.

Jodi: Abstention doesn't mean no; it says I don't want to be involved.

Patty: Email vote on issue should be one time only, not good process to keep revising and submitting.



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Jim: An amendment says I'm not getting what I want so I'll keep changing until I win the vote

Judy: Isn't there a provision for special meeting?

Patty: Yes at any time. 6 votes of minimum 10 (quorum) = passes

David: So can change board position with only 6-person block?

Mike: No difference from regular meeting.

Marc: We need to agree on policy on re-voting on email vote.

Mike: We shouldn't limit since re-voting may help reach consensus

Marc: What about putting amended version up? Limits? What about conference call if we can't call special meeting?

Mary: Do we want to weigh in on theaters for SM Place (March 19 CC meeting)? This is similar situation to Hines. It's on Planning committee agenda—no control and often late. I'm not an advocate of email voting: it's painful and divisive, but sometimes it's the only way

Jodi: Maybe we should use OP Library for special meetings since much more flexible to arrange

Thane: Then we agree to leave it as is, only rare situations, so there's no need to limit email votes. If it "ain't broke"...

Marc: So our conclusion is: No action, no change on email voting policy, though it's discouraged. [Many nods]

4. Approval of Minutes

January minutes: Mary motion, David second (add Mike S. to attendees) Unanimously approved

February minutes: Jim motion, Judy second. Unanimously approved

5. Treasurer's Report (Patty Godon-Tann - 3 minutes)

Patty: \$146.77 spent in Feb., leaving \$4,528, Special Events: 24 cents.

Pay for storage locker: Send \$100 for April, March paid \$50. Do we need more space?

Mary: Let's try to clean it first, but a lot of parade materials in there

David: I'll be clean locker committee, with Sadat.



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6. Report from February 2014 Neighborhood Council Meeting (Mary Marlow - 2 minutes)

City density survey released Feb. 21. 600 pages on website. Also draft downtown plan released. City will take its time since so much going on with zoning.

Possible community meeting on downtown plan in May or June

Once Planning Commission is done with zoning, City staff will redline report including changes from planning commission and changes from old plan. Example: Now measuring density from alley not property line

Bob: David Martin said they will do what they prefer no matter what the community comments

7. Committee Reports:

Santa Monica Airport: (Mike Salazar - 5 minutes)

Mike: Phone poll from unnamed airport groups pushing ballot measure forcing city to keep airport open. Last time happened in 2011

Andrew: They denied it last time in press.

Mike: They have way of asking leading questions so only one answer. Lawsuit—city lost on procedural grounds; court granted FAA motion to dismiss on grounds of being premature and a violation of due process

Mike: Airport to Park financial panel in Jan. Working with USC grad students with different environmental studies; Mark Rios working on Oct. workshop – notes being summarized.

Mike: March 25 is next City Council meeting re: airport. "Starvation strategy" on table -- items that airport commission received in 2012, such as flight ops reduced by % based on previous year; turning aviation leases to free market so master lease holder won't benefit from profits

Andrew: \$5mm year to maintain property if it's all a park; \$5-6mm from lease if fair market value

General Plan: (Mary Marlow - 15 minutes) (see notes)

Communications: (Jodi Summers - 5 minutes) •

Newsletter done. City parade poster outreach to arts teachers so will have posters to choose from in early May

Andrew: We should delegate voting to committee....



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Patty: ...and then present finalists to whole board. (Jodi agreed)

Parade/Special Events: (See item 12) •

Membership: (Sadat Huq - 5 minutes) •

Sadat: 265 paid members, 1063 on contact list, 823 people received last email; Will issue "sign up" statement at beginning of each of our meetings going forward

Ocean Park Zoning (Judy Abdo - 5 minutes) •

Judy: Met with city staff last week with the purpose of educating the new person in charge of OP part of zoning ordinance (Brad Meisner). Explained our issues for more than an hour. Amanda ??, zoning administrator, also attended (understands OP issues). We felt listened to. We explained why OP is different from rest of city with special zoning. Why fix it if not broken? Got into red-lined version of new zoning plan; mainly discussed residential and Main St.; mentioned Lincoln Group but did not discuss issues.

Bob: Need to discuss Lincoln zoning issues, too, not just Main St.

Lincoln Boulevard Task Force (Bob Taylor/David Tann-5 minutes)

Bob—Master plan changes heights and density—turns towards on Pico and Strand. Lincoln Blvd. task force has issue with that. Nothing new from zoning and planning departments after 2 years of discussions, but trying to keep positive— also hope Brad and Amanda listening

Judy: Should set up meeting with Brad.

Bob: Met re: auto dealerships on Lincoln; no increase in auto sales,

Jeff: Suggest next month speaker, one dealership (Ron Davis) wanting to move to Lincoln since being forced off Santa Monica Blvd.

Pico Blvd. Bowling alley project, now DA big project

8. Discussion of OPA activities related to quality of life in Ocean Park especially traffic, parking and development impacts. (Mary Marlow and all - 60 minutes)

Mary: Explained why we're a 501c3—IRS non-profit social welfare org. as stated in OPA articles of incorporation. Talk about that role quality of life in OP: It's a good choice, not in violation of any rules, so why change? The issue is clarity on what can we do? How can we take positions and influence local land use, legislative issues (anything decided by the City Council)? Some examples: lobby CC for green Ocean Park Blvd. 2010 LUCE encourages community involvement; so totally in our purview to tackle legislative issues.

Andrew: [read from bylaws on influencing legislation]



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Judy: That's about money and paying for lobbyists, not weighing in on issues

Patty: We can spend 20% on lobbying

Mary: The key word is "substantial." Most of what we do is not legislative (parade, clean Up),

Patty: 6 things not considered lobbying—as long as it's not partisan, we can conduct survey and research. CANNOT spend money for projects or activities involving political campaigns and ballot measures

Mary: We have educational forums (like squirm night). We can have both sides represented but not take vote on position.

Marc: What about Residocracy? Should we support their drive on Hines project?

Thane: We are asking for it to go on ballot, and not taking position.

Mike: Not a ballot measure until sufficient signatures

Jody: At one point, will we irritate city by supporting Residocracy?

David A: It's our job to provide information for people interested in issue in our neighborhood, like Residocracy and Hines; last message told where you can sign and time line

Patty: I gave time as individual to get signatures, but this is political activity not OK under 501c3.

Jim: Can we say it's a good idea to sign the petition?

Mary: We can say there's a petition to put issue on ballot; encourage people to know that it's out there and learn about it.

Judy: It's our job to inform the neighborhood about what's going on even if I disagree with Residocracy. We all have free speech rights as individuals, but not as OPA.

Jim: Should we not take city grant, does it hinder what we want to do?

Mary: City grant does not hinder us. 501c3 works; I talked to 2 attorneys about what's allowed: voter registration, education and candidate forums. But we cannot make candidate endorsements or contributions. Board members as individuals cannot contribute to incumbents in CC elections; otherwise, we can contribute \$325 per candidate.

Thane: Residocracy is OK since split vote should be decided by the people.



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David T: Can't do one side of issue. It's taking a side.

Patty: Petition before groups is not an issue.

Bob: As soon as development agreement is involved, it's a city issue, so we can and should weigh in

Mary: We should lobby for whatever effects OP and effect legislation....

Judy: We can advocate the City Council on what they should do.

Mary: Where do we draw the line? Of 34 DA's, 4-5 effect us directly. Citywide issues like homeless and car dealerships fall especially on OP

Thane: Miramar is example of project outside OP where we should weigh in. Sets precedent on height and aesthetics.

Mike: Possible encroachment of tall buildings on Main St.

Jim: We should help out other neighborhood associations so they help us on OP issues.

Thane: Should do on case-by-case basis.

Mike: Sometimes, not two sides to every issue. We need to advocate.

Patty: We're here for all sides.

Jim: Crossfit example of dispute with landlord. Can't take sides.

Mike: No doubt that Hines project hits us directly—traffic, child care, housing

Judy: Hines very divisive. Should have at both sides. Not all or nothing. Project has a lot of good points and support.

Jonah: It's not just sides—we should bring context and information. People see it differently. Need to have full picture with differing points of view.

Marc: So how should we write letters taking position when we agree to take position?

Mary: That's what General Plan committee does.

David: Email process did not work.

Bob: We should have invited Hines or city staff to present to get full picture.

Mike: Other neighborhood groups asked why OPA did not speak out on Hines. Everyone forgot about 2002 letter.



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Mary: I wrote that letter and we did not take a position.

Jim: I'm open to any agenda items. Just need them 48 hours ahead. I've heard that we are focusing on "fluff" issues. But the agenda is set by all of us. It's clear we should have spent more time discussing Hines.

Mary: Maybe we should save time by eliminating some committee reports?

Thane: What's important to city as whole should be our focus.

Judy: We're different. Top focus should be OP neighborhood.

9. Discussion of process of providing information on quality of life issues as determined above (Jim Lawson and all - 30 minutes)

10. OPA Survey Funding (Mike Salazar - 10 minutes)

Mike: Proposed spending \$300 for survey marketing and distribution via email. Mike moved. Mary seconded. Approved unanimously.

11. Parade Update (Jeff Jarow - 15 minutes)

Jeff: Considering reversing parade route to save money. Will be working with board to assign parade roles for all board members and will share document by email. Emphasized need for active participation from all board members, particularly new members who have not played roles before. Jeff is having discussions with City about its funding commitment.

12. Change of OPA Meetings to 2nd Mondays (Jodi Summers - 5 minutes)

Agreed to discuss at next meeting.

Next meeting on Monday, April 7, 2014 at 7PM at Joslyn Park.

Adjourned at 9:10pm.