



Agenda for July 7, 2014 OPA General Meeting

7:00 – 9:00 PM Joslyn Park

633 Kensington Road, Santa Monica CA 90405

Members in Attendance: (Enough for a quorum -- 15)

Judy Abdo, David Auch, Ferris Gluck, Patty Godon-Tann, Mark Gorman, Sadat Huq, Jeff Jarow, Jim Lawson, Mary Marlow, Evan Meyer, Marc Morgenstern, Thane Roberts, Jodi Summers, David Tann, Bob Taylor

Not in Attendance:

Michele Perrone, Andrew Gledhill, Mike Salazar

1. Introduction to OPA (Jim Lawson - 1 minute)

Called to order at 7:05pm (after official Parade team photos)

2. Membership Announcement (Sadat Huq - 3 minutes)

Announced annual dues; encourage paid members to keep organization going

3. General Announcements

Judy—Pier Concert series starts Thursday night 7/10/14 7pm

Jim—July 10, 4:30pm Parking Meter Pilot program meeting at Fairview Library

Patty—Reconciled city grants

Jim—Congratulations on July 4th Parade. Thanks to Jeff and all the volunteers

Jeff—Compared to last year, 30-40 more parade applications, twice as many attendees, many new acts; Debrief/critique meeting to be held Monday or Tuesday at 7pm

Jim—Welcome new members

Jodi—Poster contest: 40 entries on display; thanks to participants

4. Ocean Park Apartment Building Preservation at 214 Bicknell Ave. (Mike Gottlieb - 20 minutes)

Mike + group David Aronson (partner) architects --Seek to renovate to keep in context of street; keep character; bought property 6 months ago, second residential parcel east of Main St.; seeking support for setback variance (ceiling heights in rear—build 8 ft. instead of 6 ft.) to make economically viable; hope to restore rather than tear down

Brief discussion and questions

5. “Should private business interests have priority over residents in land use decisions and affecting changes to the LUCE and Zoning Ordinances” (Bob Taylor - 15 minutes)

Peter Altshuler (35 year resident of Ocean Park) -- Planning Commission and Council are



in bed with every developer; residents' interests subordinated to other interests;
Developers receiving unfair tax abatements

Thane—Don't frame questions as residents vs. business; we should learn to get along;
LUCE was a compromise agreed by all parties, so no need to go back on it; do what's
best for whole city

Judy—Not aware of tax rebates for developers; don't believe that's happening.
Many changes to general plan over years; it is not meant to be set in stone; some times,
it makes sense to make changes

Evan— We should take a Utilitarian viewpoint— what is most benefit for most people;
an empowering approach is best—what can we do to fix it rather than complain “why
me”

Bob — 6 years of resident participation in LUCE; even if it does get modified, there
should be trial period; the issue was stimulated by aggressive effort by car dealerships
extending to Lincoln Blvd; not strong evidence that city is listening to residents' position,
so we must treat as broader issue than just car dealers

David A.—Resident surveys indicated support for LUCE re: Lincoln Blvd.

Mary – There's always tension between how big, how much; residents thought those
issues were settled when LUCE agreed, but city and developers are interpreting LUCE
very differently; last minute manipulation, so creating a lot of distrust in the city

Bob – Proposes to send letter to city council and planning commission that business
interests should not overrule residential interests re: LUCE

Judy—We are not ready as group to send letter; currently discussing block by block
preservation; waiting for next version of Zoning ordinance reflecting community input;
not at point now to say we don't like it until we see it

David A—Bob should focus on issue of car dealerships

Bob – Write letter that residents should be heard about any alteration to the LUCE

Patty—Like to see draft of letter; let's see where we stand and go over what represents
our group and what doesn't

Jim—Bob, if you want to draft something for us to review, please do; send out so we can



read ahead of time

Mary—General planning committee will take a look at Car Dealer issue

6. Highland Avenue Parkway Project - Meet and Honor OP Resident Stephanie Speights and thank her for “Walking the Walk”. Hear about her future plans and how you can help (Stephanie Speights -10 minutes)

Stephanie—Project was all about building social capital among neighbors; Please visit alleyup.org website for more information

Donations may be to sfleah2@gmail.com

Checks to Stephanie Speights 648 Ocean Park Blvd. SM 90405

Bob – Proposes donation from OPA

Phil Brock—Thrilled to see; invited Stephanie to parks and rec meeting

David A—Motion to donate \$100

Bob—seconded

Unanimous approval

Judy—OPA should be about bringing neighbors together to improve city

7. Main Street Animal Exhibits - Hear about the Petition to Close the Exhibits - (Marcy Winograd - 10 minutes)

Marcy – Started campaign 3 months ago after hearing numerous complaints about tethered ponies at Sunday Market; petting zoo is a breeding operation for baby animals taken from their mother; been going on for 11 years; 1,016 signatures stop petting zoo and ponies on petition at Freethepony.org

Linda Avila -- Sends wrong message to children

Ferris—Have you called ASPCA?

Marcy – Yes, they said work with animal control

Thane – Is there solution where animals won’t end up in glue factory, if they can’t be supported?

Marcy – I’m sure we can find better way



David T.—I visited Sunday, saw animals enjoying the touching

8. Actions taken since last Board meeting

David A – We put on great parade

9. Report from June 2014 Neighborhood Council Meeting (Mary Marlow - 5 minutes)

[Incorporated with General Plan Report]

Mary -- Overwhelming feedback at last meeting about Bergamot Arts Center project: parking big issue not dealt with; Bergamot is a unique city resource; neighborhood council wants people to be aware that Bergamot is citywide issue; process going on towards massive change; Margaret Burke of Landmarks Commission concerned about losing courtyard and garden apartments; looking for ideas on how to save, including limiting how many parcels may be put together or making demolition harder; both issues to be discussed at Zoning Board meetings; Bergamot Station gallery owners association founded; raising money

Mary -- A lots – parking overlay; city attorney confirmed changed 89 parcels from residential to commercial without discussion; planning says will change back

Mary -- We told city don't mess with success when comes to OP zoning

Judy – Bergamot property more complicated; it's city property; was purchased with transport monies so strings attached; need to have city come in and explain issues to us; need to prove monies to benefit transportation

Mary – Big Blue bus receives money, increasing from \$500 to \$750K

Judy will find best person to speak to OPA at next meeting

10. Approval of Minutes from June Meeting (Marc Morgenstern - 1 minute)

Marc – Controversy expressed about June minutes, as can be seen from email trail; Minutes are to serve board and public; What does group want: Detail or simplified?

Patty—Just leave important bullets points

Judy – Vote should be recorded with names



Marc—We will institute roll call of names on each vote

Jim -- Attach roll call names to minutes but not on website

David A – Rather do number count, not names

Judy – Just report “there was intense disagreement...” rather than details

Bob and Marc discuss Bob’s points, agree to amend Minutes in discussion with Jim and have Board vote next month

David T: Motion—roll call with publication of numbers only on web site

Jody second

11 in favor, 1 against, 0 abstentions

11. Treasurer’s Report (Patty Godon-Tann - 3 minutes)

No final parade numbers yet

General account fairly healthy \$3471.40 end of June

\$2,242 in membership in second quarter, 10 times first quarter

Quarterly review will be attached to minutes

Spent all grant money

Expenses the same

Looking at changing storage locker

12. Committee Reports:

Ocean Park Zoning: (Judy Abdo - 5 minutes)

[Did not meet]

Supported outside dining at Via Veneto

Lincoln Boulevard Task Force: (David Tann - 5 minutes)

Bob – Meeting with city consultants this week

Motion to extend meeting to 9:20

Patty Moved

David A Second

Unanimous vote

Membership: (Sadat Huq - 5 minutes)

More on-line renewals

Stronger membership presence at parade—discuss membership incentive



General Plan: (Mary Marlow – 5 minutes)
[Covered in Neighborhood Association Report]

Communications: (Jodi Summers - 5 minutes)
Next month discuss next newsletter

Outreach: Update: (Jeff Jarow - 5 minutes)
[No report]

Parade Recap: (Jeff Jarow - 5 minutes)
[Discussed previously]

Santa Monica Airport: (Mike Salazar - 5 minutes)
[No report]

Tree Update: (Andrew Gledhill - 5 minutes)
[No report]

**Next meeting on Monday, August 4, 2014 at 7PM at Joslyn Park.
6-7pm Executive Session to discuss Process (minutes, email protocol)**

Borderline Neighborhood Picnic July 27th noon

Refreshments August: Marc Morgenstern

**Mary – Motion to adjourn
Thane seconded
Passed unanimously**

Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:20pm