

DEL REY HOMEOWNERS & NEIGHBORS ASSOCIATION
BOARD MEETING OF FEBRUARY 2, 2009

Italicized remarks are post-meeting comments by the Recording Secretary.

Roll Call and Introduction of Guests: Janice Santos, Parliamentarian; Chris Nevil, President; George Gross, First Vice President and Webmaster; Wendy Averill, Second Vice President; Michelle Rudo, Treasurer; Elizabeth Pollock, Recording Secretary; Tobyann Mandel, Corresponding Secretary; Casey Anderson, Director and Membership Chairman; Elizabeth Zamora, Director; Marlene Savage, Director; Mary Anderson, Director and Newsletter Editor. Steve Knight, Advisor.

Guests: Gail Sharp of the Venice Japanese Community Center; Andrew Kurkjian, Del Rey resident. Cindy Mejia, field deputy for Councilman Bill Rosendahl; Caltrans representatives: Joe Brazile, External Affairs, jbrazile@dot.ca.gov, (213) 897-0849; Jose Ventocilla, Sr. Engineer, Construction; Judy Gish, Public Affairs; Leon Romero, Project Management.

Minutes: The board reviewed and approved the January 5, 2009, board minutes without amendment.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Michelle Rudo submitted a Transaction Report for January 1, - 31, 2009. With the dues renewals, our balance increased to \$10,481.03. The board voted to approve the report.

Caltrans Freeway Widening Project:

The High Occupancy Vehicle ("HOV") lanes on the 405 freeway between the 90 and 10 freeways should be fully operational in Summer 2009. The \$170 million project is a year behind schedule because design changes were needed when Caltrans discovered a large unmarked water main at Sepulveda Blvd./Sawtelle Ave. in June 2006. (The entire project was supposed to start October 21, 2004 and continue for 770 working days, and there are 220 working days in each year.)

The project will cost \$170 million, but the money is already budgeted, so the state's budget woes will not stop the work. The contractor does not get paid until the work is done, so the 80 per cent of the money that has been paid means that 80 per cent of the work has been done. The water pipe delay cost Caltrans a delay penalty of \$14,100 per day for 263 days. If the contractor gets behind schedule, the contractor's delay penalty will be \$22,000 per day.

There was a budget for graffiti removal, but that budget has been exhausted, so new graffiti will not be removed until money becomes available.

When the project is finished, Culver City and the City of Los Angeles will need to negotiate with Caltrans to determine which local streets were already in disrepair before the project and which need repair because of the project. The repair costs are not included in the budget for the project, so they must be negotiated afterwards.

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One of the “lessons learned” from this project is that Caltrans needs to communicate more with the affected communities. The neighbors in the Berryman/Barman area felt ignored by Caltrans. The agency is now meeting quarterly with the Los Angeles City Council deputies from the neighborhoods affected by the project. Judy Gish said Caltrans is now changing its behavior, but it “had no solutions for a long time.”

During the next 18 months, although construction engineers, inspectors and first responders will continue to work full-time, other Caltrans personnel will be furloughed two days per month, which will make them less able to be responsive.

Steve Knight observed that between Washington Blvd. and Venice Blvd., the merge lane onto the northbound 405 is too short to enable drivers to get up to speed. The lane is supposed to be 600 feet long, and Caltrans will check it in the field. The merge lane should be completed by May 2009.

The construction debris on Culver Blvd. west of Sawtelle Ave. was from Shell’s pipeline work, not Caltrans. In addition, the Department of Water and Power has announced it will be redoing the piping from Berryman Ave. to Braddock Drive.

The onramp from Culver Blvd. to the northbound 405 opened on January 23, 2009. On the west side of the 405, the frontage road that crosses Braddock Drive is not yet aligned with the road south of Braddock Drive. The southbound offramp will not be opened until the alignment is complete. The signals are now on a “demand basis.”

Caltrans met with Councilman Bill Rosendahl in December and again on January 30. They will meet with him again in June 2009. Local residents with concerns should contact Judy Gish, whose email is Judy.Gish@dot.ca.gov. To get project update information, one can check the Caltrans website, www.dot.ca.gov/dist07 or call (213) 897-3487.

Caltrans brought copies of the second edition (January/February 2009) of the “Construction News,” a newsletter about the Route 90 to Interstate 10 Carpool Lane Project. The newsletter provides a status report on the different sections of the project. Judy Gish said she and another Caltrans employee distributed copies to some of the affected households.

General Meeting: Will be on Tuesday, March 24 or Wednesday, March 25, 2009. Proposed speakers include Rita Robinson, General Manager of the city’s Department of Transportation; Deborah Robertson from the Caltrans Government Affairs Office; the transportation deputy for Council District 11. The planning committee will meet at Marlene Savage’s house on February 11, 2009, at 7 p.m..

Membership: We have gotten 193 renewals/\$3062 in dues and extra contributions. The membership marketing committee will meet at Michelle Rudo’s house on February 9, 2009.

Website: George Gross continues to maintain the website, but we only got three or four hits during January 2009.

Del Rey Neighborhood Council: The board will meet on Thursday, February 12, 2009, at 7 p.m. at the Courtyard by Marriott Hotel, 13480 Maxella Ave., Marina Del Rey, CA 90292, tel. (310) 822-8555. DRHNA and the DRNC have been asked to assist in conducting the 2010 census in Del Rey.

Community Safety/Disaster Preparedness Report: A Community Emergency Response Team training class is currently being offered in Westchester.

CD 11 Update: Cindy Mejia brought flyers about:

1. Meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009, from 7 – 9 p.m. at Webster Middle School, 11330 Graham Place, Los Angeles, CA 90064 to discuss Measure B, the proposed solar power program on the March 3, 2009, municipal ballot.
2. Workshops on Saturday, February 7, 2009, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. regarding the CalGrant program to provide “cash for college.”
3. Press release from the city’s Department of Transportation announcing that traffic officers will now be assigned to “geographical beats,” rather than just in “high traffic” areas. The goal is to ensure that abandoned vehicles, time limit violators and oversize vehicle parking violators will be cited on a regular basis. Residents may call (213) 485-4184, option “2” or (818) 752-5100, option “2” to request dispatch of a traffic officer.

Cindy Mejia will ask the legislative deputy if there has been any progress on trying to provide a place at Dockweiler Beach where people living in recreational vehicles can park.

4. Notice from the Department of City Planning that the City has revised certain sections of the Environmental Impact Report for the Village at Playa Vista project. Comments on the revised sections are due by **March 16, 2009, to David J. Somers, City Planning Department, Room 750, City Hall, 200 N. Spring St., Los Angeles, CA 90012, or david.somers @lacity.org.**

She also reported that Thomas Safran & Associates did close on its purchase of the property at Culver Blvd./Stoner Ave.. They will soon be requesting permits from the city. We need to contact them and ask them to attend our March 2009 board meeting so we will have another opportunity to have some input into the design of the project.

The developer of the Howard Hughes project has written to the Westchester Neighborhood Council asking them to support their proposal. Council deputies Jim Kennedy and Whitney Blumenfeld are working on that project.

Cindy Mejia said that if a street does not have a posted street sweeping day, the street is swept monthly. She can ask the city to do a special posting twice a year so that cars will not be parked on the street during the sweeping.

Captain Allen from the city Department of Transportation Parking Enforcement Bureau will be meeting with Don Dombrowski, Cindy Mejia and Los Angeles Police Department Senior Lead Officer Drake Madison to make arrangements so that parking enforcement can go to the alleys along Jefferson Blvd. without having a police escort.

A proposal for a DASH route with 10 stops in Del Rey has been submitted to the City.

OLD/CONTINUING BUSINESS:

1. STARBUCKS COMPLIANCE STATUS, DOT REQUEST FOR ONE-WAY ALLEY:

Mo Blorfroshan has agreed to go out to visit the site. The city's Department of Building and Safety can be asked to do something about the graffiti on the remediation unit in the Starbuck's property.

2. TRANSPORTATION ISSUES:

The next meeting of the "Mobility Action Committee" regarding transportation issues in Westchester, Venice and Del Rey will be on February 17, 2009, from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Westchester municipal building's community room.

3. PARKS PROJECT UPDATE: No new developments.

4. PARKING CONDITION 125:

Steve Knight explained how Condition 125 came about in 1993. (Nelson Rising of Playa Vista had suggested the amount. Les Sholty was then president of DRHNA.)

Meanwhile, the city reportedly has obtained five feet of the frontage along Jefferson Blvd. between Margaret St. and Inglewood Blvd. so the utilities can be placed underground. Perhaps the city could be persuaded to widen Jefferson Blvd. so that the parking spaces would not be lost?

The city did not want to remove the median between Mesmer Ave. and Centinela Ave., and there has been no effort to reduce the 35 mph speed limit although there is a preschool on Jefferson Blvd. in this area.

The city's Department of Transportation is looking into putting the parking remediation fund (\$350,000) into an interest bearing account. Cindy Mejia is preparing a letter to the Department of Transportation about that issue.

5. CONSIDERATION OF ESTABLISHING MINIMUM STANDARD FOR VOTING BOARD MEMBER ATTENDANCE AT ASSOCIATION MEETINGS OR OTHER METHODS OF MAINTAINING SUFFICIENT ATTENDANCE AND QUORUM

After discussion, the board voted to submit the following bylaws change to the membership at the March 2009 general meeting:

Article VI Board of Directors

Section 2 Duties and Responsibilities

...

- e. If a member of the Board cannot attend a scheduled meeting because of illness or a conflicting commitment, the member shall notify the Parliamentarian or the President before the meeting. If advance notice is given, such an absence shall be an "excused absence."
- f. During a 12 month period, if a Board member has more than three absences that are not "excused," whether from a General Meeting or a Board meeting, a majority of the remaining board members may vote to compel the resignation of the Board member with the poor attendance record.

NEXT MEETING: MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2009

ADJOURNMENT: 9:10 P.M.