

DEL REY HOMEOWNERS & NEIGHBORS ASSOCIATION
BOARD MEETING OF MARCH 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; Michelle Rudo, Treasurer; Elizabeth Pollock, Recording Secretary; Casey Gross, Director and Membership Chairman; Elizabeth Zamora, Director; Marlene Savage, Director; Aaron Bernardin, Director; Mary Anderson, Director and Newsletter Editor. Steve Knight, Advisor.

Guests: Gail Sharp of the Venice Japanese Community Center; Don Dombrowski, Del Rey resident; Cindy Mejia, field deputy for Councilman Bill Rosendahl; Linda Browne, City of Los Angeles.

Absences: Board members Tobyann Mandel and Wendy Averill were excused absences.

Minutes: The board reviewed and approved the February 2, 2009, board minutes without amendment.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Michelle Rudo submitted a Transaction Report for February 1 – 28, 2009. The board voted to approve the report.

Newsletter: Mary Anderson will have a farewell column from Chris Nevil, an article about Playa del Rey Elementary School remaining open, an announcement about the General Meeting, the Five Points of Contact for the police. She will check to be sure our annual dues are stated correctly. Each person running for office is asked to submit a short statement. The newsletter will be out before the General Meeting (March 26), but not in time to give 15 days' notice of the proposed bylaws changes (March 11).

Parking Enforcement: Linda Browne, from the 's Department of Transportation Bureau of Parking Enforcement and Intersection Control is a lieutenant and Senior Traffic Supervisor II with Western Parking Enforcement, 11214 W. Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90064. Tel. (310) 312-3540, fax (310) 445-1788. She explained that the Western office has about 120 officers that provide coverage 24 hours a day in an area that includes the Los Angeles Police Department's Pacific Division as well as parts of Wilshire Division. During rush hour, they are usually deployed to the "anti-gridlock" intersections to help direct traffic.

The daytime lieutenant can be reached at (310) 312-3519.

Regarding the alley behind the 11800 – 11900 block of Jefferson Blvd., the department has issued 16 citations since January 1, 2009. Don Dombrowski said that double parking and blocking of garages are the main issues. The officers that work after dark are allowed to double up in a vehicle if they wish. Lt. Browne explained that if a vehicle is at least 50 per cent on private property, the officer will not write a citation.

If one believes a vehicle has been parked for more than 72 hours in one spot, one should call 1-800-ABANDON and make a report. The department will then monitor the location. In addition to marking the tires with chalk, they do use other methods to confirm if a vehicle has been parked in one place for more than 72 hours.

We asked Lt. Browne to monitor parking in the alley by the Starbuck's at Centinela and Jefferson.

Bank Charges: In December 2008, Bank of America charged a service fee of \$29.95 on DRHNA's checking account. In January 2009, after negotiations by Michelle Rudo and Chris Nevil, the bank reversed the charge, but then they imposed the same service charge for January. As our total deposit exceeds \$10,000, and our annual dues are only \$10 per household, these fees are unacceptable to DRHNA.

Given that the signatories on the account will need to be changed after the March 2009 officers' election, the board voted to authorize Michelle Rudo to make one last attempt to negotiate with Bank of America and then to change banks if the matter cannot be resolved. Michelle shall exercise her discretion in choosing a bank, but she could consider ING (online bank), Union Bank of California, First Federal Bank, the former Washington Mutual. None impose the high service fees.

C.D. 11 Update: Cindy Mejia reported as follows:

1. **Thomas Safran project:** During March, there will be a meeting/public hearing about their entitlements. They must give 21 days' notice, so notice will be given soon.
2. **Mobility meeting:** The next meeting of the "Mobility Action Committee" regarding transportation issues in Westchester, Venice and Del Rey will be on April 21, 2009, from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Westchester municipal building's community room.
3. **Condition 125 Parking Fund:** She is still working with Eddie Guerrero at the Department of Transportation to get the money moved into an interest-bearing account. She has drafted a letter to be sent to the City of Los Angeles regarding possible ways to resolve the Jefferson Blvd. parking problem. She will send the letter to Chris Nevil for review.
4. **Communications:** Cindy has been sending her emails to DRHNA's president (Chris Nevil) and recording secretary (Elizabeth Pollock). However, the recording secretary does not have the members' email addresses. Therefore, the memos now will be sent to the president and the webmaster, and webmaster George Gross can then decide which information should be passed on to the membership.

Police/Crime Report: Don Dombrowski reported that during the past two weeks, there have been five daytime breakins in the area between Centinela Ave./Mesmer Ave. and Jefferson

Blvd./90 freeway. DRHNA's former president, Charlotte DeMeo, had already told us about some of the breakins and reportedly, the burglar may be an African-American man driving a gold-colored car.

Cindy Mejia said that she receives a daily Crime Report from the police, and there were two incidents on Culver Blvd. this past weekend. She will forward the Crime Report to DRHNA's president, but it should not be distributed beyond that. The police department's "Pacific Beat" seems to have gone out of circulation.

General Meeting: Will be on Thursday, March 26, 2009 at 7 p.m.. Councilman Bill Rosendahl will moderate. Elizabeth Zamora will reserve the auditorium. We will have representatives of CalTrans and the city's Department of Transportation. Marlene Savage will send a notice to Cindy Mejia so she can arrange for it to be distributed to the CD 11 mailing list.

Before the meeting, each DRHNA member will be sent: (a) a letter in which C. Nevil will try to encourage active participation in the group; (b) a "buck slip" announcing the meeting; (c) a notice regarding the candidates running for office and the proposed bylaws changes that will be up for a vote.

The "buck slip" is a card the size of a dollar bill so it will fit in a standard envelope. We will print another 500 or so for door-to-door distribution.

Bylaws Change: The current bylaws require that notice of a proposed bylaws change be given by mail at least 15 days prior to the meeting where the change will be considered. As a quorum of 10 per cent of the membership must be present for the vote, bylaws changes cannot be decided upon by the board of directors.

We would like to be able to give notice to our membership by electronic mail as well as by standard mail. Therefore, the board voted to propose the following bylaws change:

Article IX, Section 1:

The foregoing bylaws may be added to, amended, or repealed at any Association meeting by a two-thirds vote, with at least 10 per cent of members present, provided that written notice of such proposed amendment shall have been *delivered either personally or by mail or other means of written communication to the member at the address given to the Association by the member for purpose of receiving notice* at least 15 days prior to the date of the meeting at which the amendment is to be voted upon.

Membership Marketing: Michelle Rudo and Casey Gross met to discuss how best to market DRHNA in Del Rey. They decided that we need a simple statement of who we are and how we differ from the Del Rey Neighborhood Council. "We do stuff, but we don't get recognition. We aren't doing what we say is our focus (emergency preparedness)." We need to prepare a list of

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what we have done. As new officers will be elected at the March general meeting, we decided to table this discussion until the new president has taken office.

Website: We may wish to change to a website with a more user-friendly interface. The membership marketing committee will consider how best to make our website more user-friendly.

Food Drive: The suggestion was made that we ask our members to bring canned goods to the general meeting. These would then be donated to a food bank in Del Rey. There is a weekly food bank at St. Gerard Majella church, and the Mar Vista Family Center has a food distribution program. *Whether and how to do this food donation will be discussed by the board electronically.*

Del Rey Neighborhood Council: The board will meet on Thursday, March 12, 2009, at 7 p.m. at the Courtyard by Marriott Hotel, 13480 Maxella Ave., Marina Del Rey, CA 90292, tel. (310) 822-8555. Our advisor, Steve Knight, has been named chairman of the Land Use and Planning Committee; our director Marlene Savage is the vice-chair and also serves on DRNC's Transportation committee.

Community Safety/Disaster Preparedness Report: A Community Emergency Response Team training class is currently being offered in Culver City if anyone needs to make up a session.

OLD/CONTINUING BUSINESS:

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

Cindy Mejia has been quite helpful. At the last Mobility Action Meeting, Mo Blorfroshan (city's Department of Transportation) told Cindy he would post "No Turns" signs at Starbuck's to keep people from driving into/out of the alley that connects to Juniette St. George Gross suggested that painting some curbs red might be more effective than using signs.

2. PARKS PROJECT UPDATE:

- a. 5550 Grosvenor Ave.: Los Angeles County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas has not yet designated a parks and recreation deputy, but Elizabeth Pollock has left a message with Vincent Harris regarding our interest in the 5550 Grosvenor Ave. property for a possible community center and park. Messages have also been left with Debra Geiler at the Trust for Public Land. It appears that the property is still be used as a parking lot for local businesses.
- b. Culver/Slauson Park. Chris Nevil reported that the Park Advisory Board (which has only three of five positions filled) has decided to spend \$150,000 to put in a

softball diamond, rather than a soccer field. This would seem to go against the wishes of the people who use the park.

- c. Steve Knight reported that according to Arturo Peña, director of field operations for the city's Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, Del Rey Quimby funds were not used to build the new skateboarding park in Venice.
 - d. The Little League fields just off of Culver Blvd., west of Lincoln Blvd. are full of weeds and have been abandoned. It appears that the State of California decided not to renew the lease.
3. CLOSING REMARKS. Chris Nevil has completed three terms as president, and he thanked the board members for their service during his administration.

NEXT MEETING: MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2009

ADJOURNMENT: 9:00 P.M.