

DEL REY HOMEOWNERS & NEIGHBORS ASSOCIATION

BOARD MEETING OF JULY 7, 2008

Italicized remarks concern developments that occurred before or after the board meeting.

Roll Call and Introduction of Guests: Janice Santos, Parliamentarian; Chris Nevil, President; George Gross, First Vice President and Webmaster; Wendy Averill, Second Vice President; Elizabeth Pollock, Recording Secretary; Tobyann Mandel, Corresponding Secretary; Casey Anderson-Gross, Director and Membership Chair; Mary Anderson, Director and Newsletter Editor; Marlene Savage, Director; Aaron Bernardin, Director; Elizabeth Zamora, Director..

Guests: Bo Bigley, Lorena Paez, Luis Chavez, Don Dombrowski, Del Rey residents; Cindy Mejia, Council District 11; Leslie Chan, project analyst, Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority..

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the June 2, 2008, board meeting were reviewed, revised and unanimously approved as revised. The minutes can now be posted on the DRHNA website.

On August 3, 2008, Steve Knight submitted additional input regarding the minutes of our board meeting on June 2 2008. It was his understanding that at the May meeting with the Community Parks Advisory Committee, Nicole Velasquez made the suggestion of getting a new recreation center at Culver Slauson Park. However, at a meeting held at the park two weeks later, most of the parents wanted to renew the soccer fields. At that same meeting Steve Knight spoke with Henry Doyle, the Recreation Director of Culver Slauson Park, and he confirmed that he and the parents felt the soccer fields were the first priority of everyone concerned. Doyle went on to say that the “restrooms could use some work.” Steve Knight also spoke to Lucia Diaz (director of the Mar Vista Family Center) twice, and she also said that improving or enlarging the soccer fields was the first priority of everyone concerned.

Treasurer’s Report: Before the meeting, Treasurer Michelle Rudo circulated a Transaction Detail Report for June 1 through June 30, 2008, which was approved as submitted. No inflows. Outflows of \$449.10, leaving a balance of \$10,168.75.

New Business: Milton Street park plans. A 1.2 acre parcel of land (1000’ x 40’) next to Marina del Rey Middle School (12500 Braddock Drive) has been purchased for \$1.6 million as an extension to the Centinela Avenue entrance to the Ballona Bikeway. There will be a Community Meeting on Tuesday, July 29, 2008, from 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at the school to discuss three design options for the park. Leslie Chan explained that the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (a joint powers agency of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy), the Baldwin Hills Regional Conservation Authority and the California State Coastal Conservancy are collaborating on the project, which will have “native landscaping” and be an educational resource for the middle school students. Ms. Chan distributed a copy of the resolution in which the State Coastal Conservancy authorized disbursement to the MRCA of up to \$100,000 for project planning and design.

At the first community meeting, held in June 2008, neighbors expressed concern about the congestion already created by weekend usage of the school’s athletic facilities. Ms. Chan explained that the park is not intended to be a “destination”; it will be more of a resting place for people using the Ballona bikeway. Ms. Chan’s contact information is: LA. River Center and Gardens, 570 West Avenue 26, Suite 100, Los Angeles, CA 90065, tel. (323) 221-9944 x 183, cell: (323) 829-3503; fax (323) 221-8937, email: leslie.chan@mrca.ca.gov Website: www.lamountains.com

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The MRCA is also working on taking the “entrance park” concept from Centinela Avenue and creating something similar at the Inglewood Blvd. and McConnell St. entrances to the bikeway.

C.D. 11: Cindy Mejia is our new field deputy, although Jim Kennedy will be handling Ballona Creek issues. She has been working as Councilman Bill Rosendahl’s office manager since December 2007. Her email is: cindy.mejia@lacity.org, and she is at the Westchester District Office, 7166 W. Manchester Ave., Westchester, CA 90045, tel.: (310) 568-8772, fax (310) 410-3946.

On July 9, 2008, there will be another meeting to discuss whether to close the Purdue Avenue onramp to the Ballona bikeway. Ms. Mejia will check on the status of the property at the intersection of Culver Blvd. and Stoner Avenue as there seem to be trucks parking at the property.

Police/Crime Report/Pacific Division Update: Mary Anderson attended the June Basic Car meeting. Crime statistics for the area are steady for the past one to two years, despite the loss of 40 officers. Crimes against property are being handled more slowly because crimes against people have priority.

Don Dombrowski and his guest, Lorena Paez, manage apartments on Jefferson Blvd., and they are having trouble getting parking enforcement on Jefferson Blvd. because the enforcement people want police support. There are also problems in the alley between the apartments and Juniette St. Don and Lorena will be meeting with Captain Sean McCormick to arrange for better parking enforcement. Elizabeth Pollock suggested that Don Dombrowski should be asked to develop a plan for use of the \$300,000 Playa Vista parking fund that was to help remediate parking problems created by changes in Jefferson Blvd. and Centinela Ave. as a result of the Playa Vista project. E. Pollock will provide D. Dombrowski with a copy of the Environmental Impact Report provision that discusses the parking condition.

Casey Anderson-Gross reported that Playa del Rey Elementary School was covered with graffiti on or about July 7, 2008. Wendy Averill suggested reporting the graffiti to the Los Angeles Unified School District Police; Wendy will provide Casey with the contact information.

Newsletter: No new developments. The Del Rey Neighborhood Council (“DRNC”) has not yet published the newsletter originally scheduled for June.

General Meeting: Tabled for the August board meeting.

Membership: New membership checks (5) will be sent to Treasurer Michelle Rudo. We are still looking for inexpensive membership renewal software.

Website: George Gross has been posting notices about events in the community but is behind with the posting of agendas and minutes.

Del Rey Neighborhood Council: This month’s meeting will be on Thursday, July 10, 2008, at 7 p.m. at the Courtyard by Marriott Hotel, 13480 Maxella Ave., Marina Del Rey, CA 90292, tel. (310) 822-8555. Chris Nevil will be making a presentation about DRHNA’s new focus on community safety and disaster preparedness.

OLD/CONTINUING BUSINESS

DRHNA Revised Focus: Bo Bigley will head a committee comprised of Chris Nevil, Mary Anderson, Marlene Savage, Tobyann Mandel. The committee will develop a plan for improving community safety and disaster preparedness in Del Rey. DRHNA’s goal will be to have taken steps to set up three new

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Neighborhood Watch programs in each of the eight DRNC areas and in the county area west of Centinela Ave., i.e. 24 new Neighborhood Watch programs by the end of 2008. We may start by trying to organize the streets where the board members live. We need to determine if Mar Vista Gardens already has something like Neighborhood Watch. Concurrently with the effort to set up new Neighborhood Watch programs, DRHNA will continue to work on expanding the Community Emergency Response Team (“CERT”) programs.

We need to clarify how the Los Angeles Police Department uses the term “block captain,” as their “block captains” meet monthly, and the term seems to have a specific meaning for them. DRHNA has used it to refer to the person who is in charge of organizing the residents on a particular block into a Neighborhood Watch program.

Privacy concerns make it difficult to obtain and maintain information about which people in Del Rey are involved with Neighborhood Watch and CERT, i.e. we do not know the degree of penetration of those programs in Del Rey.

The DRNC areas correspond to census tracts, and therefore, we may be able to obtain lists of addresses in Del Rey, sorted by street.

Starbucks Compliance Status: Casey Anderson-Gross will prepare a letter to Mo Blorfashan at the city’s Department of Transportation, reminding him of the need for traffic control signage. She will ask a neighbor to contact Playa del Rey Elementary to request a letter from them about traffic problems created by the Starbucks patrons.

Archstone Playa del Mar Project: During the week of July 7 – 11, the draft Environmental Impact Report will be sent for a 30 day Inter County Agency review. The 45 day public comment period will begin after the Inter County Agency review. Therefore, at our August meeting we will need to appoint people to review and prepare comments on the draft EIR.

The board authorized director Elizabeth Zamora to meet with the two candidates for the Los Angeles County Supervisor’s job (Bernard Parks and Mark Ridley-Thomas) to learn their views about the Archstone project and about development in general. She will take to each candidate the packet of signatures and background information that she prepared concerning the Notice of Preparation for the project.

After hearing her report, we may wish to schedule a candidates’ forum for September 2008. Ms. Zamora has already met with the staff of our current Supervisor Yvonne Burke, to discuss the Archstone project. Chris Nevil can raise the possibility of holding a candidates’ forum during the public comment part of the July DRNC meeting.

Entrada Project: In May 2008, the United Neighbors of Westside (“UNOW”) filed a petition for writ of mandate to challenge the City of Culver City’s approval of the project, Case No. SS016787. The board voted unanimously to contribute Five Hundred Dollars to UNOW to help defray some of their litigation expenses.

We had been concerned that the developer of the Entrada project might sue for damages incurred because of the writ. However, it appears that the volunteer directors of a 501(c)(4) organization like DRHNA cannot be held personally liable for actions taken by the organization, and the organization itself cannot be held liable if its actions were reasonable. We did learn that DRHNA should make an annual

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inquiry as to what it would cost to purchase a \$500,000 general liability policy to protect itself if it were sued. However, an organization like DRHNA, which has annual revenues of less than \$25,000, will not be deemed to be undercapitalized if the cost of insurance would be more than five per cent of the organization's annual budget. The Farmers insurance agency of Bart Baker in Malibu, tel. (310) 457-6225, advised that they would get bids from several companies, but a \$500,000 general liability policy probably would have a premium of \$1000 - \$4000 per year, and the deductible would also be in that range. DRHNA's annual budget for 2008 was approximately \$4000, so five per cent would be \$200. Our annual revenues are around \$3500.

Before the board meeting, Hilary Hanifin of UNOW gave the board a status report and also advised that a developer is proposing to build a 24 story building on Center Drive in the Howard Hughes Center. That would be approximately twice as tall as the other buildings in the complex. Councilman Rosendahl's deputy for the Howard Hughes complex is Jim Kennedy, but Del Rey deputy Cindy Mejia will find out if the story is true.

Housing Element of the Los Angeles General Plan: The City of Los Angeles has completed and made available its draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) regarding the citywide update to the Housing Element of the General Plan, EIR No. ENV-2007-5270-EAF. Comments are due by July 14, 2008, and the City of Los Angeles intends to vote on the draft EIR during July.

However, on June 20, 2008, the La Brea Willoughby Coalition filed a lawsuit against the City, Case No. BS115435, to enjoin it from approving any further zoning ordinances, specific plan amendments, general plan amendments, development agreements, or tentative subdivision maps, unless and until the City complies with the General Plan's mandatory requirement to establish a monitoring program, a transportation database and the Annual Reports on Growth and Infrastructure for the years 1999 through 2008. Additional information is available at www.fixlosangeles.com and www.LaBreaCoalition.org. On July 12, 2008, Marlene Savage will be attending a meeting with City Planning Director Gail Goldberg and others regarding the proposed Housing Element.

NEW BUSINESS

Donation to Ballona Creek Renaissance: The Community Garden at Centinela Creek (Beatrice & Mesmer) has finally found a sponsor, Ballona Creek Renaissance, formerly Friends of the Ballona Wetlands. The Community Garden will be insured through Ballona Creek Renaissance, and in recognition of its sponsorship, the DRHNA board voted to donate One Hundred Dollars (\$100) to Ballona Creek Renaissance. A fundraising bake sale held at the Community Garden on Saturday, July 28, 2008, was very successful.

Board Meeting Attendance: Tabled until August. (Consideration of establishing minimum standard for voting Board member attendance at DRHNA meetings or other methods of maintaining robust attendance and quorum).

POST-MEETING VOTE

After the July board meeting, Lucia Diaz of the Mar Vista Family Center ("MVFC") was advised by the City's Department of Recreation and Parks that MVFC would be denied the use of the lawns at the Culver Slauson Park for a day camp unless MVFC paid nearly Three Thousand Dollars (\$3000) for a six week permit. On July 15 2008, Chris Nevil circulated a letter from DRHNA to Councilman Bill Rosendahl expressing our concern at this news, not just for MVFC but also for any similarly situated

