

DEL REY HOMEOWNERS & NEIGHBORS ASSOCIATION

BOARD MEETING OF AUGUST 8, 2007

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

Roll Call and Introduction of Guests: Janice Santos, Parliamentarian; Chris Nevil, President; Wendy Averill, 2d VP; Elizabeth Pollock, Recording Secretary; Tobyann Mandel, Corresponding Secretary; Michelle A. Rudo, Treasurer; Marlene Savage, Director; Aaron Bernardin, Director; Steve Knight, Advisor.

Guests: Nicole Velasquez, Council District 11 deputy; local residents Devin Santos, Don Dombrowski, Bill Becker, Charlotte DeMeo; Yvette Neal of Pacific Graffiti Solutions. .

Approval of Minutes: Revised minutes of the July 9, 2007 board meeting were reviewed and approved. *On August 9, 2007, the minutes were sent to George Gross for posting on the website.*

Treasurer's Report: Before the meeting, Treasurer Michelle Rudo circulated a Transaction Detail Report for June and July, which was approved as submitted. There were no transactions during the month of July.

C.D. 11 Update: Nicole Velasquez reported:

1. She and Councilman Rosendahl's deputy chief of staff, Laura McLennan met with the City of Los Angeles Department of Transportation ("LADOT") (Senior Transportation Engineer Mohammed "Mo" Blorfroshan) and 25 residents near the intersection of Barman and Berryman to discuss the need for stop signs at that intersection. The city representative indicated that a stop sign may be approved.
2. She met with 40 residents of Mar Vista Gardens who would like to see a DASH route instituted. It is unlikely to happen because the City is canceling existing routes. She will continue efforts to get some kind of van or shuttle to provide transportation in the area.
3. The LADOT has told the Planning Department not to give Starbucks a certificate of occupancy for their property at Centinela and Jefferson until "Do Not Enter" signs have been posted for the alley that leads to Playa del Rey Elementary.
4. She met with the new Los Angeles Police Department Pacific Division Commander regarding the recent rash of property crimes in Mar Vista. People should report all vehicle break-ins to the police as well as to their insurance companies so that the police department will have crime statistics to support requests for resources.
5. The Del Rey Neighborhood Council ("DRNC") has selected six locations for blue "Del Rey" signs to be posted. A letter has been sent to the LADOT (General Manager Gloria Jeff) requesting the signs.

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6. The Santa Monica Recreation and Parks Commission is going to recommend that the City of Santa Monica allow non-Santa Monica dogs at the Santa Monica Airport Dog Park. For now, the City of Santa Monica will not enforce the requirement that dogs be from Santa Monica.

7. Community Beautification Grants of \$10,000 each are now available. The grants allow one to make an in-kind contribution of time (calculated at \$15/hr.) for matching purposes.

Police/Crime Report/Pacific Division Update: Wendy Averill reported:

1. When property crimes occur, in addition to reporting the crime to one's insurance, one should make a written report at the police station so the police will have crime statistics. That will support requests for additional police officers.

2. The annual National Night Out will be on August 7, 2007, beginning at 6 p.m. at Mar Vista Gardens.

3. Suspicious activity should be reported to the Pacific Division at (310) 482-6334. Copies of the Five Points of Contact were distributed.

Traffic Committee: Tabled. Steve Knight will contact Mike Stafford to find out if the committee is going to continue meeting. Mike Stafford had been the person in charge of scheduling the meetings. Mary Anderson heads up the DRNC's Transportation Committee.

Newsletter: The next issue should be ready for distribution by the second week of October, 2007. Wendy Averill will prepare and article about the recent rash of car break-ins.

General Meeting: Marlene Canter, president of the Los Angeles City Board of Education (runs the Los Angeles Unified School District) can speak at our meeting on October 24, 2007. In addition, we have asked the principals of our six local public schools (Venice High, Marina del Rey Middle and Short Avenue, Braddock Drive, Playa del Rey and Stoner Avenue Elementary) to attend.

There will be a planning meeting on August 20, 2007, at 7 p.m. at Marlene Savage's house. Wendy Averill is looking into speaker systems in that our existing system (stored by Steve Knight) is at least 14 years old and is not wireless.

Membership: This will be discussed at the strategic planning meeting on Saturday, August 11, 2007.

Website: Tabled. Webmaster absent.

Yvette Neal of Pacific Graffiti Solutions ("PGS"): PGS, 3347 Motor Ave. Suite 100, Los Angeles, CA 90034, tel. (310) 204-2749, fax (310) 204-2756, graffiti@wwwpgs.net, is a nonprofit, charitable organization that has a contract with the City of Los Angeles to provide

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graffiti removal services from La Brea Avenue west to the ocean and between Mulholland Drive and Imperial Blvd. Santa Monica, Beverly Hills, Culver City and U.C.L.A. are not part of the contract territory. Donations of paint and equipment are tax deductible to the donor. PGS has had its contract for five years, and it submits a new request for proposal every three years.

During July 2007, in Council District 11, PGS removed graffiti from 714 locations/3810 square feet of city property, 2109 locations/74,150 square feet of private property and worked 72 hours to collect 199 bags of weeds and trash. The city property includes light standards, trees, telephone poles, traffic control cabinets and regulatory signs. PGS is responsible for holding 10 weed and trash cleanups each year, and one cleanup generates approximately 150 bags of trash.

PGS has four crews and sometimes gets additional funding for a fifth crew. They do not remove graffiti above the first story, but PGS would like to buy a cherry picker in order to reach higher graffiti. Their budget for Council District 11 is about \$150,000 - \$200,000, but PGS has a fixed budget for the year, so once the money has been spent, the graffiti removal must stop for the year. As a result, PGS does not like to waste its resources painting tarpaulins and abandoned buildings that are likely to be hit again soon after they are cleaned up. If a contractor should be responsible for removing graffiti from a property, one should repeatedly contact the contractor and the Department of Building and Safety until the cleanup occurs.

PGS does not remove graffiti on Caltrans property, billboards, public schools, public parks. Caltrans handles graffiti removal on freeway overpasses. The Los Angeles City Department of Recreation and Parks has its own graffiti removal team, and that team covers the Ballona bikeway. The Department of Public Works has a contract with "Untagged," and they handle graffiti at the second floor or higher. They can also provide trees, shrubbery, vines to prevent graffiti on block walls.

As a rule, taggers are looking for attention, and if their work is removed quickly, the taggers will move to other locations. Gang members are using graffiti to communicate, and PGS takes photographs of all graffiti that it removes. During the coming year, PGS will be renewing its efforts to work with the police gang task force to provide them with information. Ms. Neal said that although the police in the San Fernando Valley frequently asked her for information, the Pacific Division police have not contacted her.

If one calls 311 to report graffiti, the call will be routed from there to the correct agency. However, 311 implemented a new system on July 1, and response times have been a bit slower than under the old system.

Del Rey Neighborhood Council: Meeting on August 9, 2007 at 7 p.m. at the Marriott Hotel on Maxella Ave., probably in the Del Rey Room.

Del Rey Day : Will be on October 21, 2007 from noon – 4 p.m. at Glen Alla Park. DRHNA voted to have a booth where we will distribute our newsletters and notepads. No one is allowed to sell anything at Del Rey Day.

Condominiums at 4418 Slauson Ave.: The single family residence on this property is slated to be replaced by seven condominiums. The hearing before the Los Angeles City Planning Commission was set for August 8, 2007, at 9:30 a.m. in City Hall Room 1020. The property is to have 16 parking spaces and two visitor spaces.

The DRHNA board voted that if the property was zoned for seven condominiums, we would not protest, but if the developer was seeking a variance, we would ask Councilman Rosendahl's office to request an additional month so that we could comment. Wendy Averill pointed out that there are three other projects underway on Culver Blvd. between Inglewood Blvd. and Slauson Ave..

After the board meeting, Nicole Velasquez reported that Marina Martos, Councilman Rosendahl's Planning Deputy, had determined that the property is zoned R3-1, so no zoning variances are being requested. Nicole Velasquez sent us the City of Los Angeles Department of City Planning Parcel Profile Report (ZIMAS Report).

Parking District Issue: East Washington/Little Culver Near 405: Bill Becker explained that there had been a problem with people living in house trailers that were parked overnight on Little Culver Blvd.. Sleeping in one's car is treated as a civil and criminal nuisance. Calls were made, and Parking Enforcement and the Los Angeles Police Department managed to abate the nuisance. Meanwhile, however, residents on the six streets north of Little Culver between Berryman and the 405 would like an Overnight Parking District that would prohibit campers (seven feet high or 22 feet long) from parking on Little Culver between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m.. (Camper owners can get a permit from the Department of Transportation that will enable someone returning from a trip to park for one night.)

Originally, 18 of the 19 property owners on Little Culver Blvd. signed a petition endorsing the OPD, but other residents in the area are against it. Bill Becker does not think it is necessary, now that the overnight camping nuisance has been abated. OPDs are new, and if the OPD were granted, it was not clear if it would be limited to campers, or would include all parking.

Before the Department of Transportation will establish an OPD, it must have a letter of support from two-thirds of the residents on the affected block, must have support from the Neighborhood Council and a letter of support from Council District 11. The Del Rey Neighborhood Council has not taken a position yet.

Don Dombrowski pointed out that the planned widening of Culver Blvd. will only extend to Corinth, and Berryman will deadend at Culver, so Berryman will not be available as a passthrough from Washington Blvd. to Culver Blvd.

The board did not take a position regarding the proposed OPD.

Community Garden: Charlotte DeMeo explained that when the project started seven years ago, the Los Angeles County Flood Control District called for the DRHNA to indemnify the county.

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For two years, the project was part of the "Adopt A Riverbank" program, but that program has disappeared. The garden has had three grants and had coverage through the grantor's insurance.

The permit for the garden lists DRHNA as the responsible party, and the permit has no expiration date on it. However, all insurance coverage has expired. Therefore, Charlotte DeMeo has been looking for someone willing to provide coverage for the community garden and the five individuals that maintain it. She is scheduled to meet with Mike Boehlke, deputy to Los Angeles County Supervisor Yvonne Burke. Nicole Velasquez has put Charlotte in touch with the people that insure Oceanview Farms.

After the meeting, Charlotte DeMeo reported that Angela George in the Department of Public Works connected Charlotte with Leslie Chan at the Mountain Recreation Conservation Authority, and it might be possible to add the Garden to the MRCA policy.

Michelle Rudo requested a motion that would state that DRHNA is disclaiming any responsibility for the property. The motion was seconded and approved. Tobyann Mandel voted against the motion because it was unclear what was being voted upon. She will draft a letter to cut DRHNA's ties with the community garden. Charlotte DeMeo said she would provide background material to Elizabeth Pollock, who would draft a proposal that could be presented to the county. *As of September 10, 2007, Elizabeth Pollock had not yet worked on this proposal due to a family illness.*

Archstone Development at 5550 Grosvenor: A community meeting has been scheduled for August 14, 2007. *This meeting could not go forward because the schools were not in session. It has now been scheduled for September 27, 2007, at 7 p.m. at Playa del Rey Elementary.*

Post Office Rental: The board voted to approve the expenditure to rent the post office box for another year. The cost will be approximately One Hundred Twenty-Eight Dollars (\$128).

Strategic Planning Meeting Expenditure: The board will hold a strategic planning meeting on Saturday, August 11, 2007, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Community Room in the Westchester Municipal Building. The board authorized an expenditure of up to Two Hundred Dollars (\$200) for the meeting. *We had perfect attendance by the board, and minutes of the meeting will be distributed separately.*

NEXT MEETING: MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2007

ADJOURNMENT: 9:00 P.M.