

DEL REY HOMEOWNERS & NEIGHBORS ASSOCIATION

BOARD MEETING OF AUGUST 31, 2009

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

Call to Order and Roll Call: Elizabeth Zamora, President; George Gross, First Vice President; Wendy Averill, Second Vice President; Michelle Rudo, Treasurer; Elizabeth Pollock, Recording Secretary; Tobyann Mandel, Corresponding Secretary; Mary Anderson, Director; Casey Anderson-Gross (Director and Membership Chair).

Excused absences: Aaron Bernardin, Director; Chris Nevil, Director; Janice Santos, Parliamentarian.

Introduction of Guests: Don Dombrowski, local resident; Nancy Franco, Council District 11.

Minutes of August 3, 2009 Board Meeting: The minutes that were distributed for review and approval by the board stated that our next board meeting would be on September 14, 2009. However, the board decided by email to advance the September meeting to Monday, August 31, 2009. This change was made in the approved minutes that will be posted on the website. (Our Parliamentarian, Janice Santos, did not receive notice of the date change until after the August 31, 2009, meeting.)

Treasurer's Report for August 2009: Circulated electronically. The only expense in August was the donation to Camp Kesem at UCLA in honor of Cindy Mejia. Chris Nevil wrote the donation letter. DRHNA's bank statements are sent to the post office box. President Elizabeth Zamora checks the box periodically and provides the statements to Treasurer Michelle Rudo.

Director's Resignation: Director Marlene Savage resigned from the board because she participates in the Westside Alliance of Neighborhood Associations, which also meets on Monday nights. Although she is there as a delegate for the Del Rey Neighborhood Council ("DRNC"), she also speaks on our behalf and will continue to report to us about the Westside Alliance's activities.

Appointment of Interim Director: Article VI, Section 1, of DRHNA's bylaws provides that the president may appoint a replacement to complete the term of a director. President Elizabeth Zamora appointed Don Dombrowski to serve for the remainder of Marlene Savage's directorship, i.e. until March 31, 2010.

Cell Tower on Centinela Ave. just north of Jefferson Blvd.: During August, George Gross obtained and circulated renderings of the proposed 65' tall tower. He and Casey Anderson-Gross circulated a petition to the neighbors and got 40 signatures in opposition. The couple that lives next door to the property had not gotten notice of the conditional use permit application. Corresponding Secretary Tobyann Mandel prepared and submitted a letter of opposition on behalf of DRHNA.

The application was made by Royal Street Communications California, LLC d/b/a Metro PCS, Project No. R2009-00242-(2), Conditional Use Number 2009000017.

George Gross attended the September 1, 2009, public hearing at the Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, 320 W. Temple Street, and he reported that the application was approved. He felt the decision had been made before the hearing even took place. An appeal is due no later than Tuesday, September 15, 2009. The filing fee is \$670.

DRHNA MINUTES

August 31, 2009

Page 2

5550 Grosvenor Blvd. – City of Angels Church: Elizabeth Pollock reported on her investigations. The bottom line is that the church will listen to a proposal if we have money to offer, but in the current economy, the charitable foundations, the government and private lenders do not have money available, and a fundraising effort by DRHNA might take three to five years.

The property is in Congresswoman Maxine Waters' district, and Chris Nevil will contact her deputy, Edgar Saenz, to see if any federal stimulus money might be available.

The city and county of Los Angeles must take action to remediate the quality of the water runoff that reaches the ocean, and we are checking to see if there might be money made available if the land were used for a water quality improvement project.

Chris Nevil advised Lucia Diaz, executive director of the Mar Vista Family Center, that we might want to work with MVFC as our fiscal agent if we were to start a fundraising campaign in the community.

Elizabeth Pollock met with representatives of Thomas Safran & Associates (“TSA”) to find out if they might be interested in a private/nonprofit collaboration of some kind. They spent \$10 million for the Culver Blvd./Stoner Ave. property, and if we had the money to buy it for a park, they would sell it to us. They are not presently interested in buying the church property and working with us to make part of the land available for public use.

Because there is such a dearth of parkland in Del Rey, Mary Anderson will call Sybil Buchanan at Playa Vista to find out if the Playa Vista Shuttle to the beach can be routed through Del Rey next summer.

Affordable Senior Housing Project at Culver Blvd./Stoner Ave.: The hearing on the project will be on September 8 for the City Council's planning, land use and management committee, and September 22, 2009 for the full City Council. Wendy Averill will attend both meetings. TSA asked Elizabeth Pollock (see above) what they needed to do to get the community to support the project. Most importantly, TSA must keep the project at or below the zoned height limit of 45 feet. TSA must also ensure that there are no problems in the alley like the ones that have occurred on the alley between Juniette St. and the apartments along Jefferson Blvd.. (TSA says they are planning to have security cameras on the alley side of the project.) They must talk to Tom Kielty and Clare Sassoon directly to find out what would persuade them to drop their appeal of the Planning Commission's decision.

TSA is a “limited profit” developer, i.e. they receive a flat fee for their work on the project. If they want to reduce the size of the project, they need to find additional sources of funding. They will consider whether the 22 foot setback along Culver Blvd. might be usable as bioswale. (Maybe they could get some money from the county or city if the property were used to improve water quality.)

Education Event on October 6, 2009: Steve Zimmer, who was recently elected to the Los Angeles Unified School District's Board of Education, will be speaking on Tuesday, October 6, 2009, at Marina del Rey Middle School Auditorium from 7:15 p.m. – 8:30 p.m..

Eric DeSobe, chairman of the DRNC's education subcommittee, had asked if DRHNA would be interested in co-sponsoring the event. After discussion, the board decided to say no to this event because of the short notice and our other commitments in October. Meanwhile, a September 5, 2009, email from the DRNC states that the event is not sponsored by DRNC. In any case, DRHNA does want to keep the door open for possible future collaborations with the DRNC.

Los Angeles City Council District 11 Update: Nancy Franco reported:

1. **Garage Sales.** The Housing Department is supposed to monitor the garage sales run by residents of Mar Vista Gardens, but in the city, each household is allowed to hold five sales per year, and the apartment building on Culver Blvd. that has held many sales is a 13 unit building. A letter has been sent to the building owner regarding the limit.
2. **Police Chief.** The Los Angeles Police Commission wants to know what type of police chief we want to replace the outgoing chief of the Los Angeles Police Department ("L.A.P.D."), William Bratton. The hearing will be on September 9, 2009, at 6:30 p.m. at the Felicia Mahood Center, 11338 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, CA.
3. **Unlicensed Vendors.** *During August, there was an unlicensed mobile kitchen operating near 5311 Inglewood Blvd., near the gates to the Centinela Creek, just southwest of the Marina Freeway. No portable toilets, no tables and chairs.* Illegal vendors are a problem throughout Council District. Representatives from the Department of Street Services and the Health Department make quarterly checks of the area, but those are during the day. If we see any illegal vendors, report them to Senior Lead Office Drake Madison.
4. **The Mayor's Community Budget Day and the Congress of Neighborhoods** will both be held on October 10, 2009, at City Hall from 7:30 a.m. to 3: 15 p.m..
5. Nancy Franco brought four flyers from the Department of Water and Power: Energy Conservation Rates; Lawn Care During Periods of Drought; Single Family Residential Customers FAQ; Shortage Year Water Rates; Water Conservation Ordinance & Water Saving Tips.

Water Rate Increase: *The Department of Water and Power will be holding a hearing on October 20, 2009, at 12:30 p.m. in the John Ferraro Office Building, Room 1555H, 15th floor, 111 N. Hope St., Los Angeles, CA 90012, to adopt resolutions modifying the water rate ordinance.*

Rates are going up by \$0.128 per Hundred Cubic Feet beginning January 1, 2010. In addition, the DWP is considering implementation of : General Provision H, Water Revenue Adjustment, which would be for a further increase of 0.063 per HCF; and General Provision J, Adjustment Factor Limitation, which would authorize larger increases than are currently permitted.

Fall Newsletter: Mary Anderson, editor, reported that she has most of the content ready, but we need to finalize the information about the Fall General Meeting. She will plan to deliver the text to the printer by October 10 so that we can distribute it before the October 28 general meeting. She will confirm with the printer that the dues form in the newsletter has been corrected to state that dues are Ten Dollars (\$10) per household per year.

Crime Report: Don Dombrowski attended the August meeting. Crime is down, but home burglaries are a problem because people are leaving their windows open during the summer. A dead body rolled in a carpet was found at 11800 Jefferson Blvd.. If the state releases 40,000 prison inmates, and the police force is cut 10 per cent, neighbors will need to be more vigilant. There are people sleeping at Playa del Rey Elementary School and at the City of Angels Church of Religious Science. The encampment on the

DRHNA MINUTES

August 31, 2009

Page 4

south side of Ballona Creek was removed, and the fence was made higher, but now the encampment has moved to the north side of Ballona Creek.

Fall General Meeting: Elizabeth Zamora suggested two topics: (1) October 28 Is a Good Night to Get to Know Your Neighbors – A Del Rey Community Summit; (2) October 28 Is Your Gateway to City Services. The latter would be a services expo with booths from various city departments – sanitation, law enforcement, fire department, street services, Department of Water and Power, Graffiti Removal. (We had some booths when we did our emergency preparedness meeting a few years ago. The Gas Company had a booth regarding earthquake shutoff valves.)

Elizabeth Zamora would like the program to offer an opportunity for people to meet and talk with one another. Michelle Rudo suggested having break-out groups to work on a project (“ice breakers” or “brainstorming”). Elizabeth Pollock suggested that this might be an opportunity for local residents to see and comment on the Del Rey/Palms/Mar Vista Community Plan, which was supposed to have come up for review this year. Elizabeth Zamora has obtained a copy of the 73 page Community Plan.

We would like to use Playa del Rey Elementary School, but the format of the meeting may affect whether it is a good venue.

The board will have further discussion by email during September and will make a decision at our next board meeting on Monday, October 5, 2009.

We have DRHNA notepads that we can distribute at the meeting. Elizabeth Zamora and George Gross will investigate the cost of preparing door hangers to announce the meeting.

Goethe Charter School: The new school will have a ribbon cutting on Tuesday, September 8, 2009, at 8:30 a.m.. Elizabeth Zamora will plan to attend.

Website: George Gross reported that all minutes are up to date on the site.

Los Angeles Times: Elizabeth Zamora advised that the web edition of the Los Angeles Times includes a section on Del Rey in their “Mapping L.A.” segment. According to the excerpt she distributed, the local public schools averaged a rank of 4.8 out of 10 on the 2007 statewide Academic Performance Index (“API”), but the scores varied from 2/10 for Marina del Rey Middle School to 7/10 for Short Avenue Elementary School.

Next Neighborhood Watch Block Captains’ Meeting: *Will be at the Pacific Community Police Station, Roll Call Room, on November 12, 2009, at 7 p.m..*

PLAYA VISTA PHASE II: *The Final Recirculated Sections of the Environmental Impact Report No. ENV-2002-6129-EIR (Final RS-EIR) are now available for review at local libraries. The Village at Playa Vista would consist of a 99.3 acre Urban Development Component with 2600 dwelling units, 175,000 square feet of office space, 150,000 square feet of retail space and 40,000 square feet of community serving uses. The project also includes an equivalency program that would allow an exchange of a maximum of 125,000 square feet of office development for up to 56,832 square feet of retail uses or up to 200 assisted living units, or a combination thereof. The Urban Development Component would also have a total of 11.4 acres of parks, 1.0 acres of on-site bicycle lanes and 0.4 acres of passive open space.*

DRHNA MINUTES

August 31, 2009

Page 5

The Habitat Creation/Restoration Component includes a total of 11.7 acres, of which the Riparian Corridor involves 6.7 acres and restoration of the Westchester Bluffs 4.0 acres. [This arithmetic error has been repeated several times in the documents. The correct figures are unknown.]

There will be a public hearing regarding the underlying project, i.e. Vesting Tentative Tract Map No. 60110-REC and CPC-2003-5865-ZC-GPA-SP-DA, on Wednesday, October 14, 2009, from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at St. Roberts Hall, Loyola Marymount University, 1 LMU Drive, Westchester, CA 90045..

[Elizabeth Pollock received four copies of the notice regarding the document availability – two addressed to her personally, two addressed to DRHNA, all sent to her home address, and four copies of the Notice of Concurrent Public Hearing.]

NEXT MEETING: MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2009, AT 7:00 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT: 9:00 P.M.