

OPA Monthly Meeting Minutes

May 2, 2010

Location: Joslyn Park Auditorium

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

David Auch
Nina Fresco
Jeffrey Jarow
Susan Lewis
Jan Ludwinski
Lori Nafshun
Nicole Picard
Roger Swanson
Bob Taylor

NOTICED BOARD MEMBER ABSENCES: Pauline Bohannon, Dana Ehrlich, Ross Furakawa, Mary Marlow, Ted Winterer

UNNOTICED BOARD MEMBER ABSENCES: None provided.

Members from the public: [Secretary's note: There were 33 attendees at this month's meeting (perhaps a record for a monthly Board meeting) the overwhelming number of which were there regarding the airport flight re-routing and associated noise issue.]

6:30 to 8:30 PM REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

1. Introduction to OPA: Secretary Roger Swanson called the meeting to order at 4:35 PM.
2. Announcements
 - Disaster Preparedness class given by SMFD is full for May. [Secretary's note: If you want to sign up for the next class, which is not yet scheduled, please contact Suzanne Post at (310) 458-2221 or email her at suzanne.post@smgov.net]
 - Future agenda items: Possible historic homes tour – Nina F. and Lori N. are already engaged in this activity.

3. Motion to approve April Meeting Minutes passed unanimously.
4. Maria Loya of the Pico Neighborhood Association (PNA) requested endorsement from OPA for a letter to the City Council that requests rejection of the Mitigated Negative Declaration under CEQA, which would allow eschewing an EIR. PNA's letter is attached below. Motion by Lori N.: OPA supports the letter (Attachment 2) with the suggested change of "accompany" to "precede" (this editorial change is highlighted below). Motion passed unanimously.
5. Airplane flight re-routing and associated noise issue brought out a large number of affected residents. A committee was formed with Lisa Hughes as chair. It was recommended that the committee meet frequently during May and early June and prepare a recommendation for OPA action to be presented at the June meeting.
6. A request to support the residents neighboring 2510 7th Street was presented by Lisa Hughes. This is a development for which the permit has expired. The City initially reinstated the permit but then reversed itself, prompting the developer to allegedly threaten litigation. Motion by Ludwinski to send Attachment 1 to the City Council passed unanimously.
7. Bob Taylor reported for the OPBlvd committee and announced that the City Council unanimously approved \$4.4M for OP Blvd. street greening project.
8. Lori Nafshun reported for the Parade committee that the grant request to the City would be \$17,000. Sponsorships are down this year vs. last year at this time. Heal the Bay will be the grand marshal.
9. Susan Lewis reported the status of the newsletter development. There have been no articles submitted. There was also a question as to how many newsletters would be printed, which would drive the printing costs.
10. Jan Ludwinski reported on the Executive Committee (EC) action to determine whether to add specific Board members to the Executive committee beyond the President, Vice President, Secretary, and

Treasurer. It was thought that making the EC bigger would complicate the scheduling of such EC meetings and would not add significant value. It was noted that the EC would continue to seek out subject matter experts when an issue beyond their expertise presented itself. It is also important to note that those meetings are open to all members.

11. Meeting adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

1. Attachment 1 was to be sent by Mary Marlow to City Council.
2. Determine how many newsletters to print – Mary Marlow
3. Write your articles for the newsletter!

Next Meeting: June 13, 2010 at Joslyn Park Auditorium, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Re: 2510 7th St. and all other pending and future development

Dear City Councilmembers,

The Ocean Park Association supports consistent enforcement of the municipal code for everyone. Should a developer allow their permit to lapse, they should, except under only the most extraordinary circumstances, be required to go back through the permitting process without shortcuts.

Sincerely,

Mary Marlow
President, Ocean Park Association

PNA letter re SCD project:

Dear Councilmember,

We appreciate the City's efforts to improve the SCD facility and potentially reduce the negative impacts to nearby residents. Along with the expansion, upgrades and renovations comes an opportunity to ensure that environmental testing and subsequent mitigations tied to this development will adequately protect residents that live next to the waste facility. An Environmental Impact Report will confirm the claims that the project will decrease the negative impacts to residents in addition to physically improving the facility's efficiency. For many years, residents have been living with the negative impacts of the waste facility, such as noxious fumes and toxic particulate matter, which drift toward their homes, and many may have gotten sick due to this and other associated pollution. In fact there are more than 7 people who have cancer who live in the mobile home park directly adjacent to the waste facility.

Since this is a waste facility, replete with a household hazardous waste dropoff site, recycling center and trash transfer station, due diligence would dictate that an EIR be performed because of the very nature of the business. Additionally, if tours are going to be conducted, which will be a new activity for the premises, an EIR is indicated. Lastly, it seems a bit contradictory to transform this into a showplace of environmentalism without first doing a basic EIR. Therefore, it is not sufficient to merely do a Mitigated Negative Declaration and in the process circumvent adequate environmental testing and the CEQA process. One purpose of CEQA, indeed of city government, is to protect residents by ensuring that any development is done in a responsible and safe manner. Considering the history of the area in relation to the waste facility, and for the reasons stated above, we feel that conducting an EIR is absolutely essential.

Historically, the Pico Neighborhood has shouldered the burden of undesirable development. The Pico Neighborhood is also home to a freeway, landfill, trash transfer station, and recycling plant for the City of Santa Monica and other neighboring cities.

These activities and industries, taken together, create a cumulative negative environmental impact on nearby residents. Recent studies have shown higher incidents of asthma and other pulmonary related illnesses caused by particles from cars on the freeways, city dump, and recycling center. The increased noise and air pollution that emanates

from the freeway and the waste facility have had a detrimental impact on the health of children and families in the Pico Neighborhood.

In as city that prides itself for being environmentally conscious we must extend our responsibility in protecting the earth to the most vulnerable segment of our community, which are the poor and elderly. The PNA along with the undersigned organizations and neighborhoods associations urges the City Council to act in an environmentally just way and insist that an EIR accompany this project.

Sincerely,

Pico Neighborhood Association