

OPA MINUTES

Date October 10, 2010
Time 4:30 PM
Location Joslyn Park

Board Members in Attendance

David Auch
Pauline Bohannon
Jeffrey Jarow
Susan Lewis
Lori Nafshun
Roger Swanson
Bob Taylor

Board Member Absences

Dana Ehrlich
Nina Fresco
Ross Furakawa
Jan Ludwinski
Mary Marlow
Ted Winterer

Topics Discussed

Introduction to OPA

Secretary Roger Swanson made the Introduction to OPA at 4:40 PM. Since there was not a quorum at the beginning of the meeting, it was decided to continue with the presentations and wait to conduct business when a quorum was reached.

Measures Y &YY

Councilman Kevin McKeown and Judy Abdo presented supporting arguments and answered questions regarding local Measures Y and YY. Patty Leach of the League of Women Voters provided handouts on both local and State measures.

Kevin outlined the details of Measure Y, which will add a one-half percentage transaction and use tax to current items subject to sales tax.

Key questions answered by Kevin and Judy:

- Santa Monica residents will pay the extra tax for cars purchased, for example, but the new tax will not apply to non-Santa Monica residents who purchase cars in Santa Monica. Only large ticket items like cars and appliances will be treated this way. All other taxable items will be based on where purchases are made.
- Malibu residents will not pay the new tax, but may benefit from Measure YY

Measure YY, if passed, is an advisory measure that is applicable if Measure Y is approved. This measure recommends, but does not compel, the Santa Monica City Council to divide the new taxes equally between schools, plus other educational needs, and the City General Fund. Nor does it prevent the City Council from using funds to back fill General Funds used elsewhere.

The primary support for schools is for operating funds rather than capital improvements, which are funded primarily from bonds.

Key questions answered:

- The language of YY does not legally obligate the City Council to use funds as stated, but that is not the Council's intention.
- SMC is not an intended recipient of funds from YY since they have other sources of funding.
- Residents of Malibu will not pay the additional tax of Measure Y, but will benefit by support for their schools (SMMUSD). According to Kevin the impact of Malibu resident spending in Santa Monica will likely offset their benefit from YY.

Measure RR

Chris Braun presented supporting arguments and answered questions regarding local Measure RR, which is intended to treat both rent-controlled and non-rent controlled units the same regarding eviction procedures.

While several examples of loopholes were mentioned, there are apparently enough examples of abuses to warrant the change in the City Charter according to Kevin McKeown.

There is no organized opposition to Measure RR.

Propositions 19-27

Patty Leach of the League of Women Voters presented the arguments for and against all nine Statewide Ballot Measures, 19 through 27. A League handout provided summary details of each measure.

Questions and discussion were focused on several Measures:

- The companion Measures regarding redistricting of Congressional Districts (20 and 27) by the Citizens Redistricting Committee
- Measure 21 to add a license surcharge for State Parks, which would have a potentially serious negative impact on Santa Monica by eliminating beach parking revenue without assurances that the State will pay the City to maintain the beaches
- Measure 23 to suspend AB32, the Air Pollution Control Law
- Measure 19 to legalize marijuana

Meeting Minute Approval

Since a quorum was reached during the presentations, Secretary Roger Swanson called the meeting to order at 6:15 PM.

Motion to approve the September meeting minutes passed unanimously.

Ballot Measures

Motion: Jeff Jarow made a motion, seconded by Bob Taylor, that OPA endorse both Measure Y and YY. The motion passed with 6 yes and 1 abstention.

Motion: Lori Nafshun made a motion, seconded by Jeff Jarow, that OPA endorse Measure RR. The motion passed with 5 yes and 2 no.

Announcements/Upcoming Events

Lori Nafshun announced upcoming events:

Annual Meeting: November 8, 2010 from 6-9 PM at SMASH/Muir Auditorium

- Election of OPA Board of Directors
- Rod Gould, City Manager, presentation on Santa Monica City 2011 Budget
- Richard McKinnon presentation on proposed Main Street Ciclovía

Meeting Close

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.