

Draft OPA Minutes

10/1/12

Meeting held at Joslyn Park.

Board Members in Attendance

David Auch, Pauline Bohannon, Patty Godon-Tann, Sadat Huq, Jeffrey Jarow, James Lawson, Jan Ludwinski, Evan Meyer, Michele Perrone, Roger Swanson, David Tann, Bob Taylor, Marcy Winograd

Noticed Board Member Absences

Ross Furukawa, Susan Lewis, Lori Nafshun, Mary Marlow,

Introduction to OPA

President Jan Ludwinski called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Special Guest Presentation

Jory Phillips, Deputy Director of Santa Monica Planning and Community Development, provided the Board with an overview of the zoning update and asked for feedback on issues of concerns. Jory said the goals of the zoning update are to a) implement the [LUCE](#), a culmination of six years of city work, creating new housing as mixed use buildings in existing metro line corridors (Wilshire, Santa Moinca, etc.) and (b) limiting Tier 3 development for construction higher than four stories, not subject to the LUCE, that are presented with “community benefits” and approved by the city council as special development agreements.

As part of the update, staff is writing design guidelines to compliment the zoning ordinance and expects these guidelines will clarify the standards for building a new house, remodeling, building a market, etc. He said the previous zoning 500-page ordinance had not been revised in 25 years, though it had been amended a lot by city councils, resulting in a lack of clarity for everyone involved the planning and approval process.

Jory said parking is a big issue to tackle in the new ordinance. How can we get people out of their cars? How can we better use the existing parking supply? [Issue papers](#) are available on the city’s Planning Department web page and will be used as the basis for community discussion.

Jory asked the Board for feedback on the three approved Ocean Park architectural styles: a) Craftsman bungalow b) Spanish Mediterranean c) International Are they sufficient? Should Ocean Park maintain different zoning requirements, such as setbacks?

Judy Abdo, a former City Council member, said following the construction of the Sea Colony condominiums Ocean Park residents pushed the city council to downzone Ocean Park to keep homes from being demolished and replaced with condos. She urged caution in approving a new zoning ordinance that would require fewer residential parking areas.

Roger S. said he would like to see reduced requirements for parking for Lincoln Blvd. restaurants serving the local population.

Jan L. asked what we can do to put teeth into community development agreements to ensure that developers make good on their promises. Bob T. wondered if there had ever been a longitudinal study of the costs and benefits of such agreements .

Michele P. said she was concerned about the height, size, and overall look of the Boulangerie building that replaced the old Boulangerie property, as well as developer agreements, in general, that continue to make larger buildings possible in OP, including the Community Corp building, and the other one across the street from the old Boulangerie sight. Michele urged caution in approving new development agreements.

Announcements

Patty thanked Jan and Ron (tech) for sending an email blast about the [Westside Family Health Center's](#) luncheon to raise money for mobile health clinics. On Oct. 29th the center will hold an Open House to highlight its mental health and dentistry services.

David Auch reminded the Board of Olympic High School's Thursday, Oct. 11th Good Will collection. People can drop off clothes, etc., at the high school prior to the event.

Policy Changes

Jan L. proposed policy changes concerning expenditures, minutes, and Executive Board actions. After some discussion and revisions, Patty moved and David seconded the motion to approve the policy changes. The Board voted unanimously to approve the policy below:

Expenditure of Funds

POLICY: The President or the Treasurer is authorized to approve expenditures up to \$250, subject to availability of funds, without prior Board approval.

Posting of Minutes

POLICY: The Secretary shall circulate the preliminary minutes from a board meeting within 10 days of the meeting.

Action by Executive Committee

POLICY: When addressing issues that arise in between board meetings which are of sufficient import and timeliness to warrant an action by OPA, the Executive Committee, as established in the Bylaws, may act on the issue if the delay caused by waiting for the next board meeting would preclude effective action. The Executive Committee should seek input from the full board at least 72 hours prior to taking any action, but in the interest of efficient decision making, does not need to engage the full board prior to taking action.

Approval of Minutes

The Board unanimously approved the minutes with revisions suggested by Jan L., Patty G., James L., and Bob T.

Neighborhood Council Report

James L. reported new Police Chief Jacqueline Seabrooks was a special guest at the last meeting, and that she said there had been a slight increase in crime in Santa Monica, with 80% of those committing the crimes coming from outside the city.

James said the Neighborhood Council is still waiting to hear from other neighborhood groups on approval of the WILMONT resolution, which states that until WILMONT resolves its election dispute, other neighborhood organization boards will not acknowledge that WILMONT has official representation on the neighborhood council. James also said the council wants all neighborhood groups to be more aggressive about posting and informing residents of upcoming meet and greets involving candidates for city council, school board, etc.

James L. reported community concern regarding a proposed ordinance of Mayor Bloom and Council Member Davis to require special permits for political, charitable and recreational events involving 150 or more people. James explained that the proposal was in response to a situation involving on-going partying – blaring music and strobe lights – in a residential neighborhood in Santa Monica. Marcy expressed opposition to such a blanket ordinance that might discourage political events. Jan suggested those who oppose the proposed ordinance write the council or speak before the council the following night.

Treasurer's Report

General Account: \$2,000

Patty expressed concern that each month OPA is spending more than it receives. She did, however, add that the parade budget should be flush for next year, as a result of local sponsorships. OPA is still waiting for the city to reimburse it for \$6,000 of parade expenditures.

Committee Reports

Nominating Committee

David T. explained there are 7 incumbents and 4 new candidates for the Board, which can have a maximum of 21 members. Currently, there are 16 members on the Board. No date has been announced for the annual board meeting, at which time the vote for new Board members would occur. Discussion followed about having a joint holiday party and general meeting for the election. The committee must decide when and where the election/annual board meeting will take place.

Lincoln Blvd. Committee

Roger suggested a town hall on Lincoln Blvd. improvements be held in January. He added the committee will be conducting a resident survey on Lincoln Blvd. in a few months and it would be nice to have other neighborhood groups link to the survey. Roger announced there will be an Oct. 12th, 3 PM, meeting with city staff to discuss issues/concerns/recommendations on Lincoln Blvd.

Membership Committee

Sadat reported OPA has 1,050 contacts; 850 people on the email list. The next mixer will be 10/18 at Brick and Mortar restaurant on Main Street.

Outreach

Jeff J. asked OPA obtain business cards for its members. Jan L. asked Jeff to submit a proposal.

Disaster Preparedness

Marcy urged Board members to visit the city's emergency planning web page and sign up for CERT classes in 2013. The 2012 CERT classes are already filled.

Ocean Park Blvd. Project

Bob. T. reported the Blvd. should have an island with lots of trees by the end of November.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15.