



Mar Vista Community Council



Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

Minutes

<http://www.marvista.org/minutes-and-agendas.php>

Tuesday, May 12, 2020, at 7:00pm

Zoom Electronic Meeting

1. **Call to order**-meeting called to order at 7:00 by Chair, Elliot Hanna
2. **Roll call – Present:**
 - Elliot Hanna
 - Martin Rubin
 - Michelle Krupkin
 - Mary Hruska
 - Holly Tilson
 - Kathryn Wheeler
 - Stacy Shure
 - Robert Watkins
 - Christine Stemar
 - Selena Inouye
 - Rob Kadota
 - Gabriel Hill
 - Andrea Ambriz
3. **Community memorial observations**-none
4. **Announcements**-Wheeler announced that MVCC will be converting to the Dept of Neighborhood Empowerment ZOOM platform. She is currently providing training to Board members on how to host such meetings.
Hanna mentioned the MVCC Leadership elections in June and encouraged those board members Who are interested to participate.. Also mentioned that the current agenda is packed and urged members to be efficient.
Ambriz mentioned that the City has approved the rollover of all allocated Neighborhood Council Funds to next fiscal year. Also mentioned that the Ad Hoc Covid Emergency Response Committee will continue to meet twice a week and that the City is inviting Neighborhood Councils and residents to participate in the current Census.
5. **Public comment for items NOT on this agenda**-Joel Arquillos introduced himself as Executive Director of 826LA and described the organization's efforts during the Covid 19 emergency. They are on Venice Blvd in Mar Vista, have introduced online tutoring and have reached out to over 200 families 150 students. Have also provided goods and supplies (writing supplies, books, etc) and online Workshops. Are connecting older and younger generations online and will be having summer programs as well. Thanked the Board for listening and considering 826LA's NPG application.

6. **Ex-parte communications and conflicts-of-interest** - Each board member shall declare any ex-parte communications or conflicts-of-interest pertaining to items on or related to this agenda.- Hanna mentioned that he'd spoke with Tilson on almost all of the motions as well as the movers of the motions regarding their agendizing. Shure mentioned having had some discussions regarding the form of motions but nothing to declare. Krupkin/Hruska stated same. Ambriz mentioned contacting board members regarding some of the agenda items, however no conflicts. Tilson mentioned speaking with Hanna regarding funding motions.
7. **Adoption of the agenda**-Inouye moved that item 13.4 be considered along with item 10.
 Motion approved (6Y/0N/7 Abstentions)
 Ambriz moved to consider 13.6-13.9 at the beginning of New Business
 Motion failed (5Y/6N/2Abstentions)
- Wheeler requested that, since items 11.5 and 13.6-13-10 total more than 29K, and there is only 11K of uncommitted funds, these be committed to the Executive & Finance Committee. Hanna responded that this would have to be considered when the items are. Also mentioned that item 13.10 has no supporting documents And items 11.5 and 13.9 the IRS forms included have a different name than that on the NPG application. Hanna responded that these issues are better considered as the items come up.
8. **Approval of minutes**-Wheeler moved that this be deferred pending her review and submission of edits. Motion approved without objection.
9. **Reports – None**
 Kadota mentioned that there were City officials in attendance, however no Reports agendized. Requested that they be included. Hanna responded that there was no room on the current agenda.
 Kadota responded that he sees that as a mistake by the Chair, and should always be a standing item.
 Shure mentioned that there were no city officials present at the outset of the meeting, And suggested they attend the Special Meeting which has just been convened.
10. **Special Orders –**
[ADMINISTRATIVE][SPECIAL BYLAWS] Revisions to MVCC Bylaws – Discussion and possible action regarding proposed revisions to the MVCC Bylaws. Tilson summarized the creation of the Temporary By-Laws Advisory Committee (composed of herself, Martin Rubin and Selena Inouye) by the Dept of Neighborhood Empowerment in light of the Covid19 emergency, its functions and mentioned that the deadline for By-Laws submissions has been extended to June 5, 2020. The result of their work is contained in the submission presented. The committee reviewed the current MVCC By-Laws, considered the previous submissions to the Elections & By-Laws Committee, including correspondence from the Dept of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) and focused on recommending changes that would better serve all MVCC Stakeholders.
 Secretary's Note: see Supplemental Materials. Proposed amendments appear in red
 Kadota requested that Vanessa Serrano (DONE) indicate what required and consistent and what is different. Serrano: DONE submitted a set of recommendations to the Board in January 2020 Many of these have been included. Kadota asked Serrano to point out what is city-compliant Vs what stands out at unique or different.
 Hill asked if those who work here and are stakeholders could be included as a voice in the Community. Serrano responded that the definition of a stakeholder is someone who lives,

works or owns real property within the established boundaries of the council. This is mandated by DONE and has not changed. Wheeler asked which were recommendations or requirements. Serrano responded that they were recommendations. Mentioned that one thing DONE would like MVCC to adopt new rules for membership in a committee. Wayne Wheeler read a statement:

“These comments are not directed to those members of the Board who have so hard to put the suggested updates together, nor are they directed to Vanessa S. They are directed toward the City, who have placed a very serious poison pill in the proposed update. The strength and purpose of NCs is local self-governance, brought down to the community level. The City claims they have delayed the process for By-Laws changes due to Covid but they did not allow a delay to follow normal process, so that community input could be included. All these changes were made by Board members in a non-public process. Most seriously, well over 70% of the words added or changed start with the words “ it will be inserted by DONE”. It is unclear whether these are truly suggestions or directives by DONE. This is overt interference with the ability of NCs to choose their own form of governance and procedures. Page 16A, Committee Structure, is the most egregious DONE insertion. The quorum of a quorum reading is, frankly, imaginary under any fair reading of applicable law and, I believe, does not apply to the city itself. If those who cannot regularly attend a committee, or are not best friends with the committee chair cannot have a voice, then we have lost our voice as stakeholders. Stakeholders need to be able to attend a meeting for a topic of interest and have their voice count to vote things out of the committee. This change would disenfranchise local residents. I encourage the Board not to approve this proposed update, not because of the relatively minor changes made by the MVCC Board members, but because of the overstepping by the City. It will harm Mar Vista in serious ways. The Board should have serious push back to the city. If these changes are dictated it would be much better to live with the current By-Laws, with its minor issues, than to allow the City to do this. The By-Laws can be updated in 2 years if necessary. Please do not approve.”

Kalani Whittington: “people who run for office should live in that area. Sounded like There might be adjustments made to stakeholders and I don’t believe any adjustments should be made to that” Also asked why time was being spent on this now when there are NPGs on the agenda as well. Tilson responded that, per her previous statement, deadline for By-Laws submissions is June 6. This is the last Board meeting prior to that deadline.

Shure: thanked temporary By-Laws Committee and requested that a Special Board Meeting to discuss this in detail.

Motion to postpone to a Special Meeting. Approved (11Y/1N/1Abstention)

Motion to postpone item 13.4 to a Special Meeting as well (Inouye/Wheeler)

Approved without objection.

11. **Consent Calendar** – The Consent Calendar is reserved for items deemed to be routine and non-controversial. Any board member may pull an item or items for further discussion.
Wheeler pulled 11.5.
Ambriz pulled 11.3 and 11.4

Consent calendar approved (items 1.1, 11.2 and 11.6) without objection

- 11.1. **[FUNDING][EXFIN] Approval of April, 2020 M.E.R.** – Action regarding approval of the indicated Monthly Expenditure Report.
- 11.2. **[FUNDING][EXFIN] Approval of FY2019-2020 budget adjustments** – Action regarding approval of adjustments to the FY2019-2020 budget.
- 11.3. **[FUNDING][OUTREACH][EXFIN] MVCC Promotional Items** – Discussion and possible action regarding an expenditure, not to exceed \$2,000, for MVCC promotional items.
Motion fails (3Y/9N/1Abstention)
- 11.4. **[FUNDING][OUTREACH][EXFIN] MVCC Advertising** – Discussion and possible action regarding an expenditure, not to exceed \$1,500, for MVCC advertising.
Advertising for MVCC and its committees through lawn signs, bus bench ads, mailings, social media newsletters and other advertising mediums.
Motion approved (7Y/5N/1Abstention)
- 11.5. **[FUNDING][EXFIN] NPG for Well Baby Center** - Discussion and possible action regarding a Neighborhood Purposes Grant (NPG), in the amount of \$4,500.00, to support the Well Baby Center.
Founder/CEO Deborah Groening stated that the pandemic is having mental Health effects on communities. Are requesting funds to provide free services.
Donna Rabin, fund raiser for the organization, stated that, since January 2020, half of their client services have been to Mar Vista community members.
Whittington: supported tele-mental health and mentioned that the organization is a Mar Vista organization. Groening added that services are for both families and individuals.
Shure: stated that she is working with community members who are facing eviction and the prospect of not being able to buy food and urged the board to prioritize those concerns. Stated that she will be bringing a motion to that effect to the board. Would suggest board consider an NPG for this organization in the next fiscal year.
Krupkin mentioned that there are no supplemental materials on this item.
Hanna acknowledged the omission and the fact that the item could not be considered without them, and suggested deferring the item to the next Special Board meeting to take place the following week.
- 11.6. **[FUNDING][HANNA] Ratification of \$5,000 Expenditure to Los Angeles Fire Foundation** – Action regarding ratification of the \$5,000 contribution previously made to the Los Angeles Fire Foundation under the chair’s emergency spending authority.
12. **Unfinished Business and General Orders**– None
13. **New Business**
- 13.1. **[POLICY][PLUM] Support for Encino NC Proposal Regarding Public Tree Codes** – Discussion and possible action regarding submission of a letter and eventual CIS in support of Encino NC Proposal regarding improvement of current L.A.M.C.

enforcement of public tree codes.

Whittington stated that some trees should be removed and replaced because they have invasive roots and are not drought tolerant and this should be included in Encino NC's motion

Ken Alpern (T&I Chair) disagreed. Tree canopy has been lost and not maintained
And all efforts should be made to preserve what trees currently exist.

Motion approved without objection.

- 13.2. [POLICY][PLUM] Request for Cessation of Discretionary Approvals** - Discussion and possible action regarding requesting the Department of City Planning, City Planning Commission and Area Planning Commissions cease all discretionary approvals until such time as all Neighborhood Councils, The City Planning Commission, Area Planning Commissions and the Department of City Planning Itself, have established adequate measures to ensure full public participation and access to hearings and documents.
Whittington supported the motion added that these projects mostly provide only luxury housing.

Alpern: This addresses the criminal use of a public emergency to circumvent public process. Democracy should not die in the pandemic. Urged support of the motion.

Motion approved without objection.

- 13.3. [POLICY][T&I] Community Impact Statement in Support of CF 19-1586** - Discussion and possible action regarding a motion to submit a Community Impact Statement (CIS) in support of Council File 19- 1586: LAX CONRAC Facility/Air Pollution/Electric Vehicles.

Inouye summarized that this is a motion to support City Council motion to do a study to investigate feasibility and cost/benefits of providing up to 80% EV chargers for rental cars at the new LAX Rental Car Facility.

Alpern: mentioned that this motion provides flexibility and do diligence.

Whittington: hopefully the current reduction of pollution during the Covid emergency, will provide impetus for support of this.

Motion approved without objection.

- 13.4. [ADMINISTRATIVE][INOUE] Removal of Board Director by Stakeholder Recall** - Discussion and possible action regarding a proposed amendment to Article V, Section 9 of the MVCC Bylaws, adding provisions for the Removal of a Board Director by Stakeholder Recall.

Motion postponed to future Special Meeting along with item 10

- 13.5. [POLICY][PLUM] Conditional Use Permit for N/NACA Restaurant** – Discussion and possible action regarding a Conditional Use Permit for N/NACA Restaurant - at 3455 S. Overland Ave. – regarding parking, liquor license, and operating hours.

Motion approved without objection.

- 13.6. [FUNDING][AMBRIZ] NPG for Mar Vista Family Center** – Discussion and possible action regarding a Neighborhood Purposes Grant submitted to the Ad Hoc COVID 19 Committee from the Mar Vista Family Center, a non-profit organization engaged in valuable COVID 19 relief efforts for the Mar Vista CC community, in the amount of \$5,000.

Blanca Hladek, Associate Director mentioned that they are actually located in Del Rey However they serve clients in Mar Vista, Del Rey and Culver City. Have a preschool and provide school-related services to children of all ages. Since the advent of the Covid emergency have been providing meals and online educational services and High School counseling services.

Hanna inquired why all these motions are not coming out of Ad Hoc Covid Committee.

Ambriz responded that this was due to a change in DONE's recommendation for funding requests changing to the NPG process and meeting said request deadlines.

Tilson asked if Del Rey Neighborhood Council has provided any funds for this organization.

Wheeler mentioned that this organization seems to be largely functioning as School and asked if NPG funds can go to private schools? Tilson: no
Hladek stated that school is only one project of the center.
Rubin asked to have an answer to the previously asked question regarding funding From Del Rey NC. Hladek: no
Stemar inquired as to whether a request to Del Rey has been made. Hladek: have Informed Del Rey NC of their need but have not received any response as yet.
Whittington: suggested they organization bears the Mar Vista name, they should receive some funding but possibly not in the amount requested.
Stakeholder Tommy: stated that he didn't feel that our community council should Provide funds for organizations in other Neighborhood Council Districts
Nick Sundback (CD11 Deputy): mentioned that Del Rey NC is currently focusing on feeding people at Mar Vista Gardens and the Safe Streets Initiative and their lack of response in this is not necessarily by design
Hanna mentioned that this line of inquiry by the MVCC Board is to inform their Decisions.
Groening: stated that MVFC is referring counseling to Airport Counseling, which Is outside of Mar Vista, while Well baby Center provides counseling within Mar Vista.
Shure: moved that, in light of the limited funds available, this motion be referred to the Ad Hoc Covid Committee for prioritization.
Hanna moved to amend motion to include motions 13.7, 13.8 and 13.9 as well.
Inouye: asked if doing this will allow the funding request to be Submitted by the required deadline (June 1). Asked if a Special Meeting will be held to then consider them
Hanna responded in the affirmative.
Watkins stated that MVCC has the responsibility to prioritize both the actual funding and directing the funds to the Mar Vista Community.
Motion to remit items 13.6, 13.7, 13.8 and 13.9 to Ad Hoc Committee
Watkins asked which of these groups are in Mar Vista, besides Well Baby Center. Kadota responded that 826LA in is Mar Vista, St Joseph's is at the Venice/Santa Monica boundary (Sundback stated that St Joseph's Family Center is in Mar Vista)
Shure asked Ambriz what her relationship is to all of the organizations and how she came to have discussions with them. Ambriz responded that the organizations were invited to participate by the Ad Hoc Committee.
Krupkin asked if St Joseph's is affiliated with the Catholic Church.
Hanna responded that religious organizations often have non-denominational charitable arm.
Wheeler stated that the NPG financial statement lists another organization, "Infant Parent Mental Health Foundation" with no paperwork that connects the Two. Groening responded that Well Baby is a DBA (Doing Business As) of Infant Parent Mental Health, her family foundation. Hanna mentioned that MVCC will need paperwork to substantiate the connection between the two.
Kadota moved that the amounts of NPGs in items 13.6-13.9 be amended to "not to exceed \$2500K" for each organization.
Motion passed (8Y/3N/2 Abstentions)
Motion to commit motions 13.6-13.9 to Ad Hoc Covid Response Committee
Motion fails (5Y/6N/2 Abstentions)
Hanna moved to vote approving \$2500K each for items 13.6 through 13.9
Hruska asked if these are being considered together. Hanna responded yes.
Shure objected to considering all together.

Wheeler asked how many calls for assistance have been received via the MVCC Covid Helpline. Hanna responded that the number is 2.
Inouye: felt that MVCC has done the organizations a disservice in not allowing them to prepare them properly and should allow them time to present themselves properly and provide the information requested by the Board.
Also stated that she was discouraged to see non-profits fighting amongst themselves over funding. Hanna responded that the previous, failed motion to commit to Ad Hoc Committee was designed to address exactly that.
Rubin moved to commit to Ad Hoc Covid Committee. (second: Wheeler)
Hanna stated that this would be a motion to reconsider.
Motion approved (7Y/3N/3Abstentions)
Hanna stated that the Board has his word that these would be heard in time meet funding deadline.

13.7. [FUNDING][AMBRIZ] NPG for St. Joseph's Center - Discussion and possible action, regarding a Neighborhood Purposes Grant submitted to the Ad Hoc COVID 19 Committee, from the St. Joseph Center, a non-profit organization engaged in valuable COVID 19 relief efforts for the Mar Vista community, in the amount of \$5,000. [Motion committed to Ad Hoc Covid Emergency Response Committee](#)

13.8. [FUNDING][AMBRIZ] NPG for 826LA - Discussion and possible action regarding a Neighborhood Purposes Grant submitted a Neighborhood Purposes Grant, submitted to the Ad Hoc COVID 19 Committee, from 826LA a non-profit organization engaged in valuable COVID 19 relief efforts for the Mar Vista CC community, in the amount of \$5,000. [Motion committed to Ad Hoc Covid Emergency Response Committee](#)

13.9. [FUNDING][AMBRIZ] NPG for Well Baby Center - A Director's motion to support the NPG, submitted to the Ad Hoc COVID 19 Committee from the Well Baby Center, a non-profit organization engaged in valuable COVID 19 relief efforts for the Mar Vista CC community, in the amount of \$5,000. [Motion committed to Ad Hoc Covid Emergency Response Committee.](#)

13.10. [FUNDING][AMBRIZ] NPG for Disability Community Resource Center- A Director's motion to support the NPG, submitted to the Ad Hoc COVID 19 from the Disability Community Resource Center (DCRC), a non-profit organization engaged in valuable COVID 19 relief efforts for the Mar Vista CC community, in the amount of \$5,000. [Motion withdrawn by Ambriz, due to lack of a submitted NPG application.](#)

14. Adjournment- [meeting adjourned at 10:45PM](#)

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- * **RECONSIDERATION AND GRIEVANCE PROCESS** - For information on MVCC's process for board action reconsideration, stakeholder grievance policy, or any other procedural matters related to this Council, please consult the MVCC Bylaws. The Bylaws are available at our Board meetings and our website, <http://www.marpista.org>.