



## Mar Vista Community Council



**MAR VISTA COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
GREAT STREETS AD HOC COMMITTEE  
Wednesday February 2017 6:30 to 8:00 pm  
Mar Vista Library  
12006 Venice Blvd., Mar Vista, CA 90066  
(SW corner of Venice and Inglewood Blvds.)

Co-Chair: Michelle Krupkin  
Co-Chair: Greg Castelnovo-Tedesco

### MINUTES

1. Call To Order and Welcome – Chair (1 min.) acting chair: Michelle Krupkin began at 6:33 pm.
2. Introductions and Public Comments (for items not on the agenda) (2 minutes)
3. Motion to approve January 2017 Great Streets minutes (2 minutes) Sarah Auerswald made the motion, Lenore French seconded. Minutes passed unanimously.
4. Reports (15 Minutes)
  - a. Great Streets Program brief definition-Michelle Krupkin, MV Community Council.
  - b. Report from Mar Vista Chamber of Commerce President Sarah Auerswald. Sarah is anticipating changes on Great Street Venice Blvd. and is very excited see what the next six months to one year hold.
5. New Business (30-65 minutes)
  - a. Jessie Holzer, CD11 Mobility Deputy, gave an overview of the upcoming CD11 Pilot Program Mid-Block Crosswalk installation as well as other Great Streets projects. There will be a groundbreaking for the Midblock Crossings on Monday, February 13 2017 at 9 am. The street light banner will be up until November 2017. CD11 has a permit for these until November 2018. This committee should consider new designs for the total of 27 streetlight banners.

Jessie went over feedback from LA City Dept. of Urban Forestry regarding the trees discussed during the January 2017 Great Streets Ad Hoc meeting. Urban Forestry said that of the tree varieties discussed, the African Fern Pine is the most drought tolerant, with the fastest growth rate and most pest resistant. African Fern Pine is also known as Potocarpus and Afrocarpus. Urban Forestry said that the Bay Laurel prefers partial shade, but would not fit on the parkway area. Urban Forestry said that the Pink Trumpet Tree would be ok for both the parkway and the median.

Rachel from Tree People said that it is best to have two – three varieties in an area to avoid pest infestation. She also mentioned that the African Fern Pine can have less issues with pests and debris.

Pat Karasick mentioned that there are Tipu Trees on Washington near La Brea that could be an example of possible planting for Venice Blvd. Rachel of TreePeople said that these are also called the Yellow Bottle Brush Tree and that they need 8' of room – best to be planted on wider sidewalks. Rachel said that it is important to consider what features in a tree planting local businesses are considering. Sarah Auerswald said that businesses are looking for low to no debris and also trees least likely not to block business signage.

Rachel shared that the Pink Trumpet Tree drops all their leaves in fall and flower in January-February. They are slow growing and good for the median since they can be messy in a parkway area. Rachel discussed Tipu Trees, which flower in June and July and are bare in March and April. Rachel also discussed camphor trees, which are large and need 35-40 feet between east tree and are best for the media areas.

Jessie shared that the trees will be taken away soon for the midblock crossings. 1-3 will be removed from the parkway area, and the rest (4 trees) will be removed from the median.

There was a discussion of empty tree wells and the long-term plan to enlarge tree wells, specifically for Great Street Venice Blvd. and then maybe throughout LA City. She is not sure how big the enlarged tree wells would be.

Rachel suggests finding 1-3 tree varieties that would be best on parkway areas. Jessie says Urban Forestry has an approved list of drought tolerant trees: 1) African Sumac, 2) Australian Willow and 3) New Zealand Christmas Tree. Clarissa of Tree People mentions that the African Sumac variety works well for the parkway and that an example of that can be seen in the Brentwood area.

There was a discussion about TreePeople's availability to do a community-planting event. Dates were discussed and Saturday April 8<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to noon was identified as a target date. Michelle Krupkin agreed to write a funding motion to support the possible community-planting event that would include outreach to local schools as well as supplies for the day.

Jessie discusses a list of addresses for tree replacement and also shares that she will be speaking to DOT regarding the Midblock Crossings installation timeline. From what she understands, they are shooting for April 2017. Tree People recommends planting no later than the second week of May.

- b. Lenore French, GCI Communications, gave a preview of plans for the upcoming March 2 2017 Art Walk. The theme will be Voices and is inspired by Beat Poets and folk music, the Last Poets as well as Gil Scott Heron and hip-hop and the power of giving voice to political expression. March 2<sup>nd</sup> will include poetry, music such as hip-hop, folklore and opera. There will be 2 live outdoor stages including the Coffee Connection. Performers will include the daKAH Hip Hop Orchestra, Feisty Heart and the Night Owl Players. There will be interactive stations at the Mar Vista Art Department.

The Bike Parade will be attending again as well as roving poets (Philosopher Stone Poets) with pedestrian lights moving between all three clusters of the art walk.

GCI is bringing in new staff members that will result in a larger social media footprint for the events. Kirsten Zilm will be the new Deputy Director for the Art walk. Erik Charlot and Alex Prosser as well as Melinda Kramer will be heading the volunteer coordination team, with a call for volunteers to assist with the walk including supporting the passport scavenger hunt.

Shane of Timewarp will again be curating the Timewarp Record Store stage. Ben Kernian will be curating the Promenade Car Wash & Spa space.

Lenore also stated GCI was awarded the Phase 2 Arts Activation Grant. There will also be an upcoming Benefit for the GCI Art walk at the Barker Hanger March 30 2017.

- c. Rachel Malarich and Clarissa Boyajian, TreePeople, discussed possible ideas regarding tree replacement on Great Street Venice Blvd. Please see section 5a above for their insightful commentary.
- d. Public Comment
- e. Future Agenda Items

f. Adjournment at 7:58 pm

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