



Mar Vista Community Council



MAR VISTA COMMUNITY COUNCIL
GREAT STREETS AD HOC COMMITTEE
Wednesday June 14, 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 Castelnuovo-Tedesco

MINUTES

1. Call To Order and Welcome – Chair (1 min.) acting chair: Michelle Krupkin 6:35 pm
2. Introductions and Public Comments (for items not on the agenda) (2 minutes). There was public comment regarding homeless encampments in various locations near the 405 freeway. The opinion expressed was of concern for safety and public hygiene near the encampments.
3. Motion to approve May 2017 Great Streets minutes (2 minutes). There was one correction to the minutes. After the correction, Curt Steindler made the motion and someone else seconded. The minutes passed unanimously.
4. Reports (5 Minutes)
 - a. Great Streets Program brief definition-Michelle Krupkin, MV Community Council, gave a brief overview of Great Streets, the first initiative from Mayor Eric Garcetti.
Full info at <http://lagreatstreets.org/what-we-do>
Mayor Eric Garcetti launched the Great Streets Initiative to help re-imagine neighborhood centers, one main street at a time. Our streets are the backbone of our neighborhoods – the places where we live, work, learn, and recreate on a daily basis. All of our great neighborhoods deserve Great Streets that are livable, accessible, and engaging public spaces for people.
Goals:
 - Increased Economic Activity
 - Improved Access and Mobility
 - Enhanced Neighborhood Character
 - Greater Community Engagement
 - Improved Environmental Resilience
 - Safer and More Secure Communities
 - Improved Public Health
 - b. Report from Mar Vista Chamber of Commerce President Sarah Auerswald. Tabled due to absence.
5. New Business (30-45 minutes)
 - a. Jessie Holzer, CD11 Mobility Deputy gave an update on the CD11 Pilot Program for Great Street Venice Blvd.as well as other Great Streets projects. She shared that there are ongoing efforts regarding the CD11 Pilot Program on Great Street Venice Blvd.
Green paint will be applied to the protected bicycle lanes. Jessie mentioned that both LA Department of Transportation and the Film industry discussed the hue of green and are happy with the color of the paint that will be applied to the protected bicycle lanes.

Jessie also shared that the sidewalks on Great Street Venice Blvd. are to be fully reconstructed.

Jessie also mentions comments from the survey regarding Great Street Venice Blvd.

- b. Lenore French, GCI Communications, gave a report on the June 1 2017 Mar Vista Art Walk. The most recent art walk featured an Art Battle in the car wash parking lot on the north side of Venice Blvd. near Stewart. There were two stages for music on which 12-15 bands performed - at Alana's and at the Coffee Connection. Grand View Market also had music on their stage.

There were approximately between 2500 - 3000 total attendees, many of which actively used the mid-block crossings.

There were between 50 – 100 artists at the June 1 2017 Mar Vista Art Walk.

The next Mar Vista Art Walk will be September 1 2017 and the theme will be psychedelic.

- 6. Policy Motion. During the public comment section for the policy motion, there were twenty-nine (29) speakers. Their names and comments will be added to this draft minutes soon pending receipt of detailed speaker cards. To summarize, twenty-three (23) of twenty-nine (29) speakers were in favor of the policy motion requesting that the third lane of traffic be restored on Great Street Venice Blvd. Five (5) were in favor of the current configuration with protected bicycle lanes. The remaining speaker was leaning in favor of the current configuration with protected bicycle lanes, but had many concerns about the way the configuration was implemented and currently functions.

- a. Whereas the Venice Boulevard "Great Street" program has recently been implemented, including several changes to the roadway between Beethoven Avenue and Inglewood Boulevard, and

Whereas, the changes include removing one traffic lane in each direction to accommodate a buffer zone for on-street passenger loading of parked vehicles (rather than from the sidewalk) and widening of the bicycle lane, and

Whereas, Council District 11 circulated surveys to a very small minority of the community (approximately 450 total surveys, many to students who don't drive) and extrapolated "community-driven" support for many elements of the "Great Street," yet the surveys did not specifically ask the community about the lane reduction element of the program or obtain feedback from the vast majority of those who use Venice Boulevard on a daily basis, and

Whereas, the lane reductions have caused significant daily traffic jams, increased cut-through traffic on surrounding residential streets, and increased traffic jams on alternate streets throughout the greater Mar Vista area, and increased pollution from idling vehicles, and

Whereas the increased traffic on Mar Vista roadways has had an adverse impact on emergency response times of Fire and Police Department, and

Whereas a grassroots movement of community members has emerged in recent weeks, and have obtained over 1200 electronic signatures asking for the return of the old three traffic lane in each direction configuration, and

Whereas Council District 11 has communicated that the roadway changes consist of a pilot program, using inexpensive temporary materials, and that the City would keep what the community wants and remove what the community does not want,

Therefore Mar Vista Community Council moves to advise Council District 11 to immediately reverse the lane reduction and return Venice Boulevard to the long established six-lane configuration and further urges the City of Los Angeles Department of Transportation and the Council District 11 to provide a copy of any and all traffic studies done in advance of the commencement of the lane closures included in the CD11 Pilot Program on Great Street Venice Blvd. as well as a copy of any and all traffic studies performed after the implementation of the CD11 Pilot Program on Great Street Venice Blvd.

The vote took place on the above policy motion. The result was 56 were in favor of the policy motion, 16 were opposed and 2 abstained.
The motion passed.

7. Public Comment
8. Future Agenda Items
9. Adjournment 7:52 pm

*** PUBLIC INPUT AT NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETINGS** – The public is requested to fill out a “Speaker Card” to address the Board on any agenda item before the Board takes an action on an item. Comments from the public on agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the agenda that are within the Board’s jurisdiction will be heard during the General Public Comment period. Please note that under the Brown Act, the Board is prevented from acting on a matter that you bring to its attention during the General Public Comment period; however, the issue raised by a member of the public may become the subject of a future Board meeting. Public comment is limited to 2 minutes per speaker, unless adjusted by the presiding officer of the Board.

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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 at our website, <http://www.marvista.org>.