



Mar Vista Community Council



MAR VISTA COMMUNITY COUNCIL
GREAT STREETS AD HOC COMMITTEE
Wednesday August 9 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 6:34 pm
2. Introductions and Public Comments (for items not on the agenda) (2 minutes) No Public Comments.
3. Motion to approve June 2017 Great Streets minutes (2 minutes) Jeff Khoury made the motion, Sheri Odere seconded. June 2017 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
5. New Business (30-45 minutes)
 - a. Geoffrey Straniere, Senior Project Coordinator, Access Compliance, LA City Department on Disability, discussed ADA issues on Great Street Venice Blvd. After introducing himself and giving information on his background working with ADA and Access issues. He works with the Homeless Policy, Accessible Parking Zone Program/Blue Curb Program as well as the DOD point person for Safe Sidewalks LA in terms of accessibility requests. He is also part of Emergency Management Plans with regards to accessibility concerns. There was a Question and Answer period with questions and answers summarized below.

Geoffrey shared that he took the time to walk Great Street Venice Boulevard and took notes and saw room for improvement on the Pilot Program.

Beginning of question and answer period.

Question: How do I get a wheelchair passenger from the car to the curb? Offloading is difficult as

there are no curb cuts or slopes except at the end of each block.

Answer from Geoffrey: I agree this is a problem. There needs to be more turnouts and more curb cuts.

Question: How many blue curbs are there per block? Is there a specific number planned?

Answer from Geoffrey: The blue curb project or accessible parking project is on hold for seven years in LA. The goal is to make it accessible parking zones throughout Los Angeles and to come up with a number that works.

Question: I am concerned about the next step the bollards being replaced by a concrete divider and creating an island that would prevent a curb ramp and disability access.

Answer from Geoffrey: I'm not sure what the plans are since I was not involved in the design.

Question: Was the LA City Department of Disability consulted before the Great Street Pilot Program was designed or are they now putting out fires after the fact?

Answer from Geoffrey: I was not involved in the design stage or consulted for the current Great Street Venice Boulevard Pilot Program design. Access department is now hopefully going to be involved in the design stage going forward.

Question: So you weren't consulted on this design?

Answer from Geoffrey: Oh no. Although now going forward I am making sure that our constituency, the disabled population of LA, will be at the table before instead of after the fact.

Question: What is suggested for dealing with a person in a wheelchair with dementia? Where is a safe place to get in and out of a car since the parking section is now next to speeding traffic instead of next to the bike lane?

Answer from Geoffrey: There is no easy answer. I personally agree that this has to be addressed.

Question: When can the current mid block cut-outs be corrected? Visually impaired constituents need assistance to cross the street currently.

Answer from Geoffrey: We are looking into establishing a timeline to address those concerns -not sure of timing on that item.

Question: Are you compiling a list of what you can do and will do?

Answer from Geoffrey: We are one city department that feeds input into the Great Streets. I will meet with the Mayoral staff that oversee Great Streets and share the challenges and disenfranchisement of the disabled.

Question: When is the next meeting you have with Great Streets staff?

Answer from Geoffrey: The next meeting would be this month but is not a public meeting. It's an ongoing meeting. We would take into consideration concerns going forward. You guys have some work in place that needs addressing, that need consideration now because it may not be working for the community.

Question: Is putting cars next to the curb one option?

Answer from Geoffrey: That is one option.

Question: On a basic level, how is the design for the Pilot Program compliant with ADA guidelines? Was your office involved in planning?

Answer from Geoffrey: No, we were not involved in the planning.

Question: is the curb configuration in violation of ADA requirements?

Answer from Geoffrey: Not sure, there are some slope concerns.

Question: There was no EIR before installation of the Pilot Program, will there be one after? Does it address fumes created by gridlock?

Answer from Geoffrey: There is an EIR now for the Sidewalk Repair Program that is 94 pages. Not sure about the Pilot Program.

Question: How can we work with your department to get our voices heard?

Answer from Geoffrey: I encourage people to seek out the department and come to the office.

Question: Since the Pilot Program was implemented, have you been in touch with Westside Center for Independent Living?

Answer from Geoffrey: Not yet.

Question: Is there a plan to reach out to school-bus drivers?

Answer from Geoffrey: That is part of the concern.

Question: Are there any other areas in cities that have areas and elements that work?

Answer from Geoffrey: There are some elements that work and features that don't work. Some are a matter of code compliance versus what works best.

Question: There are examples in Long Beach where there are Green Streets that are bike streets only. And in Long Beach on Main Street, there is a protected bike lane with no parking. Other streets have cars parking at the curb, which is what we want on Venice Blvd. Would you be able to explain to the Great Streets Department that the implementation seems short sighted? Would you please ask them to please listen to the community?

Answer from Geoffrey: I understand the frustration. I can give an example as a resident of LA. I live in the Valley. One day the Great Street plan was installed. Now I can't go to my favorite pizza place because there is no parking or accessibility. It is critical that the community weighs in. Sometimes engineers are not the best community outreach folks.

b. Sandi Burnett, Disability Accommodations Consultant, was part of an information exchange with an emphasis on disability access. She is a long time resident of Mar Vista, residing on a side street west of Centinela. She recently retired after being the long-time ADA/504 Compliance Officer, ABI Program Faculty Leader, Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS) for Santa Monica College. Former Chair UCLA Chancellor's advisory committee on Disability and the Co-Founder and former Board Member of Westside Center for Independent Living.

Sandi Burnett also shared that she has had a lifelong experience with having a mobility disability. She was trained on the regulations with the Department of Justice as well as the EEOC, and architectural review of Accessibility.

Sandi stated that She discussed the requirements for public programs and shared that one of the primary requirements for public money is that all public programs and services should be accessible to people with disabilities. It's a requirement that they proactively seek out what the community or residents would prefer. Planners should seek out what the local communities' needs are and be inclusive.

For example, in Mar Vista, there is the McBride Scholl for Students with Disabilities, which is a physically accessible High School on Centinela south of Venice Blvd. Venice High School id designated a physically accessible High school for student that use wheelchairs and have other mobility issues. Additionally, on Grand View Blvd., there is a lot of low-income Section 8 housing that includes those with disabilities.

As a 32 year resident of Mar Vista, Sandi did not think that there ever has been a concerted effort to find out what this local community might need in the way of disability access. Shari thought that it would be appropriate for the LA City Department of Disability to really show what could be done on a local council level on this issue. Sandi doesn't think it's been done anywhere in the city.

Geoffrey commented that the accessible housing issue is really critical.

Sandi discussed the Great Streets Pilot Program and commented that there did not seem to be any concerted efforts to find out what could be done for the disabled as part of the plan.

Sandi shared that she personally has a scooter and that there is a lot more work needed that could be done on the sidewalks to make them accessible.

She stated that she appreciated the mid-block crossings that were part of the Pilot Program. Although she is aware that the installation of the mid-block crossings did create problems for some businesses, like Sunny Grill, which had it's accessibility ramp negatively impacted by the mid-block crossing construction.

There was a discussion of parking and disabled access.

There was a question for Sandi about why there wasn't more parking for businesses for the disabled.

Sandi shared that the ADA Guidelines do not address street parking, but rather talks more about parking lots.

Geoffrey also added that the LA City DOD was looking into what is required by businesses in terms of accessible parking.

Sandi discussed that there should be more parking in lots for disabled access, perhaps with use of easements.

Geoffrey commented that there were triggering situations where the city could look into easements.

There was a discussion about sidewalk safety, parking in Mar Vista and other subjects such as code and doing more than the ADAG code. Sandi discussed Santa Monica and how they go beyond the code.

There was an additional question and answer section.

Question: Wouldn't it be easier to reverse the current Pilot design and start anew from the drawing board?

Answer from Geoffrey: All I can say is that forums like this are being heard by disability. I know that a number of council members are reconsidering their street configurations.

Question: Why don't they use the median for bike lanes?

Answer from Sandi: The median is unavailable as it is used for various utilities such as a very important gas main. They don't want any infrastructure on top of that gas main.

There was a discussion about how the community is offering input but does not feel like they are being heard.

Geoffrey said that he understood their frustration – and hoped that their councilman would be more receptive to feedback.

- c. Len Nguyen, CD11 Senior Field Deputy, did not attend and there was no update on the CD11 Pilot Program as well as other Great Streets projects from CD11. Tabled due to his absence.
- d. Lenore French, gave a preview of the upcoming Thursday September 7 Mar Vista Art Walk. It will be the 8th Mar Vista Art Walk. The Theme is Psychedelic September tying in with Burning Man and the anniversary of the Summer of Love occurring around the same time. Lenore discussed how the Mar Vista Art Walk is always the first Thursday of each quarter, occurring December, March, June and September as an outside event on Great Street Venice Blvd. from Inglewood Blvd. to Beethoven Street. Lenore also shared the time of the art walk, from 6 pm - 10 pm as well as explaining how the Mar Vista Art Walk is divided into three different Clusters of activity. At the last Mar Vista Art Walk between 2000-3000 people attended. Lenore also answered questions about the planned activities and live music and shared that information can be found on the Mar Vista Art Walk Facebook page. She hoped everyone would attend and enjoy the evening.

6. Public Comment

7. Future Agenda Items

8. Adjournment 7:57pm

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