Del Rey Neighborhood Council Minutes

At the Courtyard by Marriott
13480 Maxella Avenue
Del Rey, CA 90292

November 10, 2011 at 7:15 p.m.

1. **Call to Order and Information** – Chair opens the meeting at 7:16 p.m.
2. **Director’s Roll Call** –
   Present (11): Brett Flater (Treasurer), Enrique Fernandez (Area G), Eric DeSobe (President/Chair, Debra Geller (Area B), Dan Moreno (Area F), Renae Paonessa (Area C), Frank Sanford (Area H), Mike Stafford (Communications Officer), Elizabeth Zamora (Vice President), Jonathan Neumann (Area A)
   Absent (5): Gerry Crouse (Area E) April De Stefano (Area D), Rolin Moe (Parliamentarian), Will Nicholas (Secretary), Tom Kielty (Second Vice President), Recording Secretary (1): Edith Darling from AppleOne Employment

3. **Government Reports**
   a. Council District 11 – Cecilia Castillo – Councilman was able to allocate $100,000 towards any program directed to discourage any violence during winter break and maybe spring break. Money could be used for buses for field trips for students on break. Money comes from HACLA, Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles. For bulky item removal, call the city beforehand to schedule an appointment for pick-up. Leaving items on the curb without scheduling an appointment is an act of illegal dumping. If anyone is aware of specific locations where illegal dumping is occurring, please notify Ms. Castillo.
   Request for information on restroom renovation in Glen Alla Park. Castillo – They’ve assigned contractor and should be ready to break down in the next month.
   b. Mayor’s Office – Joseph Hari – Not present.

4. **Public Comment**
   Marlene Savage – Congress of Neighborhood Councils was a success. Scheduling new event and will be request $250 from each neighborhood council.

5. **Summary of Previous Meeting and Approval of Previous Minutes**
   Renae Paonessa was not at the meeting but minutes indicated that she was.
   M/S/P “Motion to approve minutes as revised.”
   Motion carries unanimously.

6. **Old Business** – None

7. **Ex Parte Disclosures**
   a. Neuman – Talked to GLJ about status of Stella project. They are on track, they say. Talked to Etan Miller at Innovative Development about project they were considering on Glencoe and Maxella.
   b. DeSobe – Communicated with people presenting on item 8a and 8b to coordinate.

8. **New Business**
   a. Presentation by representatives from MetroExpress Lane Program
      Kathy McEwan –
      Metro ExpressLanes is a pilot, one-year demonstration program overseen by Metro, Caltrans and several other mobility partners that have joined forces to develop a package
of solutions to improve traffic flow and provide enhanced travel options on the I-10 and I-110 Freeways in Los Angeles County. The solution package includes the introduction of congestion pricing by converting High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes to High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes; the improvement of transit service and other alternatives to driving; the updating of transit facilities; and the implementation of a more effective parking management system in downtown Los Angeles.

Metro ExpressLanes features include:
1. Conversion of the I-10 El Monte Busway HOV lanes (I-605 to Alameda St.) to HOT lanes
2. Conversion of the I-110 Harbor Transitway HOV lanes (Artesia Transit Center to Adams Blvd.) to HOT lanes
3. 59 new alternative fuel expansion buses and operating subsidy for the demo period
4. El Monte Station Expansion
5. New Transit Station at Patsaouras Plaza
6. Harbor Transitway Park & Ride Upgrades
7. Metrolink Pomona Station Expansion
8. Transit Signal Priority Expanded in Downtown LA
9. 100 New Metro Vanpools
10. New expansion bicycle lockers at the Artesia Transit Center & bicycle station at El Monte Station
11. Express Park
12. New Bus Maintenance Facility in Downtown LA
13. Budget - $290 million

To use the lane, driver will need to have a FastTrak transponder in vehicle. Tolls are paid through the box on a repeat paid account. Dedicated freeway patrol and CHP officers will be there to patrol the express lanes. Transponder requires person to set the occupancy of the car. Officers will be able to check whether you are actually driving with the same amount of drivers. Express lanes have to flow at 45 mph. If you don’t get guaranteed travel speed of 45 mph, you get your toll back. If we don’t meet the requirement, then we have to pay back 210 million dollars.

Questions from Board Members

Stafford – What happens if no one uses it?
McEwan – Will be tracking data over the one-year demonstration period. They will use data to determine success. If no one uses it, they’ll close down the system, but improvements to the roads will remain.)
Geller – Will you be charged for when you entered or for increased traffic once you entered? (McEwan – For when you enter.)
What is privacy level of data for transponder?
McEwan – No personal information contained within transponder. Information sent over frequency is transponder number and the toll price.
Will be keeping track of occupancy via indications.
Neumann – is it a separate account for the 91 and 73?

b. Presentation by Department of Public Works, Bureau Sanitation
Daniel Hackney, Special Projects Manager for the Bureau of Sanitation – Provides overview on the status of L.A. sewers, the Hyperion Sewage Facility, and the upcoming rate increase.
Sewer system of LA is 6500 miles. Hyperion Sewage Facility is biggest and best in the world. Process 350 million gallons of sewage every day. Expected life span is 7- years. 50 percent of the sewers are 70 years old. Many are already over 80 years old. Newest treatment facility is 40 years old.

We always come to the community before making significant changes. Time to come to ratepayers and ask for rate increase. Bureau of Sanitation needed to ask three years ago but didn’t do it because economy was so bad. Now, the request is overdue and Bureau of Sanitation is at risk to have its bond rating lowered.

Average homeowner pays $30/mo. In Atlanta, they’re paying, $100/mo. In Seattle, they’re paying $80/mo. In San Francisco, they’re paying $80/mo. Over 10 years, incremental increases start at 4 percent. An average of $28/yr for 10 years. Rate will more or less double over ten years.

Questions from Board Members
Neuman – Is there a separate fund so that it’s earmarked for capital fund improvements for Bureau of Sanitation? (Yes.)
Sanford – Can they cut and do more with less? (They already are. Homeowners are paying 1991 rate when adjusted for inflation.)
Geller – Unrelated question - Are there 3 different sizes of the blue and black bins? (Yes. 30, 60, and 90 gallons. Contact him directly to request a different bin.)

c. Motion to approve revised fiscal year 2011-2012 budget (approved by Budget Committee; submitted by Brett Flater)
Flater presents following revisions to 2011-12 budget:
Addition of $800 per month for Meeting Facility Rental
Addition of $124.51 for Copying Expenses
Addition of $1000.00 to Staffing – Administration/AppleOne for Minute Taking Services
Eliminated funding of $1000.00 for translation
Addition of $750 for Elections
Addition of $2,550 to Del Rey Day
Reallocated $374.51 not spent on Handball Tournament
Addition of $250 to Tree Planting
Eliminated funding for Neighborhood Purpose Grants

Point of Clarification
Geller – Why does expense for Retreat remain?
DeSobe – Discussed leaving item for a retreat with new board members elected if elections are held this fiscal year

In Favor
Geller- Changes appear reasonable

Debate
Sanford – Suggests that we allocate more money to tree planting.

Chair calls the question
M/S/P “Motion to approve as presented by Mr. Flater.”
AYES: DeSobe Fernandez, Flater, Geller, Maren, Moe, Neuman, Poanessa, Stafford, Zamora
NAYS: Sanford
ABSTAINING:
Motion carries 10-1 with 0 abstentions.

d. Motion to approve DRNC resolution regarding Short Ave. Elementary which reads as follows (submitted by Eric DeSobe; approved by Education Committee):
M/S/ (DeSobe/Mareno) "The DRNC stands behind Short Ave. Elementary and its students and families. While the Short Ave. community started the school year with a burden imposed by outside forces, it continues to focus on building enrichment opportunities for kids, enhancing campus facilities in a way that benefits the whole community, and continues to be a model for elementary community schools.

Point of Clarification
Neuman - Did school use funding after having its API scores invalidated?
DeSobe – Doesn’t think so.
Poanessa – Are teachers trained about ethics and best practices?
DeSobe – Yes.

In Opposition
Geller – Shouldn’t we chastise those who cheated, including the administration, and only support the children and families of Short Ave. community?
DeSobe – Representatives of Short Ave. appealed to Education Committee for a pledge of support. Education Committee believes that Short Ave. Elementary is an asset to the Del Rey community.

Amendment proposed by DeSobe:
The DRNC stands behind Short Ave. Elementary and its students and families. The DRNC supports Short Avenue Elementary’s continued focus on building enrichment opportunities for kids, enhancing campus facilities in a way that benefits the whole community, and continuing to be a model for elementary community schools.

Flater seconds.
In Support
Flater – Resistance could be coming from not having enough and/or accurate information.
Have not heard directly from any parents of students at school or teachers/administration at school. School has partnered with DRNC in an unprecedented manner and is helpful to the community at large.

In Opposition to Amendment
Geller - If it’s too soon to criticize, it’s too soon to support. Can’t vote for anything that is taking any position related to what is going on.

DeSobe withdraws amendment.

Geller proposes amendment:
DRNC supports Short Avenue Elementary School and its families in their efforts to build enrichment opportunities for children and enhance campus facilities in a way that benefits Del Rey Community.
Fernandez seconds.

DeSobe speaks in support.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT:
AYES: DeSobe Fernandez, Geller, Mareno, Moe, Neuman, Poanessa, Sanford, Stafford, Zamora
NAYS: Flater
ABSTAINING:
Motion carries 10-1 with 0 abstentions.

VOTE ON MOTION AS AMENDED:
AYES: DeSobe Fernandez, Geller, Mareno, Moe, Neuman, Poanessa, Sanford, Stafford, Zamora
NAYS:
ABSTAINING: Flater
Motion carries 10-0 with 1 abstention.

9. Officer and Director Reports
   a. Treasurer’s Report – Brett Flater
      Flater – found error in accounting. We have extra money. Look at second sheet with notes. Expenses to date remaining just over $15,000, including allocations for Del Rey Cup and Handball Tournament.
      Have not yet gotten receipt for Argonaut or for Marriott.
      Point of Clarification
      Fernandez – At House of Trophies, we bought t-shirts, not trophies.
      Mareno – Why don’t we make a point of getting business cards and name tags finalized and out to everyone. Maybe baseball caps with DRNC logo. Let’s also get a couple polo shirts.
      Geller – Can we spend money on engraved name plaques?
      Fernandez – Can I get more business cards?
      Flater – Encourages everyone to go through funding training to learn about what the DRNC can spend money on.
      Motion to approve expenditures and Treasurer’s report. Motion approved unanimously

b. President’s Report – Eric DeSobe –
   Del Rey Day is Sunday rain or shine. Will be there from 1 –4. Please promote as much as possible. Outreach committee meeting after thanksgiving. Anyone interested in possible allocations can propose them at this meeting.

c. Remaining Officers and Director’s Reports
   1. Moreno – Four new solar installs passed inspection in his area. Younger homeowners are interested in Del Rey Day. Would like to find way to get interest of older homeowners.
   2. Geller – would like to plan subsequent Del Rey Day.
      Take a tour of Mar Vista Gardens. It’s nice.
   4. Sanford - Sanford dons bumble bee head band. Good yellow carpet events for Honey Love at LMU. Please take feasibility study mentioned in Del Rey Community Newsletter. Would invite you to yellow tie event in Venice.
      SLO Garcia has been working with the Neighborhood Watch.
      Presents information about Del Rey Residents Association (previously known as Del Rey Homeowners and Neighbors Association. Area 33, the nightclub, is going to move in a month or two to LAX. No one is complaining about noise. They have successful food drives. St. Gerard’s has food bank, Mareno says.

10. Committee Reports
    a. Land Use and Planning – she’ll let us know TBD
    b. Outreach Committee – TBD; likely first week of December
    c. Community Services - TBD
    d. Education – will try to meet at the end of the month. Cannot get blanket without signing up

11. Next meeting – Dec. 8 2011
12. M/S/P (Flater/Fernandez) "Motion to adjourn." Motion passes unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.