Del Rey Neighborhood Council Minutes

At the Courtyard by Marriott

13480 Maxella Avenue

Del Rey, CA 90292

September 9, 2011 at 7:15 p.m.

1. **Call to Order and Information** – Chair opens the meeting at 7:15 p.m.
2. **Director’s Roll Call**
   Present (11): Gerry Crouse (Area E), Eric DeSobe (President/Chair), April De Stefano (Area D), Enrique Fernandez (Area G), Brett Flater (Treasurer), Debra Geller (Area B), Tom Kielty (Second Vice President) (arrives at 7:19 p.m.), Dan Mareno (Area F), Renae Poanessa (Area C) (arrives at 7:21 p.m.), Frank Sanford (Area H), Elizabeth Zamora (Vice President)
   Absent (excused) (2): Rolin Moe (Parliamentarian), Mike Stafford (Communications Officer)
   Absent (unexcused) (1): Will Nicholas (Secretary)
   Area A is still vacant.
   Recording Secretary: Edith Darling
3. **Government Reports**
   a. **Council District 11 – Cecilia Castillo**
      Both on September 25, 2011: Street closure of Venice Blvd. from beach to Fairfax for LA Triathlon. Abbot Kinney will be closed between Westminster and Venice Blvd for Abbott Kinney Festival.
      September is Emergency Preparedness month. Be prepared to be on your own for 72 hours in case of an emergency. Three day supply of food, water, and batteries, and an emergency plans are essential. Pacific Area Community Police Station Open House and pancake breakfast this Saturday from 8 AM to 1 PM. Proceeds go to cadets. Mayor’s Town Hall will be this Monday at 6:30 p.m. Open house on Sept. 13 from 6-8 PM at Angeles Mesa Presbyterian Church re Crenshaw-LAX Transit Line.
      i. **Questions re changes in the committee make-ups. Rosendahl’s committees will be (1) Transportation Committee (Chair), 2. Budget & Finance, 3. Trade, Commerce, and Tourism (Co-Chair)***
      ii. **DeSobe – Question re repurposing of NC committee**
4. **Public Comment**
   a. **Re Art Walk – Ad Hoc Committee – Del Rey Day – What conditions for displaying art at walk? (Flater - As long as you display and don’t sell, you’re fine.)**
   b. **Donald Cassel, Area 33 – Request to present his case at next hearing. They are good neighbors and would like to address any complaints about noise. They will be providing 56 spaces, a change from their initial application. Want to work out any issues with the community. Zamora – Re Area 33, the Land Use & Planning Committee did not recommend it to come to the full board because of concerns about noise, parking. We can reconsider the topic at the next meeting, which will be after the week of Sept. 20.**
5. **Summary of Previous Meeting Minutes and Approval of Previous Minutes**
   M/S/P “Motion to approve the minutes of DRNC Governing Board meeting of August 8, 2011.” Motion carries by unanimous voice vote.
6. **Old Business** - None
7. **Ex Parte Disclosure**
   a. **Poanessa – Spoke with neighbors concerned about safety/interested in CERT training. Ms. Castillo gave her a website to send to the neighbor.**
   b. **DeStefano – E-mail communication from Sheri Akers on Mar Vista NC about potential applicants for Area A open seat**
   c. **DeSobe – Met with representative from Honey Love about Item 8. Met with Lucia Diaz at Mar Vista Family Center to talk about future sponsorships/partnerships.**
d. Zamora – E-mail from Amy Gailbreath about Area 33 requesting another meeting before Land Use & Planning Committee
e. Kielty – sent e-mails to Hector Manuelos about bike path
f. Sanford – Went to Honey Love event.

8. New Business

a. M/S/P (DeSobe/Mareno) “Motion to approve stakeholder electronic survey regarding previously passed bee keeping feasibility study. (submitted by Eric DeSobe)
AYES (9): DeSobe, DeStefano, Fernandez, Geller, Kielty, Mareno, Poanessa, Sanford, Zamora
NAYS:
ABSTAINING (2): Crouse, Flater
Motion carries 9-0 with 2 abstentions.

Points of Clarification
DeSobe – The Honey Love group will be doing leg work for survey.
Mareno – Honey Love representative lives in Del Rey? (Sanford – Yes.)
Geller – Why are we doing a survey after we already voted?
DeSobe – To gauge the interest level of the community and for the organization to get information
In support
DeStefano – a survey is a good way to determine community interest!
Against
Geller – in future, would like to survey before voting

b. M/S/P (Flater/Fernandez)
Motion to approve expenditures for 5th annual Del Rey Cup (submitted by Enrique Fernandez; approved by Community Services Committee)

Initial Presentation by Fernandez – Would like to address items b and c. First soccer tournament was a great success. DRNC’s name will be on uniforms that will be used in other areas as well as DR. Will increase awareness of Del Rey area. Good, simple community event of BBQ is nice, especially for Mar Vista Gardens.

Points of Clarification

Geller- Soccer tournament is Del Rey Cup? Quotation from Cesar’s House of Sports. Is this a legitimate licensed business?
Fernandez – Yes, presentation could be more professional. Have a business license. They take credit card
DeStefano – What is petrosinadores?
Fernandez - Sponsor. Their total is $390 for t-shirts, shots, and socks. Other cost is for imprinting logo.
Flater – We have more money allocated towards event. Is this what you need, or is this a confusion you had based on the agenda?
Fernandez – Took out advertising, banner, and school supplies goody bag. The estimate in motion includes estimated taxes.
DeSobe – Banner could be permanently displayed. Bags would be easily marked or filled with outreach materials. $300 would allow about 125 goody bags.
Geller – 50 t-shirts and 15 uniforms. Summary statement says there will be 75 soccer players and 60-70 handball players. What is discrepancy?
Fernandez – We sponsor only one team. Shirts will go to championship team and to some handball participants.
Geller - In the context of past issues with sponsoring little league, are we allowed to give out shirts that people are allowed to keep?
Flater – T-shirts are considered publicity for NC and can be given out.
Geller – We could consider opportunities for outreach/advertising with any future purchases related to Little League. We should also be looking at item d, the advertising of the budget, in this discussion.
Flater – We can make an amendment to combine them.

Amendment by DeSobe to combine motions in items b and c. Amend language to read “to approve expenditures for 2nd Annual Del Rey Cup and 5th Annual Del Rey Handball tournament.” Mareno seconds amendment.

Points of Clarification
Geller – is it possible to do a motion that would combine b, c, and d, or does d have to stand alone?
DeSobe – Item d falls under separate line item.

Speaking in Favor
DeStefano - Makes sense to combine them

Against
Geller – Motion as amended approves expenditure inclusive of advertising. Can’t support if d is not included

Speaking in Favor
Flater – Cost-saving measure because it consolidates costs and free up money to be used for advertising or reappropriated into the general fund.

Chair calls question on amendment.

Geller proposes amendment to change language to: “Motion to amend to approve expenditures up to $2,600 for all expenses related to Del Rey Cup and Handball Tournament, inclusive of advertising.” Poanessa seconds.

DeStefano - How can we approve if we don’t know more about the costs of the newspaper ad?
Geller – Budget that has been submitted is below $2600. There is $1300 remaining which feels sufficient for advertising.

Speaking in Support
Poanessa
Speaking Against
Flater- Advertising could be cheaper. In spirit of complete transparency, separating expenditure for event from advertising costs could keep things cleaner.
DeSobe – Would like to keep them separate so he can amend the motion to add some expenditure.

Geller withdraws amendment

Geller moves to table the motion that’s on the table in order to discuss advertising first. Sanford seconds.
Motion carries unanimously.

(After addressing item d, NC resumes discussion of motion as amended to combine events in item b and c.)

Amendment by DeSobe: Motion to approve expenditure for both items with the addition of $250 for school supplies, $125 for fresh fruits and vegetables, $215 for banner that would hang permanently announcing sponsorship. Fernandez seconds

Points of Clarification
Flater- Do we have a reason to believe we can get a banner for that much?
DeSobe – Yes, rates are cheaper for a second printing at Kinko’s

Speaking in Support of Motion
Flater – promotes healthy living, education, and fully using resources to bring people together

Speaking Against
Sanford – Doesn’t want to spend our money on junk food and unrecyclable stuff. No option for vegetarian kids. Plates and cups would not be compostable.
Geller - What kind of school supplies?
DeSobe – Pens, pencils, paper, etc. from 99 Cent Store
Geller – Can the bags be reusable grocery bags?
DeSobe – Good to consider for future events. In this case, they would be far more expensive, and we might not be able to get them in time.

Chair calls question on amendment.

“Motion to amend to approve expenditures up to $2,600 for all expenses related to Del Rey Cup and Handball Tournament, with the addition of $250 for school supplies, $125 for fresh fruits and vegetables, $215 for banner that would hang permanently announcing sponsorship.”
Amendment carries unanimously.

Chair calls question for vote.
Flater opposes calling the question.

Point of Clarification
Flater - We have bags with Del Rey logo that we can reuse.
Mareno – make a bulk investment in logoed school supplies, tablets, pens
Geller – Appreciative of what Flater just shared. Opposing any purchase of single-use items because we have already taken a position against them. We are inconsistent if we invest in anything other than reusable bags.

Chair calls question on final vote as amended.
AYES (10): DeSobe, DeStefano, Fernandez, Flater, Geller, Kielty, Mareno, Poanessa, Sanford, Zamora
NAYS (1): Crouse
ABSTAINING (0):
Motion carries 10-1 with 0 abstentions.

“Motion to amend to approve expenditures up to $2,600 for all expenses related to Del Rey Cup and Handball Tournament, with the addition of $250 for school supplies, $125 for fresh fruits and vegetables, $215 for banner that would hang permanently announcing sponsorship.”

Motion to approve expenditures for 5th Annual Del Rey Handball Tournament. – Addresses in item b. Skipped.

d. M/S (DeSobe/Flater) Motion to approve Argonaut purchase of newspaper ad for Del Rey Cup/Handball Tournament up to $1,500 (submitted by Eric DeSobe)

DeSobe – Last year, they paid for ad that 3 columns wide (6 1/16” wide) and 6” tall. This year, costs are:
Full page ad is $1,440.
Half-page ad is $720.
An ad similar to the size of last year’s is $540.

Points of Clarification
DeStefano – What is the option to advertise event in the calendar insert without cost?
Flater – Not possible to run an ad through community events page. They just add event to the calendar. Paying for ad gives more flexibility in terms of end product.

Amendment by DeStefano: “Motion to approve Argonaut purchase of newspaper ad for Del Rey Cup/Handball Tournament up to $540.” Sanford seconds.
DeStefano withdraws motion.

Amendment by DeStefano: “Motion to approve Argonaut purchase of newspaper ad for Del Rey Cup/Handball Tournament up to $720.” Seconded by Mareno.
Speaking in Favor
Geller – Approves of motion as amended.
Second amendment by Flater: “Motion to approve Argonaut purchase of newspaper ad for Del Rey Cup/Handball Tournament up to $720 to be equally split between Del Rey Cup line item and Handball Tournament line item.” Seconded by Mareno.
Amendment carries unanimously.
Speaking in Favor – Mareno
Chair calls question on amendment.
Amendment passes unanimously.
Chair calls the question on motion as written. No objections.

AYES (10): DeSobe, DeStefano, Fernandez, Flater, Geller, Kielty, Mareno, Poanessa, Sanford, Zamora
NAYS:
ABSTAINING (1): Crouse
Motion as amended 10-0 with 1 abstention.

M/S/P (DeSobe/Geller) “Motion to untable item b.” Motion passes unanimously. Chair resumes discussion of item b.

e. M/S (DeSobe/Fernandez) Motion to authorize purchase of up to $300 of refill first aid kit supplies for Mar Vista Gardens Recreation Center to come DRNC from budget line item for “emergency preparedness.” (Submitted by Enrique Fernandez; approved by Community Services Committee)

Initial presentation by Robert Dunn, Director of Mar Vista Gardens Recreation Center:
Thank you for sponsorship. Made success of summer camp possible.
Request for help getting medical supplies. They have a first aid kit in the gym. Teams travel with no first aid kits Red Cross is willing give a first responder’s kit with a year’s replenishment for $200, an excellent price.

Points of Clarification
Flater – how much exactly (Donne -$300?)
Mareno – Doesn’t the city have a storehouse for this? (He has to pay for it, taking it out of his non-existent budget.)
Crouse – Where did the funding for medical supplies come from before? (Last year, I got it from DRNC.)
Sanford – Do you have any fundraisers or do anything yourselves? (We have a snack bar. There is so much red tape for fundraising that any money earned has to go back the city before it can be used by the park.)

Speaking in Favor of Motion
Mareno – Necessary and important.
Flater – our responsibility is to serve the community with the tax payer dollars that we receive
Flater – We are a source of funds from the city, so we can help community as we can.
Poanessa – The city gave us the money to do these jobs when they’re not taking care of them.
Fernandez – Important to fund this first aid. It’s a need whether it’s the city or not.

Speaking in Opposition
Geller - Unsafe to operate without first aid. This should come out of their operating budget. We shouldn’t be the funding source for something related to life and safety.
Kielty – We’re not going to be fixing potholes. Basic city services should happen.
Crouse –Del Rey covers a bigger area. What happens if we get more funding requests for basic services?
Geller – When we fund basic city services, we condone that the city’s not properly funding what should be priority items. Would be one thing if we took a position statement. To excuse the city’s lack of funding for this lack of critical funding seems to be a dangerous path to go down.
DeStefano – good point about setting precedent where other agencies or groups come seeking funding for critical items.

Chair calls the question. No objections

AYES (9): DeSobe, DeStefano, Fernandez, Flater, Kielty, Mareno, Poanessa, Sanford, Zamora

NAYS (2): Crouse, Geller

ABSTAINING (0):

Motion carries 9-2 with 0 abstentions.

f. M/S (Kielty/Fernandez) “Motion to purchase signage for trees planted on Culver Blvd. walking path and products for soil enhancement.” (submitted by Tom Kielty)

(DeSobe/Fernandez )

Points of Clarification
Kielty – Request is for stakes. They’re about a $1/piece. Also for root hormone to help trees get the trees healthy
Flater – DO we have authority to put in stakes?
Castillo – City will help protect the trees, but they will not do anything to help them grow.
Responsibility of community to take care of trees.
Poanessa – Will they be secure?
Kielty- This is temporary signage, but it will be secure.
Mareno – A small granite marker with a brass plaque indicating DRNC’s donation would be a good addition

Points of Information
Crouse – Trees have been pulled out along Slauson and Inglewood
Kielty – Root ball was intact. It has resprouted.
Crouse - Are we going to keep replacing the trees?
Kielty – Yes, we are, but I’m going to pay for it.

DeSobe introduces amendment to change language to “up to $250 from line item “Tree Planting.” Seconded by DeStefano.

Amendment passes unanimously.

Vote on Motion as Amended:

AYES (10): DeSobe, DeStefano, Fernandez, Flater, Geller, Kielty, Mareno, Poanessa, Sanford, Zamora

NAYS (1): Crouse,

ABSTAINING (0):

Motion passes 10-1 with 0 abstentions.

“Motion to purchase signage, up to $250 from line item “Tree Planting,” for trees planted on Culver Blvd. walking path and products for soil enhancement.”

g. Discussion of Community Impact Statement regarding sign ordinance (motion possible)

Joe Young – resident of Del Rey. Lived here since 1972. Appeared before NC when there was an issue at Rec. & Park Commission re billboards in city parks. Council did oppose such parks. Planning Dept. (PD) issue draft ordinance regarding billboards in parks. Every speaker from the public spoke against the ordinance that the PD put forward. PD is opening door for parks. Euphemism for all properties owned by the city, not just parks. At Mar Vista Gardens, it would be allowed to have a large billboard on the inside of the wrought iron fence, visible to people living in project and opaque to drivers. Ordinance as issues is opening the door to a massive increase in billboards in places where they should not be.

Ed Reyes, Chair of Committee, wanted to develop a signage fund, to be paid for by the sign companies, to hire 2 or 3 people for the PD to evaluate standards for putting in billboards. This is outrageous. Other neighborhood councils are bombarding the PLUM Committee with protests. Hopes that you will follow suit.
Points of Clarification

DeStefano – what is status of ordinance (Young - PLUM committee is scheduling a hearing on Oct. 18.) Does it address issue of existing billboards and signs? (Is dealing with entire billboard issue.)

Kielty – lots of billboards on our bike path, big ones everywhere. Would we be able to get rid of those with our ordinance? (You could slow down increase, not get rid of, unfortunately.)

M/S/P (Zamora/Kielty) “The DRNC opposes adoption of the revised citywide sign ordinance now pending before the Council Council Planning and Land Use Management committee.” because it would allow a proliferation of commercial advertising on both private and public property without a significant reduction in existing billboard and signage blight and would allow new electronic signage without addressing energy use, light pollution, traffic safety, and other issues that could negatively affect communities throughout the city.”

Points of Clarification

Poanessa – Is this for the city to make money? (Yes.)

DeSobe – Your support of the motion is a support of the opposition of ordinance.

Speaking in Favor

Kielty – against billboards

Motion carries unanimously.

h. Officer and Director Reports

a. Treasurer’s Report – Brett Flater

i. M/S/P (Flater/Mareno) “Motion to approve expenditures and Treasurer’s report.”

Motion passes unanimously.

Flater – Balance is $29,313.48. $250 extra allocated because have not been able to get in touch Lenore Ritres to give payment. Appreciates board members specifying which line item a motion should come from.

Courtyard Marriott – Not yet gotten receipts. Two charges for the courtyard for the previous two meetings because credit card was not charged last month.

Constant contact – Last time you’ll see a $15 charge. Much larger fee next month that will cover entire year

Encourages board member to project budget expenses and to look at cost-cutting measures where possible.

Points of Clarification

Geller – Has cancer society gotten its money?

DeSobe – As far as he knows, still being reviewed by DONE

Zamora – We have opportunity to hold meetings at Westside neighborhood school at intersection of Beethoven and Jefferson. Have been working with the academic calendar. Cost would be $40/meeting, a savings of $110/meeting. They do not accept Visa. This is the hurdle to cross. Until I learn of a different way to pay the $40 in a timely way. I did all the research and talked to them.

DeStefano – Could we give the school a grant?

DeSobe – Will have to look into alternative payment options.

b. President’s Report –

Seeking ideas for Del Rey Day. Care 5K is not happening. In the coming weeks, ad hoc committee will start tackling those. Will be continuing it in November, as we have done. Similar amount of school community, and table involvement. We would like to hire helpers to staff tables.

Could look into series of Del Rey days. Maybe partnering for more events or to co-sponsor with already existing event.
Web traffic below – pretty consistent numbers – it’s encouraging that people are going back

Remaining Officer’s and Director’s Report

1. Zamora – Not another PLUM meeting this month. Will be one in early October.
2. Fernandez – Take a ride to Mar Vista Gardens. They’re making it better.
3. Crouse – status of walk path, watering walk and bike path. Walk path is muddy and it’s hard to use.
4. Kielty – when there was no water coming out, that’s the first step. Now we’re trying to get them to fix the sprinkler heads. Met with Ron Lorenz about them and has seen improvement. They’re working from the west to the east. Big problems between Inglewood and Slauson. It gets nice past Slauson.
5. DeSobe – Keep us posted.
6. DeStefano – lots of houses for sale
7. Sanford – Del Rey homeowners’ pot luck was nice. Visited Are 33

Committee Reports

a. Land Use and Planning – Zamora – Date of meeting TBD.
b. Outreach – Chair is currently overseeing. TBD.
c. Community services – Chair is currently overseeing. On hold.
d. Education – Chair is currently overseeing. Shooting for last week of September

DeStefano - asks for a straw poll of who is planning to attend Congress of Neighborhood Councils.

Next meeting will be at October 13, 2011

M/S/P (Kielty/Sanford) “Motion to adjourn.”

Meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.