Minutes for DRNC Board of Directors and General Meeting
7:15 pm Thursday, Dec. 8, 2011
At the Courtyard by Marriott
13480 Maxella Avenue Del Rey, California, 90292

1. Call to Order and Introduction – Meeting called to order at 7:18 p.m.

2. Director’s Roll Call
   A. Present (8): Gerry Crousé (Area E), Eric DeSobe (President/Chair), Enrique Fernandez (Area G), Debra Geller (Area B), Tom Kielty (Second Vice President), Dan Mareno (Area F), Jonathan Neumann (Area A), Mike Stafford (Communications Officer)
   Absent (7): April De Stefano (Area D), Brett Flater (Treasurer), Rolin Moe (Parliamentarian), Will Nicholas (Secretary), Renae Poanessa (Area C), Frank Sanford (Area H), Elizabeth Zamora (Vice President)

   Recording Secretary (1): Edith Darling from AppleOne Employment Agency

3. Government Reports
   a. Council District 11 – Cecilia Castillo –
      Ad hoc committee meeting. Two pick-up locations for shelters – one by Westchester Park by the pool and another by Venice Beach by the police sub-station. CD11 is having homeless shelter drive – toiletries, socks, and other necessities. Councilman is looking into a responsible banking ordinance. It would require that banks that do business with the city have to give report on loaning practices and level of positive community involvement. City of LA has free dispute resolution process. Call 213-485-8324 or email mediate@lacity.org. No updates on football stadium. Ad hoc committee meeting was today.
   b. Mayor’s Office – Joseph Hari – Not present.
   c. Pacific Division/Fire department – Not present. Chair would like to reach out to the representative because he/she has not been present for a few meetings.
   d. Other Dignitaries – No other presentations.

4. Public Comment (3 minutes maximum):
   a. Bill Russell – Board member of HOA of Westend Condo Complex on Glencoe, 119 unit building. There was a violent carjacking outside the condo while there was a car auction at Bruffy’s Tow. The auctions attract bad elements. Number of safety concerns and intrusion and crime. An old woman and her son were attacked.
      Neumann – Knows the folks at Bruffy’s Tow and would like to help open a dialogue.

5. Summary of Previous Meeting and Approval of Previous Minutes
   M/S/P “Motion to approve minutes of 11/10/2011.” Motion passes unanimously.

6. Old Business

7. Ex Parte Disclosures
   a. Neumann – Speaking with Mike Caron, manager of FedEx facility, about securing the facility. Trying to stop people from posting signs on their property. Spoke to Jeff Pion about a commercial tenant thinking about coming into area
   b. Fernandez – Spoke to SLO Garcia Christmas toy drive for Pacific Division. DeSobe requests a flyer. Talked to Monica Dunahhee.
   c. Mareno – Went to Pacific Division to look at crime stats. Talked to Monica Dunahhee on the phone.
   d. DeSobe – Exchanged e-mails with Monica Dunahhee.

8. New Business
   a. M/S/P (DeSobe/Mareno)
      Motion for DRNC to recommend the implementation of a Beekeeping Pilot Program to test safety and develop best practices for future expansion. DRNC will urge the City of LA to adopt a policy that includes conditions relating to maintenance, location, registration, and notification to assure for the
safety of all residents which may result in the continued preservation of quality of life and preservation of single-family residential districts. (approved by Outreach Committee on 12/1/11)
AYES: DeSobe, Kielty, Mareno, Neuman, Stafford
NAYS: Crouse, Geller,
ABSTAINING: Fernandez
Motion carries 5-2 with 1 abstention.

Brief Presentation by Chelsea and Rob McFarland
Feasibility study evaluates land use and public safety issues related to urban beekeeping.
Study incorporates information from medical and land use authorities. Includes survey of stakeholders.
Highest percentage Del Rey stakeholders were in support. Leading expert on beekeeping took survey.
City’s policy currently is to exterminate bees found on city property. HoneyLove’s goal is getting people with expertise to deal with the situation to move from public to private space. Another goal is education in order to calm people’s fears about bees and bee stings.

Questions from Board Members
Geller – Have not seen enough data. Study is not scientific. Was it a feasibility study or was it a survey?
C. McFarland - Presentations to outreach committees related to bees. Consulted experts. Surveyed cities that have allowed urban beekeeping. In Seattle, where it’s been legal for 35 years, the program is successful and a non-issue in terms of land use.

Speaking In Favor
Kielty
Mareno – Grew up on farm with bee hives. They help the crops and are a positive contribution to the land. There were a few bee stings.
Speaking in Opposition
Geller - Premature when we haven’t had time to read, study, and analyze the feasibility study. Want to see if what they’ve done is through and balanced.

b. Discussion of alternatives to for 2012 Neighborhood Council elections (motion possible)
Ivan Spiegel, Parliamentarian for Venice Neighborhood Council - We’d like to urge you to ask that elections are not canceled and that board members’ terms are not extended to 2014.
LANCC, Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition, has researched elections, including electronic voting. We would like to request the monetary figures that DONE has not provided in the survey.
If City Clerk manages elections, between one-third and one-half of the NC’s annual budget will be needed to pay for the elections.
If the election is managed by an independent election administrator, the cost to neighborhood councils will be approximately $2-3000.
Selection processes can also be done, but are difficult when there are designated seats or points of contention.

M/S/P (DeSobe/Neuman) “Motion that DRNC opposes cancelation of 2012 election and extensions of terms by current board members.
Point of Clarification
Geller – Why don’t we use the survey to answer the question? The first question on the survey asks if the NC rep is willing to postpone the election.
DeSobe – Individuals can fill out survey and turn it in.
Kielty - Would suggest that we vote without a lot of discussion
Eric DeSobe withdraws this motion, and then puts it back on the table.
Speaking In favor
Neumann– Regular elections are necessary to maintain the trust of the community. No elections can look like a power grab.
Speaking in Opposition
Geller – Given fact that they sent the survey, proper way is to respond is on the survey, not via a motion.
Speaking in Favor
Neumann- Motion is going to council that makes the decision. Response is more expedient with the motion. Could take months to hear back about the survey.
Amendment proposed by Geller, seconded by Mareno:
“To take a position in opposition to the cancellation of elections which would be send to City Council and to complete the survey distributed by DONE, likewise stating that we oppose the election.” Amendment carries unanimously.

Motion carries unanimously.

c. M/S/P (DeSobe/Donovan) Motion to approve “Del Rey Delivers” outreach program. (approved by Outreach Committee)

Motion carries unanimously.

Ivan Spiegel – Outlines Venice NC’s experience with using a promotion to gather possible community projects for financial assistance. Grant application system helped their NC give out money in a more considered way, not first-come, first-serve.

DeSobe – Funds available up to $2000 and as low as $500. Can distribute a FAQ sheet and examples of presentations.

Speaking In favor

Geller – Sounds like a great idea. Would also like to find out no-cost programs happening in the community and help recognize/promote their efforts.

9. Officer and Director Reports:
   a. Treasurer’s Report – Brett Flater

   Chair delivers treasurer’s report as submitted by Mr. Flater.
   Expenses to date total $10,048.07 in first quarter and $6,762.84 in second quarter. Remaining funds total $24,689.09.

   Receipts included in report are for the following charges:

   FedEx                    Del Rey Day 12.20
   FedEx                    Del Rey Day 16.97
   FedEx                    Del Rey Day 21.42
   FedEx                    Del Rey Day 11.97
   HostGator (for DRNC website) 119.40
   Michael’s (supplies for MVFC event) 216.86
   El Agave (food for Dia de Los Muertos event at MVFC) 100.00
   Smart& Final (Del Rey Day – food) 293.88
   Courtyard by Marriott (meeting space) 150
   UPS Store (Del Rey Day) 81.00
   B and B Hardware (Del Rey Day) 3.25
   Von’s (Del Rey Day) 50.72
   Community Music Program (Band for Del Rey Day) 500.00
   MDR Garden Center 195.55

   M/S/P “Motion to approve expenditures and Treasurer’s report.”

   Motion carries unanimously.

b. President’s Report – Eric DeSobe

   Board meeting on Jan. 12. Please send notification re absences at least 48 hours before meeting.

c. Remaining Officers and Directors’ Reports

   Neumann – Lots of people concerned about improving roads.
   Castillo – Lights used to be there and somehow disappeared. Trying to find paper trail for who purchased the lights. She continues to find the group responsible for the lights.

   Fernandez – Area G is looking better. Good feedback from residents. Crime has been down. Will be able to hang banner.

c. Kielty – Check out Del Rey Square by Culver and Inglewood. Thanks to Dept. of Urban Forestry for turning on the sprinklers.

d. Mareno – Street lighting, bad streets, been in touch with Cecilia trying to improve lighting, perhaps with solar.
g. Geller - Banner is hanging at park. People are excited about dog survey, in part a result of outreach done at Del Rey Day. Nickels is open.
h. Crouse - Problem with people leaving large items for pick-up.

10. Committee Reports:
   a. Land Use and Planning - TBD
   b. Outreach Committee - TBD
   c. Community Services - TBD
   d. Education - TBD
   e. 11. Next meeting – Jan. 12, 2011

12. Motion to Adjourn
   Meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.