Del Rey Neighborhood Council Minutes
At the Courtyard by Marriott
13480 Maxella Avenue
Del Rey, CA 90292
August 11, 2011 at 7:15 p.m.

1. Call to Order and Information – Chair opens the meeting at 7:18 p.m.
2. Director’s Roll Call
   Present (9): 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), Rolin Moe (Parliamentarian), Renae Poanessa (Area C), Mike Stafford (Communications Officer)
   Absent (3): Will Nicholas (Secretary)
   Absent (4): Neil Saund (Area A), Gerry Crouse (Area E), Dan Moreno (Area F), Elizabeth Zamora (Vice President)
   Area H is still vacant.
   Recording Secretary (1): Edith Darling
3. Government Reports
   a. Council District 11 – Cecilia Castillo – Open House at Pacific Division from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on September 12. Public hearing for Area 33’s application for CUP beverage permit on August 24 at 11 a.m. Area 33 is located at 11822 South Teal Street
   b. Mayor’s Office - Joe Hari – Westside Area Director – Invitation to Town Hall meeting on September 12 at 6:30 p.m. at the Felicia Mahood Senior Center in the West L.A. Municipal Building. Please bring food and drink, if you’d like to share.
      Ms. DeStefano confirms that e-version will be sent to DRNC and that it’s okay to bring literature about DRNC to event. Would like to have small group meeting with each member of the neighborhood councils. Will do this in sessions of small groups.
      Re policy and funding for neighborhood councils, Hari would like to meet with the following members of the Neighborhood Council:
         1. Treasurer
         2. Chair
         3. Council member interested in days of service
         4. Council member interested in community outreach
         5. Council interested in the budget advocate process.
   c. Other Dignitaries
      Armando R. Hogan – Battalion Chief – Request for feedback from community for fire department. Please contact him at 213-485-6274 or at Armando.hogan@lacity.org. Station is located on Emerson.
4. Public Comment
   a. Carole Feuer – Marina Peninsula – Concern about level of noise and hours of construction on 500 unit complex on Villa Marina. Noise has been deafening the last couple of days. Started around 8 a.m. each day, day before yesterday earlier than 8 a.m.
   b. Gerard Duiker – Casa de Marina Homeowner’s Associations – Announcement about redistricting. New state maps do not match up with the Del Rey area. We’re split in the state assembly and the congressional district. Some commercial areas appear to be excluded. Last day for public comment is tomorrow.
5. Summary of Previous Meeting Minutes
Chair refers everyone to new website delreync.org. Click on “Documents,” not “Minutes” to access the minutes of previous board meetings.

M/S/P (DeSobe/Flater) “Motion to approve the minutes of DRNC Governing Board meeting on July 14, 2011.”

AYES (9): DeSobe, DeStefano, Fernandez, Flater, Geller, Moe, Poanessa, Stafford
NAYS:
ABSTAINING (1): Kielty
Motion carries 9-0 with 1 abstention.

6. Old Business –
   a. Motion to approve Michael Rudo, DRNC stakeholder, to serve on WRAC’s Land Use Committee (submitted by Eric DeSobe)
      Mr. Rudo is not present at meeting.
   b. M/S/P (DeSobe/Fernandez) “Motion to move item 6 b. off the table and open as new business.”
      Motion carries unanimously.
      (DeSobe/Fernandez) “Motion to remove Neil Saund, Area A Director, for excessive absences”
      Point of Clarification –
      DeSobe - Mr. Saund has multiple absences from meetings. Attempts to reach him via e-mail, phone, and certified letter all failed.
      Geller – Are new bylaws in process of being accepted?
      DeSobe – Not yet approved. According to DONE office and City Attorney Office, the unusual circumstances allow us to move forward with the motion.
      Mr. Stafford proposes friendly amendment that he is removed “for excessive absences, Art. 5, Sect. 7 of bylaws.” Flater seconds friendly amendment.
      Point of Clarification
      Moe – Why is that verbiage necessary?
      Stafford – Would like to specify the bylaw citing that, “if a member is absent for three meetings in a row or 5 times during 12 consecutive months, they are automatically removed from the board.”
      DeSobe – Because the bylaws have been turned in and they are dealing with unusual circumstances, the DRNC can move forward with motion.
      Speaking Against Motion as Amended
      Moe - Since new bylaws are not accepted, it doesn’t feel right to cite them.
      Chair calls question on amendment.
      AYES (6): DeSobe, DeStefano, Fernandez, Geller, Poanessa, Stafford
      NAYS (3): Flater, Kielty, Moe
      ABSTAINING (0):
      Amendment passes 6-3 with 0 abstentions.

      AYES (8): DeSobe, DeStefano, Fernandez, Flater, Geller, Kielty, Moe, Poanessa, Stafford
      NAYS (0):
      ABSTAINING (1): Geller
      Motion carries 8-0 with 1 abstention.

7. Ex Parte Disclosure
   b. Poanessa - Also talking to Ms. Walker
   c. Kielty – Sent e-mails to Hector Banualoes about irrigation work on Culver Bike Path
d. **DeSobe** – talked to Mr. Duiker and to Greg Good coordinating procedures and presentations.

8. **New Business**

**M/S/P (DeSobe/Moe)** “Move to suspend the rules and move item 8 d to 8 a. Motion carries unanimously.”

a. **M/S/P (DeSobe/Poanessa)** “Motion to appoint Frank Sanford as Area H Director (sent from Ad Hoc Committee, submitted by Eric DeSobe)

Frank Sanford introduces himself to the Board. Landlord, realtor, worked in Del Rey for 2.5 years. Went to Land Use & Planning Committee Meeting. Attended Del Rey Homeowners Association. Area 33 Nightclub was the topic. Been in the states for 25 years. Been in real estate business for 12 years. Speaks some French and Spanish. Middle of the road politically. Would like to help out here.

Point of Clarification
DeStefano asks about areas of interest and his relationship to Area H. Geller asks if he can commit to attending monthly meetings.

**Speaking in Favor of Motion**

Fernandez – Good candidate.

Motion passes unanimously. Mr. Sanford is seated with the Board.

b. **M/S/P (Geller/Poanessa)**

“Motion to fund up to $250 to purchase 5 signs for Villa Marina Neighborhood Council to place on public property in Area B of Del Rey. (submitted by Deb Geller)

Lenore Ritnes – Lives in complex of 695 townhouses between 90 Freeway and Lot C. LADOT and Villa Marina Council (18 townhouse reps) have approved request to place Neighborhood Watch signs. They have already paid for the signs but are requesting help with reimbursement from DRNC.

Point of Clarification –
Flater – Who are we paying, and do they take credit card or demand warrant? It’s not possible to pay the Council directly; they need to pay the vendor directly.
Ritnes – The Villa Marina Council paid the vendor for the signs, but it’s possible that the DRNC could pay vendor directly for the installation of pole for one of the signs.
DeStefano – What will signs say?
Ritnes – Standard neighborhood watch signs.

**Speaking in Favor of Motion**

Kiety – Area is in Del Rey. In favor of Neighborhood Watch programs. Good use of funds.

Motion passes unanimously.

c. **M/S/P (DeSobe/Enrique)**

“Motion to recommend support for the new multifamily housing development at 4100 Del Rey (approved by Land Use and Planning Committee, submitted by Dan Moreno)

Presentation by Kristin Lawner, Jonathan Neumann, on proposed multifamily housing development, the office site of TriCal Construction. Office will remain on front of lot; housing will be in rear. 77 market-rate units for rent. Highly amenitized community highlighted by plush landscaping and resort style spa amenities Project retains jobs and creates more.
Additional 62 spaces available for rental to nearby businesses. 196 spaces required. 
Set back 160 ft from property line to reduce impact. 
Adjustment for separation between buildings. They should be 20 ft. apart from each other unless we attach them. 
Making the following requests in application: 
1. CUP for wireless communications structure – Goal is to remove three nearby unsightly cellular towers in the area and relocate them to a 73-ft. high structure. 15 by 15 ft. 
2. Request for exception to rule on required distance between buildings. 
3. 8 ft. above height requirement in part of the rooftop. Height limit of livable area is 55 ft., lower than many projects in the area. 
4. Specific plan adjustment for setback of side yards. 
5. Site plan review and specific plan project permit compliance

Points of Clarification
Stafford — Sewers in good condition?
Lawner - Yes.
Kielty – Are you doing an EIR?
Lawner - city has not required EIR. They have submitted Mitigated Negative Declaration.
Poanessa – affordable housing?
Lawner - None. Market rate.
DeStefano – Level of water usage and environmental effect of landscaping.
Neumann – they do more hardscape landscaping with drought-resistant plants. Plan is in mitigated negative declaration.
DeStefano – Addressing shadows that it will make on neighboring community?
Lawner – a narrow 15’ x 15’ structure does not create too much shade shadow.
DeStefano – How many jobs created?
J. Lawner – For 2 years, 50 construction jobs. Will add some staff of approximately 15 employees.
Neumann – the extra height allows for additional parking that will support businesses with excessive parking demand.
Geller – How many total bedrooms?
J. Lawner - about 210 people
Geller – What is market for rentals in the area?
Lawner - Still demand for rental units.
J. Lawner – average occupancy in DR area is 98%.
Poanessa – traffic impact?
Lawner - Study done showed no impact on the traffic. Study was not required by the city.
Flater – long term plans for rental unit?
Lawner – No plans for tract map.

Speaking In Favor of Motion
DeSobe – Land Use & Planning Committee recommended unanimously, and their recommendation means a lot.
Moe – A recommendation is not binding. Project has passed all rules and laws. It’s not out position to expect developers to do anything more than the city expects.
DeStefano – Lincoln and Washington have public transport infrastructure. Smart planning could decrease car trips because residents would be close to amenities.
Applicants have met all requirements.
Stafford – CEQA process begins with initial study determining whether EIR is necessary. Not all projects require EIR.

Speaking Against Motion
Kielty – Concern about abuse of the mitigated negative declaration process in general, not for this project in specific. Would like a full EIR.

Geller – Can’t support something that will bring in more cars and more traffic. Property values have dropped; rental units could cause further decrease. Can’t support it without full EIR. Building is nicer looking that what is currently there.

Poanessa – Concern about traffic and movement of cars on one-lane road.

Chair calls question.

AYES (6): DeSobe, Flater, Kielty, Moe, Sanford, Stafford 
NAYS: 
ABSTAINING (4): DeStefano, Fernandez, Geller, Poanessa

Motion passes 6-0 with 4 abstentions

d. “Motion to recommend support of a feasibility study for an urban beekeeping program conducted by Honey Love, a 501 c 3 nonprofit conservation organization.”

(approved by Land Use & Planning Committee, submitted by Eric DeSobe)

Maritza Przekop – Mar Vista Community Council – beekeeping not allowed in residential districts. Component is outreach and to educate the community.

Chelsea McFarland – Distributes seed packets and presents information on film screening at Mar Vista Public Library,

Speaking in Support –
DeStefano – Nice antidote to having high impact developments. Nice to foster the illusion of nature.

Flater – it’s a study, it’s not setting up beekeeping in area.

Speaking Against Motion

Stafford – Introducing European honey bees into North America can threaten the native species.

Motion passes unanimously.

e. M/S/P (DeSobe/Fernandez) "Motion to recommend support of a resolution supporting the Don’t Waste LA Coalition and its policy proposal for a competitive, exclusive franchise in LA’s commercial and multifamily waste and recycling sectors." (approved by Land Use & Planning Committee, submitted by Eric DeSobe)

Chair – Approved unanimously at Land Use & PC.

Francisco Arzu of LAANE and Gopi Shah of NRDC:

Presentation on campaign to reform the way multifamily and commercial waste is managed. A diverse coalition of 30 organizations. Proposal to change to closed permit system dividing the city into 6-10 service zones. Companies would bid for exclusive contract for each zone, meeting conditions for streamlined routes and more recycling.

Current system contributes to the following city problems:

Congestion, pollution, and wear and tear on city streets.

Communities with high rental density are more affected by the waste system.

Unfair and inconsistent rates.

No accountability to communities.

Impacted communities bear the brunt.

Questions from the Board

Flater – Where are landfills?

Arzu - It’s on the eastern side of LA, the big one, and others are in Sun Valley

DeStefano – City revenue increase?

Arzu - City would collect franchise fee, more than the 10 percent of gross revenues from self-reported

Poanessa – Will homeowners pay higher taxes for program?
Arzu - Fees would go to businesses, not residents.

**Points of Clarification**

Geller – Have the existing trash companies been allowed to comment, and are they in support or opposed?

Arzu – We have invited them. In the past, only stakeholders have been allowed. Some are providing feedback.

Sanford – Are there businesses in the coalition?

Arzu - SustainLA is one. Can provide complete list with other businesses.

Sanford - How do you address the issue of corruption? This will increase the cost of trash services for landlords. Will the city allow landlords to pass on the increased costs?

Arzu - City will have to decide on this.

Fernandez – How many independent companies?

Arzu - 4 companies have 89% of the market. 14 companies have 9 percent.

Flater – Where are you in terms of lobbying to the city?


Geller – With 6 – 10 districts, there would be more infrastructure costs to manage and there would be net job losses because fewer companies would be able to survive.

Arzu – Companies are already consolidating without this change. There could be requirements to subcontract their work to smaller companies or that the fired employees from companies without contract would have to be hired by the company that gets contract. Responsibility of the city is not to the businesses that might lose out, but to all the citizens of LA.

**Speaking In Favor of Motion**

Stafford – Will shorten routes of all the trash trucks. Beneficial to roadway system and air pollution problems.

Flater – Environmental benefit. Net equal in jobs. New opportunities for recycling. Think about environmental impact on some communities, the city in broader terms.

**Speaking Against Motion**

Geller – not seen enough analysis and detail to see that it would be beneficial for the city in practice.

AYES: DeSobe, DeStefano, Flater, Kielty, Poanessa, Stafford

NAYS: Geller, Sanford,

ABSTAINING: Fernandez, Moe

Motion carries 6-2 with 2 abstentions.

**f. M/S/P (DeSobe/Poanessa) Motion to approve up to $250 for Congress of Neighborhood Councils (submitted by Eric DeSobe)**

Meeting is on Sept. 24 at City Hall. Provides a list of the allocations provided by each neighborhood council helping to fund the congress.

**Friendly amendment by Brett Flater to eliminate “up to” from language of motion. DeStefano seconds.**

Amendment passes unanimously.

Moe – Because the amendment was close to the original, the vote could stand.

Geller opposes doing that.

**Speaking For Motion**

Flater - Great event put on by volunteers and to increase outreach

Stafford – CONC is good and important event.

**Speaking Against Motion**
Geller – Doesn’t think that the neighborhood councils should pay.

Point of Clarification

Moe – Have any other NC’s not provided funding for the event?

Flater – 19 neighborhood councils have approved donation to event. Donations varied between $100 and $500.

**Geller proposes amendment to allocate $100 to NC’s. Fernandez seconds.**

Point of Clarification

Moe – Why?

Geller – Our budget should be saved after the cuts and sweeps in recent past.

AYES (2): Fernandez, Geller

NAYS (8): DeSobe, DeStefano, Flater, Kielty, Moe, Poanessa, Sanford, Stafford

ABSTAINING (0):

Amendment fails 2-8 with 0 abstentions.

Speaking Against Motion

Moe – Not well presented. We would require more detail and back-up documents from a group requesting funds

Speaking For Motion

Flater – The information is available. It is 9:06, so we’re moving more quickly.

Chair calls the question

AYES (9): DeSobe, DeStefano, Fernandez, Flater, Kielty, Moe, Poanessa, Sanford, Stafford

NAYS (1): Geller

ABSTAINING (0):

Motion carries 9-1 with 0 abstentions.

9. Officer and Director Reports


M/S/P “Move to approve.” (DeSobe/Kielty) Motion approves unanimously.

b. President’s Report – Thanks to everyone and encourages more outreach for Constant Contact e-mail service. September meeting will be 2nd

c. Remaining Officer’s and Director’s Report

1. Fernandez - Why wasn’t DRNC included in National Night Out at Marvin Gardens?


3. DeStefano – Did ethics training.

4. Moe – Good work with parliamentary procedure

5. Flater – Rash of graffiti, particularly in the apartment building where he lives.

6. Sanford – Representatives from Area 33 invited everyone to come to the club at 2 p.m.

10. Committee Reports

a. Land Use and Planning –

b. Outreach –

c. Community services – Thursday, August 18, Mar Vista Gardens Community Center

d. Education – Chair is currently overseeing. On hold until August or September, Flater – Are there ad hoc committees?

DeSobe – One is for finding a new rep for Area A. Ad hoc committees will be sent to Executive Committee.

11. Next meeting will be at September 8, 2011

M/S/P (Fernandez/DeStefano) “Motion to adjourn.”

Meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m.