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MCWCC Board Meeting of 3/10/09

MINUTES

Submitted by Sonia Rubin, Administrative Manager
Subject to approval by the Board on 4/14/09

- 1. Call to Order:** First Vice-Chair Jeffrey Jacobberger called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm. Sonia Rubin did a roll call and of the 45 members, 24 were present (attendance sheet on file). More Board members walked in late.
- 2. Opening Remarks from Chair:** Jeffrey Jacobberger announced that the MCW business cards were in and those Board members who ordered them could pick them up in the box at the front of the room. He also handed out Volunteer Recognition Certificates that have been in the office since 2007.
- 3. Approval of Minutes:** There was a motion to approve the January 13, 2009 minutes. Nina Diamante-Vera mentioned that she spoke extensively about her opposition to the Caruso project and that her specific objections were not mentioned in the minutes. The Treasurer also mentioned that he presented the "financial statements" not the "budget" as stated in the minutes. A comment was made that the minutes are not supposed to reflect everyone's exact statements, but rather the gist of what happens at each meeting. With that, a motion was brought and seconded and the minutes passed without opposition.
- 4. Public Comment Period:**
 - Lucille Saunders of the Melrose Neighborhood Association made a few announcements regarding the election newsletter presenting the candidates and that MBA would like MCWCC to help them in opposing the La Brea Gateway project. Whoever is interested can contact MBA for information.
- 5. Announcements from City Representatives:**
 - Diana Darrin introduced Officer Perry Jones, Sr. Lead Officer and Officer Jones distributed a Wilshire Area Map with the phone numbers of all the Senior Lead Officers for each area. He announced that he could be reached on his cell phone for any questions or assistance.
 - Naheed Qureshi of DONE announced that the City Clerk has decided to tweak the election process. These changes will affect NC bylaws. She will keep us posted. She also announced the upcoming Board Orientation on 3/30/09, for which Sonia forwarded her e-mail to the MCWCC Board. This is a good training for all Board members.
- 6. Financial Report from Treasurer:** David Strouse presented the financial statements (on file) and mentioned that MCW is considerably ahead of budget. He pointed out the \$49,214.06 in cash. A motion was brought and seconded and the financial report was accepted with no opposition.
- 7. Election of Vacant Board Seats:** There were three vacant Board seats left open by Teresa Magula (Zone 4 Rep and 2nd Vice-Chair), Jessica Kirchner (At-Large Rep), Merrill Whately

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(Renters Rep). There were three candidates interested in filling these vacant seats: Bob Abrahams, Tamar Andrews (previous Board member), and Keith Nakata. None of the three lives in Zone 4, so that seat could not be filled. Each of the three candidates made a brief presentation about themselves and their qualifications. Tamar Andrew stepped aside to let the other two candidates take the positions. As a result, no vote needed to be taken and Bob Abrahams was seated as At-Large rep and Keith Nakata as Renters rep, by acclamation. With regard to the position of 2nd Vice-Chair, both Charles Lindenblatt and Bruce McCormick were interested. They both spoke a bit about their qualifications and a vote was taken. Bruce McCormick won the 2nd Vice-Chair position.

Committee Reports and Motions

8. **Arts and Recreation Committee:** Chair Rebecca Ver-Straten McSparan announced that they had a lovely event last month for Board members, Gallery owners and community business leaders at the Viridian Apartments. Thanks to all who attended. The next Art Walk is scheduled for Saturday 3/21/09 featuring galleries on La Brea and Beverly Blvd. Information is available on line, as fliers had not yet been created. She encouraged all Board members to attend as representative of the community and asked for everyone to help spread the word by sending the fliers to all of their e-mail lists and to distribute them at events and meetings. Several Board members complimented Rebecca on all of her great work.

9. **Land Use Committee:**

a. Palm Terrace Motion: Chair, Brad Seiling, introduced the motion, which passed in LUC, with conditions. There was lots of concern about the parking, and LUC made a condition that applicant could only operate business on the nights where they have use of the NCJW parking lot, for which they have entered into a lease. Lee Rabin, spoke on behalf of the applicant and mentioned that the applicant also has agreements with Cochran Produce and the coffee place for parking spaces. The Chair brought the motion, which was seconded and passed with a vote of 28 in favor, 2 opposed and 2 abstentions.

b. Beverly Connection Motion: Chair, Brad Seiling, introduced the motion, which passed unanimously in LUC. The project is essentially a remodel of an existing 2 story retail center to try to unify the look of the site. There was a question and answer period and some discussion of amending the motion to call for elongating the tree beds and adding low planting on LaCienega to make for a more pedestrian friendly walkway. The suggested amendment was not approved (5 in favor, 22 opposed, 3 abstentions). The motion as presented passed with a vote of 25 in favor, 0 opposed and 2 abstentions. Chair announced that the Whetherly Project would be the next Board agenda item, and requested that Board members attend the LUC meetings to hash out all questions and concerns prior to the vote.

10. **Public Policy Committee:**

a. Participation in the NC Foreclosure Action Network: Chair, Ken Draper, introduced the motion, as a way for NCs to provide foreclosure guidance/support in a collaborative effort with the city, by disseminating information to those in need. There was a brief Q&A period, and the motion passed with a vote of 30 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 abstention.

b. NC/LADOT Memorandum of Understanding: Chair, Ken Draper, introduced this motion which would have MCWCC participate in the creation of a MOU with the LADOT by appointing an NC/LADOT Liaison to represent MCW in the negotiations. The motion was brought and seconded and passed unanimously. Jeffrey Jacobberger volunteered to be the liaison.

11. **Public Safety Committee:**

a. Public Safety Walk: Co-Chair, Paul Lerner announced the first Public Safety Walk on Sunday 3/22/09 and encouraged participation. The committee anticipates organizing other walks and encouraged the Board to suggest other neighborhoods.

b. Medical Marijuana Clinics: Paul Lerner discussed the rapid increase in medical marijuana clinics and associated crimes in the MCW community. These clinics are being opened illegally

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and the city is doing nothing to enforce the moratorium. The Public Safety meeting on 3/24/09 will deal with this issue.

12. **Communications Committee:** Co-Chair, Ryan Bruyninckx gave a status of the new website which will be live on or before the next Board Meeting. New artwork will be finalized in the next week or two. The marketing e-mail list, which currently has about 100 names, had an open rate of about 75%. He encouraged the Board to forward any e-mail addresses or lists to add to our database. Mr. Bruyninckx informed the Board that the committee received final approval from the City for a Facebook page.

13. **Bylaws/Grievance Committee:**

a. Motion regarding Absences and Removal from Board: Chair, Charles Lindenblatt introduced the motion, which would specify the policy regarding absences, the duty to give notice of absences and the removal for absences, which had been passed by previous Boards in 2004 and 2005, but never followed up on. There were a few comments and questions and the motion passed with a vote of 27 in favor and 1 abstention.

b. Motion regarding Initial Post-Certification Election of Board of Directors: The goals of this amendment are to remove an obsolete section of the bylaws and to more accurately reflect the election process as it currently exists. However, due to Naheed Qureshi's previous announcement about the City Clerk's proposed changes to the election process, a motion to table this motion was passed with 2 abstentions and 1 opposition.

14. **Public Comment Period:** No public comments.

15. **Board Member Comments/Announcements:**

- Charles Lindenblatt announced that he attended the Mayor's Budget Day, spent three hours there only to find out that his name was not on the list as an MCW representative.
- Paul Lerner announced an LAPD Community Police Academy being held at Fairfax High School and passed out a flyer.
- Jeffrey Jacobberger announced that he is ?????

The meeting adjourned at 9:09 pm.