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## MCWCC Board Meeting of 03/11/08

### MINUTES

Submitted by Joyce Kleifield, Administrative Manager  
Subject to approval of the Board on 04/08/2008

1. **Call to Order/Introductions:** Secretary, Jeffrey Jacobberger called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m. Of thirty-eight members, twenty-eight were present.
2. **Opening Remarks:** In the Chair's absence, there were no opening remarks.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** Yuval Kremer asked that item 8.d.i – regarding South Cloverdale – be amended to show that he opposed the motion, therefore one (1) person was opposed to the motion instead of zero (0). With no further changes, **the minutes of February 11, 2008 were approved as amended.**
4. **Public Comment Period:**
  - Lucille Saunders of the Melrose Neighborhood Association spoke about the Industrial Land Use Issue along La Brea Avenue. It was agreed that this would be agendaized at Land Use.
  - Stakeholder, Chris Denson introduced himself and stated he was interested in running as a candidate in the next election.
5. **Financial Report:** Treasurer, David Strouse provided the current financial report (on file) stating there were a couple of corrections: The motions passed the previous month approving \$500.00 for the Education Committee and \$900.00 for the Website were not reflected. The total for "Other Special Projects" would be reduced from \$14,250.00 to \$12,850.00 after adding those budget items. There were also some minor expenses not indicated under the Art Walk. That total should change from \$3,278.47 to \$3,826.02.
6. **Announcement from City Representatives:** No representatives were present at this time.
7. **Committee Reports/Motions:**
  - a. **Arts & Recreation:** The committee announced that the monthly Art Walk would take place Saturday, March 15, host gallery will be Jack Rutberg with food provided by Tasca. Don Battjes presented the following motion which was seconded by Rickie Avrutin:

To request \$2,500 in funding from the FY07-08 MCWCC Special Projects Budget for support of the Miracle Mile Art Walk in March, April and June 2008.

It was explained that funds were not being requested for May because they will be doing a joint venture event with LACMA who will provide the funding that month. Further discussion took place with detailed explanations about how the funds were being spent. The vote resulted in twenty-five (25) in favor of the motion; zero (0) opposed and two (2) abstaining.

b. Education Committee: Vice Chair, Pierson Blaetz reported on the March 5<sup>th</sup> outreach event at Hancock Park Elementary School which was very successful with sixty (60) or so people in attendance. Rickie Avrutin asked the committee to provide a written synopsis of the meeting, especially explaining the Smaller Learning Communities, for the board.

***AT THIS POINT IN THE AGENDA, DUE TO THE NUMBER OF STAKEHOLDERS PRESENT, THE BOARD AGREED TO MOVE RIGHT TO THE LAND USE ISSUES.***

e. Land Use Committee: Chair, Brad Seiling made two announcements for upcoming issues: 1) A Public Scoping Meeting for major additions at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center will be held on Thursday, March 27, 2008 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm in the Harvey Morse Conference Center. 2) The Ross/Casden matter will be presented at the March 26<sup>th</sup> Land Use Committee meeting, 6:30 pm at NCJW.

i. Chair, Brad Seiling introduced owner, John Shook – owner of Animal - and his representative, Manny Diaz who presented background to the following motion:

**Subject to a one-year Plan Review, Mid City West supports the application Conditional Use Permit to allow the sale and dispensing of beer and wine only for on-site consumption only in conjunction with an existing 42 seat restaurant and 7 seat patio with hours of operation Sunday thru Wednesday 5pm-12am and Thursday thru Saturday 5pm-2am.**

Brad Seiling moved to support the motion, Steve Kramer provided a second. Yuval Kremer **moved to amend the motion to prohibit the sale of alcohol on the patio.** Babette Dickerson provided a second. After discussion the amendment was voted on with twenty-two (22) opposed; three (3) in favor and four (4) abstaining. The amendment failed.

The original motion was discussed further with the vote resulting in twenty-one (21) in favor; five (5) opposed and two (2) abstaining. The motion to support passed.

ii. Brad Seiling introduced Sherry Olson, representing Chipotle, for the following motion:

**Mid City West supports the application for Plan Approval Conditions Compliance.**

Ms. Olson presented information and asked if Board members had any questions. The vote was twenty-six (26) in favor; zero (opposed); two (2) abstaining with Julie Kleinick recusing herself from voting.

iii. Brad Seiling provided a summary of the following motion and introduced the applicant, Mike Butler and his representative Steve Jamieson who presented background information and signed petitions in favor of their application.

The Land Use Committee motion regarding El Guapo Cantina and Sports Bar:

**Mid City West opposes the application to (1) extend hours of operation from 9:00 a.m. through 2:00 a.m Monday through Sunday; (2) permit 20 bar stools at the bar; (3) remove the condition that a state licensed and uniformed security guard provide security for the premises; and (4) permit 2 dancers on the premises. Mid City West supports the application to permit drink specials.**

Public comment was then allowed. Nine people spoke in support of El Guapo's application and against the motion and nine people spoke in support of the motion, against El Guapo's application. During board discussion Mitch Singer **moved to amend the motion to allow hours of operation from 9:00 am, but not until 2:00 am and to state that MCW does not support the application to permit drink specials.** Yuval Kremer seconded. The amendment passed with twenty (20) in favor; six (6) opposed and two (2) abstaining.

The motion, as amended, was then voted on with nineteen (19) voting in favor; five (5) opposed and four (4) abstaining. The amended motion passed.

As the crowd that had come for the Land Use issues began to leave, the Chair **moved for a quorum call in order to continue the business of the council.** This was seconded and roll call was taken. Twenty-six (26) board members were present. As twenty were needed for a quorum, business continued with the agenda items.

c. Bylaws Committee:

i. Committee Chair, Rickie Avrutin presented the Committee's motion to revise Bylaw Article V, Section 3, MEMBERSHIP ON BOARD OF DIRECTORS. Director terms are currently two year terms. To maintain continuity on the Board, roughly half of seats were up for election each year. Beginning mid 2008, the City Clerk will administer all NC elections. Annual elections will no longer be permissible. Instead, they will be conducted every two years. By extending Director terms to 4 years, and retaining the staggered election feature, this amendment will bring MCW Bylaws into alignment with City Clerk rules.

The motion proposed **deleting** the current Bylaw, which states:

**3. "MEMBERSHIP ON BOARD OF DIRECTORS. Terms for membership on the Board of Directors will be two years. Terms will be staggered, with twenty-three Board members elected on even-numbered years and twenty-two Board members elected on odd-numbered years. There shall be no limits on the time Individuals may serve as board members other than those established by the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment or any agency mandated by the City Charter."**

The motion proposed **replacing** the above existing language with the following:

**3. "MEMBERSHIP ON BOARD OF DIRECTORS. Beginning with the mid-2008 Board election, regular Board elections shall be conducted every two years. At the mid-2008 Board election, Stakeholders shall elect Directors only for Board seats expiring in mid-2008 or that are otherwise vacant. Beginning with the mid-2008 Board election, Directors' terms shall be four years. To maintain Board continuity, terms for Directors elected at the mid-2007 regular election shall be extended from 2009 to 2010. Other provisions of these Bylaws relating to removal and/or replacement of Board members prior to the end of the member's term shall remain in effect.**

**CORRECTIONS to motion to adopt 4-year staggered Director terms:**

- 1. The correct heading of Article V, Section III is "Terms of Membership on Board of Directors".**
- 2. Delete first sentence of replacement Bylaw regarding election frequency, as election frequency is addressed elsewhere, specifically at Article V, Section 1.**
- 3. Delete from Article V, Section 1: "Stakeholders shall elect representatives to the Board at a duly noticed public meeting held annually."**

Replace with: "Election of Directors shall take place every two years."

4. Delete "annual" from Article V, Section 14 referring to next general election.

5. Correct any other Bylaws references to annual election, or any other Bylaws inconsistent with proposed Bylaw amendment.

Julie Kleinick so moved and it was seconded. During discussion in which two or four year terms were debated, Jeff Jacobberger moved to amend the motion to read:

**"TERMS OF MEMBERSHIP ON BOARD OF DIRECTORS. Beginning with the mid-2008 Board election, regular Board elections shall be conducted every two years. At the mid-2008 Board election, Stakeholders shall elect Directors only for Board seats expiring in mid-2008 or that are otherwise vacant. Terms for membership on the Board of Directors will be two years. To maintain Board continuity, terms for Directors elected at the mid-2007 regular election shall be extended from 2009 to 2010. Other provisions of these Bylaws relating to removal and/or replacement of Board members prior to the end of the member's term shall remain in effect.**

Mr. Jacobberger's motion to amend was seconded by Brad Seiling. Discussion on the amendment ended with over two-thirds of the board voting to close debate. Vote on the amendment was thirteen (13) in favor; seven (7) opposed and three (3) abstaining. Amendment passed.

The motion, as amended, was then voted on with thirteen (13) voting in favor; nine (9) opposed and two (2) abstaining. The amended motion passed.

ii. The Bylaws motion to correct typographical errors was tabled.

**AT THIS POINT IN THE AGENDA, SANDRA MENDOZA FROM THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE GAVE A PRESENTATION REGARDING THE NEW ELECTION PROCESS.**

Handouts were given to the board and Ms. Mendoza highlighted the following:

- The City Clerk will fully staff all Neighborhood Council Elections
- Neighborhood Councils should focus on outreach
- Bylaw amendment deadlines are March 15<sup>th</sup>
- June 16 – 22 is the week chosen for elections for the Central Region. There will be a meeting on Wednesday, March 26<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 pm, a representative from each of the seven NCs in the region will vote to choose the specific day.
- One polling location needs to be decided on, a minimum of six hours, no later than 8:00.
- Election "kick-off" will probably be the first week of April

d. Election Committee:

i. Jeff Jacobberger moved to nominate **Charles Lindenblatt to represent the Board at the March 26<sup>th</sup> Regional meeting.** Second by David Strouse. Accepted by acclamation.

ii. The motion to change the Stakeholder definition was not needed as Ms. Mendoza stated the city definition would be incorporated no matter what.

iii. It was **moved and seconded for Mr. Lindenblatt to vote on any day of the week for election day except Friday evening; Saturday or Sunday at the March 26<sup>th</sup> Regional meeting.** The motion passed unanimously.

iv. It was **moved and seconded to choose the Farmers Market as the election location.** This also passed unanimously.

f. Transportation, Parking, Streetscape Committee:

i. Jeff Jacobberger explained the street furniture program and presented the following motion:

**The Mid City West Community Council (MCWCC) does not object to the proposed locations for street furniture under the CBS/Dencaux contract within Council District Five, as identified on Exhibits A (bus shelters), B (public amenity kiosks) & C (pillars).**

**Some of the proposed locations for bus shelters and kiosks are near religious or educational institutions, particularly those affiliated with the Orthodox Jewish community. At the sensitive locations specified on Exhibits A & B, MCWCC accepts installation of [non-revenue generating bus shelters, and only if that is not possible, revenue-generating] bus shelters and public amenity kiosks only after appropriate safeguards, acceptable to the Orthodox community, are developed and put in place regarding the content of advertising at these locations. These concerns relate primarily, but not exclusively, to use of sexual imagery in advertising.**

**MCWCC requests that CBS/Dencaux install and maintain trash cans at all kiosks where there is adequate street clearance, including all 2-sided kiosks.**

During discussion it was noted that there will be further opportunities to oppose proposed locations. Wayne Sachs asked that the mover accept the following friendly amendment added to the last sentence in the second paragraph – **“and the use of images that tend to exploit, degrade or objectify women.”** The amendment was accepted. Joel Rosansky asked that some of the background information be corrected and that the fourth paragraph under **BUS SHELTERS** be changed to read: *MCW board member Joel Rosansky and MCW First Vice-President Wayne Sachs presented the committee with concerns of the Orthodox community regarding bus shelters and PAKs near Orthodox institutions, primarily along La Brea and portions of Beverly. In principal they are not opposed to bus shelters for use by transit riders, but they expressed a desire not to have any bus shelters or kiosks with advertising at these locations. The existing contract prohibits alcohol and tobacco advertising within 1000 feet of schools or religious institutions. However, Wayne Sachs stated that the opposition is not only to particular types of products, but also to the content of other ads, primarily sexual imagery.*

Further discussion resulted in Yuval Kremer **moving to amend the motion to state that we wanted bus shelters that were non-revenue generating only, without advertising.** Teresa Feldman seconded. Discussion was ended when Zachary Shepard called the question and over two thirds of the board agreed to end debate. A vote was taken on Mr. Kremer’s motion with nine (9) voting in favor; ten (10) opposed and three (3) abstaining. The amendment did not pass.

The original motion, with the friendly amendment provided by Mr. Sachs, was then voted on with twenty (20) voting in favor; one (1) opposed and no abstentions.

ii. Jeff Jacobberger asked the board to support the following motion:

**The Mid City West Community Council (MCWCC) supports The Land of the Free, LP’s Adopt-a-Median application for the center traffic median on South San Vicente Boulevard between 6th Street and Wilshire Boulevard.**

The board voted unanimously to support.

g. Executive Committee: Pierson Blaetz explained the motion being brought by the Chair on behalf of the Education Committee to approve a letter to Superintendent Brewer opposing the possible placement of an outside Charter School on the Fairfax High School campus. Brief discussion took place and the board authorized a letter to be sent, with somewhat different wording than the sample, with the vote being sixteen (16) in favor; zero (0) opposed and three (3) abstaining.

9. **Public Comment Period:** No public comment at this time.

10. **Board Member Comments:**

- Tamar Andrews announced the members of the community were opening a charter middle school – New Los Angeles Charter School - and wanted the council to know about it and would appreciate their support.

**Meeting adjourned at 11:15 pm.**