



SANTA MONICA CANYON CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Board Minutes

March 16, 2010

Attending: Andrew Bergman, Lisa Bittan, Bob Bronstein, Mike Deasy, Judy Golden, Leslie Hope, Isabelle Mizrahi, Sanford Panitch, Steve Richards, Anne Marie Veschio, George Wolfberg,

Excused: Jennifer Barker, Norman Cowie, Quentin Fleming, Dawn Forrester, Joan Graves, Marilyn Wexler, Cynthia Winter

Guests: Stuart Muller, Sam Rubin, Kurt Toppel, Phil Deaver, Tamara Edwards, Holly Sloan, Wes Hough, Jackie Koci (Recreation and Parks), Jessyca Avalos (CD 11), Niko Vitacco.

Meeting was called to order at 7:09 pm by George Wolfberg, President.

Introductions:

Minutes February 16 2010.

Upon motion of Andrew Bergman, seconded by Judy Golden, the minutes from February 16 were approved.

Treasurer's report: (02/28/10)

Savings \$ 7,842.33

Checking 6,608.70

Certificate 11,439.18

Total \$25,890.21

Membership: So far for 2010 there are 237 paid/voting members.

Palisades P.R.I.D.E. Study of Identification Signs for the Palisades. Sam Rubin represented P.R.I.D.E. along with Kurt Toppel. Stuart Muller, Pacific Palisades Community Council, is chairing the PPCC committee looking into the proposal. The P.R.I.D.E. board has not approved the initiative. The goal is to have welcoming signs at the various entrances to the Pacific Palisades. The board and

guests complemented Sam on the design of the signs. Although Santa Monica Canyon is designated as part of the Palisades in the City's Planning scheme and in the PPCC bylaws, several people indicated that they did not believe the canyon was "part of the Palisades." Mike Deasy stated that the canyon had a different history and sensibility from that of the Palisades. Holly Sloan of the BOCA Community Group stressed that her neighborhood was all in the Santa Monica ZIP and the community strongly believes a "Palisades" sign would be inappropriate. After further discussion, Bob Bronstein moved that the board signify its opposition to such signs in the canyon. Seconded by Isabelle Mizrahi and unanimously adopted.

Committee Reports:

- **Eucalyptus Grove.** In the absence of Chris Casady and Norman Cowie, George Wolfberg reported that a very successful "Weed Pull" was held at the grove. Randy Young and David Card helped fill the large dumpster with weeds. All weeds were removed and a second "Weed Pull" will take place in May. Andrea Epstein Rec and Parks volunteer coordinator and Assistant General Manager Kevin Regan attended. Mr. Regan has been very supportive of the project. Laura Baurenfeind will be reviewing the plans and then they will be sent to Cultural Affairs for sign-off followed by sign-off by the Board of Rec and Park Commissioners
- **Beautification.** Committee chair Bob Bronstein reported that the committee held a meeting and reviewed the preliminary list that Jill Baldauf presented at the January board meeting. The committee has decided to prepare one or two wish lists to benefit the park and will staff a table at the annual meeting to enlist financial support
- **Nominating.** Isabelle Mizrahi reported. She is continuing to contact people who have expressed interest in serving on the board. She moved that the board approve Niko Vitacco as a new board member, unanimously approved. Isabelle will continue the search.
- **Welcome Wagon.** Steve Richards continues to develop the package of Welcome Wagon materials for new residents. Jessyca Avalos mentioned that there is a list of contact numbers on the Councilman Rosendahl website.
- **Newsletter.** All board members reported receiving the newsletter.
- **Annual meeting on May 18.** The board unanimously approved inviting Police Chief Charlie Beck to be featured speaker at the annual meeting..

Old Business.

- **Prop. K Project.** Railings for the new stairways are on order. Bob Bronstein reported a swale at the new tennis court stairs. Jessyca will look into the status of landscaping that area and will schedule a meeting with project engineer Jaime Contreras in the near future. She asked Bob if he could send a digital photo of the area.
- **California Incline Project EIR Pending.** No update.

- **Bluffs project.** Project continues.
- **Neighborhood Character Study/Hillside Ordinance.** The Board voted unanimously to support the proposal and send a letter to Councilman Rosendahl.
- **Sidewalk at Entrada and Adelaide.** Homeowner opposes removal of the ivy. Issue of whether the corner is in Santa Monica or Los Angeles. Jessyca will follow up with LA City Engineer.
- **Facebook and Canyon communication.** Mike Deasy and Chris Casady will prepare a briefing for the board to view at a future meeting.
- **Palisades Post.** A commemorative issue of the Post is scheduled for June 24. Board members are supportive of SMCCA participation. Lisa Bittan and Marilyn are looking at options including a one-half or full page advertisement.

Other Business.

- Niko Vitacco reported on the first Sunday coffee at the Hideout. It was very successful with donated coffee from Peets. There was a positive write-up in the Post with a photo. Because of Easter Sunday, the next event will be the second instead of the first Sunday in April. Niko is working with Randy Young to put up photos of the Doc Law Saloon days and of Will Rogers.
- Anne Marie Veschio mentioned the landscaping obscuring the view of oncoming traffic for vehicles turning left at Mesa from West Channel Road to Entrada. Mike Deasy stated that the flax in the large median planter is hindering visibility of vehicles turning from the opposite direction. Jessyca will follow up.
- Sanford Panitch, Mike Deasy and Isabelle Mizrahi will meet to discuss the issue of possible annexation to Santa Monica. Sanford revealed that the Canyon School community is opposed to losing its connection with LAUSD and the Palisades Charter Cluster.
- Leslie Hope complained of commercial trainers using and blocking the sidewalk adjacent to the Amalfi Stairs. Jessyca will follow up.

Adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Next meeting April 20.