

Sycamore Square Neighborhood Association April Session Minutes

April 2, 2017

April 2, 2017 Board Meeting Minutes

The SSNA Board meeting was called to order by President Conrad Starr. A quorum was met with board members Steve Senigram, Charla Gardner and Mr. Starr in attendance.

Many neighbors attended, including but not limited to Myrna Dwyer, Robert Vetica, Giorgio Basso, Lucille Ceclarini, Don Kline, Dan Kegel, Joanna DeJarnett, Stan Genser, Sarah Cohen and Marcia.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

SSNA meeting minutes from July 21, 2016, October 2016, and November 2016 were approved 2 to 1. Approval of minutes from February 5, 2017, February 23, 2017, March 5, 2017 and March 20, 2017 were tabled. Ms. Gardner suggested sending the February 5th meeting minutes to Liz Fuller for her review and input, since she was a member of the board and present on that date.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A report was received from Treasurer Steve Senigram. He reports there is no change regarding the difficulty in opening an independent account for Sycamore Square and that the money is still sitting there. He has an appointment Thursday with a bank near the Farmers Market.

Agenda item 4, SSNA Committee Reports, was tabled for the next meeting.

Agenda item 5. 1., GWNC Reports, March Meeting. This report was made at the last SSNA meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Agenda item 5. 2. 1., Nomination for Community Service. Mr. Starr stated his desire to nominate Liz Fuller for the Community Service Award. This suggestion was supported by attendees at today's meeting. Mr. Starr will put something together for the nomination.

Agenda item 5. 2. 2., April Outreach Committee Meeting, Disaster Preparedness.

Mr. Starr would like to improve how we communicated Disaster Preparedness to our

constituents and questioned whether Sycamore Square Neighborhood Association has done anything in the past. The general consensus from longtime neighbors present at today's meeting was that nothing has been done.

Agenda item 5. 3. 1, 2, & 3, March LUC Meeting. Ms. Gardner (and Mr. Starr?) summarized discussions and actions taken at the LUC meeting. The need for guidelines for future meetings with developers and having drafts of typical agreement conditions our neighborhood should seek was expressed.

There was a general discussion about how SSNA Board deals with developers who come to board meetings to present their projects. Concern was expressed about the appearance of working on behalf of a developer. It was also felt that a couple important lessons were learned from our recent negotiations with developers. We've learned that drafting and approving motions and agreements with developers at the same meeting is not a good idea, and we've learned to get everything in writing. There is a willingness to devise different ways of discussing these projects. Concerns of time constraints at board meetings was expressed.

Agenda item 6.1 CD4 - Catherine Landers, Senior Deputy. Introduction from Catherine Landers who is taking the place of Nikki Ezhari. She works out of the Hollywood District Office. Ms. Landers brought a Road Surface Condition map, which can be accessed on the BSS.LACity.org website. Discussion included the PCI (Pavement Condition Index) and factors that influence street repaving such as utility work or sanitation. The list is revisited each year.

No new motions or actions were presented regarding the remaining Old Business agenda items.

Agenda item 7. 1.

NEW BUSINESS

850 S. La Brea Development. Eli Halayil represents the developer with the title of Manager. The project is a mixed use development at the corner of La Brea and 9th Street. The proposal is for 4 floors of residential units over the 1st floor of retail. The plan currently has 60 parking places. In exchange for dedicating 4 units as affordable housing, they are asking for a density bonus and a reduction of open space. No zoning variances are needed for this project. The developer is not asking for a set back variance. There is a possibility they will consider different facade materials than currently proposed.

Neighbors expressed concerns about the scale of the development, loss of privacy to the backyards of existing neighboring homes, loss of light, construction damage to our streets, additional parking congestion, the building design not fitting into the historical characteristics of Sycamore Square and the impact the development will have on quality of life for the current residents of surrounding homes.

ADJOURNMENT

Board member Steve Senigram left the meeting and a quorum was lost. The meeting adjourned at 2:20pm.

Minutes prepared by Charla Gardner