

Approved Minutes of the January 7th, 2018 Board Meeting of the Sycamore Square Neighborhood Association (SSNA) – Submitted 4 February 2018 as recorded by Conrad Starr, approved by the Board on March 8, 2018

SSNA Vice President Giorgio Bosso called the meeting to order at 9:09am.

Additional board members in attendance were Conrad Starr (temporarily in the role of secretary for the meeting), Steven Senigram, Joy Calisoff, and Daniel Brook. SSNA members also in attendance were Mary Monahan and Rachel Fridman. Guests in attendance were Ned Racine of Metro and Billy Parent of Skanska Traylor Shea Joint Venture (STS).

The board unanimously approved the November 5th, 2017 minutes as submitted. Mr. Brook agreed to draft the December 6th, 2017 minutes based his notes taken at that meeting, and to seek assistance from Mr. Starr as necessary.

SSNA Treasurer's Report: Mr. Senigram agreed to reach out to former board member, Sue Horwitz, for a replacement to an old check from Ms. Horwitz which was never cashed or deposited by SSNA.

SSNA Land Use Committee Report: the board agreed to postpone the land use discussion to later in the program.

SSNA Citrus Traffic Committee Report: Ms. Calisoff reported that LAPD Officer Manning mentioned that he submitted a request to the LA Department of Transportation (DOT) requesting a no left turn sign on eastbound Olympic at Citrus and that DOT is requesting additional info. Ms. Calisoff agreed to work the following week to fill out an application. She also reported that Officer Manning recommended that the more people who bring this issue to DOT's attention, the better.

SSNA Communication Committee Report: Mr. Starr asked that SSNA board members demonstrate their planned participation in board meetings by clicking "will attend" on the Nextdoor meeting announcement. All agreed to do this. Mr. Bosso mentioned a communications string on the Sycamore Square Facebook page that included threats of physical abuse. **Mr. Starr moved that the SSNA board block any individual from the Facebook group who makes overly aggressive and physical threats such as the individual cited by Mr. Bosso. The board approved the motion unanimously.**

SSNA Metro Center Opening Ad-Hoc Committee Report: Mr. Starr invited Mr. Racine and Mr. Parent to this January 6th, 2018 meeting to present their case for the extension of the term of the center opening from the original planned end date of December 2017 through February 2020. Questions were put to Metro regarding 1) original planned use as compared to actual use, 2) the reason for the request for an additional 26 months as opposed to a series of shorter term requests, 3) the safety of using the Center Opening contrary to the original planned procedure, specifically the backing in of trucks with flaggers at the Sycamore "exit" point instead of the "drive through" plan where vehicles would queue and enter at the Mansfield

“entrance” point and exit at Sycamore and 4) the reason no specific work plan had been provided for SSNA to consider whereby SSNA could weigh the implications of the semi-permanent center opening enclosure versus sporadic lane closures, with Mr. Starr citing recent periods of low to no activity within the enclosure.

During the discussion the following information was shared, as attributed below:

- Mr. Parent and Mr. Racine: the Center Opening is the access point, and what we’re debating is actually whether to maintain the permanent enclosure made of K-rails, chain link fencing, sound blankets, and signage, with coordinating road striping.

(Mr. Senigram briefly left the room from 9:34 to 9:36am; meanwhile a quorum was maintained)

- Mr. Racine confirmed that the Purple Line will be completed to the La Brea Station in 2023.
- Mr. Racine explained that nothing would remain above-ground within the perimeter of the current Center Opening enclosure after February 2020, and Mr. Parent added that work will continue underground.
- Mr. Parent said he would provide a rough work schedule to the SSNA board by the end of January, 2018, showing the frequency of work.
- Mr. Starr explained that the SSNA board would find it difficult to take a position supporting the continuation of the Center Opening enclosure unless we were able to weigh the alternatives based on specifics.
- When asked by Mr. Starr what would be required to reinstall the enclosure if it were to be removed, Mr. Parent said that reinstallation would require approximately 8 hours work, and that restriping by DOT would likely require a weekend closure.
- Mr. Brook asked if construction would be slowed down if the enclosure were removed, and the guests replied yes; however, when asked by Mr. Starr if the projected end date would be affected by the removal of the enclosure, Mr. Parent replied that it would not.
- Mr. Senigram asked whether the enclosure was going to remain regardless of our discussions, to which Mr. Racine responded that it was not a foregone conclusion, citing that Council District 4 had not yet provided its support.
- Mr. Parent and Mr. Racine offered the advantage of keeping the enclosure includes predictability for customers of businesses like Hancock Park Veterinary Clinic, where traffic patterns would remain predictable over the term of construction and that without the enclosure, traffic patterns would be regularly altered, with Sycamore Ave. would be closed more frequently than it is currently.
- The guests said that Business Interruptions Funds (BIF) are not being eliminated (or “sunsetted”), and that businesses currently receiving BIF would not be restricted from reapplying simply because they had previously received BIF in conjunction with this project, though BIF might be affected by the elimination of the enclosure.
- Mr. Senigram expressed that people have acclimated to the enclosure and that regular changes to traffic patterns could result in more gridlock, accidents and road rage.
- Mr. Racine said that the next steps involve installing a temporary floor and HDP; Mr. Parent added that STS has poured concrete 80 feet down, and that they are currently

taking steel reinforcements out via the opening, and building the lower levels and the walls, including temporary structures.

- The guests confirmed that the access points and support points for tunneling will remain the La Brea yards, and that tunneling will begin in Summer 2018. Mr. Parent said the dirt from tunneling will come out exclusively at the staging yards and not from the Center Opening
- Ms. Calisoff asked who monitors the environmental impact, to which Mr. Racine replied that they have a team of environmental officers and consultants, and that the Air Quality Management District (AQMD) forces them to monitor carbon.
- Ms. Calisoff cited constant exposure, pointing to local construction as another likely source.
- Mr. Starr asked why the original request of one year had now become a request for more than three years, to which Mr. Parent replied that the center opening was originally planned for station excavation, but since it's a "design-build" project, they are tasked with finding the most efficient and cost-effective way to build as they go. He said that when they looked at 2018 and 2019, they found the enclosure to provide the most effective way to complete the concrete work and tunneling, to build the station and complete the line.
- Mr. Starr said that the original plan for vehicles to enter at Mansfield and exit at Sycamore had not lasted more than 4-6 months. Mr. Parent conceded this point, agreeing that for the most recent 2 months or more they had used flaggers to bring vehicles in at the west end of the center opening, due in part to the crane they have in place at the west end.
- Mr. Starr asked for Metro and STS to provide an explanation of whether and when they will use the Center Opening in the "drive through" method previously described.
- Mr. Brook asked whether, if the enclosure were removed, it would provide for additional lanes of traffic or allow for a greater traffic flow, to which Mr. Parent responded that traffic would likely be restored during periods without temporary lane closures, but that he would need to confirm the number of lanes possible and other details later to SSNA.
- Mr. Parent said that without the enclosure, restriping would not be required for temporary lane closures
- Mr. Racine said that DOT has rigid requirements for tapering, such as the tapering at the east end of the opening, but that they would look into removing the chain link fence or other visual obstructions that serve little or no purpose on the east taper area.
- Mr. Racine said Metro will replace the existing banners soon. He mentioned that they had asked representatives of Coffee Been at the northeast corner of Orange Dr. and Wilshire whether they preferred banners, and that they replied that they prefer no banner so as to allow for drivers on eastbound Wilshire to see their business.

The conversation with Mr. Parent and Mr. Racine concluded with their departure at 10:15am.

Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council (GWNC) Board Meeting Report: Mr. Senigram reported that there was nothing to report of specific importance to Sycamore Square.

GWNC Transportation Committee Report: Mr. Starr reported that at the December 2017 meeting, the committee voted to support the designation of “Historic Pink’s Square” with pink crosswalks at the intersection of Melrose and La Brea, and that the committee voted to support a north-south crosswalk at Beverly and Orange or Mansfield.

GWNC Outreach Committee Report: Mr. Starr reported that he is organizing an earthquake preparedness event for March or April 2018 through the GWNC Outreach Committee, and that the committee is fully supportive and enthusiastic of the plan, and that approval will be sought from the GWNC board.

LAPD Community-Police Advisory Board (C-PAB) and Crime Report: Mr. Starr reported that the December C-PAB meeting was a potluck party and did not include any special content. Mr. Starr reported the following crimes (from crimemapping.com and LAPD Crime Maps) for the previous term in the 1/7/18 SSNA Board Agenda:

1. 12/8/17 23:00 - 5200 BLOCK WILSHIRE BL - THEFT FROM VEHICLE - GRAND
2. 12/21/17 19:15 - WILSHIRE BL & LA BREA AV - BURGLARY FROM VEHICLE
3. 12/25/17 1:50 - 5200 BLOCK WILSHIRE BL - SPOUSAL (cohab) ABUSE - AGGRAVATED ASSAULT
4. 12/30/17 18:45 - 800 BLOCK S LA BREA AV - BURGLARY FROM VEHICLE
5. 1/1/17 11:00 - 5000 BLOCK WILSHIRE BL - SHOPLIFTING - PETTY THEFT

Ms. Calisoff mentioned that her neighbors on Citrus told them of finding a seemingly homeless person in their back office while they were at home, who was rifling through their belongings, and that he left the property when asked to do so.

Unfinished Business:

As part of the monthly Land Use discussion, Mr. Bosso opened up the conversation around the R1 zones proposed for Sycamore Square. The board and other SSNA members engaged in a discussion around input received from members at recent meetings and hearings and by email. Discussion included the following points (attribution where available):

- The Board generally agreed that R1 and R2 scaling would not be realistic.

(Mr. Senigram was excused from 10:24am to 10:27am, and a quorum was maintained)

- Mr. Brook explained that there is a difference between the square footage of a lot versus of a structure
- Mr. Starr said that we cannot ask for different rules for Citrus and Orange based on previous comments by Julia Duncan from Councilmember Ryu’s office.
- Mr. Brook said that putting heavy restrictions on Orange Dr. would be undesirable.
- Mr. Bosso said that voting on one of the variable massing zones would be less restrictive.

- Ms. Calisoff said that massing should be architecturally appropriate, citing that for some properties on Citrus, particularly those in an English architectural style, front massing would be more appropriate than rear massing.
- Mr. Brook said that his position was to support reverting to the Baseline Mansionization Ordinance (BMO) rather than adopting one of the new R1 rules.
- Mr. Starr asked the board if they believed there were any conflict of interest concerns for board members who have a financial stake in the outcome. The general sentiment of the board was that since this is a neighborhood issue affecting so many constituents, it is appropriate for the board to take a vote on whether to recommend one outcome.
- Mr. Starr shared a tally of input received and recorded by stakeholders, which was, depending on how counted, approximately 6 in favor of R1R3-RG, 1 in favor of R1V3-RG, and 5 in favor of the BMO.
- Mr. Bosso moved that the SSNA Board write a letter of support for R1V3-RG, considering the input received by the SSNA Board by email and at meetings. The motion was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Bosso proceeded with the Land Use report with an update on the residential property being operated as a hostel at 855 S. Citrus. He reported that LA Department of Building and Safety (DBS) responded to his evidence of bunk beds throughout the home's interior with "anyone can decorate however they want." Mr. Bosso explained that in order to pursue criminal action, DBS needs to find a person who has reserved a room and stayed at the property, and who is willing to provide evidence and to testify.

Mr. Bosso said that he would send a letter on Monday, January 8th, copying Catherine Landers of CD4, the DBS inspector, LAPD Senior Lead Officer Dave Cordova, the District Attorney, and the Board.

Ms. Calisoff was excused from the meeting at 11:23am.

Streets and Sidewalks:

Mr. Brook agreed to provide updates on street and sidewalk repairs, repaving, and curb painting at the February 2018 meeting.

SSNA Nonprofit Effort:

Mr. Senigram reports no movement since previous meeting in efforts to plan the incorporation of SSNA as a nonprofit, but said we should leave this on the "old business" agenda for February's meeting.

The board agreed to postpone discussion of any remaining business.

There were no additional public or board comments.

The board agreed to schedule the next meeting for 10am on February 4th, 2018.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:31am