

SSNA Monthly Meeting 6/7/2018. Meeting called to order at 7:14.

Present: Conrad Starr, Giorgio Bosso, Steven Senigram, Daniel Brook

Guest: Stephan Alexander

Joshua Kirchmer – Joined the meeting at 8:20PM.

Announcement: Sarah Cohen tendered her resignation to Conrad and it was accepted.

Pending – Approval of minutes from March 8, 2018 meeting.

Pending - May 6th Minutes approved. 4 approved.

Giorgio – Contact Rob Fisher for neighborhood discretionary monies available for SS annual meeting. Regarding grants for neighborhood events.

Land Use Committee: Giorgio – Reported on renting a garage unit. Accessory Dwelling Units. Steve – is there a limit on short term rentals?

Giorgio – it hasn't been passed yet. There is a need for more rental units in Los Angeles.

Citrus Traffic: Giorgio noted multiple cars violating the traffic signs today.

Citrus Wilshire : Conrad suggested painting a keep clear section to facilitate pedestrians crossing the street. Conrad wants a "Keep Clear" four inch rectangle line marked in the intersection. Mr. Starr offered the following written report on recent communications to be added to the minutes:

Citrus Traffic:

On May 29, after meeting with Rob Fisher at the CD4 Hollywood Office, I stopped by the DOT office next door to see if I could meet Chris Rider, Bhuvan Bajaj, or another DOT employee I've corresponded with without having met in person. I was able to meet Mr. Bajaj, and I informed him that we had not received any recent updates from Mr. Rider regarding requested traffic mitigations and traffic study at the intersection of Wilshire and Citrus.

I also expressed frustration at the process whereby we, the stakeholders from the community, bring a safety concern to the attention of DOT, to which DOT representatives ask what changes/mitigations we propose. We make our suggestions to the DOT, even though we are likely not engineers and less likely traffic engineers, and DOT responds by telling us why each of our proposed mitigations is illegal, not supported by the city or traffic data, or unfeasible, etc. I suggested that it should fall on the DOT to hear our concerns and discuss with us what mitigations might be feasible, and what kind of documentation would be required, etc. In other words, DOT should work with us instead of appearing to be running interference. Mr. Bajaj said he heard my concern and the point was well taken.

We discussed the intersection further, and I used flyers on the desk to represent the intersection and showed him the various traffic patterns both legal and illegal. I mentioned having seen rectangular "keep clear" boxes painted at downtown intersections as a promising possibility.

On May 30, I received the following email from Mr. Rider:

"...Our sign crews are insanely backlogged right now, so the replacement of the no [left] turn sign is still pending with no current ETA.

and I apologize, my reminder sheet to observe the keep clear issues got misplaced, so I have not done it yet. I will put that in the correct spot and get out there soon."

On June 2, I spoke with a Brookside resident who suggested that it may be easier to get a left turn arrow installed on artery streets, thereby dis-incentivizing cut-through traffic on smaller, residential streets.

On June 6, Received this follow up from Chris Rider: "I have written an approval for the keep clear, Bhuvan is reviewing it. I noticed you mentioned the box around the Keep Clear. That is an option we have in our toolbox, but it is not a requirement. Often the Keep Clear can be installed faster without the box. Let me know if you are ok with the words Keep Clear without the box being drawn around them." then "I'm not sure why the jogged nature would cause confusion as the keep clear is only requested for the the eastbound approach. A completely different crew has to come in and hand-push the lines for the box, I believe last time we did this they waited on the word message until after the box was installed, that was on a priority project so the timing wasn't long. For this request I'm not sure what the difference would be, I am confident it would take longer for the box option."

Communications – Conrad appreciates everyone RSVPing for monthly meetings.

Community Meeting Reports:

Steve – reported that the votes on the new zoning laws were contentious from the Brookside community.

Outreach Committee: Conrad – nothing to report.

Unfinished Business:

Streets and Sidewalks – Board exploring neighborhood outreach on the LA City sidewalk repair program. Mr. Brook reported he's looking into establishing a partnership with Rob Fisher at CD4. It's a particularly long endeavor if the neighborhood wants concrete street repairs.

The board agreed that existing concrete streets ideally should be repaved in concrete. If streets are already asphalt, SSNA should push to be a pilot program for the cool asphalt coating.

Mr. Brook reported that there is very limited funding for concrete. Currently there's a small project in Hancock Park. The board should follow up after mid-June to see how that pilot program is going. Because of that neighborhood's HPOZ status, concrete has to be resurfaced as concrete, but Mr. Brook sees no reason why only HPOZ should have access to getting concrete. It was Mr Fisher who said that non-HPOZ neighborhoods should also be able to repave with concrete.

Sidewalk repair applications close at the end of June. Anyone with ADA status can potentially get priority treatment.

There was discussion of canvassing the neighborhood to get a sense of who might fall under the ADA, and to educate and help them with application. Mr. Brook proposed to each take a block or street to canvas, using the city flyers, and write name of the board member from that block. Mr Brook said he could flyer Orange Drive the next weekend. There was also discussion of reminding or informing property owners about the rebate program.

Mr. Bosso mentioned that he tried to help a resident on Citrus with an application but it "didn't go through."

Mr. Starr proposed to educate via social media and email, and canvas based on the worst sidewalk areas. He proposed an informal community meeting at Numero Uno, for example.

Mr. Starr offered to assess the neighborhood's sidewalks on his bicycle.

Mr. Brooks said we should look forward to more information by June 15.

He noted that 9th street is adjacent to a school and we might see faster results if we focus on that fact.

Mr. Brook noted the sidewalk funding deadline is June 30th.

Yard Sale: Mr. Starr reported that Rob Fisher told him and Mr. Brook at their May 29, 2018 meeting at CD4 offices that generally the city doesn't want to be hauling vendors into court with severe criminal penalties - prefer to kick down to citation fine without threat of jail. Mr. Brook had asked if the fines can go up, and Mr. Fisher replied that departments reticent while awaiting new laws/regulations. At the meeting, Mr. Fisher added that he had sent enforcement out and they spoke with vendors, but they only gave warnings - need to be ticketed and it's going to go up.

Mr. Brook reported having seen the sale in progress on Sunday 5/26 at 1pm.

Mr. Bosso reported that the Neighborhood Prosecutor, Bethelwel Wilson, agrees the yard sale is illegal. Senior Lead Officer Cordova had offered to take a hands-on approach. Giorgio has been in contact with him, though he has not received any clear response.

Board Consensus: Letter to the City Prosecutor to express our concern regarding the continued illegal sale activity.

Cathryn Landers from CD4 confirmed a balance of approximately \$84,000 from the Essex traffic mitigations funding for transportation related improvements.

New Business:

Discussion on Bylaws Change regarding agreements with vendors.

Conrad: 2 types of "agreements" with vendor.

One type is in which SSNA members make agreements for specific things such as insurance for the annual event.

The second type is agreements between a business and LA City in which SSNA makes a recommendation representing the Sycamore Square community.

Conrad and Giorgio discussed the two types of agreements.

Giorgio: Request to get SSNA recognized as a legally designated entity.

Conrad: Neighborhood Board is working for the best interest of the neighborhood.

The motion was withdrawn prior to any vote being taken.

Summer Activity: Kid friendly.

Talk and Chalk

Adult Coffee

Mr. Alexander – Concerned about low turnout.

Joshua – Wants to focus energy on better planning the annual event.

Board consensus to not plan summer event and rather focus on the Fall annual event.

Developer Fence – Developers using the parking inappropriately on 832 South La Brea. Giorgio took action and now the fence has been put back up.

Annual Meeting and Elections Planning:

Sunday Oct 7th potential date. Conrad will discuss date with CD-4 for David Ryu's availability.

Location – Street closure on Orange or Wilshire Crest Neighborhood.

Steve and Daniel agree to sign street closure petition for that date.

Announcements:

Vacant Board Seat – Further discussion on the nomination process to fill the empty seat.

Mr Kirchmer reported that Rascal Restaurant needs a permit renewal in order to continue having a bar and that they need 10 parking spaces. They will get shut down unless there is sufficient community support. There is a petition at the restaurant which Mr. Kirchmer signed.

Thank you to people who came out to Wilshire Crest for Neighborhood beautification Association Day.

Thank you on drought tolerant garden tour.

First Neighborhood safety radio net program.

Next Meeting: July 8th 10AM.

Meeting adjourned at 9PM.