

Sycamore Square Neighborhood Association March 2019 Session Minutes

April 3, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Vice President David Zadick at 7:06pm.

Board members present included Mr. Zadick, Conrad Starr, Joshua Kirchmer, and Daniel Brook. Neighbors also present include: Elaine Smitham from Citrus.

Approval of Minutes

1. March 2019 -

DZ moves to approve minutes from March 4 2019 with submitted revisions.

JK seconds.

Motion passes 3-0-1. (DB abstained)

DZ moves to approve minutes from March 23 2019 with submitted revisions.

DB seconds

Motion passes unanimously.

Public Comments

Nothing to report.

Reports

Treasury Report - DB -- nothing to report . CS and DB to clarify reimbursements outside of the meeting. *[note: CS received \$44 from treasurer at the conclusion of the meeting for said expenses (postcard printing at Staples and thank you postage from the 2018 annual meeting thank-yous)]*

SSNA Land Use Committee -

(report read by CS at the meeting is below)

Report of March 2019 SSNA LUC Meetings

We met three times in March. First meeting was March 7th at Little Bar. Kathy Flynn (Sycamore) and Jonah Bliss (Mansfield) attended. I provided background and information about the survey, and basically caught them up on the zoning stuff we've been talking about at our monthly meetings. We met again the next Thursday, March 14th at Keller Williams where we used to have board meetings. Steve Senigram (Orange), Mary Monahan (Orange), Kathy Flynn and I worked on the survey questions getting a number of them answered. The following Wednesday the 20th, Lane Maser (Citrus), Kathy, Jonah, Nick Maestas (Mansfield) and I met a final time to finish the survey. We incorporated Josh's notes.

Transit Neighborhood Plan Survey

I hope all the board members filled out the survey. I got no negative feedback and received positive feedback from Ethan Grumbach, Mary Monahan and others. I also sent a letter on my own letterhead the final evening of the survey period in which I pointed to the fact that in the recent past, we've had improper demolitions, illegal wage theft, illegal parking restrictions, unenforceable preferential parking opt-outs, and the LADWP telling us they aren't doing all the maintenance work they need to be doing because of all the new construction and metro work and that explained at least one 12-hour blackout... and that all of these are examples of how the city is not in a position to just open the floodgates to development in our area without having some real oversight and enforcement in place to protect us.

Reza Safai (Mansfield) and his daughter joined at 7:20

SB-50

Councilmember Ryu came out against SB-50 at the Miracle Mile annual meeting. He has made it clear that LA is afraid Sacramento will take away its ability to zone itself, which is why they are pushing for housing.

Chris Robertson (Mansfield) joined meeting at 7:25p

Next Meeting/Next Steps

Once we've taken a break for a week or so, I'll call another meeting to move forward with the "vision plan" for Sycamore Square. In the meantime, if you see development you think would be compatible with Sycamore Square either with our corridors or on our internal streets, please take a picture, note the address, and send it to me.

Anyone who wants to be part of future LUC meetings should let me know. I've got a roster of 16 names currently.

Also, a resident on Sycamore just sent me a notice about the Rascal property being up for sale for a 57-unit “prime miracle mile location development opportunity.”

Chris Robertson would like to be added to LUC email list

SSNA Communications Committee - CS and JK have added a renter’s resource page to the SSNA website.

Neighborhood Watch - DZ noted the importance of the NW program; noted helicopters flying near the neighborhood this past week.

Larry Johnson on 800 Block of Mansfield is interested in NW. CS encouraged DZ to contact him and Kari from MMRA to employ similar tactics. Goal is to have NW up by May Meeting.

Streets and Sidewalks - Nothing to report.

Community Meeting Reports --

GWNC - GWNC Elections were held on March 31; voter turnout was up from previous years. Conrad Starr was elected Representative for Sycamore Square, and Joshua Kirchmer was elected Alternate.

Community-Police Advisory Board-

New Captain at Wilshire: Timothy Nordquist is replacing outgoing Capt. Anthony Oddo who will head up gangs & narcotics.

Next C-PAB is on 4/18 with Battalion 18 Chief Al Ruiz on “Unified Command After a Disaster - Role of Community Members for Crime and Safety”

Unfinished Business--

Board Vacancies - CS noted that Kathy Flynn expressed interest in joining the board, and the Board has expressed interest, but nomination will be postponed until Ms. Flynn can attend the meeting.

Angelo from Little Bar joined at 7:37p

New Business

1. **Parking Restrictions on 700 block of Mansfield -**

CS noted new yellow loading zone on Mansfield and extension of red striping on the side of the new Mansfield building, despite Q conditions stating all deliveries would be to Orange Drive side. Conrad reached out to DOT and shortly thereafter the building re-painted the curb to gray. It is apparent that the Mansfield had posted illegal signs and painted the curb before their permit had gone through proper channels. Rob Fisher from CD4 did not address whether the application might still go through for the loading zone, which CS said he would vigorously oppose, CS will follow up.

2. **Little Bar CUB Application**

Angelo Vacco, owner of LB, celebrating 14 years of operation. Renewing CUB permit, seeking a letter of support from SSNA. Under Mid-City West NC, has a relationship with MM Neighborhood Association. Came in 2004, wanting to open a neighborhood bar. Just got a 5 year lease with the option for an additional 5 years, which AV hopes to exercise. Applying for a Conditional Use Permit with the City of LA.

Chris RobertsonS notes in the spirit of supporting small business, she would remove the term from the letter of support.

CS moves to write a letter of support for the CUP for Little Bar for a period of 5 years. He read the following which he received from City Planning:

“There is no term limit proposed on the Conditional Use Permit. It's at the Zoning Administrator's discretion to impose a specific term if evidence is submitted at the public hearing or in public correspondence that would lead the Zoning Administrator to believe that a term limit is necessary. The Conditional Use Permit is tied to the land. However, the Zoning Administrator has the discretion to require any new owners or operators of the site to file for a Plan Approval application if the mode and character or the original approval is changing, or if the approved floor plan is significantly changing.”

JK moves to strike the term limit from the motion.

Amendment passes 3-1-0.

Motion as amended:

CS moves to write a letter of support for the CUP for Little Bar.

Motion passes unanimously.

Angelo left the meeting --- **Reza Safai and daughter**

3. Metro Crenshaw Northern Extension

Approved funding for the extension is set to begin in 2040s to extend the Metro Crenshaw Line up through West Hollywood via 1 of a few different possible routes: There will be a meeting at April 25th at 7pm, location TBD.

4. Town and Country Project - SSNA input

Project at Fairfax and 3rd, seeking input from SySq... Board doesn't seek to give its input to developer. Developer recently cut project from 33 stories to 8 stories.

5. Big Sunday May 19th, at Wilshire Crest School

Wilshire Crest Fundraiser, run by Liz Fuller, great community opportunity.

Board Comments

JK wishes to table Board Appointment of Kathy Flynn until she is in attendance.

Event Calendar

- **4/10 (Wed) 7pm – Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council (Wilshire Ebell) C. Starr, J. Kirchmer**
- **4/15 (Mon) 7pm – GWNC Transportation Committee (250 N. Rossmore Ave., Marlborough School, D200) C. Starr**
- **4/18 (Thu) 7pm – Community-Police Advisory Board with LAFD Battalion 18 Chief Al Ruiz (4849 Venice Blvd., Community Room) C. Starr**
- **4/23 (Tue) 6:30pm – GWNC Land Use Committee (250 N. Rossmore Ave., Marlborough School, D200)**
- **4/25 (Thu) 6:30pm – Metro Purple Line Extension Meeting – SAG/AFTRA, 5757 Wilshire Bl.**
- **4/25 (Thu) 7:00pm (tentative) – Metro Crenshaw Line Northern Extension Meeting (TBD)**
- **5/7 (Tue) 8pm – Sycamore Square Emergency Radio Net (FRS/GMRS Channel 7)**
- **5/19 (Sun) 10am-3pm – Big Sunday at Wilshire Crest School (5241 W. Olympic) (<https://mobs.bigsunday.org/project/70/>)**

- **5/19 (Sun) (TBD) – Wilshire Division LAPD 150th Anniversary Open House (4849 Venice Blvd.)**

Scheduling

SSNA May Meeting is scheduled for 7pm Wednesday May 1 at Numero Uno.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:21pm.