

North Westdale Neighborhood Association

Minutes for May 30, 2018 Meeting - by Joan Winters - NWN Secretary

Called to order: 7:15 PM

Attendance: Approximately 35

Welcome: NWN President **Martin Rubin** welcomed attendees and announced the guest speakers. Since one had to arrive a little late, the agenda was kept flexible to accommodate the arriving guest.

Guest Speakers:

Damien Newton, MVCC Zone 2 Director, gave a brief report with a question-and-answer session. Damien spoke about the appeal, based on transportation issues, of the mixed-use apartment project at 11671-11677 National Blvd. As the Co-chair of the MVCC PLUM Committee, he has placed a support resolution for the Appeal on the Thursday, June 7th committee's agenda. The meeting will take place at the Mar Vista Library, at the corner of Venice and Inglewood Boulevards. The support resolution for the Appeal will then go before the MVCC Board of Directors at their June 12th meeting. Once fully passed the resolution will be delivered to our Councilmember Mike Bonin, and the full Los Angeles City Council, along with others. The Appellants own the adjacent corner property of the project and are appealing the permits given for the project strictly on transportation issues. It was also brought up about the possible development at the corner of Sepulveda and Palms, where the old Albertson's super market used to be. It would be over 400 units of mixed-use apartments with a height of seven stories. Because of its size, it would need to go through planning processes and public meetings.

Hannah Levien, Councilmember Mike Bonin's Field Deputy for Mar Vista and W.L.A. gave a brief report and participated in a Q & A session. It was mentioned that existing parkway tree stumps are no longer removed by the City, but if they cause a disruption of the area, such as to sewer lines, they could be removed. There was extensive neighborhood discussion on cut-through traffic and speeding cars. Requests for more stop signs were brought up.

Lisa Pelton, spoke from the audience about the Appeal she has filed with the City of L.A. about the Dept. of Transportation's decision to grant transportation permits for the project without doing a traffic study. Her appeal cites several reasons why a study should be done. Her property is adjacent to the mixed use project. The date of the hearing on the appeal has not yet been set.

Mary Hruska, MVCC's new Zone 3 Director, representing areas in Mar Vista, that include Westdale and "Hilltop", adjacent to North Westdale. She introduced herself and filled in attendees about a few large proposed projects.

Suja Lowenthal, Senior Advisor to the Santa Monica City Manager, gave a S.M. Airport (SMO) update with a Q & A session. The Airport's minimum standards were discussed--threshold entry-levels for leases of airport space, operating hours, insurance. The largest business jets no longer operate at the airport. Various types of flying vehicles were mentioned that could use the airport, such as Uber-type helicopter services which Suja mentioned that the city of S.M. can't regulate because they are "crowd-sourced" helicopters. There were numerous audience questions regarding flight activities. Longtime airport neighbor **Virginia Ernst**, NWN vice-president, spoke about her battle with high levels of lead poisoning. Also, her concerns that the airport's runway harbors toxic pollutants that are wind-driven and can travel directly east into North Westdale. She also spoke about the unsightly storage area on the airport property visible from Bundy Drive and from her residence. As part of his airport report, NWN President Martin Rubin spoke about his representation of North Westdale on the LAX Community Noise Roundtable. He also agreed with Suja about the various "drone-type" flying vehicles set to be used around the country. Also, he mentioned the adverse effects of leaded gasoline from piston-powered aircraft still using SMO, and he spoke about the findings of a Duke University study on blood-lead levels in children living near airports.

President's and Airport Committee Report: as part of his President's Report, Martin announced that the date of the NWN Fall Block Party will be September 29 and that our Senior Lead Officer, **Adrian Acosta**, will be the guest speaker at our June 27 NWN meeting; our last meeting before the summer break. He also urged members to look for his updates regarding the proposed MVCC support for the Pelton Appeal on traffic issues.

Adjournment: 8:30 PM