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D R A F T
MISSION HILLS TOWN COUNCIL
TRUSTEE MEETING
Thursday, March 12, 2009
4201 Randolph Street, San Diego, CA 92103

6:10 p.m. Call to order by President Kathy Jones. Present were trustees Jones, Fehlman, Ollis, Bowers, Dean, Sandel, Schulman and Shushan. Absent were Trustees Brooks, Ford and Nowell. A quorum was recognized.

Guests were introduced:

Stephen Puetz, Staff Aide to Councilman Kevin Faulconer
Wayne Brubaker, chair of Mission Hills CERT Group, Blake Brubaker, Grant Brubaker
John Lomac, Founder and retired Trustee of MHTC, Co-Chair of the Business Enhancement

Committee of the Council.

Steve Puetz reported that:

The Councilmember had located \$1000 in funds that can be applied to the cost of the mural at the Pioneer Park playground site. President Kathy Jones will execute the paperwork to secure the money.

A meeting was set with the city Park Planners regarding the West Lewis/ Falcon pocket park this week, with the objective of determining how much money was actually remaining in the park fund and what could be done to the property with that amount of money.

Councilman Faulconer voted against the "Destination Lindbergh" plan for reasons of money, traffic, noise and environmental impact on his district.

The Councilman is chair of the City audit committee and happy to report that the City of San Diego is now back on the bond market and can issue new bonds, 4/5th of which will be used for refinancing old debt and creating a savings of approximately 6%.

Water rationing is probable. If we exceed the mandatory amount, the rate for water will triple, and everyone is working on proposals. Water users already at the floor will not be expected to cut back.

Potholes should be reported to Puetz, there are funds to have these taken care of. Resurfacing of streets is being listed for prioritization now for next year. Concrete streets, like Juan Street, are very difficult and require extreme maintenance and will likely not be addressed soon.

Guests John Lomac and Wayne Brubaker talked briefly about their coming CERT presentation at the April Town Hall. They then reported that there is a shed at the Pioneer Park site which the City does not use and would be willing for the CERT group to use for storage for their evacuation and emergency supplies. The shed is behind the playground and probably not even noticed by most people. The current site for any equipment to be used for Mission Hills emergency situations is in the North Park area, too far away for any practical access in case of disaster. It was moved (Shushan/Schulman) unanimously that the Mission Hills Town Council's Board of Trustees vigorously supports the efforts of the Mission Hills CERT team to utilize the Park and Recreation maintenance shed located adjacent to Grant Math/Science Magnet School at Pioneer Park for use to store disaster preparedness materials and equipment to be used by CERT volunteers to live in Mission Hills for major emergency situations. The President was authorized to send a letter supporting this position to Bruce Martinez, District Manager of Developed Regional Parks in San Diego. Brubaker reported that there are no FEMA grants available at this time and they need fundraising assistance. They currently have 15 CERT team members and wish to double that number this year. A publication "Assemble A Disaster Supplies Kit" was distributed.

The minutes of the February 12, 2009, Trustees meeting were approved as presented and revised. (Dean/Shushan, Unanimous).

The Treasurer's Report was provided by Brooks and is appended hereto. The Board formally requested that future reports be divided to eliminate the date from 2007 and 2008, and show 2009 income and expenses only.

Trustee Sandel presented a Membership Report indicating that 12 members have paid and joined since the last Trustee's meeting. He has emailed all members for renewal admonition, will send out a second email, and will print and mail out final notices to those not yet renewed.

Membership by business owners was discussed. It was moved and unanimously approved (Ollis/Sandel, unanimous) that the Council shall have a separate membership category for businesses at an annual membership fee of \$100, and that business members shall be entitled to recognition in a specific area of the Council website, to link their business website to the Council website, and to receive an MHTC decal for display at their place of business. The membership committee was authorized to work out the details of this movement.

Sandel was asked to confer with the Treasurer and verify that all Trustees have paid their 2009 membership fees.

Sandel will provide current membership lists by email to all Trustees so that **each Trustee can contact at least 10 NON-members prior to the Town Hall meeting to encourage their registration and attendance at the Town Hall.**

Jones reported meeting with Betty Willis, CEO and Managing Partner of the Park Manor Suites Hotel at Spruce Street in Bankers Hill between 5th and 6th Avenues. The hotel is eager to make its facilities known to the residents of Mission Hills, which does not have any hotels of its own, for visitor accommodations right on Balboa Park and for catering and hosting of special events of all kinds. The Park Manor has offered to host an evening at the hotel on Thursday, May 7th, with free wine and hors d'oeuvres. Guests would be asked to visit two of the hotel guest rooms/suites and to listen to a 15 minute presentation, but would enjoy the spectacular sunset views over the Park, Pacific and Downtown and an opportunity to mingle with their friends and neighbors. Trustee Dean suggested that if the event were held in honor of Mission Hills people that attendance might be greater. Possible honorees were discussed. Puetz spoke up to offer an official proclamation of recognition from the City for the honorees. President Jones will continue working on this with the hotel.

Trustee Dean reported that the Business Enhancement Committee had selected its next business honorees for the Town Hall recognition. They have also talked to the Garden Club about the hanging baskets (see later in the meeting). Ollis remarked that she had sought out the new (November) manager of the Vons store and been advised that renovations were not known to be scheduled within the next 5 years. It was suggested that the communities frustration/urging/disgust be addressed in photos taken by Patty Brooks to be published in the Sentinel if the store would not be more responsive to neighborhood concerns and entreaties.

Trustee Ollis reported on Community Involvement that she was in communication with a man who had offered to assist with fundraising and endowment two years ago, before the Council had the time and situation to address these needs, and would be meeting with him within the next two weeks. She also advised that she has a strong list of potential Auxiliary members and will be holding meetings with them prior to the Town Hall in April.

Trustee Bowers reported that the graphic arts skills needed to finish the branding concepts and initiate the new program would be best served by a skilled expert, and that a specific graphic arts expert who is especially outstanding is being approached toward eliciting a gratis effort on the Council behalf.

Bowers also asked all the trustees to go to www.wildapricot.com, which is a program that offers enormous improvement over the basic website and email program in place now. It includes membership management, a website, an email blast program with varying degrees of inclusion, accounting, forums, and a calendar function. It is set up so that different users can be granted various levels of access. The cost varies with the number of people in a group, \$50/mo was estimated. **The trustees were asked to review the site and email Paul their thoughts prior to Thursday, March 19.**

Trustee Schulman reported that the MAD Oversight Committee had met with _____ in the City Maintenance Department, that there are funds in the MAD account to provide for maintenance of 16 or 17 of the 26 baskets, and the Mission Hills Garden Club has agreed to take care of the maintenance of the other 10. There are also funds in the amount of \$10,000 this year which will provide 5 benches and 6 trash cans in the district. It was suggested that these be located where bus stops are now and at primary commercial core locations. Next year there will be an additional \$15,000 available for more benches and trash containers. It was agreed that the style of bench and cans will be coordinated with Luke Daniels at 1 Mission. Dean reported that the cessation of Bus 83 in Mission Hills had been cancelled due to strong community input to the transit authority.

Trustee Schulman reported on the progress of the Historic Lighting District. An assessment engineer is currently assessing and reviewing the entire district to determine individual assessments based on frontage and benefit. Then the City will issue ballots to the homeowners within the lighting district. The Mission Hills Town Council and Mission Hills Heritage each need to prepare material, including signatures and supporters, to go out with the ballots. There will be a 45 day balloting period during which both organizations will want to go door to door to encourage positive ballot returns. If 50% of the ballots returned plus one are in favor of the Lighting District, the measure will carry and be effected. It was suggested that Mission Hills Heritage prepare a special invitation to all 700+ homes within the lighting district to attend the April Town Hall meeting at which a demonstration and information presentation will be made. It was also suggested that the **Board have a phone bank night** and call all those property owners asking if they plan to vote yes or not and reminding them to mail in their ballots. A motion (Fehlman/Dean) was unanimously passed that the Mission Hills Town Council Board strongly reaffirms their support for the Historic Lighting District MAD, which the Council will administer. Shushan suggested that the lighting sample be set up in a dark area of the Francis Parker School to be a demonstration prior to the Town Hall meeting.

Trustee Shushan reported that the 4th of July Committee had met and decided on the similar format to last year's celebration – a parade, then children's games, and a concert picnic. Albertsons will confirm by mid-April whether they will again provide icecream for the event. Luke Daniels of 1 Mission may be a sponsor of the event, and a sponsorship offer has been made to San Diego National Bank. The difficulty at hand is that a City special event permit for the parade was denied by the Police Department because of a shortage of staff on that day. There are a number of special events absorbing their personnel that day. This needs to be worked out.

Traffic and Safety Committee has no update at this time.

Trustee/Vice President Fehlman reported that he will give the Board **one more week to review the recommended By-Laws changes**. They will then be posted on the MHTC website for all members to see and voted at the next Town Hall.

Jones reported that she, John Lomac and Steve Shushan had met with the University Heights Park Board about the Pocket Park at West Lewis and Falcon Streets. The UH Park Board responded very helpfully with a desire to help any way they can. Councilman Faulconer's staff is trying to determine the status of funds in the account for this park, and what could be done with the amount available.

It was moved (Jones/Schulman) all in favor (with Dean out of the room for a moment and therefore abstaining) that the Council adopt a goal of establishing a Mission Hills Parks and Recs Council. Ollis will put this under the Community Involvement objectives.

Jones reported that there is a vacancy on the Uptown Planners and that we should submit names by email to Leo Wilson for consideration, since there are currently only two representatives from Mission Hills on the Planners. **Kathy Jones will provide an announcement to Paul M Bowers to send out an email**

blast informing the membership and encouraging Mission Hills nominees. Ollis will verify requirements for candidates with Kim Adler asap.

Trustee Bowers reported that the Mural for the Playground area is moving and will cost \$3500 - \$5000. That will be reduced by the \$1000 grant Councilman Faulconer is providing. He recommended that we try to accomplish this mural before the retirement of Grant Principal Bruce McGirr, since another principal could have another policy, and we have accord and support at this time. McGirr is retiring in June.

Phase II of the Pioneer Park Playground was discussed including the concerns of Lori Orr that this phase include the promises that were made to donors. Since the resignation of Gillingham as chair of this endeavor, there is no one responsible person overall, but **Scott Sandel agreed to put a plan together** so that it can be moved on as soon as someone is handling the project.

Agenda for the July Town Hall was reviewed and set.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ginny Ollis, secretary