**DRRA Board Meeting 2024-09-09**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Board Title** | **Name** | **Present?** |
| President | Elizabeth Layne | Yes |
| 1st Vice President | Don “Eddie” Kurtz | Yes |
| 2nd Vice President | Zambricki Li | Yes |
| Recording Secretary | Sara Siegal | No |
| Communications Officer | Ghassan Malek | Yes |
| Treasurer | Kathleen Kurkjian | Yes |
| Director | Sharon Blunk | Yes |
| Director | Georgina Huskey | Yes |
| Director | Terrie Lavery | No |
| Director | Melanie Mihal | Yes |
| Director | Joseph Young | Yes |
| **Appointees** |  |  |
| Advisor | Elizabeth Pollock | Yes |
| Parliamentarian | Janice Santos | Yes |
| Webmaster | Melanie Mihal | Yes |

* 33 participants

**Matt Halden / CD11 (Traci Park)**

Meeting on Thursday, September 5, held to discuss issues near Sepulveda Blvd./Lucerne Avenue - Inside Safe residents at Vista Motel, the Judaken assisted living properties, sober living houses, squatters at 4918 Sycamore Drive, drug users cutting fence by Ballona Bike Path.

Marian Ensley (Office of Community Engagement) will share information with Mayor Bass. Working on getting demolition permit for 4918 Sycamore Drive (fire 2/13/24).

Regarding RVs on Inglewood Blvd., Mesmer Avenue, and Culver Blvd., CD 11 is focusing on parking enforcement for the vehicles that are being used for storage. Must go through City Administrative Office protocol where people are living in the vehicles. Planning new task force action for September.

Working with County Supervisor Holly Mitchell’s constituent engagement deputy Tracy McGee regarding the access gates to Centinela Creek.

September 21, 2024, 9 - noon. -- Heal the Bay cleanup on Ballona Creek as part of Coastal Cleanup Day.

October 12, 2024, 10 a.m., Reopening of large dog park at Bill Rosendahl Park.

October 27, 2024 – Del Rey Day, where DRRA will have a table.

C.D. 11 is working to get curb cuts and a crosswalk at Short Avenue/Moore Street, but the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) requires matching ramps at the corners.

On the Ballona Bike Path, the Culver City Police Department patrols daily from Sepulveda Blvd. east, and Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) patrols from Sepulveda to the ocean.

**Senior Lead Officer (SLO) Hector Aceves**

Burglaries are up 6 per cent, often through open windows or broken sliding doors.

Although catalytic converter thefts are down 22%, Grand Theft Auto (GTA) is up 23%. Theft is up 22%, and most are crimes of opportunity. When drug activity occurs, residents are reporting the license plate numbers to the police.

**Nicholas Waldron, CIRCLE Coordinator**

CIRCLE = Crisis Incident Response through Community-Led Engagement. This program was expanded to Del Rey in August and is staffed 24/7, 365 days a year to provide an unarmed response for unhoused individuals who appear to be mentally ill or ill from substance abuse. The goal is to free the police from social work duties. If a CIRCLE worker should be dispatched, one should call 1-800-ASK-LAPD (the police non-emergency line).

The Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) can match individuals with case managers who can determine what can be done to help the person. CIRCLE is focused on response, not outreach. An attendee at the meeting told of a September 8 incident where two CIRCLE staffers came to her rescue when she was being threatened by a homeless man.

**Marian Ensley, Mayor’s West Area Representative**

CIRCLE employees are City contractors, and CIRCLE responded to 14,000 calls last year. They address “low risk” situations, responding in 17 – 30 minutes in all CIRCLE areas. Call “911” for incidents involving physical injuries or property damage.

**Directorship Change**

After this meeting, Georgina Huskey is stepping down as director and head of the emergency preparedness committee. Ron Babcock was nominated to serve as director until March 31, 2026 and to replace Georgina as head of the EP committee. Ron Babcock and his wife (also named Georgina) are the block captains for Weir Street.

**Minutes of the August 5, 2024 board meeting**

These were prepared by Sara Siegal, recording secretary, were circulated to the board beforehand were approved without changes.

**Kathleen Kurkjian / Treasurer**

The PayPal account information cannot yet be included in the monthly income and expense statements. The Bank of America savings account has been opened, but president Elizabeth Campos Layne must still be added as a signatory.

 The May, June and August income/expense statements were reviewed and approved by the board. The July statement was not presented.

Kathleen Kurkjian and Sharon Blunk will work to update the board roster.

**Eddie Kurtz / 1st Vice President / Membership Chair**

The membership committee – Eddie Kurtz, Terrie Lavery, Kathleen Kurkjian – will be meeting September 11. Sharon Blunk has stepped down from the committee and provided her records to Eddie Kurtz.

At the National Night Out (August 8), 50 people registered for the emergency bucket raffle that took place at NNO. Terrie Lavery called each of them and will be sending mailings to those who are not yet members. There will be another emergency bucket raffled off among those who have joined since NNO.

**Elizabeth A. Pollock / Advisor / Land Use Chair**

1. Currently, building projects that are “all affordable” qualify for ministerial review, and on August 2, 2024, the City Planning Department approved a 100% Affordable Housing Development of 38 dwelling units at 4360 S. McLaughlin Avenue. Because the project is within one-half mile of the buses on Washington Blvd. and Culver Blvd., it will have no vehicle parking places, in lieu of the 49 spaces otherwise required, no required open space in lieu of the 3800 square feet normally required, a Floor to Area Ratio (FAR) of 4.6:1, instead of 3:1, side yard setbacks of five feet, instead of eight feet, and a front yard setback of two feet instead of 15 feet. The affordability covenant will apply for 55 years.

The project must still be approved by Building and Safety and the Los Angeles Fire Department, and the neighbors are discussing whether they can challenge the Planning Department’s approval.

1. The board reviewed and approved a draft letter to Culver City about three development projects that straddle the boundary between Los Angeles and Culver City and include “affordable” housing units. However, Culver City approved its General Plan 2045 and its updated Zoning Plan on September 3, 2024, and the impact of those rules on the projects is unclear. After the meeting, members of the land use committee urged that the approved letter be edited so the “ask” would be more clear. It will be resubmitted at the October 6, 2024 board meeting.
2. On September 26, 2024, the City Planning Commission will be asked to vote on the Citywide Housing Incentive Program (“CHIP”). The State is requiring all communities to build more housing/affordable housing, and the CHIP is designed to promote building by allowing a variety of bonuses, incentives and waivers that modify current development standards (height limits, parking requirements, open space requirements, etc.). Once enacted by the City Council, the CHIP will affect how the City’s Housing Element is implemented in Del Rey. (Currently, the zoning in the 1997 Palms Mar Vista Del Rey Community Plan is the starting point for determining what can be built on a property, but that can be modified with the bonuses, incentives and waivers allowed by other ordinances.).

The DRRA commented on the CHIP in our letter of June 4, 2024. The version of the CHIP that will be voted upon by the City Planning Commission (Version 3) has not yet been issued.

**September 11 Candlelight Vigil**

President Elizabeth Campos Layne announced that at about 7 p.m. on Wednesday, September 11, 2024, there will be a gathering at the Beatrice Mesmer Community Garden to remember those who died on September 11, 2001.

**Meeting Adjourned 8:39 p.m.**