

MAR VISTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Meeting Minutes - April 21, 2005

ATTENDANCE: Evelyn Dravecky, Hal Golden, Cicely Golden, Dorothy Curtis, Marie Wallace, Nadine Gallegos, Madelyn Hahn, Bill Hahn, and Linda Guagliano.

HOST: Hal and Cicely Golden

PRESIDING: Bill Hahn

Meeting was called to order at 7:17 p.m. by Bill Hahn. The following business was conducted.

Agenda Item #1: Mar Vista Water, by Glen Howell - Planning for Public Meeting.

(a.) Date - June 15, 2005, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

(b.) Location - Venice Branch Library

[Glen Howell not present - on vacation.] Marie Wallace handed out a proposed draft of a flyer about a public meeting featuring Glen Howell talking about water politics in a storytelling format (copy attached). Discussion followed about the contents and wording of the draft flyer, with suggestions for changes. Location was also discussed: set-up, chairs, etc. must be planned; capacity is 75 persons so what if 300 show up?; will Glen need a screen and projector for charts, photos, etc.? Details of Glen's needs for the presentation will be discussed with him when he returns from Costa Rica.

(c.) Expenses

Discussion was had about expenses that may be incurred related to the public meeting. It was agreed that people who incur expenses while doing things to promote the meeting, including Glen, will be reimbursed. Marie Wallace passed the hat (literally) and collected about \$30 advance funds from those present.

(d.) Publicity

Evelyn Dravecky will ask Rick Frieberg of the Venice Watchdog community newsletter for publicity space. Nadine Gallegos said the Santa Monica Mirror and other Santa Monica, Venice and Culver City "freebie" publications can be asked to run publicity items for the public meeting. Nadine will ask Helga Gendell of the Argonaut about putting an article in the "Community Calendar" or other section of the paper. Linda Wallace [not present] will be asked to send the final version of the flyer by e-mail to the "links" on the Website. Nadine recommended that we have several versions of the flyer for different office "links," such as the L.A. City Council and DWP. Hal Golden suggested that we should also try to recruit new MVHS members at the event, with sign-up sheets at a table at the door. Evelyn Dravecky (phone 310/397-2050, e-mail edravecky@msn.com) will coordinate the publicity and flyer ideas and will make any other needed contacts to publicize the June 15th public meeting. Further discussion was had about the need to finalize flyer(s) by May 1st and start disseminating publicity by mid-May. It was decided that Hal and Cicely Golden will be the phone contact for the "For more information contact..." line on the flyer(s).

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(e.) Other

A short discussion was had about whether or not refreshments should be offered at the public meeting. Marie Wallace suggested water and cookies; coffee, tea and other edibles may require urns, refrigeration, or other amenities not available at the location. Evelyn Dravecky suggested that "Trader Joe's" and other companies are often willing to donate refreshments to community groups.

Agenda Item #2: Old Business

(a.) Westdale Trousdale Courtyard Apts.

Dorothy Nichols, scheduled to present this item, was not in attendance and any discussion was tabled until the next meeting. (Note: item should be included on the agenda for the next meeting if warranted.)

Agenda Item #3: New Business

(a.) Field Trips

Hal Golden suggested that the group take field trips to the meetings of other community historical societies, and also to locations associated with Mar Vista history. For example, the Mar Vista "Water Well" which is located on Coolidge Ave., just north of Charnock Rd. is a historic site. It was suggested that a "Field Trips" category be added to the Website, to be filled in as needed.

New Business not on Agenda:

George Garrigues of the Westmar Sun has decided to discontinue publishing his newsletter immediately. He feels that the Mar Vista Community Council has been uncooperative and that his area, near Overland, in District #1 of the MVCC, is arguably in Palms, not in Mar Vista. Marie Wallace described the background of this dispute, involving land use issues. The Mar Vista Community Council is comprised of many neighborhood associations, but Mar Vista and Palms have different concerns regarding their community issues.

At this point in the meeting, it was noted that the group had not yet approved the Minutes of the previous, March 17, 2005 meeting submitted by Linda Wallace. Nadine Gallegos moved to accept the Minutes of the March 17, 2005 meeting, seconded by Marie Wallace, and the motion was approved by a unanimous "aye" vote.

Agenda Item #4: Stories

Dorothy Curtis asked about the interviews she volunteered to do, namely, Liz Gottlieb's. She knows Liz and would like to do a solo interview, not with a partner. However, it was discussed and several people said having two people in an interview is preferable because it facilitates ideas during the interview; one person may catch a line of questioning to pursue that the other doesn't, based on what the interviewee is saying. Glen Howell has already done similar interviews and knows a lot about Mar Vista history, so having him present would be an advantage. Dorothy was asked to talk to Glen about the Liz Gottlieb interview when he returns and arrange to get together to do the interview. Evelyn Dravecky (again) suggested having an outline/format to

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guide interviewers, so that interviews will be more uniform; it would be a "jumping off point" rather than a rigid requirement to follow.

Linda Guagliano told two stories. The first was about the tragic murder almost 30 years ago of Beethoven Elementary School 4th grade teacher Edith Miller, who was highly respected both as a teacher and as an artist, a potter who also taught her students the craft and was very much loved by all. She was killed in her home by a local teenager, a former pupil, who had entered her house to steal the proceeds from pottery she had sold that day at her annual show with an artist/potter friend (who still lives in the neighborhood). Edie was later honored by the memorial planting, by students and staff, of a now-large tree on the lawn of the Beethoven School in front of the auditorium. Linda's second story was in a lighter vein, a "stupid crook" story prompted by a question about a Venice Blvd. bakery business once owned by Linda and her ex-husband in the 1960's. It involved a misguided attempt by amateur burglars to enter a coin shop that shared a wall with the bakery by breaking into the bakery and tunneling through the wall, ending with the burglars misjudging building lengths and emerging in the parking area instead of in the coin shop.

Several members of the group shared World War II stories, from areas as diverse as Vermont, Pennsylvania, Long Island, San Francisco, and Sonoma. Bill Hahn told about his student year at UC Santa Barbara in 1942 when the Japanese shelled Goleta; typically incautious and impulsive, the college students jumped in their cars when they heard about it and rushed to see what they could see at the shelling site. Madelyn Hahn told about the Culver City movie studios and their famous actors doing war effort promotions and appearances. Memories were also shared about the local defense and aircraft companies and manufacturers, especially Hughes.

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 12, 2005, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Host: Hal & Cecily Golden, 12311 Marine St., Mar Vista.

Persons to preside and to take Minutes at the May meeting to be determined. Volunteers are always welcome.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Guagliano
Recording Secretary Pro Tem