



# FRIENDS OF SUNSET PARK

A California nonprofit corporation of Sunset Park residents • Box 5823, Santa Monica, California 90409-5823 • FriendsofSP@yahoo.com

## MARCH 2014 NEWSLETTER

Layout by Bill Josephs

### Upcoming Events

#### **FUTURE OF SANTA MONICA AIRPORT – CITY COUNCIL**

**MARCH 25 – 6:30 PM – CITY HALL**

Focusing on the future of Santa Monica Airport, there will be no other agenda items at this meeting – Parking available in the Civic Center Parking Structure (enter from 4<sup>th</sup> Street at Civic Center Drive, between Pico and the freeway)

#### **OLYMPIC HIGH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE**

**MARCH 26 – 6 PM**

Meet local artists and discuss their design for a new mural to replace the deteriorating Muir Woods mural on the outside of the Olympic High auditorium. Northwest corner of Lincoln Blvd. and Ocean Park Blvd. The parking entrance is on Pine Street, one block north of Ocean Park Blvd., just west of Lincoln.

#### **FOSP ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**MAY 17 – 1:30 PM**

Mt. Olive Church – 14<sup>th</sup> and Ocean Park Blvd.

### Santa Monica Airport

CATHY LARSON

FOSP AIRPORT COMMITTEE CHAIR

#### **Federal Ruling on City vs. FAA**

In October 2013, the City of Santa Monica filed a lawsuit against the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to “establish the City’s right to control the future use of the Santa Monica Airport property.” As the 2015 expiration of the 1984 Operating Agreement with the FAA is rapidly approaching, the City asked the court to declare that the City has clear title to the land, and to refute the FAA’s claim that the City must operate Santa Monica Airport (SMO) “in perpetuity.”

After conducting a three-year Airport Visioning process, which included stud-

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## JOIN FRIENDS OF SUNSET PARK

### 2014 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Today's date \_\_\_\_\_

I will help with:

- Airport Committee
- Annual Meeting
- Crime/Safety/Graffiti
- Emergency Preparedness
- Membership Committee
- Neighborhood Mailings
- Planning and Development
- Santa Monica College
- Traffic, Parking, Pedestrian Safety
- Website/Internet

Membership Dues:

- \$30 Regular Household Dues
- \$50 or \$100 for Sponsor
- \$10 Minimum Household Dues
- Additional Donation

Please check:

- New  Renewal

*Please make check payable to  
"Friends of Sunset Park,"  
and mail to:*

*FOSP, P.O. Box 5823, Santa Monica, CA 90409*

What I like best about living in Sunset Park: \_\_\_\_\_

My greatest concerns are: \_\_\_\_\_

Contributions to FOSP, a 501(c)(4) organization, are not tax deductible.

## **Residocracy Referendum Petition**

### **13,440 Residents Speak Out about Development and Traffic**

**O**n February 11, in a 4 to 3 vote, the City Council approved a development agreement for one of the largest projects in Santa Monica's history. The agreement gave entitlement rights to Hines, a Texas-based company, to build a 765,000 square foot project to replace the 200,000 square foot Papermate factory at Olympic and 26<sup>th</sup>. The Environmental Impact Report for the Bergamot Transit Village Center estimated that the project would generate nearly 7,000 new daily car trips, both when completed and in 2030. 22% of that traffic would come and go from the south (through the Sunset Park neighborhood).

Within 28 days of the Council vote, 13,440 registered voters in Santa Monica signed a petition which would require the City Council to either rescind the agreement or place a referendum on the November ballot, allowing all registered voters in Santa Monica to decide whether the Hines/Bergamot project should go forward.

On March 11, the petitions were delivered to City Hall for the City Clerk to begin the official verification process to see if more than 10% of the registered voters in Santa Monica had signed the petition within 30 days of the Council's approval of the development agreement ordinance. The County Registrar of Voters will complete the verification process by comparing names, addresses, and signatures to the voter rolls. According to the Santa Monica Mirror, "In the 2012 election, there were 60,909 registered voters in the City, which means at least 6,091 verifiable signatures in favor of the referendum" had to be submitted to the City Clerk's office by the deadline.

According to the founder of Residocracy.org, Armen Melkonians, "In under 30 days, one in five Santa Monica registered voters have signed this petition to veto our elected officials' approval of this project.... Residents in mass took to the streets gathering signatures. Residents went door to door talking with their neighbors. They opened up their homes for signing parties. They stood tirelessly in front of grocery stores gathering signatures. Small businesses across the city took part by opening their doors and hosting signing events. We have witnessed the start of a true grassroots movement, a movement which is sure to take back our city."

### **FOSP Board of Directors**

Elaine Blaugrund, Leigh Brumberg,  
Joanne Curtis, Charles R. Donaldson,  
Vivien Flitton, Zina Josephs, Cathy Larson,  
Lloyd Saunders, and Regula Ziegler

### ***Santa Monica Airport, continued from page 1***

ies by consultants and extensive public input, City Council asked City staff to return to them in March 2014 with options regarding the future of SMO.

Meanwhile, staff had ongoing discussions with the FAA regarding the possibility of modifying SMO's operations to significantly reduce its negative impacts on the surrounding communities. Those discussions were apparently unsuccessful.

On February 13, 2014, federal judge John F. Walter issued a ruling on the City's lawsuit. On the question of clear title to the airport property, the judge ruled that the 12-year window for the City to dispute the title with the federal government lasted only from 1948 to 1960.

Regarding the City's argument that the FAA's assertion that the City must operate the airport "in perpetuity" equated to an unconstitutional "taking" without just compensation, the judge ruled that since the City hadn't sought compensation, its request was premature.

The judge also ruled on the City's claim that the federal government has violated due process and the 10<sup>th</sup> amendment, saying that this claim was also premature because the City hasn't officially announced its intention to close the airport, therefore the FAA has not yet taken any action based on the "perpetuity" clause to prevent closure.

### **March 25 City Council Hearing**

City staff will return to City Council on Tuesday, March 25. The only item on the agenda will be SMO. This is a very important meeting, as it's expected the Council will direct staff to take specific actions regarding SMO's future.

The community advocacy group Airport2Park (<http://airport2park.org/>) is in full swing advocating for a "green" airport future with park space, playing fields, and creative re-use of existing buildings. On January 30, the organization held a forum to discuss funding possibilities to transform the SMO's 227 acres into the largest public park space on the Westside.

In February, an unnamed pro-airport group conducted a telephone "push-poll" (a survey designed to influence voters) to promote a ballot measure that would prevent the City from using the airport property for anything other than aviation.

It is expected that both park advocates and aviation interests will be out in full force at the March 25 City Council meeting.

### **Please Attend So Your Voices Will Be Heard.**

The meeting will begin at 6 PM. You can speak for two minutes during Public Comment by filling out a speaker card. You can also submit comments before the meeting to Council@SMGOV.NET – Remember to put "Santa Monica Airport" in the subject line. The agenda will be posted at <http://www.smgov.net/departments/clerk/agendas.aspx> about March 20, with the agenda item number, staff report, and staff recommendations.

## Urban Wildlife

### Information from the Santa Monica Animal Control Division

#### Living Safely with Coyotes

In recent months, Santa Monica has seen an increase in coyote sightings and aggressive coyote behavior. There have been reports of domestic animals being chased and/or attacked by coyotes, even in the presence of humans. Coyotes seem less fearful of humans than they once were and, as such, should be treated with extreme caution.

**Know the Facts** – Coyote attacks can occur year round and at any time of day or night. They will hunt, kill and dine on any and all living creatures. Coyotes are extremely territorial. They rarely approach people in a threatening manner, however recent attacks on humans have been reported in other cities. Summer heat often dries up natural water supplies, bringing coyotes into suburban areas in search of food and water.

**Prevent an Attack** – Do not approach or feed coyotes. They dislike loud noises (such as blowing a whistle or shaking a can containing coins) and aggressive movements (such as waving a walking stick or opening and closing an umbrella rapidly). Never leave small children or pets unattended outdoors. Coyotes are capable of jumping fences 5½ feet in height. Do not leave pet food outside. Pick up all fallen fruit, and remove low-hanging branches from fruit trees.

**Contact SMPD Animal Control** – Call 310-458-8595, Tuesday through Saturday, 8 AM to 5 PM, to report coyote sightings, aggressive coyote behavior, or animals injured or killed by a coyote. Animal Control/Animal Shelter is located at 1640 9<sup>th</sup> Street. Call Police Dispatch at 310-458-8491 to report in-progress aggressive coyote behavior. If your pet is bitten, seek veterinary care immediately. If a human is bitten, seek medical care immediately.

#### Raccoons

Do not handle raccoons. They can be carriers of rabies and canine/feline distemper. Raccoons may have a round worm that can infect humans who accidentally ingest or inhale eggs that are passed through raccoon feces. They may also be hosts for leptospirosis and giardiasis.

Don't leave pet food outside, keep BBQ grills clean and stored in a garage/shed, keep garbage in sealable containers, and block any openings under buildings.

#### Opossums

Opossums are far less of a health risk than other wild animals such as skunks and raccoons. They are exceptionally non-aggressive and non-destructive. If you keep prey animals such as birds, rodents, or rabbits, you must keep them secure in their enclosures from any wild animal.

#### Squirrels

Tree bark, fruits, and nuts are important food sources for squirrels. They can damage vegetation, but they can also be very beneficial as natural tree trimmers. If you want to keep squirrels away from your plants, try the following: Plant your bulbs in a coating of cayenne pepper; spray squirrel repellent directly on the plants (combine a small bottle hot pepper sauce, a gallon of water, and water retentative or 1 teaspoon of dishwashing detergent); place a two-foot band of sheet metal around the tree trunk about six feet off the ground.

Females often enter buildings to build a nest. They only need an opening with a diameter of 1½ inches. They invariably find an entrance high on a structure and exploit an existing hole or enlarge one by gnawing it. A homeowner's first sign of squirrel presence is usually the sound of scampering in the attic.

### **"My Greatest Concerns Are..."**

#### **Summary of Comments from 2013 FOSP membership forms**

- 432 comments on land use and circulation, including 274 comments on traffic and parking
- 141 comments over-development, and 17 comments on Santa Monica College
- 172 comments on Santa Monica Airport, including noise, pollution, and safety concerns
- 114 comments on public safety, including crime, traffic enforcement, pedestrian safety, and wondering why the SM Alerts system didn't send out messages during the SMC shooting incident in June
- 16 comments on sustainability and the environment
- 16 comments on Human Services, particularly homelessness
- 16 comments on K-12 education
- 9 comments on city government
- 3 comments on the urban forest (city trees creating a mess and blocking sunlight)
- 2 comments on open space (parks)
- 10 comments on other concerns, including disability rights

The FOSP Board uses these comments to determine the focus of our efforts each year, so please list your "concerns" when you send in your membership form.

## Lincoln Blvd. Task Force

ROGER C. SWANSON, CHAIR

The Lincoln Blvd. Task Force is moving forward with its efforts to work with the City of Santa Monica, local neighborhood associations (FOSP, OPA, and PNA), and other interested organizations to transform Lincoln into a “neighborhood serving” street – “Safe, Clean, Beautiful and Green.”

Highlights of progress in 2013:

- New murals on Lincoln, thanks to the efforts of Evan Meyer’s “Beautify Lincoln” and Mario Arteaga (Katmandu and Santino’s), who have donated their time and resources
- Discussions with the City Planning Department by Bob Taylor, Zina Josephs and others to influence the new zoning regulations to limit density, limit height and promote businesses to best serve our neighborhoods
- Two clean-up events, coordinated by Killeen “KC” Pillon on April 20 (Earth Day) and November 2, to remove trash and weeds, with more than 50 volunteers participating
- Repaving of Lincoln Blvd. in August and re-stripping of travel lanes, with the addition of “Keep Clear” street signage at some intersections, as requested by the Task Force
- Resident and Business surveys taken by 638 residents and 15 businesses

- Coordination of Code Compliance issues by David Tann, addressing visual blight
- Emergence of several new businesses, along with the unfortunate departure of some long-standing community-serving businesses

### What Is on the Agenda for 2014?

- New murals on businesses are expected, plus a replacement for the Muir Woods mural at Olympic High School (NW corner of Lincoln and Ocean Park Blvd.). Attend the March 26 open house at 6 pm in the Olympic High auditorium to meet the artists and discuss their design. (The parking entrance is on Pine Street, one block north of Ocean Park Blvd., just west of Lincoln.)
- New trees! We anticipate about three dozen new trees in the empty tree wells.
- We hope for a few more “Keep Clear” markings at intersections that were missed last year.
- At last, the City’s “Lincoln Neighborhood Corridor Plan” will commence.

### Lincoln Neighborhood Corridor Plan

While the Lincoln Blvd. Task Force has made great progress, we are really excited about the next phase, a formal Santa Monica City “Lincoln Neighborhood Corridor Plan.” This will begin in a few months, under the guidance of planner Peter James, who led the “Ocean Park Blvd. Green Street” project for the City.

The Plan boundary will extend from the I-10 Freeway to the Venice border. It will address a variety of issues, including a streetscape design that will consider the potential for landscaping, new “smart” crosswalks with flashing warning lights, medians, gateway features at the Santa Monica/Venice border, street furniture, pedestrian lighting, and public art.

The Plan will also contemplate transit enhancements, improved on- and off-street parking strategies (including shared parking pools for local employees) and sustainability features to capture and treat urban runoff and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions. Importantly, the Plan will pursue business improvement issues with an eye towards ameliorating visual blight, improving maintenance, and increasing general “ownership” of the boulevard.

Once a consultant is hired to facilitate the process, the City will hold a series of public workshops and festivals. Plans are to select a consultant by July.

The current timeline is for the design phase to last about 18 months and, pending funding, for preparation of construction drawings to take another year. Phased implementation of the project could commence in 2017, again depending on receipt of construction funds.



**Santa Monica Police Department**

Jacqueline A. Seabrooks  
Chief of Police  
[www.santamonicapd.org](http://www.santamonicapd.org)

**THE SANTA MONICA POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**REMINDS YOU:**

**IF YOU SEE SOMETHING,**

**SAY SOMETHING!**

TO REPORT SUSPICIOUS PERSONS  
AND/OR ACTIVITY CALL  
**310-458-8491**

FOR ALL EMERGENCIES CALL **9-1-1**  
NARCOTICS HOTLINE **310-458-8455**

TO MAKE AN ANONYMOUS REPORT  
CONTACT CRIME STOPPERS AT **800-222-TIPS (8477)**

