



FRIENDS OF SUNSET PARK

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

AUGUST 2016 NEWSLETTER

Layout by Bill Josephs

Santa Monica College Update

The SMC Board of Trustees voted in July to place a \$345 million facilities bond measure on the November ballot. Here is a summary of previous SMC bond measures:

- 1992: Measure T . . . \$23 Million . . . (will not be paid off until 2022)
- 2002: Measure U . . . \$160 Million . . . (will not be paid off until 2032)
- 2004: Measure S . . . \$135 Million . . . (will not be paid off until 2034)
- 2008: Measure AA . . . \$295 Million . . . (will not be paid off until 2038)

The \$345 million bond measure on the November ballot would probably not be paid off until 2046. ***“The District estimates, based on current assumptions, that total debt service on the bonds would be \$722,483,675.”*** If the new bond measure passes, the tax obligations from all five bond measures, including interest, could possibly add up to \$2 billion. These will have to be paid off solely by property owners and renters in Santa Monica and Malibu.

In Fall 2014, only 4% of SMC students listed Santa Monica High School as the last high school they had attended. 50% listed California high schools outside Santa Monica and Malibu, 30% listed out-of-state high schools, and 17% listed high schools outside the United States.

Meanwhile, the statewide ***Public Education Facilities Bond Initiative*** will also be on the November ballot. If it passes, \$2 billion of the \$9 billion in proceeds would be allocated for acquiring, constructing, renovating, and equipping community college facilities.

As one of the 112 California commu-

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Santa Monica Airport Update

August 23 City Council Meeting

On July 26, the Santa Monica City Council unanimously approved a motion to consider a resolution indicating its intent to close the Santa Monica Airport by June 30, 2018, or as soon as legally permitted. The City Council will consider the resolution to close the Santa Monica Airport on Tuesday, August 23, at Santa Monica City Hall, City Council Chambers, 1685 Main Street.

The agenda for the August 23 meeting will be posted at least 72 hours before the meeting at <http://www.smgov.net/departments/clerk/agendas.aspx>

The FOSP Board supports the resolution. Whether you support or oppose, you can speak during Public Comment by filling out a speaker card. The August 23 meeting will begin at 6:30 PM on the 2nd floor at City Hall. Free validated parking is available at the Civic Center Parking Structure at 4th Street and Civic Center Drive, or in the adjacent Civic Auditorium parking lot.

Emails can be sent to City Council members at CouncilMtgItems@smgov.net (include “Airport resolution” in the subject line).

In 2014, Santa Monica voters approved Ballot Measure LC, which mandates that if the Airport land is permanently closed to aviation uses, it will be used for parks, open space, and recreational facilities, unless the voters decide otherwise.

The Council also directed the City Manager to report back to it on what other measures could be taken in the interim to reduce the Airport impacts and to imple-

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Land Use Update

Downtown Community Plan

The Downtown area is bounded by Wilshire Blvd. on the north, Lincoln Court on the east, the I-10 Freeway on the south, and Ocean Avenue on the west. The city’s Planning Department is in the process of developing a Downtown Community Plan (DCP), which is posted at: <http://www.downtownsmplan.org/>

A draft Program Environmental Impact Report was prepared to analyze the potential environmental impacts of the proposed DCP. It’s posted here: http://www.downtownsmplan.org/app_pages/view/153

A Downtown 2030 build-out analysis includes a 3-D model view and map over-

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Fall Semester Begins in August

SMMUSD classes begin on Monday, August 22.

SMC classes begin on Monday, August 29.

SMMUSD and SMC are working with the City of Santa Monica and the Big Blue Bus to try to deal with increased traffic and bus ridership at the beginning of the school year.

Please allow extra time to get to school the first week or so, and please watch out for pedestrians and cyclists!

FOSP Annual Meeting Recap

Thank you to all who attended the June 25th FOSP Annual General Membership Meeting! As columnist Charles Andrews noted in the June 29th *Santa Monica Daily Press*, “**Friends of Sunset Park Know How to Party!**” Well, it wasn’t really a party last Saturday; it was the annual meeting to elect a new board. But the Friends of Sunset Park had a huge turnout (100-plus signed in), decorations, live music, a slick slideshow, a high-profile guest speaker and quite a spread. A member of the Democratic Club took a long look at the long table groaning with gourmet goodies and muttered, ‘WE are going to have to do MUCH better.’ I’m marking my calendar for next year.

“They held their election without incident, calls of voter fraud or riots (all the candidates called for managing inevitable development, not stopping it), projected a striking slideshow of dozens of gorgeous parks around the world built on airport grounds, and City Manager Rick Cole gave yet another epigrammatical speech, praising the turnout and observing that this democracy thing is hard work. There are severe tensions and many aren’t interested in compromise, but we need balance....He concluded, unequivocally, on the hot-button issue for FOSP: ‘To get that airport taken over and made into a park—what a legacy! And we will!’”

A special “thank you” to Cathy McCabe for catering the event; to Chris Dawson for providing music during registration; to speakers Louis Tse from UCLA, SMPD’s Erik Milosevich and Myesha Morrison, Airport 2 Park Foundation’s Michael Brodsky, and City Manager Rick Cole; to the staff at Mt. Olive Church; to Joanne Curtis and Jeanne Laurie; and to local businesses which donated door prizes.

Emmalie Hodgin and Armen Melkonians Honored

The “Emmalie” Award was presented to two honorees this year. The first was Emmalie Hodgin, a founding member of FOSP for whom the award was named, who passed away in May. A video was shown of Emmalie speaking so eloquently in her inimitable style to the City Council in 1998 (thank you to Jennifer Polhemus for locating the video). Two of Emmalie’s children, Barbara Hodgin and Jerry Wilson, accepted the award.

The second honoree was Armen Melkonians, the founder of Residocracy.org. In 2014, Armen spearheaded the successful referendum petition drive to rescind the development agreement for the Hines Corporation’s Bergamot Transit Village Center (7,000 new daily car trips). This year, Armen and Tricia Crane co-authored the Land Use Voter Empowerment (LUVe) Initiative and organized the successful petition drive to get it on the November 2016 ballot. While exempting various types of housing, LUVe would require voter approval for larger projects, development agreements, and significant changes to city planning documents.

The following were elected to the 2016–17 Board of Directors

Elaine Blaugrund, Leigh Brumberg, Peter Donald, Charles R. Donaldson, Vivien Flitton, Ofer Grossman, Zina Josephs, Nikki Kolhoff, Cathy Larson, and Clare Thomas.

SMC Update, continued from page 1

nity colleges, SMC is considered a state institution. As a result, SMC’s building projects do NOT require any city reviews or approvals. The Division of the State Architect provides design and construction oversight for K-12 schools, community colleges, and various other state-owned and leased facilities, such as the UCLA Medical Center in Santa Monica.

Construction expenditures and snafus: The huge hole in the ground on Pico Blvd., which was dug in 2009, will eventually be the new \$130 million Student Services building. The new \$24 million glass-walled Media Center on Pearl Street near 17th was apparently built without air conditioning and seems to turn into an oven on sunny days. The Main Campus Quad cost a total of \$11 million.

The 5-year construction plan in the July 5, 2016 Board of Trustees agenda (see page 8 at <http://tinyurl.com/zo23vzb>) included the following:

- Math-Science Addition – \$38 million
- Art Complex – \$8.5 million
- Media & Technology Complex – Academy of Entertainment & Technology Center – \$92 million
- East Wing at the Performing Arts Campus – \$23 million
- Health, Fitness, P.E. – \$50 million
- Environmental Performance – \$9 million
- Student Services Building – \$110 million
- Malibu Center – \$19 million
- Early Childhood Education Center at the Civic Center – \$13 million
- Drescher Hall Modernization – \$2 million

Traffic impacts: The SMC 2010 Master Facilities Plan 2010 Update Final EIR described significant effects on traffic and transportation, including **a net increase of 5,678 daily weekday car trips.**

Among the 36 intersections with “significant and unavoidable impact” are Pico and Lincoln; Pico and 18th; Pico and 23rd; Pico and Centinela; Pearl and 20th; Pearl and 23rd; Pearl

and Cloverfield; Ocean Park Blvd. and Lincoln; Ocean Park Blvd. and 18th; Ocean Park Blvd. and 21st; Ocean Park Blvd. and 22nd; Ocean Park Blvd. and 23rd; Walgrove and Rose; and Santa Monica Freeway entrances and exits.

Among 13 street segments with “significant and unavoidable impacts” are 14th St. between Pico and Cedar; Pearl St. between 16th and 20th; and segments of both 20th and 23rd Streets.

According to the EIR, “There are no feasible mitigation measures that would reduce all of the potential individual traffic impacts.”

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Land Use Update, continued from page 1

lays of sites not considered to have build-out potential, sites considered unlikely to have build-out potential, and sites considered to have potential for change. The last category includes “entitled” pipeline projects, proposed pipeline projects, properties with at least 2.0 Floor Area Ratio remaining within the proposed building envelope, and properties that have low improvement/land value ratio. See <http://www.smgov.net/Departments/PCD/SeeDowntown2030/>

Comments or questions about the DCP can be posted at <http://www.downtownsmplan.org/comments>. These comments are visible to the public and will be used by the planning team in creating a final Downtown Community Plan.

Land Use Voter Empowerment (LUV) Initiative – The LUV Initiative has qualified for the November ballot by collecting petition signatures from more than 10% of the registered voters in Santa Monica. It would require voter approval for larger projects as well as major modifications to the City’s land use planning documents (after they have gone through the city’s regular approval process).

Exempt from the voter approval requirement are single family homes, 100% Affordable Housing Projects, 100% Moderate Income Housing Projects, 100% Senior Citizen housing projects and, in the Coastal Zone, any project that is consistent with the applicable height and density limitations in the certified Local Coastal Program (LCP). Also exempt is a list of properties in the city’s Housing Element that, if developed, would meet the 2021 new housing target for Santa Monica set by the Southern California Association of Governments.

SMMUSD schools, Santa Monica College, and UCLA Medical Center in Santa Monica would automatically be exempt. The Division of the State Architect provides design and construction oversight for K-12 schools, community colleges and various other state-owned and leased facilities.

Clover Park Restrooms

The restroom buildings at Clover Park are more than 30 years old. The City of Santa Monica has decided to demolish and rebuild both restrooms. Project design is underway, and an outreach event to get community input on the initial concepts is scheduled for **Saturday, August 27, from 10 AM to Noon at Clover Park.**

Community members can stop by the park any time during the event to speak to the architects, see proposed design concepts, materials, and color schemes and give feedback. Light refreshments will be provided. Those who cannot attend will be able to provide input online following the event. The project is budgeted at \$1.8 million, with construction expected to begin in Summer 2017 and be completed in Summer 2018. (Temporary restrooms will be provided.) Additional info is posted at www.santamonicaparks.org

Airport Update, continued from page 1

ment the proposed resolution, which includes jump starting the planning process and environmental analysis under the California Environment Quality Act to get Santa Monica closer to the community’s vision for the land.

For more information on efforts to close Santa Monica Airport, visit <http://tinyurl.com/mw3rchj>

Environmental Study of Airport Park Expansion

On August 9, the City Council moved forward on a plan to triple the size of Airport Park by hiring environment consultants for the project. The Council awarded a contract to AMEC Environment and Infrastructure to conduct an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on the 12-acre expansion of the park. An EIR is legally required before the Council can approve the project. The goal is to develop the site for recreational use within three years. The project involves expanding the existing 4-acre Airport Park by adding two additional parcels next to it.

Santa Monica Airport Commission

The next Airport Commission meeting will be held on Monday, September 26, at 7:30 PM, in the City Council Chambers at City Hall. The public is invited to attend and to speak during Public Comment. The agenda will be posted 72 hours before the meeting at <http://www.smgov.net/departments/airport/commission/default.aspx?id=45320>

The July 25 Airport Commission agenda included a presentation on the Airport Park expansion project and design concepts, an update on the Aircraft Census at the Airport, and an update on Airport security. At its June 27 meeting, the Commission voted to send Noise Code enforcement recommendations to the City Council.

Congressional Representatives Lieu and Bass Request Review of FAA Determination

Congressman Ted Lieu and Congresswoman Karen Bass have written a letter to the Government Accountability Office (GAO) requesting a formal review of the facts of a FAA Director’s Determination issued in December 2015.

The Director of Airport Compliance determined that the City of Santa Monica was obligated by FAA regulations to operate Santa Monica Airport until 2023 because, in his opinion, the FAA grant requirements of 1994 do not expire until 2023. The City contends that the grant obligations expired in 2014 because federal law says the term of FAA grant obligations is 20 years, and the grant was awarded in 1994. The City appealed the Director’s Determination to the Associate Director of the FAA, but the FAA has yet to respond.

Thank You!

A big “thank you” to these local businesses which generously donated door prizes for the June 25th FOSP Annual Meeting:

- Artful Handcrafted Gifts – 1726 Ocean Park Blvd.
- Bark Williams – 2901 Ocean Park Blvd.
- Baskin Robbins – 2614 Pico Blvd.
- Bob’s Market – 1650 Ocean Park Blvd.
- Bubble Boba – 2829 Ocean Park Blvd.
- Campos Famous Burritos – 2008 Pico Blvd.
- Caprice Fine French Pastries – 3213 Pico Blvd.
- C.L.A. Electric – Santa Monica
- Classic Pizza – 2624 Pico Blvd.
- Computer Business Center – 2222 Pico Blvd., #101
- Edelweiss Flower Boutique – 1722 Ocean Park Blvd.
- Engler Bros Auto Parts – 2630 Pico Blvd.
- Evvett’s Model Shop – 1636 Ocean Park Blvd.
- Gilbert’s El Indio Restaurant – 2526 Pico Blvd.
- Lares Restaurant – 2909 Pico Blvd.
- Laura’s Nails – 3026 Pico Blvd.
- Make Believe Costumes – 3240 Pico Blvd.
- Maya Shoe Repair – 1708 Ocean Park Blvd.
- Miyako Japanese Restaurant – 2829 Ocean Park Blvd.
- MK Dry Cleaning – 3007 Ocean Park Blvd.
- Rejuice – 3238 Pico Blvd.
- Santa Monica Lock & Safe Co. – 2208 Pico Blvd.
- Santa Monica Playhouse – 1211 4th Street
- Santa Monica Yoga – 1640 Ocean Park Blvd.
- Superfast Copying & Binding – 2358 Pico Blvd.
- Tandoor-India – 2622 Pico Blvd.
- Tel’s Barber Shop – 2210 Pico Blvd.
- The Cut Salon – 1620 Ocean Park Blvd.
- Trader Joe’s – 3212 Pico Blvd.
- TREATS Frozen Yogurt – 1700 Ocean Park Blvd.
- UnUrban Coffee House – 3301 Pico Blvd.

Historic Resources Inventory: Your Help Needed!

A historic resources survey is systematically identifying, researching and documenting properties that reflect important themes in the city’s growth and development such as architecture, city planning, social history, ethnic heritage, politics, industry, transportation, commerce, entertainment and others.

Historic resources include buildings, structures, objects, cultural landscapes, natural features and groupings of resources or areas known as historic districts. Examples of types of resources, or “property types,” that may be included in the citywide survey are residential subdivisions, banks, bridges, religious buildings, courtyard apartments, canneries, and parks.

The City’s existing Historic Resources Inventory (HRI), last updated in 2008, contains approximately 1,600 properties.

As part of the Citywide Survey Update, the Planning Department is asking residents to tell them about historic places that are important in their neighborhoods.

They are particularly interested in the lesser-known places that may be important for a broad range of reasons, including architecture or landscape design; association with an important person; social, cultural and/or ethnic heritage; residential development, commerce, or industry.

The Citywide Survey Update will consider all properties dating from 1977 or earlier. All information received from the community will be considered by the project team, and potential resources will be reviewed using professional standards for evaluation.

Learn more at www.HistoricSaMo.SquareSpace.com

Contact the survey team at:

SaMoSurvey@HistoricResourcesGroups.com

Follow progress on Facebook at “Historic SaMo”

From the 2016 FOSP Annual Meeting



Annual Meeting refreshments



Rick Cole, Santa Monica City Manager



FOSP Board members with Emmalie Award recipients