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March 2021

MARCH 9TH, 2021 VIRTUAL COMMUNITY MEETING



SCRA members are privileged to have two distinguished speakers at our March Community Meeting. First, US Congressman Brad Sherman is scheduled to speak and respond to questions from 7:00 PM to 7:30 PM.



Following Congressman Sherman, Los Angeles City Planning Director Vince Bertoni will be introduced. Mr. Bertoni will address local planning topics such as: how Additional Dwelling Units (ADU) affect the Baseline Mansions Ordinance; zoning of apartments next to residential properties; and updates on The Community Plan and Specific Plan. There will be a Q&A session after each speaker.

HOW TO RECEIVE A ZOOM INVITATION TO THE MEETING:

Email SCRA no later than March 5th at ZoomMeeting@studiocityresidents.org, and we will place you on the invitation list for this meeting. On the morning of the meeting, SCRA will email you an invitation link to attend this meeting on Zoom.

PREPARING TO ATTEND THE MEETING:

We recommend that you download the Zoom app onto your device (computer, tablet, iPod, or smartphone) before the Community Meeting, as it can take a few minutes to do this and set up the app, so best to do so before the meeting. You need not sign up for a paid Zoom account to participate in the meeting. The app is available at zoom.us and through your device App store.

JOINING THE MEETING:

When you click on the link provided, your device, or Zoom, may ask you to allow using the Zoom App, using your video, and using your audio. Allow these, then enter your name and email address as requested to join the meeting. There will also be instructions for joining by phone.

As a meeting attendee, you will only watch and listen (your camera will be off, and your microphone muted). So, don't worry about anyone seeing you on-screen during the meeting.

MEETING Q & A:

We hope to provide you the opportunity to ask questions after the presentations. Look for more details on this in your invitation link email.

FROM YOUR BOARD
Your Board in Action

Seven motions were recently submitted by SCRA to the Los Angeles City Council:

SLOW STREETS AND PARKS (SUPPORT)

The Board of the Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) supported the city by filing its support at Council File 20-0838 to develop a permanent network of Slow Streets to enable wider access to

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2021-2022 MEMBERSHIP

During the pandemic when the SCRA offices were closed, the SCRA renewed all 2019-2020 June memberships free of charge. We are now back in our office, following safe COVID protocols, and can once again access the database. Your membership will need to be renewed before it expires on June 30, 2021. Reminders will be mailed out in early to mid-May. This may seem like a cliché, but your membership is especially important to us, 'numbers really do count'. If you wish to renew online you can go to studiocityresidents.org at any time.

Considering the difficulty of many of our local businesses to remain solvent, the membership committee is pausing the SCRA discount card program and considering its past popularity, hope to bring it back at a future time. In the meantime, we urge all our members to support our local businesses.



(Board, cont'd)

open spaces for all, including but not limited to a potential program structure, eligibility criteria, staffing needs, and a plan that would enable interested neighborhoods to apply for a permanent Slow Streets pilot program. The following was specifically addressed:

1. There should be thorough outreach to stakeholders before this program is implemented. Neighborhood Councils to be part of this outreach.
2. There should be clear criteria how neighborhoods can opt-in to a "permanent" Slow Streets program.
3. The report should address the lack of consistency in street selection and establish criteria for what qualifies a street for a Slow Street Designation.
4. There should be ongoing follow-up studies and publicly available data on whether these changes actually yield the desired outcomes.
5. The report should identify the means of enforcement, whether by LAPD, LADOT, Parking Enforcement, or another entity.
6. Will overnight parking restrictions or Preferential Parking restrictions be enforced on a Slow Street?
7. The report should address the problem of cut-through traffic when drivers re-route to avoid Slow Streets.
8. The report should also address ways to minimize driver confusion with new permanent signage and street usage.

The SCRA encouraged the City to redouble their efforts to find appropriate green space, i.e. new parks, walk streets, pedestrian plazas, etc. versus taking away needed transportation infrastructure to meet green space needs. The SCRA would like to see these issues be addressed in any feasibility study and see this feasibility study made public.

78" DIGITAL AD SCREENS (OPPOSE)

SCRA opposes the 'Streets LA' proposal to install 78-inch tall Digital Ad Screens at all public bus shelters with attached cellphone tracking to collect an individual's data while at any bus shelter.

ADDRESS FINAL DESIGN OF POSSIBLE BUS SHELTER DIGITAL SIGNS (SUPPORT)

SCRA supports the City Council to instruct the Bureau of Street Services (aka Streets LA) to address the final design of proposed bus shelter digital signs/cellphone data collection and assure the public that adequate controls are in place to protect neighborhoods and communities. Any deliberation and decision on this issue must be made public and resolved before any award to operate the Sidewalk and Transit Amenities Program (STAP) is approved.

AMEND AND CLARIFY GAS POWERED LEAF BLOWER ORDINANCE

SCRA requested Councilmember Paul Krekorian to make a

Motion for the city to amend and clarify the Los Angeles Gas Powered Leaf Blower Ordinance (LAMC) Section 112. 04 (c) to read, "No internal combustion blower shall be used within 500 feet of a residence at any time", and put an end to loopholes in this ordinance so (LAMC) Section 112. 04 (c) can actually be enforced.

MOTION IN CITY COUNCIL TO ALLOW AIRBNB TO EXPAND (OPPOSE)

SCRA opposes the expansion of Airbnb. The housing crisis and pandemic have exacerbated housing shortages therefore the City should not allow Airbnb and other home-sharing services to expand operations. By reducing its widespread effort to legalize home-sharing to three smaller actions, the City is distorting the environmental consequences under the California Environmental Quality Act. The cumulative impact of these smaller actions would remove roughly 42,000 units that would otherwise be available to provide long term housing-which is more than the 36,571 shortfall of very low-, low-, and moderate-income units needed for the City to meet its Regional Housing Needs Assessment ("RHNA") obligations.

RAISING PENALTIES FOR UNPERMITTED REMODEL (SUPPORT)

SCRA supports Council File 17-0226-S1 to raise the penalties for unpermitted remodels, additions, and demolition of buildings, to be of a sufficient economic deterrent in stopping unpermitted activities. Additionally, even higher penalties should be imposed (based on the size and value of the project) on chronic offenders, as well as, permits not granted for a specific period of time and a delay in the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy.

CITYWIDE SIGN ORDINANCE (OPPOSE)

SCRA opposes the newest version of the Citywide Sign Ordinance (CF 11-1705), which the Planning and Land Management Committee issued on Dec. 10, 2020, allowing new digital billboards on public property, and in new districts which would spread intrusive digital billboards into a great many intersections and commercial districts. Changing digital billboards creates driver distraction and accidents. Version B Plus, however as written by the City Planning Commission is supported by the SCRA. It limits where digital signs can go and establishes a strong takedown ratio for a better overall impact on sign blight. An Environmental Impact Report is required on any new digital billboard. Version B Plus is endorsed by the majority of Los Angeles voters in two public opinion polls. The Board of the Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) therefore rejects any version other than B Plus.

WEDDINGTON GOLF AND TENNIS Proposed Historical-Cultural Monument

An application for Historical-Cultural Monument Designation had its first hearing on January 21st. At that hearing, the Historical Commission approved in its entirety the recommendations submitted in the staff report.

It was determined that the property may be significant

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(Weddington, cont'd)

enough to warrant further investigation as a potential Historical-Cultural Monument. Two Commissioners are conducting a site visit to investigate further and a second hearing will follow.

Presentation to the Commissioners was made by Teri Austin, the applicant, who is a resident of Studio City for over 30 years. The full transcript is available upon request.

After the presentation by Teri Austin, she was joined in the public comment period by more than 50 speakers including SLAROS and SCRA, all in full support of a Historical-Cultural Monument. SCRA also lodged a support letter.

The site has represented the community life of Studio City, the Valley, and Los Angeles for decades. Today the site, despite some minor improvements, qualifies in the California and National Registries. Pursuant to Criteria One on the above registries, Weddington Golf and Tennis is significant in the area of recreation and entertainment and additionally as a community recreation center. The nine-hole golf course and driving range, constructed in the 1950s, and developed over the next 10 years, provided the growing Studio City community a public facility accessible where children and adults alike could learn and practice the sport.

As early as the 50s and beyond, clubs open to the public discriminated against people of color, gender, and certain religions. But at Weddington, even before the US Supreme ruled such practices were discriminatory, the prior Studio City Golf and Tennis facility welcomed everyone.

For women, it was hard to get an entry into the game of golf as women had limited access to many clubs. At the Studio City Golf Center women were welcome at any time of the day. Lessons for women were 50 cents a lesson, this at a time when the going rate was \$5.

Of the eight architectural golf light standards, those large golf balls, now only six remain, all in their original location. Studio City is the integration between the history of the entertainment business and Studio City as a whole. The first tournament ball in 1956 at Studio City Golf and Tennis was hit out by Dean Martin when he was at the top of his other game, Martin and Lewis movies, and his fame as a singer. He was one of the best-known celebrities in the world, and he played the first tournament at Studio City. Don Cornelius the leader of Soul Train played and took lessons at this site as well.

In Austin's application, she recalled her experiences that one of the most beautiful things about the facility is the multi-generational use. People of all ages use the course and one of the nicest things is walking on this property and being able to hear the oral history from the people who have been there for generations. Some tell how they played with Bob Hope or someone else telling her that Sly and the Family Stone gave her golf tips when she was a child. Austin is hoping that a landmark designation might help this gem to be known for many generations to come.



TO THE MARKET

The Studio City Farmers Market continues to operate as an essential business during the Pandemic and as such has some specific guidelines from the Los Angeles County Department of Health that must be adhered to. The entrance continues to be at Laurel Canyon, with the exit at Radford Avenue. Prepared foods and most of the packaged food is in the small parking lot from the middle of the Market. The entrance to this section is in the middle of the main market.

Because capacity in the Market is currently limited, shoppers who enter the parking lot cannot re-enter the main Market and must exit on the other side of the parking lot. This allows us to maintain the number of people in the Market at the correct levels while not having huge lines of people waiting to get in.

Market staff understands that this set-up isn't the most convenient, but it has been approved by the Health Department and it is the most efficient one based on the Market's physical parameters.

BEAUTIFICATION UPDATE

Meg McDonald Seltzer, SCBA President

Pruning, planting, and a pipe sums up our beautification report to you.



Thanks to our vendor Stay Green, the two Canary Island Date Palms and the two Mexican Fan Palms at the Oasis (across the street from Marshalls) and the two Mexican Fan Palms on the Vineland median near Ralphs, went from wearing frumpy fronds to looking elegantly svelte. Most types of birds in Southern California nest between February and August 31. So trimming trees and pruning palms should be done outside of nesting season to avoid needlessly destroying the nest or eggs of any bird. We want you to know, your Studio City Beautification Association arranged for pruning to be done in January.

In our continuing effort as your representative to beautify our community, SCBA obtained approval from the city to adopt and beautify the Vineland Medians at Bluffside and in front of The Garland. Both medians

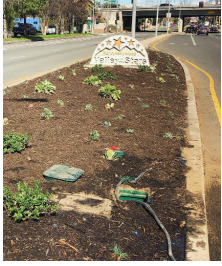


look wildly different thanks to Wild Flora's design and planting. Right now, they're little baby plants but they'll grow and fill in to create a dense carpet of plants and ground cover. In no time, the two medians will be brimming with drought-tolerant color.

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(Beautification, cont'd)

Shades of starting a baby album, here's a picture of each median. As the plants grow, we'll update you on their beauty with new photos.



And in the seemingly endlessly streaming soap opera saga to get the "Studio City Welcomes You" sign installed at Vineland and Whipple; we've run into another detour that takes us underground to the problem of the pipe. Also known as the "We didn't know you were there pipe...and what's your length?" This new surprise now requires a redesign of the sign footings, a reevaluation of what's under the ground, and a reapplication for permits. Stay tuned.

We are still living in a coronavirus pandemic world that keeps us apart. We are all in this together and when it's over we will see each other again in the neighborhood.

There's a moral to this episode of life we're living. We do what we gotta do until we can get back to doing what we want. Stay safe.

HELP BUILD YOUR COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

VOLUNTEER



Give us a call if you can volunteer even just a short amount of time to help staff the SCRA office for a weekly, two-hour shift. The office is located on Ventura Place and we follow all COVID protocols.

The current open position is for Thursday mornings from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon. (Hours can be adjusted as needed.) Responsibilities include answering the phone, forwarding messages, and some light computer work. We have an excellent Office Manager who will train the new volunteer and be available for any problem-solving. If you are interested, please email us at SCRABoard@studiocityresidents.org or call the office at 818-509-0230.

The volunteer should be familiar with Microsoft Word and Excel and have a basic knowledge of computer functions; internet knowledge is not necessary.

OPERATION ROOM KEY Sportsmen's Lodge

Sportsmen's Lodge management reported that the Project Roomkey Program, which shelters the homeless to slow the spread of COVID, is coming to an end. They amended their agreement with the City of Los Angeles to provide a longer ramp-down period, allowing service providers adequate time to relocate participants to new housing. The Project Roomkey program is expected to end at the Sportsmen's Lodge Hotel on March 15. Recently announced Federal funding may allow the program to continue beyond March 15 but at this time the City of Los Angeles and Sportsmen's Lodge management have no plans to do this.

HOMELESS CAMP AT PARK-N-RIDE ON VENTURA BLVD.

The Park N Ride on Ventura Blvd. between Lankershim and Campo de Cahuenga has become an encampment for the homeless without any accommodations provided for disposal of garbage or any sanitary stations. The debris and filth on this site is horrific. This location is owned by L A County. Over the last several months, thanks to Jessica Fugate, Studio City deputy to Councilmember Paul Krekorian, the county has initiated a couple of cleanups. Jessica has also been working with the county hoping to make this area a safe parking site for the homeless. The last word from the county is that they are in discussions on the 'best use' of this property. The ongoing discussions center on making this a safe parking site or building some housing. In late January, the SCRA Board sent a letter to Jessica Orellana, MSW Field Deputy to Supervisor Sheila Kuehl.



"The Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) has been informed that the

County is considering creating a "safe parking" area at this location. The SCRA is totally in favor of using this parking lot as a "safe parking" site. The SCRA would like to emphasize that this is an urgent matter. The conditions that now exist on this lot are totally unsafe, unsanitary, and dangerous and it is ripe to become a super spreader of COVID.

For the safety of the campers and the community. SCRA requests that the County address this matter immediately."

ASK THE SCRA

One of the functions of the SCRA is to empower its members, who are the eyes and ears of the community. The SCRA can assist by providing opportunities to make all of Studio City a better place to live. Please send questions to scraboard@studiocityresidents.org.

Q: SHOES OVER DWP WIRES: I was trying to save you the trouble by reporting this problem directly to the DWP but have not received a response. I reported that there are shoes thrown over the power lines on the corner of Ventura Blvd and Laurel Canyon and also on Whittsett and Ventura. The latter has been there for over 6 months and I reported it long ago. No action. This is a well-known signal that there is a drug-dealing operation in the area. This is also unsafe and they need to be removed.

SCRA: DWP checked this request and said that your requests did not make it through to the office. DWP says that they will have the shoes pulled down by the first week of February and will notify SCRA once they are removed.

Q: The road is just wide enough for a firetruck on Sunswept Drive at the new construction site at 4074 Sunswept Drive. I called LADOT at 311 to have them look into the missing No

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(Ask SCRA, cont'd)

Parking signs in the area at the curve around this location. The city agent promises that they are going to look into it, again.

SCRA: Several things are happening on Sunswept Drive: The council office checked with the Department of Transportation and their records show that no parking signs are on the south side of Sunswept but were not indicated as being on the north side. LADOT is in the process of conducting a field check to determine if the existing signage is in place and if new signage is warranted. Also, the city has put fencing around the pylons under the bridge to discourage nefarious deals taking place under that bridge.

Q: There is a diseased Oak Tree on the south side of Dilling between Kraft and Tujunga, southeast corner 4118 Kraft on the Dilling side. Please advise.

SCRA: Vice President, Barry Johnson took a look at the tree

and was not sure it was dead YET, but was headed there. Barry's advice: **First** thing that needs to be done is for you or your gardener to remove the mushroom clumps A.S.A.P. (Get everything... use a hand shovel if necessary). These mushrooms are the classic "Oak Root" fungus mushroom seen all over Studio City from decades of overwatering... not that you necessarily overwatered, but the fungus spores can travel through the air from other neighboring properties. (Ten years ago I lost 4 of my front yard trees, plus my parkway tree to this fungus... which attacks the roots of far more than just Oak trees!)

Second, get a City Arborist out to inspect (Covid should NOT be an excuse for one person to come out and look in their own solitude!): To report a tree emergency, request a street tree inspection, or obtain a tree-related permit, please create a service request by calling 311 or using the MyLA311 smartphone app. Additional information is available at streetsla.lacity.org/urban-forestry-division

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Alan Dymond

When giving a speech at Cape Town in June 1966, JFK said there is a Chinese curse that says, 'May he live in interesting times'.

Whether it is a Chinese curse or not, when the expression is used ironically, the implication is 'uninteresting times' of peace and tranquility are more life-enhancing than interesting times. Inferences however lie with the audience, and that's us.

In these interesting times, what is happening at Harvard Westlake's "Los Angeles River Park"? The name implies that it is a "benefit for the community" as is stated in their filings on record with the Planning Department. SCRA and SLAROS, however, choose to call it what it is, a "sports complex" with principal beneficiaries being the Harvard Westlake students and extracurricular activities. Also, be sure to read the article in this publication on the Historical Cultural Monument application for the Weddington Golf and Tennis site.

Save the Cougars: Another Chinese proverb: "The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second-best time is now." The National Wildlife Federation planted its idea of a wildlife corridor and it has grown over the years to now being a reality. The Wildlife Corridor over the 101 freeway at Ventura Fwy. - Agoura Road, is a bridge to make a safe north-south passage for wildlife across the freeway to connect Liberty Canyon and the Santa Monica's. Money has been raised and construction is slated for November 2021. Visit savelacougars.org for more details and to follow the progress.

Another end of year success: The SCRA Board purchased and delivered \$300 worth of food to donate to Councilmember Krekorian's Food Drive in December. Thanks to the generous gift of toys from the community, the LAPD had more toys this year than ever before.

Traffic Signal at Ventura Blvd. and Berry Drive: Work to install a traffic signal at Ventura Blvd and Berry Dr has started. It may appear to be moving slowly due in part to underground services that have to be re-aligned. By the time of this publication this much-needed traffic light at this intersection just east of the Hand Car Wash may be a reality. This traffic signal will aid drivers who are traveling north on Berry Dr. who want to turn left or right onto Ventura Blvd.

Pedestrian Crosswalk signal at Ventura Blvd and Rhodes Ave: SCRA has been informed the Mayor's office approved the allocation of the funds for the pedestrian light at Ventura Blvd. and Rhodes Ave. The next major milestone for this project is for the Board of Public Works to issue the Notice to Proceed (NTP) to the contractor; there are also a couple of steps and paperwork that need to be completed such as Bonds and Insurance and Escrow of Bid Documents. SCRA, Studio City Neighborhood Council (SCNC), and the Business Improvement District (BID) have been pushing to have a smart pedestrian crosswalk installed at this very dangerous crosswalk. Recently a delivery truck would park in the red zone, blocking westbound views of the crosswalk, it created a blind spot for pedestrians stepping out into the street. Jessica Fugate, deputy to Councilmember Paul Krekorian contacted the company about this potential safety hazard and the trucking company moved its off-loading around the corner onto Rhodes away from the crosswalk. Thank you to Jessica for obtaining a solution to what could have been a serious situation.

Alan Dymond

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**SCRA
VITRUAL
COMMUNITY MEETING**

Tuesday, Mar 9, 2021

**ZOOM
MEETING**

Refer to Page 1 for detailed information on joining the Zoom Meeting. Sign-up required by March 5th.

AGENDA

- 7:00 p.m.** Q&A with Congressman Brad Sherman
- 7:30 p.m.** Vince Bertoni, Los Angeles City Planning Director, plus Q&A

