**LDA Meeting Minutes**

**July 17, 2023**

**Meeting Via Zoom**

Board Members Attending: Lorie Mata, Dorothy Okamoto, Vincent Phua, Jain Williams, Joanne Wong-Lam

Board Members Absent: Toshia Thompson, Zinzi Zareef

Guests: Martinique Petty of Compound Strength and Conditioning and Kao Saelee of Joe’s Modern Thai

Executive Director: Daniel Swafford

**Call to Order**: Treasurer Jain Williams

Welcome and Introductions

Review of Agenda

Approve June Minutes: Motion made to approve by Jain; seconded by Joanne, all in favor.

1. **D4 Councilmember** – Janani Ramachandram and Constituent Liaison Iris Merriouns

* Update on funding for community safety ambassadors: $94K to each district to be distributed by respective district council offices. Will invite Sophia Navarro, Director of Economic Development Dept, and others on tour of the Laurel and meet merchants.
  + Timeline for Ambassador and community grants? Community grant administered by Finance Dept BrittanyHeinezand Iris will check how it will be dispersed.
  + $93K Direct Community Grant – Each Councilmember selects recipient and Laurel selected to receive this year’s grant.
  + Planning to host a Town Hall to get feedback on Ambassador Program to ensure residents feel safe.
  + Two questions from Jain: 1) What is the City doing regarding escalation of crime with increase of home invasions and carjackings? 2) BID Renewal – Any insight in the City process? (Councilmember Ramachandram will find out more info. from Sophia Navarro)
  + Regarding increase on crime: Councilmember has regular meetings with OPD – Captain Bassett trying to get more officers to do more patrols to deter carjackings, though summer unfortunately increase in crime, but plan to increase investigations so please send in videos. Council approved OPD access to national database. Also, crime technology needs improvement – get grant writer for this area of investigation.
  + LDA is getting contacted regularly for video footage from OPD. OPD is trying to be proactive so they can effectively investigate which leads to more arrests.
* Traffic Calming/DOT Update: Community engagement in Laurel outreach may be to connect with merchant event.
  + Mac and High: Tragic death of cyclist – Reviewing witness testimony so now traffic fatality classification.
  + High St. paving is getting underway.

1. **LDA Business**

* 2023 Board Election – Confirming the Ballot. Had enough votes from property owners to approve Ballot.
  + **ACTION**: Joanne made motion to adopt new Board members 2023-2025 and Board of Directors & Officers 2023-2024. Dorothy seconded motion. All in favor. Daniel to send Welcome Info. Packet to new Board members.
* Ambassador Funding – Thank you to Councilmember Ramachandram and staff!!
* Traffic Calming – See comments above. Daniel to renew conversation with assigned DOT staff to seek timeline. Iris to circle back with DOT and public works.
* Trash cans – Last round finished!
* BID Renewal – Reached out to Eric at EWD and include Iris on email. Outreach to BID Directors who recently renewed. Regularly meeting with BID Renewal committee. Diamond didn’t make vote for BID and is in petition process. When on tour of Laurel, will use it for BID Renewal. Sophia is new but comes from Unity Council.

**3.Laurel Security**

* Commercial Robberies: Donut shop, Kelly’s Corner, and Phnom Penh, and attempted break in at Goodwill. Alarms triggered, OPD responded, and burglars jumped fence.
* Piloting overnight intervention security 3 days/week over next 2 weeks. If alarm triggered, they will respond. Want to set up a rapid response process if trend happens, esp. during holidays, in conjunction with other programs. Daniel created program in Montclair and will evaluate effectiveness and if businesses use it.

4**. Events and Promotions**

* ‘Live in the Laurel 2023’ - July 27th at Communite Table
* 22nd Annual Laurel Street Fair – Saturday, August 12th, 11 AM – 7 PM. 100 vendor booths with another 30 submissions. Sponsorships look good, similar to last year.

**5.Business Attraction and Land Use Updates**

* Kao is taking steps to evaluate space (Harlan Woo’s building) and maybe getting LOI ready.
* Graffiti on Post Office building – PO is unresponsive. Iris can assist.
* Subway Sandwiches re-opened last week.
* High and Mac development progressing.

Next meeting Monday, August 21, 2023, 6-8 PM via Zoom