

LDA Meeting Minutes
March 18, 2024
Meeting Via Zoom

Board Members Attending: Alysia Gritz, Dorothy Okamoto, Kao Saelee, Jain Williams, and Joanne Wong-Lam.
Executive Director: Daniel Swafford

Call to Order: President Jain Williams

Welcome and Introductions

Review of Agenda

Approve February 2024 Minutes: Motion made to approve by Joanne; seconded by Kao, all in favor.

1. D4 Councilmember Ramachandran Office – Councilmember Ramachandran and Iris Merriouns

• **D4 Updates**

- OPD Meeting with Deputy Chief Mendoza and Captain Basset small businesses stakeholders in Laurel, Dimond, and Redwood Hts., and Dept. of Economic Workforce on April 10th, evening time and location TBD.
- Public Safety – a) Continual state support via CHP to help with retail theft prevention and b) CHP purchased Flock Cameras to be operated by OPD. Camera locations TBD.
- Potential partnership with Mills College at Northeastern University police chief. He has ideas to support security efforts with LDA to promote businesses with students/staff. Updates to come.
- Ongoing efforts to promote ambassador programs with State legislators.
- OakDOT Town Hall postponed due to staff change and rescheduled for sometime in April
- Pedestrian safety - \$100K from 2021 budget can be used toward a flashing light beacon on Brown or Maybelle and a partial road diet on 35th, closer to MacArthur. Concern was raised by Daniel about ineffective road diet on High approaching MacArthur, elimination of turn lane causing congestion and bad driver behavior. Daniel to route pre-draft of Ambassador Report and issues on High St. road diet to Councilmember Ramachandran.
- Iris still requesting Charlie Reem to come to an LDA meeting to talk about Measure KK. No Director of DOT now, Megan Ware is interim Director.
- April 3rd meeting to discuss 35th Road Diet – Daniel to send an email to DOT and entire City Council to let them know the reality of road diet bottlenecks and pedestrian dangers at High St.
- Iris to ask DOT for cost analysis for two beacons and 35th Road Diet.

2. LDA Business

- Ambassador – Board reviewed draft of report. Great job Daniel!
- SLOW Laurel Traffic and safety – See updates above D4
- BID Renewal 2025 – Daniel to get the RFP out next week
- LDA Treasures Financial Report – See Dorothy's email dated 3/17/24 for bank balances; cash into new CD.

3. Laurel Security

- Taco Bell – closed indoor dining area; business drive-thru only now.
- Subway – a few incidences, including an intoxicated woman who assaulted the cashier.

4. Events and Promotions

- Live in the Laurel 2024 – Third Saturdays of month - April 20th– Oct. confirming April 20th, May 18th, June 21st Make Music Day, July 20, Aug 17, Sept 21, and Oct 19.
- Laurel Street Fair, August 10th – Vendor and sponsor forms to go live next week.

5. Business Attraction and Land Use

- World Ground looking for new space.
- MacArthur Studios – 193 units – confirm whether senior or workforce housing – Contact Iris.
- Louisiana Chicken vacant
- Scooters lot – no update

6. Open Forum

- Jain suggested writing letters to vacant owners.

Next meeting Monday, April 15, 2024, 6-8 PM via Zoom