



Mar Vista Community Council



Minutes

Special Meeting of the Board of Directors for
the Purpose of Considering COVID-19-Related
Neighborhood Purpose Grants and for Other
Purposes

<http://www.marvista.org/minutes-and-agendas.php>

Thursday, May 28, 2020, at 7:00pm

PUBLIC WELCOME

Zoom Electronic Meeting

Webinar ID 940 1575 5757

1. **Call to order**-meeting called to order by Chair Hanna at 7:00 PM
2. **Roll call – present were:**

Elliot Hanna
Michelle Krupkin
Holly Tilson
Mary Hruska
Kathryn Wheeler
Stacy Shure
Christine Stemar
Selena Inouye
Gabriel Hill
Robert Watkins
Rob Kadota
Andrea Ambriz

Absent : Martin Rubin

3. **Public comment for items NOT on this agenda**-none
4. **Ex-parte communications and conflicts-of-interest**- Each board member shall declare any ex-parte communications or conflicts-of-interest pertaining to items on or related to this agenda.
[All present declared no conflicts.](#)
5. **Adoption of the agenda**-[approved without objection](#)
6. **Special Orders** – None
7. **Consent Calendar**
[FUNDING] of FY2019-2020 budget adjustments – Action regarding approval of adjustments to the FY2019- 2020 budget. [Tilson mentioned that the new budget will be 32K and the City will allow NCs to roll over, which would equal what NCs \(Neighborhood Councils\) have been allocated for the past few years \(42K\).](#)

Will have some major funding items to address: Website Update, park NPG. Will be Transferring storage of MVCC equipment at least partially there. Will need to move Miscellaneous Funds into NPG column. Hanna asked if approval of NPG (Neighborhood Purpose Grants) on this agenda would require a future budget adjustment. Tilson: yes. Added that Treasurers will be allowed to write checks until June 15, 2020 as opposed to the usual June 1. Hanna confirmed that this would permit funding of any NPGs approved from this agenda.

Hruska asked if Election funding will need to be allocated in the next budget. Hanna added that the cut made to the budget (25%) is substantial and that the Board should consider the obligations they must fulfill when making their decisions on agenda items tonight.

Krupkin: asked if treasurer could once again review the funds are actually available to cover the NPGs on the agenda. Also added that MVCC could incur a \$500 fine for loss of a St Andrew's key if it is not returned. Hanna mentioned that he's working to resolve this issue.

Tilson responded that there is about 9K unencumbered.

Hanna mentioned that, if all the NPGs are approved, there will be no uncommitted funds And the council could jeopardize its ability to operate.

Kadota stated that oftentimes the Council has carryover. Hanna responded that that was assuming a starting budget of 42K not 32K.

Tilson mentioned that there will probably be a carryover of 10K.

Wheeler mentioned that, the previous year the Council had a carryover of about 7.5K plus 2.9K (in-surance reimbursement check) for a total budget of 52K. If the council wants to accomplish the same things that it did in the current year, it will need the full 9K of unencumbered funds.

8. Excluded Consent Items-*none*

9. Unfinished Business and General Orders- None

10. New Business

10.1. [FUNDING][AD HOC COVID-19] NPG for Mar Vista Family Center – Discussion and possible action regarding a Neighborhood Purposes Grant submitted to the Ad Hoc COVID 19 Committee from the Mar Vista Family Center, a non-profit organization engaged in valuable COVID 19 relief efforts for the Mar Vista CC community, in the amount of \$1,800.

Tilson asked if applicant is aware that the state is giving away diapers.

Krupkin asked how the number of people served in Mar Vista was ascertained.

Ambriz responded this information was acquired via zip code searches as well as address matches. Added that applicants were given a map of the MVC boundaries to assist in providing this information. Krupkin mentioned that zip code 90066 includes a much larger area than Mar Vista so verification could not be by zip code. Mentioned that 1.8K was, per the NPG to be used to assist 50 people, and questioned the efficacy of this. Ambriz added that it has been confirmed by the applicant that those served would reside in Mar Vista. Shure stated that this grant would appear to give \$36 to 50 individuals. Added that part of Zone 1 does not lie in Mar Vista, and so this would not benefit Zone 1.

Kalani Whittington stated support for this NPG.

Helen Fallon stated that she feels this charity is located in Culver City. This group, Per her research, has 196K in assets, and inquired as to why these weren't being tapped to help them provide services.

Blanca Hladek, of Mar Vista Family Center stated that, though this grant would only seem to provide a small amount per family, but they are trying to gather and stretch their resources as best they can. Added that, though there is a great deal of support available statewide, it has been her experience that actually getting it has sometimes been difficult for the families they serve.

Watkins stated his support for this grant.

Shure asked how the need of the clients is ascertained. Added that net asset, per its 990 Form are 5.3 M.

Inouye stated the Ad Hoc Committee decided though the initial amounts requested by the applicants were different, the committee chose to fund them equally. She supports this application because they are providing basic needs.

As a social worker, she added that services available are often not immediately Available. Services being considered here could help fill the gaps.

Wheeler reiterated that MVCC will have 10K less than it did last year. Asked Board members to contribute personally to these organizations.

Hruska asked, since MVFC is in Del Rey, have they approached that Organization. Inouye stated that they have not due to the fact that Del Rey NC Has prioritized other issues during the Covid emergency. Added that 990

forms are not a requirement of the NPG process, this one is from 2017 and felt that this was not relevant. Hanna responded that the 990 forms are there for context, and that while not required, NCs are not prohibited from considering them. Kadota mentioned that allocating 1.8 is the minimum that MVCC can do of action and merit. Supported all the NPGs on the agenda. Tilson mentioned, as a point of information, that Del Rey NC did spend money on this organization as part of their 5K Covid Emergency Funds. Added that, as far as the 990 forms, the city encourages NCs to vet any organization applying for an NPG. Added that the reason the committee has spent so much time on these applications is that they were presented to the Board without having been vetted. Shure stated that 990 forms are the standard way that non-profits are vetted.

Wheeler stated that these NPGs will consume a large amount to the MVCC : over 10% of the budget. Added that last year, moreover, it had extra funds to work with due to the insurance reimbursement funds. This year, MVCC will start at a deficit of 10K. She encouraged Board members to make personal contributions but stated that there simply isn't enough money in the budget to fund these.

Inouye asked if the MVFC representative could respond to statement that they'd Received funds from Del Rey NC. Hladek responded that they'd received funds from Del Rey NC in the past for events, but not for Covid.

Motion to approve (Ambriz/Inouye)

Motion approved (7Y/4N/1Abstention/1Absent)

10.2 [FUNDING][AD HOC COVID-19] NPG for St. Joseph's Center - Discussion and Possible action, regarding a Neighborhood Purposes Grant submitted to the Ad Hoc COVID 19 Committee from the St Joseph's Center, a non-profit organization engaged in valuable COVID 19 relief efforts for the Mar Vista community, in the amount of \$1,800.

Inouye introduced the motion: St Joseph's is a well-established social service provider in in the area, with a food service pantry. Funds requested would provide greater amounts of protein. They have the capacity to provide increased services quickly. Tilson noted that the NPG requests 5K. Inouye: Ad Hoc recommends 1.8K. Kadota noted that St Joseph's participates in the Food Forward program. This often only includes fresh produce but not protein.

Whittington: Mentioned that St Joseph's has a very large presence in servicing the disabled and homeless, and that MVCC could use this as an opportunity for Outreach by placing their logo on items distributed through this funding.

Helen Fallon: have donated to St Joseph's however they have an annual income of over \$24M per year and has 6 extremely well paid managers (one making over 225K/year. Questioned need of funding from MVCC. The Council has cutbacks and other financial issues to consider in the next year, and felt that the Mar Vista community would be better served if those were prioritized.

the 1.8K could be generated simply by 6 persons donating \$300.

Hanna: noted that , per their 2017 990 Form, the organization's assets are almost 13M. This does not mean that they are not a worthy charity, however it is his responsibility to ensure that MVCC can operate . He cannot override the vote of the board, however would encourage the board to consider that as well. Agreed with Fallon that 1.8K will make very little difference to this organization's operations.

Krupkin: thanked Covid Ad-Hoc Committee and concurred with Hanna and Fallon. Also questioned giving city funds to a religious organization.

Wheeler mentioned that MVCC faces financial insolvency if all these NPGs are funded. They will not be able to provide the services the community expects from it.

Inouye: mentioned that St Joseph's is not currently affiliated with any religious organization. Added that there are different views relating to the organization's homeless housing program, however this NPG relates to their Food Pantry, which a separate program.

Ambriz: mentioned that 108 of the 1200 food bags they've distributed have been received by clients in Mar Vista.

Krupkin asked if motion would be amended to 18.K

Ambriz moved to so amend motion. Approved without objection.

Motion to approve (Inouye/Ambriz)

Motion Fails (5Y/6N/1Abstention/1Absent)

10.3[FUNDING][AD HOC COVID-19] NPG for 826LA - Discussion and possible action regarding a Neighborhood Purposes Grant submitted a Neighborhood Purposes Grant, submitted to the Ad Hoc COVID 19 Committee, from 826LA a non-profit organization engaged in valuable COVID 19 relief efforts for the Mar Vista CC community, in the amount of \$1,800.

Ambriz introduced: mentioned that they support low income students and have been providing additional educational support during the Covid public health emergency while schools have been closed.

Hruska: asked that the Total Revenue, Net Revenue after Expenses and Savings and Temporary Cash Investments listed 2017 990 Form (\$1,656,051, \$27,750 and \$2,152,354, respectively) be verified for this organization. Ambriz stated that, since this Form wasn't part of their application, she could not do so.

Shure: noted that there are salaries of 1.1M. sked how much goes to the students. Also mentioned that LAUnified School District has announced that school will resume in the next 1-1.5months.

Whittington: stated that, in light of the coming government cut backs after Covid, these organizations could fill the gap.

Fallon: mentioned that they seem to have a lot of cash, their executive director has a 6-figure salary and most of the schools they seem to serve are Manual Arts & Roosevelt High. Did not see any documentation of how this grant would help children in Mar Vista. This does not seem to be an essential service and most of their funds seem to be going towards salaries.

Joel Arquillos, Executive Director of 826LA :mentioned that they serve up to 10K kids during regular operations. Have 1200 volunteers throughout the city. Grant would service Mar Vista exclusively. Services are free. Are trying to keep kids engaged during Covid emergency. Mar Vista location functions at market cost.

In response to Covid situation have invested in Zoom, Google phones, etc, and have been reaching out with guidance to families. Give out bags of writing materials etc. Have not requested support from the community before, but see this as an opportunity to engage with it.

Motion to approve (Hill/Amrbiz)

Shure asked Mr Arquillos what constitutes 1.1M in salaries if the organization runs

on volunteers, and also asked how he'd become aware of this opportunity.

Arquillo: have a staff of 25. Incur about 1M total expenses in Mar Vista. Became aware of the opportunity of an NPG from MVCC via an email. Shure asked if the email was from Councilman Bonin's office or Andrea Ambriz. Arquillo responded that his organization has a development tram that seeks out funding, but he wasn't certain of the details.

Hruska: stated her son had attended one of 826LA's workshops in third grade at Mar Vista Elementary, and it had been an excellent experience, however questioned their need of 1.8k from MVCC at this time.

Krupkin :asked which schools in Mar Vista are served by 826LA.. Also noted 2 Foundations which donate to the organizations.

Arquillo: the Foundations also support the organization. This grant would specifically support the acquisition of digital learning tools and distribution of kits. Work through all local schools. This would specially support kids who live in Mar Vista.

Stemar: stated that MVCC needs to focus on food and housing. These are the most imperative at this time.

Wheeler :stated that she appreciates all these organizations' work, however this organization receives significant contributions from other sources. MVCC will face a shortfall. MVCC is not a school or a food pantry. It's function is to inform the community regarding city and state matters and to facilitate communication between the community and same.

Ambriz: mentioned that 826LA serves low income students., and donating to this would be a way of reaching this segment of the community.

Hanna : no one is disputing the worthiness of these organizations however it is the Board's obligation to ensure that the MVCC is able to operate. If all of these grants are funded, it will bankrupt the MVCC and it will not be able to operate next year. Encouraged board to consider the responsibilities that they took on when they ran for these offices.

Inouye: asked how much the MVCC will be funded next year. Tilson: 32K

Inouye: could this amount be further cut? Hanna: believed this amount to be final.

Shure: mentioned that Board of Neighborhood Councils may consider further cuts.

Hill asked how much MVCC normally spends. Hanna: 32 or 34K, ad it was not an election year. Tilson: her recommendation is that MVCC ensure that it can carry over 10K. Hill: how much was carried over last year? Tilson: 7.5K

Inouye: is it the recommendation of the Treasurer that MVCC not fund these NPGs in order to ensure that 10K is carried over? Hanna: it is not the Treasurer's role to make recommendations on funding specific NPGs.

Tilson: these NPGs can always be funded later in the year after specific expenses are identified. MVCC has already donated 5K in Covid Emergency funding.

Motion fails (4Y/7N/1Abstention/1Absent)

10.4[FUNDING][AD HOC COVID-19] NPG for Well Baby Center - Discussion and possible

action, regarding a Neighborhood Purposes Grant submitted to the Ad Hoc COVID 19 Committee, from the Well Baby Center, a non-profit organization engaged in valuable COVID 19 relief efforts for the Mar Vista CC community, in the amount of \$1,800.

Ambriz introduced: Well baby Center is specifically responding to community needs With regard to mental health. Are proposing a grant to create "parental survival kits". Provide services on a sliding scale. Less than two thirds of their clients make less than 22K per year.

Have confirmed that will use these funds specifically for Mar Vista residents.

Fallon: this is an organization funded by a private foundation, which is The Children We Love. Is the type of foundation that is established by the very wealthy for tax purposes. Has an annual income of 1.2 M of which they donate about 350K to Well Baby Center. Does not feel that Well Baby has financial needs as it is founded by a wealthy donor. Are asking for money for [craft] kits which seems incongruous given recent discussions focusing on food needs of the community. The IRS recently, as a result of the Covid19 situation, loosened its regulations, permitting non-profits to engage in activities for which they had not previously been approved. This is why NCs are seeing these NPG applications. They have been given permission to raise money based on Covid-19, which is not originally their purpose.

Donna Rabin, Development Director, Well Baby: concurred with Fallon, that Well Baby Is funded by a private family foundation. Operating budget is about 600K/year. Make Up the difference in sliding scale counseling revenues. Receive no state funding or funding from any other source. No employee makes more than 50K per year. Is not a deep pockets organization. Have not previously sought grant funding, and current proposal is essentially one of outreach. Would like to do this in conjunction with the Council because feel that their services are desperately needed. Would promote MVCC as well.

Motion to approve (Hill/Ambriz)

Shure: acknowledged services that Well Baby Center provides and thanked them

Wheeler: concurred with shire, but stated that she is disappointed with change in Application from provision of mental health to provision of kits.

Krupkin: is familiar with this organization as it is in Zone 5, and would support giving Them funds , if not at this time, at some time in the future.

Ambriz: mentioned that previous application was a separate one and had been approved.

This one would go specifically to their Covid-related efforts.

Wheeler: point of clarification: asked how much previous application was for. Ambriz did not remember. Tilson/Krupkin stated that previous Well Baby NPG application had not been approved.

Motion fails (5Y/5N/2Absentions/1Absent)

10.5[FUNDING][AD HOC COVID-19] NPG for Westside Pacific Villages - Discussion and possible action, regarding a Neighborhood Purposes Grant submitted to the Ad Hoc COVID 19 Committee, to the Ad Hoc COVID 19 from Westside Pacific Villages, a non-profit organization engaged in valuable COVID 19 relief efforts for the Mar Vista CC community, in the amount of \$1,800.

Inouye introduced: this organization's primary focus has been serving seniors and have Created the WPV Cares program to help seniors during the Covid Public health emergency. Added that seniors will probably be asked to shelter in place longer than the rest of the community so the need will remain for a longer period.

Tilson: asked if WPV (Westside Pacific Villages) will be serving seniors within the MVCC footprint. Inouye: yes, including Zone 1.

Tilson: mentioned that the application also request the use of the MVCC seal.

Ambriz: asked is if organization is centered in Westchester or elsewhere on the Westside. Carol Kitabayashi, Executive Director, responded that they officially changed

name from Westchester/Playa Villages to Westside Pacific Villages. Can provide supporting documents regarding this change if needed.

Fallon: is unclear how many Mar Vista seniors have been served. Considered that, given that the Covid situation has existed for some time, would expect that Mar Vista seniors in need have found assistance. is unclear how this will benefit Mar Vista in light of the upcoming budget constraints.

Kitabayashi: are currently serving 30 seniors in Mar Vista, and this grant and are also doing social support calls once a week or more. Have implemented a wellness at home Program since the advent of Covid. Are also starting a program on how to stay hydrated. Do weekly Special Delivery, which is much appreciated by seniors. This grant Serves to reach out to more seniors.

Motion to approve (Inouye/Hill)

Tilson: asked if MVCC could have WPV's contact list to enable MVCC's own outreach to seniors. Kitabayashi responded: yes.

Watkins: concurred with Inouye's statement and supported this application

Krupkin: Asked if WPV was working with Westside Friends. Asked where the majority of funds in this grant would be spent. Also asked how many Mar Vista seniors they have served. Kitabayashi: re-iterated that they are serving 30 seniors in MVCC footprint. Is not currently working with Westside Friends. Added that WPV has a 10 year history of doing this work and the capacity to take on more.

Inouye: Covid has challenged the independence of some seniors, and the longer the situation continues the more seniors will recognize they need help. If Ad Hoc Covid 19 Committee can continue to reach out to these people using the voter rolls, they can connect them to groups like WPV.

Wheeler: stated that this organization, for her, would be the one, given their relatively low assets, which would be the one she'd favor most for an NPG. She cannot, however, vote to imperil the financial solvency of the MVCC, but stated that, if the motion does not pass, she will give \$300 to this organization personally and challenged other board members to give a similar amount, which could double the amount of this NPG.

Shure: concurred with what Wheeler said. Stated that, per a survey of her Zone 1 neighborhood association, this was the only organization on the agenda that the residents recognized. Zone 1 has a large elderly population and she matched Wheeler's challenge. Asked if WPV has monthly contributions from anyone.

Kitabayashi stated that, prior to Covid, WPV did have membership fees however they covered only ¼ to 1/3 of their operating fees. During Covid, they are offering their services at no cost.

Wheeler: asked if WPV could use the MVCC seal even if the current motion does not pass. Hanna responded yes.

Ambriz: is not personally familiar with WPV but supported the motion.

Hruska: concurred with Wheeler and Shure and noted that she would also be making a personal contribution.

Hanna: stated that he's extremely proud to serve on this board. Wheeler, Shure, Hruska tonight more than ever have shown their dedication to the community and he will match contributions as well. This is what community is about.

Motion to amend amount to 1.8K (Krupkin/Ambriz) Motion approved without objection.

Motion approved (9Y/2N/1Abstention/1Absent)

10.6[POLICY] [AD HOC COVID-19] Rent and Mortgage Moratorium – Discussion and possible action regarding a position statement in support of rent and mortgage forgiveness.

Hill introduced: felt that MVCC should make a statement of support for tenants.

Other rental relief funds fall short of assistance, and this would be a statement of solidarity from MVCC.

Shure: stated that she is currently involved with city and state officials in crafting an ordinance which would provide relief for both tenants and landlords.

Supports this motion in spirit however feels that it is premature. The City is not going to provide rent relief as she was informed today. Felt that it would be more powerful to wait until this ordinance is drafted and then make the motion more specific.

Invited Hill to collaborate with her and pass a motion at PLUM.

Whittington: supports Shure's suggestion. Motion needs to be more specific.

Motion to postpone (Hill/Shure) approved without objection

Hanna: stated that Hill's intentions are admirable, but felt that such a statement should include landlords.

Motion to postpone indefinitely (Tilson/Wheeler)

Hill stated that he is willing to collaborate with Shure.

Shure stated that there is a working deadline for the project she's involved with and if there is no conclusion by Tuesday (6/9) she will support current motion as is. Hanna committed to agendaizing it.

Inouye: suggested amending motion to commit item 10.6 to PLUM committee (Second: Shure)

Motion approved without objection

Hanna stated that this is an example of how people who disagree on many things can work together, and he is proud.

11 Adjournment-meeting adjourned at 10:01PM

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