

ITEM 14.7: [ADMINISTRATIVE] [AMBRIZ, INOUE, KADOTA] Board discussion regarding the current status of the Ad Hoc COVID-19 Community Response Committee and possible Board action to reaffirm its support for the Committee's mission and proposed projects.

BACKGROUND:

The Board passed a motion brought by At-Large Director Inouye at the April 14, 2020 Board of Directors meeting to create the **Ad Hoc COVID19 Community Response Committee** (11 Y / 0 N / 2 Abstentions).

After extensive networking with other NCs and related research, the Ad Hoc COVID-19 Community Response (COVID) Committee had set the following priorities in April 2020:

Seniors: making outreach calls to seniors staying at home using the LA County Voter Rolls, following in the footsteps of the Palms and Central Hollywood NCs. Permission to use the Voter Rolls was obtained from the Public Information Officer at the LA County Registrar-Recorder's Office April 21, 2020. Co-chair Inouye trained with the Palms NC to implement the program using volunteers. Local mutual aid group Westside Friends was interested in participating.

Resource List/Website: implementing a regularly updated list featuring hyperlocal resources like food assistance, mutual aid networks and featuring businesses that are open during the pandemic similar to the Palms, Del Rey or Los Feliz Neighborhood Councils. The list would either be featured on the MVCC website or a new stand-alone website: see <http://palmsnc.la/resources/covid-19-coronavirus/>, <http://www.delreync.org/del-rey-covid-19/> and <https://www.losfelizhelps.org/>

Renters*: addressing concerns about paying rent/mortgage while under- or unemployed

Food: helping children, seniors, and people impacted by COVID-19 job losses and their families with referrals for food and other essentials

Children and Families:** connecting families to services and resources to help with homeschooling. Also exploring how arts programs could help stakeholders cope with staying at home.

*The concerns regarding renters have been subsequently taken up by the MVCC Planning and Land Use Management (PLUM) Committee and Renters Subcommittee.

**The MVCC Education, Arts and Culture Committee have taken up the concerns about families and children, in addition to exploring art as a coping mechanism during the pandemic.

In May 2020, the committee forwarded five Neighborhood Purpose Grants (NPGs) to the Board for consideration. The Board funded NPGs for the Mar Vista Family Center (food, children and families) and Westside Pacific Villages (seniors, food), both in the amount of \$1,800.00

THE PROBLEM:

On April 29, 2020, Board Chair sent an email to the co-chairs of the committee with the subject line **Legalities Surrounding MVCC's COVID-19 Response** (see attached.) The Chair stated he had taken his concerns to the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) and the City Attorney's office, bypassing a discussion of these concerns at one of the committee's regularly scheduled meetings.

There were several follow-up items noted in his email. Several requests have been made by email and at Board meetings for the follow-up information. As it stands today:

The concerns regarding using the Voter Rolls to make outreach calls have not been addressed by DONE, the City Attorney's Office Election Division and/or City Clerk's Office Election Division and resolved.

In regards to the Resource List, the Board Chair communicated to Public Health and Safety Committee Chair Christine Stemar, who then communicated via email to the committee co-chairs on August 2, 2020 that his directive was to simply provide a link on the COVID Committee webpage to resource lists on the the CD 11 and CD 5 websites.

ITEM FOR BOARD DISCUSSION AND ACTION:

The Neighborhood Council system and DONE have never faced a crisis like the one we are currently facing. The ways our community has prepared in the past to respond to natural disasters and other emergency situations do not fit with our current situation.

The rules, laws and bylaws that are in place that govern how the MVCC does business, put in place by the MVCC and DONE, have been presented by the MVCC Board Chair as impediments to this committee undertaking the same exact projects that other NCs are currently doing.

Other Neighborhood Councils - such as Palms, Del Rey, Los Feliz and Central Hollywood - have implemented helpful efforts to serve their communities. Therefore, we ask the entire MVCC Board to support the Ad Hoc COVID-19 Community Response committee in undertaking the COVID-19 projects other NCs have pioneered, with the caveat that these projects will be revisited and revised if and when direction and guidance from DONE, the City Attorney and/or the City Clerk regarding these projects becomes available.



Legalities Surrounding MVCC's COVID-19 Response

mvcc.director.hanna <xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

Wed, Apr 29, 2020 at 5:31 PM

To: Selena Inouye <Selena.Inouye@marvista.org>, Christine Stemar <xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>, Andrea Ambriz <xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

All,

Earlier this afternoon, I had a discussion with Deputy City Attorney Steve Houchin as well as Vanessa Serrano and Seme Park from D.O.N.E. We discussed issues surrounding the MVCC COVID-19 Ad Hoc Committee that I'd like to share with all of you.

The Brown Act's definition of an ad hoc committee is different than what we think of under Robert's Rules of Order. The specific differences are unimportant for this discussion. What is important is that everyone realizes that the COVID-19 Ad Hoc Committee must operate under the same rules as any standing MVCC committee. That includes public participation, agenda posting, etc.

There are several items that the COVID-19 Ad Hoc Committee has been considering that present certain concerns. These concerns must be addressed to the city's satisfaction before we proceed:

1. **Publication of a Resource List** – Any resource list that we publish must be pre-approved by DONE. By posting such a list on a taxpayer-funded website, we're implying that it's been endorsed by the city which we cannot do. We can link to the city's official list but that's it without pre-approval. So, please remove any non-governmental entities from the list on the committee's page by noon tomorrow.
2. **Listing Open Businesses** – This situation is very similar to item (1), above. Publication of such a list is also an implied endorsement. Such a list requires pre-approval by the city to ensure everyone on it meets the definition of an "essential business." And, it must contain a statement that if a currently unlisted business wishes to be included, it will be upon request provided it meets the definition of an "essential business." So, please remove the entire list from the committee's page by noon tomorrow.
3. **Voter Rolls** – Using these materials absolutely requires city approval in advance. Mr. Houchin is going to check with the election division to verify that this is a permissible use under city rules. Until then, MVCC is not permitted to use the voter rolls for any purpose whatsoever.
4. **Westside Friends** – Though everybody agrees that this group is doing good work, we cannot promote or collaborate with it until it's vetted by the city. So, even though it's covered in item (1), above, I want to be clear that it must also be removed from the committee's page. So, please remove Westside Friends by noon tomorrow.

I realize this is extremely frustrating. At the end of the city's vetting process, several of these organizations and groups may well be approved for inclusion. However, we – as a Neighborhood Council – cannot make that determination. We're simply going to have to wait until the city completes its process. That said, nothing in this e-mail prohibits anyone - as a private citizen – from volunteering to help with this crisis.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,

Elliot



Re: COVID-19 Resource List & COVID-19 Committee

Christine <xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
To: Selena Inouye <Selena.Inouye@marvista.org>
Cc: Andrea Ambriz <xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

Sun, Aug 2, 2020 at 1:22 PM

Hi ladies,

Like other subcommittees any motions passed at your committee, must then be approved at PH&S before proceeding to the board.

Therefore, please send me any motions or matters to be considered at the PH&S committee at least a week prior to my scheduled meeting so I may properly agenda your committee's business.

Of course, if something of urgency comes up and you do not have time to bring the matter to my committee, we can always have one of you, on behalf of your committee make a directors motion at a BOD meeting so your work will continue unimpeded.

Otherwise, I will attend your meetings when schedule allows and of course will follow the work of your committee by reading the Agendas and Minutes and both of you can keep me apprised with regular updates. I do not want to interfere with the work of your committee, rather both of you feel free to do the work you need to accomplish knowing that I'm here to support you and of course offer suggestions when asked.

As for the name of your committee, I am researching the origin of the name change and will follow up with you within the next few days.

Regarding the resource list, Elliot has suggested that since the original list is from CD-5 and CD-11, we can simply provide a link to those sites. That, coupled with a disclaimer, should absolve us of any responsibility to vet those organizations.

Best, Christine

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10