

# **Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council**

## **sub-committee: Vision Ideas**

### **Minutes - May 1, 2014**

- 1. Call to Order at 6:25pm. by Chair Jeff Kalban**
- 2. Present: Jeff Kalban, Chair, Bob Anderson, Jennifer Charles, Jackie Diamond, Ken Fritz, Maria Pavlou Kalban , Mikie Maloney, Joan Pelico, Sue Steinberg.  
Absent: Craig Buck**
- 3. No prior minutes**
- 4. Public forum comments - none**
- 5a. New Business - Discussion and Possible Motion**

**Presentation of "Gateway" concept ideas for one of the major gateways to our community beginning at Sepulveda Blvd at the 405/101 freeway entrances/off ramps and the Los Angeles River. Rick Mayer, Landscape Architect, prepared the presentation with the support of his staff from Troller Mayer and Associates and with the support of the Vision study groups. This is a plan for the future to create a "complete street" that provides access for cars, walkers, bicyclists, street trees, plantings, sustainable parking and a template for all of Sherman Oaks. Mr. Mayer displayed current images of the area, its current building uses, traffic, lighting and pedestrian elements. The Gateway concept when thoughtfully developed helps the community to better identify itself and understand the needs of all members of the community. Travelers entering into Sherman Oaks will be able to identify that they have entered/exited Sherman Oaks. The area studied includes: Offices (high and low density), Restaurants, Retail shops, Multi- family housing and Single family homes are all within walking distance. Many of the structures are about to be refreshed, repurposed and expanded as this is a very desirable area for business and residential uses.**

**This cohesive vision is meant to increase developers' understanding of the needs of the community and allows them to include many of these elements into their initial planning stages. Comments from the Study group members and guests included: use of drought tolerant plantings, maintenance plans, underground parking, possible sound wall improvements for the freeway, a "repeatable tapestry" of plant materials for the entire community of Sherman Oaks, a thoughtfully comprehensive development of the property that currently houses the Whole Foods. Mr. Mayer's Gateway concept brings together elements for walking, riding bikes, cars, planted pathways and plazas at this hub of single family, multi-family and commercial area and ultimately maximizes and humanizes with new development. Jonathan Brand, Planning Deputy CD4, noted that this "vision" may assist the community in working with developers and the city. Motion to include the "Gateway Concept" as presented to the vision study was made by Bob Anderson, approved unanimously.**

**5b. Presentation of "Transit Center" at Sepulveda and L.A. River: Jeff Kalban opened this presentation by clarifying that this group is a study group of the Land Use committee of the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council and the mission is to study a set of ideas for land use now a "vision" for Sherman Oaks. Visual displays detailed an area banded by Magnolia Blvd, Sepulveda Blvd, LA River and the 405 Frwy. This is also a large area of real estate parcels that might be reviewed for repurpose. This repurpose could possibly include a transit hub, park facilities, hotel/restaurant/meeting facilities and the possibility of linking to the river walk and entertainment facilities on the north side of the LA River directly adjacent. Committee discussion and public comments. No action taken.**

**5c. Discussion of Draft "A Plan for Sherman Oaks" Discussion included "people streets" areas on unused portions of residential streets repurposed as gathering spaces for the community, amenities to calm traffic and increase safety, bump outs at crosswalks, crosswalks every 1/4th mile along Ventura Blvd, roundabouts in residential areas," Home Zones" for a more sustainable living street that turn the street into a bike-walk-zone, vehicles are secondary "guests" on**

**the street with paving changes to calm traffic. Further study is requested by the group.**

**6. Meetings of the vision study groups will be the first Thursday of each month. The next topic will be Traffic, meeting will be June 5, 2014 at the SO Library at 6:30pm.**