



MEETING MINUTES – GLASSELL PARK KICK-OFF MEETING

DATE: 4/11/07 **TIME:** 6:30 p.m.
PLACE: CD 13 Field Office at 3750 Verdugo Road

PRESENT:

1. **Mitch O’Farrell, CD 13, City of L.A.**
 2. **Kabira Stokes Hochberg, CD 13, City of L.A.**
 3. **Kathryn Cerra, KCA**
 4. **Guillaume Lemoine, KCA**
 5. **Lance Oishi, Bureau of Street Services, City of L.A.**
 6. **Helene Schpak, Great Glassell Park-Cypress Park Walkabout**
 7. **Laura Gutierrez, President, Glassell Park Improvement Association**
 8. **James Bond**
 9. **Art Camarillo**
 10. **Bill Comeau**
 11. **Lois Comeau**
 12. **Marie Conte**
 13. **Judy Kagan**
 14. **Maggie Daretto**
 15. **Niltos “Tony” Delazeri**
 16. **Janis McCarthy**
 17. **Laura Ugalde, Glassell Park Improvement Association**
 18. **Barbara Lass**
 19. **Cosmo Delazeri**
 20. **J. Kiehl**
 21. **Luis Lopez**
 22. **Sandra Caravello**
 23. **Di Rodriguez**
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**Subject: 2nd Kick-Off Meeting for Glassell Park Streetscape Master Plan,
 Fletcher Drive through South Atwater Village**

1. Introductions were made.

2. Mitch O’Farrell gave a Project Overview, stating that the residents are pushing for improvements to make the corridor more pedestrian friendly, more walkable, and generally to improve the visual appearance and eradicate blight on Fletcher. He emphasized that participants should dream big at this stage. The first workshop is to be held on Saturday, May 5th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at this location.



3. Kathy Cerra, Landscape Architecture consultant, made a slide presentation showing previous Streetscape Master Plans, what typical streetscape improvements involve, and the process from public outreach through completion of the Master Plan. She also discussed the steps that will come after the Master Plan is completed, including obtaining funding, prioritizing improvements, construction design documents, and construction of improvements.

4. Lance Oishi of the City's Bureau of Street Services (BSS) spoke about different ways in which to get the project designed and constructed, including all work done by private consultants and contractors, all work performed by public employees, or some combination of these. The Glassell Park Streetscape and Fletcher corridor is proceeding along a private / public partnership path that has worked well in the past for other communities in CD13. BSS can be especially helpful to the community when it comes time to look for funding. MTA is the clearinghouse for Federal transportation dollars. Roughly, we estimate that streetscape enhancements average \$3 to \$5 million per mile. Throughout the process, community support for the project is essential.

5. Questions / Comments from Attendees:

a. Marie Conte commented that it is important to visually marry the two sections of Fletcher while also keeping neighborhood identity for Fletcher through Atwater. She stressed the importance of improving broken sidewalks.

b. Luis Lopez and Sandra Caravella inquired as to the project boundaries (they are Eagle Rock Boulevard, Avenue 40 to San Fernando Road, and Fletcher from Eagle Rock Boulevard to San Fernando Road).

c. Judy Kagan inquired whether old lighting equipment, perhaps available from City yards, could be used on our project? Lance Oishi replied that almost all of that inventory is in bad shape or broken, but it is possible to replicate any lighting fixture the community wants (for a price). Judy said that she has an old street lighting photograph from the area and she will try to bring it to the workshop.

d. James Bond brought up the need for zoning clarification and a redevelopment proposal along Fletcher. Mitch agreed that the zoning there is very mixed; he can bring a zoning map to the Workshop.

e. Laura would like to know if solar power is a good way to go for street lighting. Lance responded that this is not an option yet as the technology is not adequate to provide even illumination for the durations necessary.

f. James would like to explore the possibility of an assessment district to fund maintenance of the beautification effort and asked if there would be an assessment for a new lighting district in our area?

g. Mitch and Lance remarked that forming an assessment district is an elective process. Barbara said that the Council deals with two or three lighting district votes per meeting. Mitch mentioned that people should look at the new lighting district in Elysian Valley, corner of Ripple and Rosanna. If people are interested Mitch can arrange a field trip to the street lighting yard. Judy told us that there is a mini-mall lighting museum in L.A. [This display of over nearly 30 vintage streetlights of Los Angeles was erected in 1992 as an artwork sponsored by the Department of Cultural Affairs and voluntary labor contributed



significantly by staff of the Field Operations Division of the Bureau of Street Lighting. The artist was Sheila Kline and the artwork was named "Vermonica" for its location adjacent to the intersection of Vermont Avenue and Santa Monica Boulevard.]

h. Maggie remarked that there are no street lights in the bungalow district in Glassell Park, but the community there would be interested in the assessment process to get lighting installed and maintained. Mitch said that a federal match would be desirable. It was asked if you must have a sidewalk in place in order to have a street light? There was discussion about Ferncroft in Atwater Village, where there are lights but not walks.

i. Barbara Lass reminded people about the June 10th Street Festival.

j. Mitch said he will mail out Workshop flyers to all.

k. James asked if the Streetscape would provide a monetary benefit to those in the Enterprise zone? He also said that the number one question from business owners is how long will the street be disrupted for construction? Kathy said that the answer depends upon the nature of the improvements. Any improvements requiring street reconstruction will probably take longer than improvements that are more superficial, such as installing street trees. Sandra Caravella remarked that how disruptive it is also depends on when it is constructed; some improvements on Glendale Boulevard went in during the Christmas season, and that is more problematic for most business owners than other times of the year.

6. Meeting was adjourned by Mitch after reminding all to attend and remind their neighbors to attend the Saturday, May 5 Workshop at this community center.

(Minutes prepared by Kathy Cerra and distributed to participants who provided email addresses. Please notify Kathy Cerra within 3 days of receipt of changes are required.)