

Minutes of the Pico Improvement Organization Board Meeting
Oct 3, 2023
ZOOM Teleconference

*The October 2023 PIO Board Meeting was conducted on the ZOOM teleconferencing platform.

ATTENDANCE

Directors: Chairperson Sharon Town Lee, Tom Zehnder, Lois Bostwick

Residential Members: Amy Bishop Dunbar

PIO Contractor: Dana Moorehead

SM City & Affiliates: Jennifer Taylor (City Liaison), Edgar Navarro (SMPD), Robert Galvan (SMPD), Mandy Eck (SMTT)

MINUTES

- I. Sharon Town Lee called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.
- II. Opening remarks by PIO Chair, Sharon Town Lee
 - a. PIO welcomes public comment. There is two minute limit. Moving into this fall and holiday season merchants are encouraged to submit materials to be posted on PIO and Buy Local social media platforms.
- III. Public Comment
 - a. Lois Bostwick said Morgan-Wixson Theatre has several upcoming shows as part of their theatre festival, go to their website for tickets. Mandy Eck (SMTT) updated the Volley-ween Event is Oct. 25th, the American Film Market is coming on Oct 31st, asked for specials to be submitted from Pico merchants to be promoted by SMTT, at no cost, to attendees of AFM, and reminded the Extra Bedroom Program dates this year are Nov13 – Jan 29.
 - b. Merchant Tim Heritage presented his concerns on PIO's communication with merchants, the follow through on delivering planters, and usage of PIO's merchant engagement director's time. Tim Heritage's wife also spoke in support of his concerns.
 - c. Board member Tom Zehnder asked for future discussion to be professional and polite. Tom and Dana Moorehead updated on the East Pico Safety Meeting at McCabe's, Sat, Oct 7th. Resident member Amy Bishop Dunbar asked to add improved lighting on Pico Blvd and inclusion of North Pico Neighborhood concerns about complications with traffic modification.
 - d. Sept 2023 minutes were approved by the board.
 - e. Tom Zehnder, Interim Treasurer, gave October Treasurer's Report. Annual funding for PIO from Santa Monica will be posted in November. Sharon Town Lee reported PIO Budget included at 10% emergency fund. Sharon Town Lee also answered a question from Amy Bishop Dunbar about the timesheets from Engagement Director. Dana Moorehead provides to bookkeeper. Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report by email was accepted by all.

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1. The Police Report by Office Navarro and Officer Galvan. Officer Galvan is now officially the Beat 3 representative. Officer Navarro praised Sharon Town Lee's constant encouragement and inclusion of SMPD in support of Pico merchants. A car robbery occurred at the Burger King parking lot. There was a robbery of an electric bike at the Yum Yum Donut Shop. Three assaults related to The Manor residence occurred. Officer Galvan visited owner Emily at Tribe Pilates and encourages merchants to call the non-emergency number for any sighting of drug use and other issues. He encouraged merchants to request free safety training for their staff from SMPD.
2. In Ava Lee's absence, Jennifer Taylor joined as City Liaison. Council has adopted policies to make it easier to allow alcohol exemptions and Pop Ups are now easier to activate in empty spaces. She mentioned a new partnership between a film festival and SMC, more info to follow. She reported she met with Tim Heritage and had spoken to Sharon Town Lee about PIO's policy of communicating opportunities to Pico merchants. Jennifer praised all the programs PIO has undertaken.
3. Sharon Town Lee raised the idea of having a live meeting to determine the PIO Board Election, to be held at the normal November Board Meeting, and it was approved to add to a special vote email to be sent to PIO board member to vote for or against. It was approved in that special email. Amy Dunbar suggested it will give candidates an opportunity to introduce themselves in person. A postcard will be mailed to all merchants regarding the election.
4. Dana Moorehead raised the idea of a coordinated effort to support merchants with ongoing problems with homeless, open drug use, and incidents threatening safety of their clients and employees. PIO's attendance at the SM Chamber/RAND Symposium on Livable Cities, a monthly effort to focus on communicating with City partners and local associations on tackling the issues and Coffee With A Cop be held at the 3018 Pico space were suggested by members.
5. Sharon Town Lee raised the issue of the mural art of Chris Saunders, whose banners were removed from the streetlight poles in April 2023. She suggested to pay him the \$2k he requested as his licensing fee originally and resolve the matter. A motion was approved to have the proposal be included in the special email to the board. The board approved the proposal in that special email.
6. The Pico Culture House is being prepared for the Art of Recovery gallery exhibition. Dana Moorehead works in the space at times. It is not an open space to the public currently. There will be set hours for the public to visit when the art gallery exhibition opens. The board will discuss what the best public access

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times might be. It was also mentioned that ongoing tenancy of the space by PIO will be considered at a future meeting.

7. Sharon Town Lee said there will be time dedicated to how PIO communicates with merchants at a future meeting.

8. Dana Moorehead shared that PIO has partnered with SMTT to help coordinate their efforts to make the Lincoln area of Pico more beautiful to AFM attendees, and permanently benefit the boulevard once the AFM ends. SMTT will use the street banner poles in that area, and is partnering with several properties and Pico merchants to beautify trouble spots. Amy Dunbar suggested that a special notice could have been sent to the board about the activity and it was agreed to include that notice in the special email meeting.

9. Dana Moorehead shared a sneak preview of the Art of Recovery Our Pico worker portrait project with the board. Jennifer Taylor asked that PIO communicate with Buy Local and Sustainable Works about the merchant stories. Dana will follow up with both partners.

10. Tis the Season potential topics for inclusion in the SMDP insert are being developed by the SMDP team, and will be shared at next month's meeting.

11. Sharon Town Lee closed the meeting with a reminder that the special vote email will be sent to the board on the following topics for feedback and/or approval. 1- the SMTT East Pico Safety Project.. 2- The Pico Banner Settlement with Chris Saunders and 3- Invitation and election for New PIO board Members. She encouraged attendees and merchants to suggest topics for future board meetings.

ADJOURNED 7:15pm