WEST LOS ANGELES SAWTELLE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL REGULAR BOARD MEETING -- MINUTES

Wednesday, June 28, 2017, 7:00 PM

Attending: Jamie Keeton (Chair), Eric Nakamura (Vice Chair), Naomi Kageyama (Secretary), Arman Ghorbani, Jian Kerendian, Ron Migdal, Jean Shigematsu, Rosie Kato, Jay Ross. Zana Glisovic

Absent: Jay Handal (Treasurer), Danilo Torro

DONE Representative: Jasmine Elbarbary

Begin: 7:08 adjourn 9:55

1. **Call to Order**

Quorum established. 10 members present

1. **General Public Comment - none**

(put under community partners) Jorge (Coalition to Preserve LA) – He passed out a 2-page document. Regarding General Plan. Wants to put stop to closed door meetings. Would like all NC’s to do a motion with proposed cover letter.

1. **Community Partner Reports**

Stephanie Cohen (Sheila Kuel’s office) – Has office in WLA @ Municipal Building. Ste. 102. [scohen@bos.lacounty.gov](mailto:scohen@bos.lacounty.gov). Will be at WLASNC every other month. For West Metro region.

Brian Ross Adams (Assemblymember Scott Ridley Thomas’ office) – looking at healthcare. Will increase fines for illegal dumping. New office 9/16/17 open house event.

Len Nguyen (Councilmember Bonin’s office) – Re motion to preserve funds for this term. Will transfer any unspent funds into next year. Also there is a senior health and wellness fair @ WLA Civic Center Plaza (1645 Corinth Ave. ) Sat. 9/16/17 11 am – 3 pm. For CD11. Also working on multi-family building (Q conditions issue) to address quality of life issues in neighborhood. Had a series of focus groups. In public comment period right now. Looking to finalize in the fall. Jamie Keeton notes that this information is on the NC website. Rosie K. – would like more repaving on Santa Monica Blvd. Between Barrington and 405. Jamie K. reminded everyone that all requests to Bonin’s office can be emailed and she will forward.

Daniel Tamm (Mayor Garcetti) – Housing Impact Trust Fund. Asking developers to kick in a certain amount for all projects. This is a linkage fee. We feel that developers should put in their fair share. Most cities have this in place. In order to build up affordable housing units. Also the mayor is working on Days of Compassion project for all faith communities. There is a handout passed out.

Jorge Castaneda (Coalition to Preserve LA) – Would like to promote transparency in the LA City General Plan process. Is reaching out to all NC’s to encourage them to formally request transparency and community participation. No “closed door” meetings.

1. **Approvals**
2. Draft meeting minutes for May 2017 meeting *(Secretary Naomi Kageyama).* Motion to approve the minutes. *Unanimous. 10 Yes (Keeton, Nakamura, Kageyama, Ghorbani, Kerendian, Migdal, Shigematsu, Kato, Ross and Glisovic) . 0 No. 0 Abstain. Motion passes.*
3. Outstanding MERs reports *(Treasurer Handal) Handal . Jay H. not here.*
4. **Budget Update (***Keeton on behalf of Handal) $1400 for EE investigation. So leftover funds will be moved to next fiscal year (FY 17-18). The investigation has been concluded.*
5. **Vote on applications for Vacant Board Seats**

All board members can ask a single question that will be answered by all candidates. Questions penned and passed to Chair Keeton.

Moderated by Vice Chair Nakamura.

There are applicants for the single vacant seat for North West representative and for the single At-Large seat. 1 applicant for the North-West and 4 applicants for At-Large.

The following are the questions asked to the candidates present at the meeting:

Why are you running?

What is your favorite thing about the neighborhood?

How much density do you think this neighborhood should have? Same or roughly the same?

How would you increase community participation?

If you don’t get elected what will you do?

North-West candidate: Partho Kalyani (North West contender)

At large candidates (present): Max Sherman, Desa Philadelphia, Cynthia Organ

2 additional candidates who were not present to answer questions. Applications had been provided to all NC members via email.

Everyone gets to vote on one (1) person for the vacant At-Large seat and one (1) person for the North West seat.

Motion to vote on the open North-West seat. Unanimous approval.

Vote to select a member for the North West Seat. Single candidate - Partho Kalyani. 7 Yes (*Keeton, Nakamura, Kageyama, Ghorbani, Migdal, Ross and Glisovic)*. 1 No (*Kato).* 2 Abstain (*Shigematsu, Kerendian). Majority achieved. Partho Kalyani is new NC member (North West representative)*

Motion to have open vote on the At-Large Seat. Unanimous approval.

First Vote to select the representative for the At-Large Seat.

* Vote count for Desa Philadelphia. 5 Yes (Ross, Keeton, Nakamura, Glisovic, Kageyama)
* Vote count for Max Sherman. 5 Yes (Kerendian, Shigematsu, Kato, Ghorbani, Migdal)
* Vote count for other applicants. 0 votes.

Because there is no majority there was additional discussion among board members. Discussion to move this vote to the following month. There is a question on doing another vote count. Question if anyone wants to change vote.

* 2nd vote count on Motion to approve Desa Philadelpha. 6 Yes (Ross, Keeton, Nakamura, Glisovic, Kageyama, Migdal)
* 2nd vote count on Motion to approve Max Sherman. 4 yes (Kerendian, Shigematsu, Kato, Ghorbani).
* *Majority achieved. Desa Philadelphia is new At-Large member (At-Large representative).*

1. **Presentation by Kristen Lonner on 1405 Wellesley – File No. 2017-1594CU and possible motion**

Kristen Lonner – Introduces the team. Did a walk on May 22, 2017 and talked with community members. Do not expect a lot of parking. Due to ride share. This is an adaptive re-use project. This is not a large construction job. This is for hotel use that is close to residential. There will not be parking issues during construction because worker parking is on-site.

Public comment: how many employees during project? Concerned about transportation. How many developers used public transportation? Answer: 10 per site. Maybe 2-3 would use their car. Parking on-site.

Public: Will alcohol be served? Ans: this is not a full service hotel. Not meant for general public service. So that is why low number of employees.

Ron M.: how many residents will be displaced? Answer: They were already relocated so not sure how many. There will be 88 units.

Arman G.: Is a hotel really needed in this area? Would like basic budget info. Answer: Mid range hotel. Good alternative to Santa Monica high end hotels and low-end options. This is a good alternative. Possibly for use for those utilizing or visiting Santa Monical medical facilities. Will get more info re budget.

Jay R.: Anything to be done to make it less boxy? Maybe retail at corner? Answer: Discussed various frontage designs.

Jian K. –What about bikes? ADA slots? Answer: Adaptive re-use needs to use only what is already there. There are no existing ADA permits.

Katie (audience): How much influence will our comments impact this project? It seems like everything has already been decided. With the metal seems monotonous. Not warm.

Rosie: commends you on keeping to 3 levels. But concerned with parking. Retail? Answer: There will be valet service.

Ron M – So is there ADA? Ans: no. It is adaptive re-use. But those with disabilities can park and be helped.

Motion (J. Ross) to approve the adaptive re-use project to convert existing building into a mid-range hotel located at 1405 Wellesley Ave. with added conditions. More trees. Provide ADA slots per federal standards. No signs. No advertising during construction. No digital signs once built. No billboards for advertising. No supergrahics. Add bike racks. 5 Yes (Ross, Keeton, Nakamura, Migdal, Glisovic). 1 No (Kerendian). 3 Abstain (Kato, Ghorbani, Kageyama). Motion passes with majority vote. To approve the proposal with added conditions.

1. **Motion on Recommendation to City Planning regarding the Expo Corridor Neighborhood Plan** *(Ross)*

Jian – section B is unclear. This information was added by Jay Ross.

This is the same motion as from last month. With some modifications.

A few upzoning along the Expo. Would like to make R1 zoning as only last resort.

A map was passed out (example of what was done in Koreatown. Affordable housing project).

Galen (public comment) – We should be limiting height when adjacent to R1’s. Across street is still 6 levels.

Ezra Gale committed CD11 with community engagement. Councilmember Bonin is very interested in the NC and community input.

Comments to amend the north corner at Missouri/Bundy. Discussion about specific streets and R1s adjacent to development plan.

Question on 4B – doesn’t want roof decks. Some discussion. Public member noted that roof deck neighbors can be unruly. Other including NC members noted both pros/cons of roof decks. Jay Ross will keep roof decks on motion.

This is a long process so even though there was a prior deadline on comments for some parts of the Expo plan this is an overall 2 year planning process so having participation from NC’s is very important.

Motion (J. Ross) on WLASNC position regarding the Expo Corridor Neighborhood Plan to be provided to City Planning Department. Height, density and other issues relating to the Expo Corridor. Includes original motion with some added clarification via J. Kerendian. Also amended to have 3-story limit (not 6-story) for certain areas noted from public comment that are adjacent to R1 neighborhoods. 8 Yes (*Nakamura, Kageyama, Ghorbani, Kerendian, Migdal, Kato, Ross and Glisovic). 0 No. 2 Abstain (Keeton, Shigematsu).*  Motion passes. Full details on [www.wlanc.com](http://www.wlanc.com) website.

1. **Motion to Support Painting of 11 signal boxes within the WLASNC Boundaries funded by CD11** *(Nakamura)*

Eric N. – there are 11 signal boxes. Currently all of them are blank or have graffiti. CD11 will pay for them all ($400 per box). No funds are requested from WLASNC.

Local artists will work on these boxes.

This motion is to support this project (no funds). Unanimous. 10 Yes (Keeton, *Nakamura, Kageyama, Ghorbani, Kerendian, Migdal, Kato, Ross, Shigematsu and Glisovic). 0 No. 0 Abstain.* Motion passes.

1. **Motion to Fund Summer Movies for $8,000**

Motion to fund summer movies. There is a breakdown.

New park director is requesting licenses for each movie shown. $450 each. $4500 is for the vendor.

E. Nakamura provides details about the budget breakdown.

A list of movies is available. Some questions on vendor selection. Also wondering why Dept. of Parks and Recreation are not utilizing their own budget. Also a question on whether movies can be shown at the Civic Center (as an alternative to Stoner Park) or elementary school (e.g. Nora Sterry Elementary).

This motion is to provide $8000 for the Stoner Park summer program movie program. 9 Yes (Keeton, *Nakamura, Kageyama, Ghorbani, Kerendian, Migdal, Ross, Shigematsu and Glisovic). 1 No (Kato). 0 Abstain.* Motion passes.

1. **Motion to Contribute $2,000 to Senior Wellness Fair Sponsored by CD11 on September 16, 2017**

Ron Kato – LA City Health Comissioner for CD11. Working with Bonin’s office. A lot of concern re ACA. Wants to promote health and wellness for seniors. 9/16/17 Senior Fair. Asking local NC’s to pitch in funds for this event.

This is a free event and would like to bring in as many seniors as possible. Funds will be used for food and other support for the event.

Some discussion to increase the support for this event including non-spent funds from FY 2016-17 due to being in Exhaustive Efforts. Liaison Jasmine Elbarbary suggested future motions to use a ‘cap’ rather than an exact amount for motions. It is suggested that another motion is added in the July 2017 agenda for added funds.

Motion to contribute $2000 from WLASNC for the Senior Fair as proposed by LA City Commissioner Ron Kato. Unanimous. 10 Yes (Keeton, *Nakamura, Kageyama, Ghorbani, Kerendian, Migdal, Kato, Ross, Shigematsu and Glisovic). 0 No. 0 Abstain.* Motion passes.

1. **Motion to Adopt Motto for WLASNC: “Educating, Empowering, Advocating”**

Not discussed at meeting.

1. **Motion to Request that DONE allow PLUM and Outreach Committees to be Reconstituted by some date certain**

Motion to request DONE to allow PLUM and Outreach Committees to be reconstituted by the July 2017 WLASNC meeting. Unanimous. 0 Yes (Keeton, *Nakamura, Kageyama, Ghorbani, Kerendian, Kato, Ross, Shigematsu and Glisovic). 0 No. 0 Abstain.* Motion passes. Ron Migdal out of room but quorum maintained so motion still carries.

Jasmine says you can’t use standing rules for committees. Need best practices for PLUM. Next month there should be an item for committee membership.

1. **Bylaws Update** *(DONE Representative)*

Jasmine – These proposed bylaws changes were sent to DONE. Several new items were amended by DONE.

Quorum issue – Tried to have a formula for quorum based on the number of active members. DONE will not allow a formula.

DONE requires a hard number for quorum. For a few months (2 meetings) the quorum was allowed to be 7 (not 9) due to absences.

Question on term limits (page 6) – the numbers in the draft are subject to change. The past is not part of any calculations. Everything is from this point forward.

Question on absences – it is proposed to have easier removals.

Jasmine noted that City Attorney must be contacted for removals. So the word ‘automatic’ is not really the best.

There is a recommendation that board officer selections should be implemented when new members are elected in (i.e. July rather than February).

Also a recommendation that 2/3 vote is required for changes to bylaws. There is some confusion on abstentions in relation to quorum. Abstentions are counted as ‘non-votes’. General agreement that the 2/3 of ‘yes’ votes of total board is still required for changes.

Discussion on term limits. Some worries about over-legislation of bylaws.

Motion regarding term limits. Chair Keeton asks for a show of hands for those in favor of term limits. 2 Yes (Kato, Migdal). 8 No (Ross, Kerendian, Shigematsu, Keeton, Nakamura, Ghorbani, Glisovic, Kageyama). Opposition to term limits carries. Jasmine E. will remove term limits from bylaws proposed changed.

Discussion about why there is a separation of ‘large’ business. A ‘large’ business may be limited to big developers or ‘chain’ stores only. This is a good point. But would require a board structure change.

Organizational change question. This will be discussed at the next meeting along with standing rules.

1. **Discussion of presentations/consideration – n/a**
2. **Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda** - none
3. **Board Comment and Announcements**

Eric N. noted that stakeholders are interested in knowing individuals on the NC. See website for those who have already been interviewed. This is voluntary for members but please consider participating.

Jamie K. noted that there is a lot of stakeholder interest in the Missouri/Bundy development (old animal shelter site). A public town hall (a board special meeting) is suggested for July 2017. Trying to get consensus on a good meeting date for 2nd week in july 2017.

Jamie K. also noted that all stakeholder status information is forwarded to board secretary N. Kageyama. At this time all members have submitted information.

1. **Adjournment**

9:55 pm.