

WEST LOS ANGELES SAWTELLE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, July 25, 2018, 7:00 PM
Felicia Mahood Multipurpose Senior Center
11338 Santa Monica Boulevard – Community Room – Los Angeles, CA 90025

Attending: Chair Jamie Keeton, Ron Migdal, Secretary Naomi Kageyama, Danilo Torro, Zana Glisovic, Jay Ross, Arman Ghorbani, Jay Handal, Jean Shigematsu

Absent: Jian Kerendian, Jennifer Gavina, Desa Philadelphia, Eric Nakamura

TIME BEGINS: 7:16 p.m. TIME ENDS: 8:43 p.m.
Community and stakeholder members present: count not taken

I. Call to Order

Chair Keeton called the meeting to order with quorum at 7:16. Secretary Kageyama took roll.

II. Community Partner Reports

West Sawtelle Senior Lead Officer James Lavenson introduced himself and said that the Obon Festival was taking place on Sunday afternoon, and he would be there if any stakeholders had questions about crime or the community. The LAPD had also sent out information about the Citizen's Academy starting in a few weeks.

Chair Keeton said that at the last WLASNC board meeting they had voted on having a town hall meeting on the safe parking issue, and clarified that having an actual town hall meeting was not precluded by their currently having a board meeting about it.

III. General Public Comment

Stakeholder Rosie Kato had two items to speak on. First, she explained that the outreach committee had been allocated \$50 each month for refreshments, and said it would be nice on hot days like this one for there to be bottles of water for attendees. Second, she was surprised not to see a town hall notification, and that they're spending money on notices for movies and music in the parks rather than town hall meetings.

Stakeholder Jacqueline discussed the proliferation of scooters in the area. She had been living in the neighborhood for more than 16 years, and scooters: Ivar and Purdue, living in neighborhood for more than 16, 17 years. She said that the scooter issue is getting worse, and that they are frequently parked at her building, as well as skateboards, and that their users are rude and profane, and are often up until 2:00 a.m. in the morning, and display no respect for residents whatsoever. They have almost run her over in her building parking lot, and she just wants to make sure all residents and their children are safe.

Stakeholder Linda also addressed the scooter issue: she uses the scooters herself, and likes them, but acknowledges that they have become a big issue. People will leave them in the middle of driveways, and she talked about how her friend who came to visit tripped over one and had to go to the doctor. She knows a lot of other cities are having the same issue, and does not know why there can't be a designated spot for them.

Jay Ross asked if they were videotaping or recording audio for the meeting today, and Chair Keeton said that they were not, but were employing a minute taker through AppleOne.

IV. Approvals

a. Outstanding draft meeting minutes

Stakeholder Rosie Kato had a correction for the outstanding draft meeting minutes from the June 27, 2018 board meeting: at the very end, the phrase "soaking station" should be "sobering center" instead of "soaking station".

Jay Ross asked for clarification what Jay Handal's role was in the VA Safe Parking task force was, and Jay Handal confirmed that the minutes' description of his role was correct.

Ron Migdal moved to approve the minutes with previous correction, Handal seconded. There was no further discussion.

Motion to approve outstanding draft of last meeting's minutes. 9 Yes (Keeton, Migdal, Kageyama, Torro, Glisovic, Ross, Ghorbani, Handal, Shigematsu). 0 No. 0 Abstain. Motion passes.

b. Outstanding MERs reports

Ross asked what an expenditure for a \$40 carrying case was for, and Handal explained that the carrying case was for the projector for the NC's movies in the park to keep it safe. He then confirmed that they own the projector. Ross then asked if the food items were going to be all the food items purchased for the whole summer, which Handal confirmed. Ross asked if all the licensing fees for the movies had been accounted for, and Handal explained that they had all been paid for and included in the MERS, under the Michael Lewis item, paid by credit card directly to the licensing company. Ross said that he does not see the licensing company invoice in the MERS, and Handal replied that it should be in there.

Handal moved to postpone discussion and voting on the outstanding MERS in the interest of not taking up valuable board time in answering questions about it. Danilo Torro seconded. There was no discussion on the motion.

Motion to postpone discussion and voting on outstanding MERS. 7 Yes (Keeton, Migdal, Kageyama, Torro, Glisovic, Handal, Shigematsu). 1 No (Ross). 1 Abstain (Ghorbani). Motion passes.

c. Amended Budget (moving refreshments from Outreach to Office Expenditures)

Handal addressed Stakeholder Kato's question as to why the council was not providing water for the meeting: the City has determined that amenities like water should not be under the budget for Outreach, but under the Administrative budget for NC's. Therefore, they have to amend the budget to move the \$50-per-month allocation for refreshments into a different category.

Handal moved to amend the budget to move the refreshment allocation from Outreach to Office Expenditures. Migdal seconded.

Motion to amend the budget to move the refreshment allocation from Outreach to Office Expenditures . 9 Yes (Keeton, Migdal, Kageyama, Torro, Glisovic, Ross, Ghorbani, Handal, Shigematsu). 0 No. 0 Abstain. Motion passes.

d. Election Stip Sheet

Handal explained that the board could go through the sheet fairly quickly. The first item on the worksheet regarded the hours of the election, which Handal explained were from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. during the last election. Ross suggested 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Handal said that that would only give stakeholders four hours to vote, whereas six hours would give more people time to get out and vote, and didn't think they should be restricting voting. He proposed they go from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and there were no objections.

The next item was the facility to hold the election, and Handal suggested holding it at the farmer's market behind the civic center like last time for maximum turnout. Ross asked if there will be any fees for using the farmer's market, and Handal said there would not be. Migdal asked if the restrooms in the civic center would be available for voters, and Handal confirmed that they would be, as required by law.

The next item was regarding providing translators for voters, and Handal suggested Spanish, Farsi, and Japanese translators. Secretary Kageyama said that as a Japanese-American community member, she was confident that most fellow community members speak English well. Keeton suggested Spanish and Farsi translators only, and there were no objections.

The next item regarded the election committee chair, and Handal explained that typically people who are running for re-election or election should not be election committee chair or on the election committee. Since he is not running, Jay Handal volunteered as election committee chair.

The next section of the sheet concerned the types of election the NC would like to use: polling at the physical election location only, online voting, voting by mail, or all or some combination of the above. The sheet had a question in the same section: if the NC board chooses online voting or voting by mail, would they be willing to put forward up to \$5,000 to cover the cost?

Keeton confirmed that they can say no. Handal said that he didn't think they should put forth a dime, and that they should use all three methods of voting, because there's a large aging community out there that vote by mail, and if they want to get as much outreach and influence as possible, they ask for all three.

Kageyama felt that there were problematic issues in various areas of online voting that hadn't been worked out, and she was uncomfortable about online voting. She did think that regular voting at the polling place and mail voting were necessary, and a justifiable cost. Keeton reiterated that the sheet does not say that if they vote by mail they have to pay for it, and that she doesn't think they should. Keeton also said that they could have fraudulent results with regular and mail voting, and that if it turns out to be problematic, in the next election, they could just not do it. Kageyama said that she used to think that way too but once she had more information about the problems throughout LA City including problems with downtown Skid Row – she changed her mind. At the local level there are problems with defining who is a “Stakeholder” and who is not. Online voting may lead to unanticipated problems.

Handal said that he did not know what Kageyama had read or heard downtown, but said that he was director of elections city-wide for the Neighborhood Council system in 2016. He explained that the problems that they had (and there is a report on citywatchLA.com regarding it) were related to the fact that the city tried to do it on the cheap, without the proper money and proper equipment. He expressed gratitude that the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment is no longer directly involved, and that the City Clerk's office is running it, who do run elections and will get the proper equipment. And the issue that happened in Skid Row was that three different areas were trying to use one polling place, which was unfair to the subdividing council. Kageyama said that she was just using Downtown as an example because she was there, and that every Neighborhood Council district had problems. Handal said that was blatantly untrue, and that there were four neighborhood councils that had problems, and two councils' problems were the result of staffing, not online voting. He said that you can cheat over voting by mail, and frankly, you can cheat coming to the polls because of the definition of “stakeholder” according to the city. He moved that they do all three, in the interest of inclusivity.

Stakeholder Kato said that she agreed with Kageyama, and that online voting is problematic. She questioned how they could vet the people voting online, and said that too much fraud could take place.

Ross agreed with Kageyama, and thought that they should only do voting at the polling location. He thought that would ensure that committed stakeholders show up, and he does not think the city has promised enough staff or equipment to properly run it.

Another Stakeholder said that a stakeholder could also be defined as a business owner who doesn't live in the area, but whose business is in the area, and maybe cannot come in on the polling day. They added that a lot of people throw out their mail, and that online voting is just more convenient.

Handal moved to use all three voting methods: polling at the physical election location only, online voting, and voting by mail. Torro seconded.

Migdal said that there are problems with voting online, but it could enable them to get a much bigger cross-section of voters.

Motion to use all three voting methods: polling at the physical election location only, online voting, and voting by mail. 6 Yes (Keeton, Migdal, Torro, Glisovic, Ghorbani, Handal, Shigematsu). 2 No (Kageyama, Ross). 1 Abstain (Shigematsu). Motion passes.

Handal moved to pass the election worksheet as just discussed and item-approved. Migdal seconded. No additional discussion.

Motion to pass the election worksheet as just discussed and item-approved. 8 Yes (Keeton, Migdal, Torro, Glisovic, Ross, Ghorbani, Handal, Shigematsu). 0 No. 1 Abstain (Kageyama). Motion passes.
--

V. Update from Renter's Rights Fair Committee and motion on date for event

Chair Keeton explained that they need a date from Arman Ghorbani for the potential Renter's Rights Fair event. Ghorbani explained that the Renter's Rights Fair Committee met last Thursday, and would also be meeting August 9. They'd had a great discussion with community members who were concerned about evictions. The suggested date was September 16, and it would be good to do it during the farmer's market, and they could set up in front of the municipal building with tables for different groups who would be interested in coming to the Fair. They would also plan on making a summary packet of information and renter's rights for attendees to take home.

Ghorbani moved to hold the Renter's Rights Fair on September 16, 2018. Ron Migdal seconded. No further discussion.

Motion to hold the Renter's Rights Fair on September 16, 2018. 9 Yes (Keeton, Migdal, Kageyama, Torro, Glisovic, Ross, Ghorbani, Handal, Shigematsu). 0 No. 0 Abstain. Motion passes.

VI. Panel discussion regarding SafeParkLA parking program at Civic Center Parking Lot; possible motion to support

Chair Keeton explained for the audience present how the current agenda item would be conducted procedurally. The board had received online question submissions, and she would read them out, then the panel can address them. After that, the panel would be able to present on SafeParkLA. Then, she would read in-person question sheets submitted at the board meeting, then they will have public comments. Then the board will discuss.

The first question was, what is the timeframe for allowing vehicles to stay in the area: a week, a month, etc.? Keeton explained that a lot of questions were about sanitation and safety both health-wise for the people taking part in the program, and how the lot used for safe parking gets cleaned after. There were questions about security: how people in the lot would be kept safe, and how people outside the lot residing in the area would be kept safe. By far, most questions were about the process for vetting potential participants in the program, and the consequences for participants if they did not follow the program's rules.

Lastly, one person had asked if there was a curfew, and whether participants had to be parked in the lot for the entire time of the safe-parking program window (from evening until morning).

CD11 Field Deputy Hannah Levien began the panel by thanking everyone for coming, and thanking the board for allowing time for a panel on SafeParking LA. The proposal on the table is to implement safe parking behind this building, on a small strip north of the cinder block wall. She directed the audience to a hefty fact sheet about safe parking that had been put together and made available to them as part of the documents printed for board meeting attendees. She added that from Councilmember Bonin's perspective, safe parking represented an interim solution on the way to permanent housing. She then introduced Emily Kantrim from SafeParkingLA, Lisa Payne, from the Mayor's Office of Public Engagement, Pastor Anna Olson, from St. Mary's Episcopal Church, and West Sawtelle's Senior Lead Officer James Lavenson.

Emily Kantrim began a brief presentation on what safe parking is as a concept. "Safe parking" at its core is providing a parking space for someone while they are living in their vehicle so that they know they can go there every night to be safe, use the bathroom, and get a good night's sleep so they can get up and do what they need to do to keep moving forward: go to work, take their kids to school, etc. Safe parking has been in California for the last 15 years. SafeParkingLA works only with the city of LA, and there are currently 4 parking lots being run in the city of LA area. She explained that it was amazing to be able to use underutilized space to solve a problem that they have city- and county-wide. They are trying to put together all of these different pieces like "parking space", "person who needs parking space", and "services who can help that person connect to resources they need".

Pastor Anna Olson introduced herself as an Episcopal priest and director at St Mary's Episcopal Church in Koreatown, and explained that theirs was the first lot that opened as part of SafeParkingLA. She was here to talk about how it's worked for them hosting it. They have been going for 4-5 months now, and have about 10 cars in their lot each night, and she said that it had gone tremendously smoothly. She promised those present that her congregations had raised every one of the questions about safety and security and hygiene that West Sawtelle residents had raised, and that it has been a tremendously positive experience even for the skeptics. The SafeParkingLA program in their lot even overlaps with a kids' basketball program that plays in the parking lot, and with instrumental music classes, and that the church is sandwiched between a head start preschool and an LAUSD school, and they've still received no complaints. She explained that as a small church with limited material and financial resources, SafeParkingLA allows them to feel like they're making a bit of difference in this enormous crisis.

SLO Lavenson added that about 50% of his radio calls in his area, which ranges from the 10 to Wilshire and from the 405 to Centinela, are homeless-related, and that is a problem nationwide. He explained that the LAPD tried at one point to arrest their way out of the problem, and that it didn't work. He acknowledged that there are certain things they can do and certain things they cannot do, and that they won't arrest people for being homeless when they are just people who are down on their luck. They offer any way they can to give a hand up, and nothing makes him feel better. He explained that they get a lot of radio calls about people living in cars or RV's, and as a result he gets to know a lot of the homeless in the area living in vehicles, and that a set of circumstances have brought a lot of good people down on their luck. As a start, he said that instead of being a naysayer, they should try something, tweak it, and make it better. It is better than sitting back and saying nothing, and he emphasized that that was his attitude and the LAPD's attitude.

Lisa Payne introduced herself, and said that the Mayor is really excited that SafeParking LA and many council offices and churches are working on safe parking as a strategy to get people into an interim safe place, where they can then get into long-term housing. She said that in recent years they have passed funding for long-term housing, whether Supportive Housing, or whether it's a fee on development that then goes to affordable housing, and so they are getting housing built. The County has passed Measure H, putting an unprecedented amount of money into funding for service providers. She said that as Kantrim was talking about, it is still critical and much easier and much more effective in the short term for people to have a safe place to be where they don't have to worry about finding a toilet, so they can keep looking for a job. Providing those basic necessities makes the rest of their proposals and services much more effective. Also, most of the folks in their vehicles are people who have recently fallen into homelessness. Although there's a decrease in overall homeless numbers, the population in vehicles is increasing.

Keeton said that she saw Scott Sayle in the audience, who had attended last month's board meeting and spoken for SafeParkLA, and acknowledged that most of the neighborhood was not here last month. She reiterated questions from last month about how people are selected during the screening process and compelled to maintain their position in the program, and (as an additional question tonight) how specifically are sex offenders screened?

Kantrim from SafeParkLA answered, and said that she had looked at a lot of the web-submitted questions beforehand, separating which ones were about the pilot process for a potential program behind the municipal building and which ones were about the selection process. To touch a little bit on all of these questions, she explained that there was a reason why this lot was selected: every council member has looked to their own districts, first waiting for communities to offer space and step up, and then looking at the viability of lots in their districts. Depending on particular bureaucratic entanglements, some lots pop up sooner than other ones. That's why this one was suggested, as well as another CD11 lot.

Kantrim explained that the pilot process for a potential SafeParkingLA program in the lot would be a 60-day pilot period. That will allow the community to understand its possible impact, and SafeParkingLA will be collecting data the whole time and looking at things to tweak.

In terms of the application/screening process, there is an extensive vetting process. Initial applications will come directly from service providers who are serving people suffering from homelessness in vehicles already. SafeParkingLA also serves as a tool for providers to move people into more secure situations who are already meeting goals to try and transition out of homelessness. They look at the referral, the applicant's driver's license, registration, and insurance, and look at if the person will really be able to adhere to SafeParkingLA's rules and regulations, which include general good neighbor policies, but also include "no camping" and "no cooking". They adjust the rules and regulations for each location. A lot of this is still in the planning process for the discussed West Sawtelle lot, as they don't have anything back yet from the General Services division or a lot of info to put together the robust program we need, so that's why they are having this continuing dialogue now.

Following the first part of the vetting process, they conduct a personal interview for an applicant, look at their documentation, and then that vehicle and that applicant get assigned a parking permit so they know who the person is, the vehicle, that they have a permit and all these things get checked off by the security guard when the applicant comes into the lot in the evening, and the guard notes when they're coming in and heading out. Applicants cannot just drop in at any time either, and must come in and be out at designated times. She addressed Pastor Olson's point about her lot being near a school, and said that safe parking is not a new thing at being near a LAUSD campus. Further, there is no overlap from schoolchildren onto the population that is parking at night. Lastly, they do screen applicants through the National Sex Offender Database, and all of those elements have been in place for a long time outside of LA in safe parking programs.

Keeton continued by asking questions fielded from the audience: on the point of the overlap of SafeParkingLA populations with schoolchildren, they had received two questions about what the spillover is like in the daytime when people have to exit the lot and end up in their neighborhood.

Pastor Olson said that it really hasn't been a big issue, and that if anything, parking is tight in Koreatown so they have not heard any complaints from "even [their] most complainingest neighbors" at the church about spillover, sanitation, or lack of parking. If anything, she said that frankly for both the folks who are part of their community and for their immediate neighbors, they feel safer with a program that has clear guidelines, a security guard, and a vetting process, so they can know who is there, as opposed to when it was more of a free-for-all for parking and homeless in the area and the church just relied on padlocks on the gates of their lot. Even though they have overlap with church programs that include kids, there have been no complaints from parents. Olson said that the folks who park on their lot are regular people who like the atmosphere of being in an area where sports and music happen. She said that there's a real sense for some of their single women guests especially that this is the safest they've felt since they became homeless. When they hear kids playing there, they know they

are in a place where they can relax and sleep and know that they're safe. Olson added that she has raised two kids in Koreatown and asked them about this question and it was interesting to hear their response. Her older child said that they would rather live in a neighborhood where people take care of each other, and when people are older and run into hard times, they have somewhere to go. Her other child's response was that, on visiting the lot, they saw that the people parking there were just regular people.

Keeton asked what the timeline was like, the ideal one to get the program up and running, and since it's intended to be a stopgap measure, what the maximum allotted participation time for applicants was?

Kantrim explained that currently, the limiting factor in homelessness is housing. So their standing policy is while any patron in any of our lots is actively seeking housing, going to their appointments, and working with their service provider, this is the place they know they can be safe at every night while they go out and do the things they need to do. SafeParkingLA has a biweekly conference with their service providers, and ask how each member is doing and how they can help them more. Housing is so hard to come by, especially in a competitive market, where landlords ask why they should rent to someone on hard times when they can make so much more renting to someone else. From their last year of data, they make it out of the program and into housing within 90 days. They hope to get to that goal with the potential West Sawtelle lot, but so as long as their patrons can participate fully in the program, they can be a part of this program. Olson added that, just anecdotally in the short time they have had it operating, there has been complete turnover.

Kantrim explained that even with a set number of spaces, it doesn't mean that all of their occupants are there for a year. Unfortunately, outcomes range from people getting into permanent housing to people losing their car for whatever reason, and being unable to continue in the program. In that case, they help them as much as they can, for example, trying to get them into a shelter. And as Pastor Olson said, they have a lot of turnover, so even though the lot's capacity is for 10 vehicles, over the course of a year about 90 vehicles can move in and out of the lot.

Keeton then asked about the sanitation on the lot, the operation of Port-o-Potties on it, and whether there would be showers on the lot. Kantrim explained that showers would not be offered on the lot, and that they recommend their occupants use gyms or services for homeless that provide showers. For sanitation, they make sure that SafeParking programs have some sort of bathroom facility, depending on what the lot allows. In this case, it would be an ADA-accessible Port-o-Potty and a wash basin. It would be serviced twice a week unless there's more than 10 vehicles. To date, they have had zero issues with any sanitation issues on-site in SafeParkingLA lots.

Keeton asked if the YMCA in their district or other houses of worship were looked at and discussed, and Kantrim said that there were still many discussions going on about safe parking on the west side. The councilmember is offering up the things he knows are available because they're city property. Other facilities not administered by the city will have to be requested to be used. She does know there are leaders in faith communities who might be interested, and they are talking about safe parking to other congregations. If a private lot owner would want to help, they would be happy to work with them. Also, the Department of Transportation is looking at using some of their lots for safe parking. These conversations are ongoing.

Keeton said that an issue came up more than once from the audience: given the housing development going on and a proposed sobering center, it seems that their part of LA seems targeted as a center of homeless placement. Field Deputy Hannah Levien spoke to that for CD11, and said that they were looking at safe parking in a Westchester parking lot; another council had approved safe parking behind the Culver City fields, and one church in Mar Vista was potentially implementing safe parking. CD11 was doing the best they could to seek out opportunities for safe parking, and the councilmember had given asks to all other neighborhood councils in their district.

Olson added, for context, that Koreatown is now famous for having a major blowup in bridge housing, and there was a conception among residents that the entire west side dumps homeless into Koreatown. However, their neighborhood and neighbors have found safe parking much more palatable than the bridge housing, and that it is a small-scale, gentle way to get started tackling the problem. And the small community that does develop when you have 10-15 cars on the lot is different than bridge housing for 80 people.

Keeton said that the next set of questions relates to whether the 10 cars in the lot would include RV's. Also, with 10 cars, how many people could be in a car or how many would they anticipate being in a car? Then, are tents and cots being allowed to be set up outside vehicles?

Kantrim said that the number of people per car varies, but at the end of the day, each lot just looks like a bunch of cars parked, and that it's protecting the lives of the people in it. It could be a single person per car, or a car could be a mother and three kids. She knows that some people have a van, and use 1/3 of their income to put their belongings into a storage locker

so that their kids can stretch out in the van at night. Again, there's no camping outside vehicles, and lights are out at 10:00 p.m. They emphasize that safe parking lots are not for visiting but for getting a good night's sleep. As long as patrons and their stuff stay inside their vehicle, they can still stream video or whatever they want to do before bed. People can leave at any time, but if they leave after 10 PM, they cannot come back until the next day.

Keeton again asked about the issue of motor homes, and Kantrim explained that their main issue with RV's/motor homes is, if they do allow them in, can they get them out again, especially if they break down? They are bound by the setup and geography of the lot. Specifically, their main concern is if they can also get a tow truck in to tow the RV out at the end of the safe parking period if the RV breaks down. Their second concern is maintenance, specifically with regard to sewage from RV's. In this lot, they estimate they could probably do one RV only. They are currently working with the Sanitation Department to allow for free waste disposal for those RV's at numerous facilities, as well as prioritizing response time to any potential leaks.

Keeton announced a final question from the audience: what can people residing in the neighborhood do to help bring the program to fruition?

Kantrim said that they want general neighborhood support for this, and want the Mayor's office and Councilmember's office to help in this regard. Payne said that she hoped whoever wrote the question was here in the audience, and that coming and learning about the program helps, as well as going out and telling people in your networks, and your neighbors about it, and people you work with about it, because you never know who may be in need of the program.

Keeton asked if someone wanted to see one of these in action, are there other locations where this is happening? Kantrim replied that they had just launched one last night in North Hollywood. There is a safe parking program in South LA, but the SafeParkingLA organization does not administer it, and they don't allow site visits for the general public. The VA safe parking program is nearby, and Pastor Olson would be willing to invite the public for visits. Field Deputy Levien said that she would be happy to arrange for a site visit. Olson added that they've found SafeParkingLA to be a fantastic partner in regards to being constantly open and communicative, and that they've worked through a lot of small bumps in their program's implementation in no small part to the constant communication they've offered.

Keeton said that there were additional questions submitted that were non-productive or not nicely worded, so they will be passed along via email. She urged the stakeholders to queue up and be respectful and pleasant as they give their public comments.

Stakeholder Hannah introduced herself, explaining that she lives on Amherst, and strongly supports this program and that the council supports it too, and she believes it is not only the right thing to do but the pragmatic thing to do. Homeless are already here; the risk is minimal in her opinion, and the LAPD headquarters for the area is nearby.

Stakeholder Linda said that she is on the fence about the program; she is very passionate about alleviating homelessness, but also very concerned about the people who don't get to go in to the program, and where they would go. Also, she knows that the topic is about vehicles, but said that the tenting by homeless in the area is getting pretty crazy, and asked why that was not getting addressed.

Stakeholder Kato said that she had a concern whether this was part of the bridge housing that money has been earmarked for. She knows that Bridge Home is looking for 10 locations in each council district, and thinks that that's a better way to use this money. She believes that the safe parking initiative proposed is elitist since they are pitting groups of homeless people against each other. She is also curious why Councilmember Bonin and Sheila Kuehl haven't held a town hall meeting on the safe parking issue.

Jay Handal asked for clarification whether SafeParkingLA is part of the Bridge program, and Kantrim replied that it wasn't.

Stakeholder Lynn Harvey was called to present public comment, but was no longer present.

Christian Lee introduced himself and explained that he had transplanted himself from Florida a few weeks ago, run out of a motel budget, and despite his research had not known the county banned sleeping in vehicles until he was out here. He reached out and found SafeParkingLA. He wants to be a writer and a full citizen, he is on his way to getting work, and has an interview at USC soon. He said he has been immensely safe and endorses this program wholeheartedly.

Stakeholder Amir said that it is legal to have firearms while you're in your vehicle. He asked if patrons in the program are there and they have their firearms, how are they going to rectify this matter? SLO Lavenson clarified that California is not

an open-carry state, and that it is illegal to have firearms in your vehicle. Guns have to be locked in the trunk, with ammunition kept separately.

Daniel Tamm introduced himself, by way of full disclosure, as a representative of the office of Mayor Garcetti in the West Area and Interfaith Liaison. He emphasized that discussions about the issue were ongoing, and were happening city-wide, not just in West Sawtelle. He reiterated that the local LAPD headquarters was within walking distance of the lot, and added that his office overlooks the lot, so any safe parking initiative there would affect him as well. The mayor has said that no one is expected to do everything, but everyone can do something. Tamm said that this effort is minuscule, but it's something for those people, for Christian, who'll be able to get a night's sleep and move on to another part of his life.

Carl introduced himself, explaining that he was From Virginia, a graduate of Virginia Tech with a degree in biology, and moved to LA to follow his dream of being involved in the music industry, and has proud member of the program for a month. He was happy to say he will be in a long-term living situation on September 1st.

Katherine Peterson introduced herself, and explained that she had been homeless and living in my car since March and became part of the program back then. Not only had it given her a clean and safe place to sleep in her car, but provided her with resources and connected her with a case manager. She encourages neighborhoods to allow the program in.

Chelsea introduced herself as an organizer for the Everyone In campaign launched by United Way of Los Angeles, which includes safe parking, permanent supportive housing, and bridge housing. She said that she was part of the community going out there and working to find paths to solutions. They would be having a workshop on August 20 in Westchester, and just wanted to thank people for their willingness to have these conversations.

Fernando Morales introduced himself as a Senior Field Deputy for West/Metro LA with Supervisor Kuehl's office, and wanted to speak to some of their interactions with safe parking. He said that the program has already had a huge impact on the homeless population, explaining that this program is one you get to talk to neighbors about the effects of it. Sometimes people might need to have a place at night; once people are sleeping in a car it's very easy to become destabilized and lose their job or their car or their opportunity for education.

Keith Nakata introduced himself as Co-Chair of the Mid-City West Community Council Planning and Land Use Committee, as well as an eater and shopper in the West Sawtelle area and attendee of West Sawtelle festivals. He has attended some of the safe parking lots at night, and said that frankly, you wouldn't know anything was happening, since they were all asleep. It's a free way to be part of the solution to homelessness.

Stakeholder Jacqueline said that she does have a great compassion for the homeless situation, and is involved. But with all due respect, she does not support safe parking, and she believes that any employee of the city of LA is welcome to take them in and house them and care for them, but they should have taken the \$100,000 that safe parking costs and built housing.

Ron Tahoe introduced himself as health commissioner for CD11, and asserted that there is a difference between perception and reality. He implored the audience and board to go to a safe parking site and visit the people before making a decision. He added that they were not in their cars by choice, but may have been forced to live in them because of medical expenses. They may be waiting for available housing.

A Stakeholder said that he has lived in this neighborhood his whole life and supports this project.

Dimitri explained that he had come to LA from Pennsylvania with his manager for the music industry, and that their hotel bills had become to expensive, plus the search for apartments is tough. He said that SafeParkingLA has been a huge help to them.

Handal said that that closed public comment for the record, and since Chair Keeton had left by this point, quorum had been broken, so the board would not be able to vote. They would have to bring the issue back before the board again, which would give them and stakeholders a short window of opportunity to visit sites. He will recommend to the board to hold a special meeting to vote on the proposal. In the meantime, he said that this would conclude the meeting since the board cannot discuss further issues in the absence of quorum.

VII. Treasurer's Report

VIII. Outreach Report

IX. Public Safety Report

X. PLUM Report

XI. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

XII. Board Comment and Announcements

XIII. Adjournment

Jay Handal adjourned the meeting due to lack of quorum at 8:43 PM.

Minutes were taken by John B. of Apple1 (approved vendor for the City of LA). Reviewed by Naomi Kageyama Secretary of WLA Sawtelle Neighborhood Council .