

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

Wednesday, August 23, 2017, 7:00 PM

Felicia Mahood Multipurpose Senior Center

Present: Jamie Keeton (Chair), Eric Nakamura (Vice Chair), Jay Handal (Treasurer), Naomi Kageyama (Secretary), Arman Ghorbani, Jian Kerendian, Ron Migdal, Rosie Kato, Jean Shigematsu, Jay Ross, Zana Glisovic, Danilo Torro

Absent: Partho Kalyani, Desa Philadelphia
Start 7 pm

Attendance: 31 attendees + 12 NC members

I. Call to Order

Quorum. 12 NC members in attendance.

II. General Public Comment

Faith M (Food & Water Watch): Would like a support letter from NC. Environmental impact of facility in CD11 adjacent to LAX.

Leah G (Food & Water Watch): Booklet from Stand LA. Against neighborhood drilling.

Raquel M (Physicians for Social Responsibility): Also advocating for an issue supported by Stand LA re drilling. Urban drilling is very unhealthy.

Jerry and Nancy (from class held in adjacent community room): Coordinators of the square dancing class. Every Wednesday. 7 pm. New class 9/13. Everyone welcome.

III. Community Partner Reports

Officer Lavenson: We are safe but property crime is up. 30627@lapdonline.com. Please report anything. Would like to make an announcement of 'Next Door'. There are many "rapes" being reported. Be careful of the source of this information. If there is a public safety element WLA LAPD will let you know. Be careful of what you see on Next Door. Some discussion about reporting of rapes. The most recent of reported rapes are "acquaintance" assault allegations. This is different than the rapes/assaults reported in 2016. LAPD needs to complete preliminary investigations prior to alerting the community. There was a question about criminal activities on Olympic. More patrol officers will be dispatched.

Len Nguyen on behalf of the CD11/CM Bonin: Several community residents toured the Tom Safran Associates (TSA) development projects in Playa. This Friday CM Bonin will be at Stoner Park for ice cream party on Friday. This Sunday at Farmers Mkt to give away shade trees. Len passed out info about the Senior Health and Wellness Fair in September (9/16/17).

Stephanie Cohen (Sheila Kuelh's office): Will be in attendance every other month. Focusing on Measure H. Homeless. Asked for an additional 200 beds for women. Also for Transitional Age Youth (TAY) and senior populations. Went to priority areas. For WLA will go to lead agency for SPA 5. St. Joseph's Center. Also focused on the environment. Water resiliency plan. Storm water capture. Advocating for more 'cool roofs' for lighter colored roofs to reflect light/heat. Kageyama noted she will coordinate with Stephanie Cohen to ensure there is a linkage between WLASNC and St. Joseph's Ctr. (Venice) who is the primary homeless service provider for WLA.

Meer Park (DONE): Jasmine Elbarbary is currently out of the country. Elections shaping up to be in 2019. Council File # 15-1022-S2. Planning Dept. is listening to feedback about the planning process and trying to address them.

IV. Approvals

a. Draft meeting minutes for July 2017 meeting (*Secretary Kageyama*)

Motion to accept the July 2017 regular meeting minutes.

Ross noted that NC member Kalyani referred to 'Preserve LA' as a "political organization" during July 2017 meeting. But this is not correct because Preserve LA is an education and advocacy group. Kageyama noted that minutes need to reflect what is stated and will be included in today's minutes to clarify the July 2017 minutes.

Kato would like to amend the minutes from July 2017 to include her comments that Moe Mostashari who was a potential organizational seat representative for WLASNC had previously applied for the position but was not approved by the board. Keeton noted that this will also be reflected in the August 2017 minutes.

Motion to approve the July 2017 minutes. Unanimous. 12 Yes (Kageyama, Migdal, Glisovic, Nakamura, Ghorbani, Keeton, Handal, Torro, Shigematsu, Kerendian, Ross, Kato), 0 No. 0 Abstain. Minutes are approved.

b. Outstanding MERs reports (*Treasurer Handal*)

National Night Out costs (\$500) was initially rejected by DONE. Treasurer Handal had to pay out of pocket to cover the costs. Reimbursement will be requested. Kato asked for a follow up on past costs (e.g. telephone).

Motion to approve the July 2017 MERs. Unanimous. 12 Yes (Kageyama, Migdal, Glisovic, Nakamura, Ghorbani, Keeton, Handal, Torro, Shigematsu, Kerendian, Ross, Kato); 0 No; 0 Abstain. MERs is approved.

V. Motion for Reconsideration of PLUM committee member vote (*Kato*)

There is a motion regarding PLUM committee member selection. Kato noted in all past considerations each applicant was voted on individually. Handal noted that there are no such procedures stated in the bylaws and there have been instances in the past that included group votes. Kageyama noted that individual voting is preferred - but for the sake of moving forward there should be clarity in the standing rules. Keeton would like to move this issue to the bylaws committee since there are no procedures currently on record in either bylaws or standing rules. Migdal is not sure for the reason to request for reconsideration. Kato added that applications were not available for all at time of the vote.

Motion for reconsideration of PLUM committee members. 4 Yes (Kato, Ross, Kerendian, Shigematsu); 8 No (Migdal, Glisovic, Nakamura, Ghorbani, Keeton, Handal, Torro); 1 Abstain (Kageyama). Motion does not pass.

Keeton noted that regardless of any changes to the bylaws or standing rules – the PLUM committee as currently voted upon will stand for the entire term. She also noted that elections are held yearly.

VI. Budget Advocate Report (*Handal*)

36 member City-wide committee. Budget advocates meet twice a month. Budget advocates will bring out a white paper. Encourages anyone to be involved and sit at these budget meetings. Ross asks about LA City pension discussion including long-term impact on City budget.

VII. Funding procedure update (*Handal*)

Needs proper paperwork for events. Passed out instructions for needed paperwork.

For example the Senior Wellness Fair. It is a Neighborhood Purpose Grant (NPG) event. Forms are needed.

Kageyama questioned whether it is a NPG or NC Sponsored event. Handal noted it is more problematic as an NC sponsored event. Since Commissioner Ron Kato has a nonprofit event – it is easier to do this as a 'NPG' event through his nonprofit. Handal does not know how the other neighboring NC's have categorized their support for this event. Handal will be working with Health Commissioner Ron Kato on the paperwork tomorrow.

Kato (Rosie) noted that a detailed budget has been requested. Handal noted that a detailed budget was needed for Summer Movie program as well before the City approved funding disbursement.

VIII. Presentation by Battalion 9 (CERT) and possible motion

Kenato Akerman. LAFD_Batt9_AKERMAN@icloud.com. Coordinator for CERT. Also Fire Dept. volunteer. Various accreditations. Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) sponsored by LAFD. Began in 1985. 7 classes. Free. Weekly. Sept. 9 seminar. To help you be more prepared for things like earthquake. Migdal encourages all NC members to join CERT class. Flyers placed on table.

Short earthquake drill was held.

IX. Presentation by School Tours and possible motion to approve grant request of up to \$2,000.00

No representative is present so this grant request will not be reviewed tonight. Kato noted that they are located in Hawthorne and services are in South LA.

X. Presentation regarding logistics of Run for Hope (10 minutes) – NO

Stricken from agenda.

XI. Presentation by Department of Transportation regarding traffic mitigation plans

No representative is present.

XII. Motion to Approve up to and including \$1,200.00 for the fiscal year starting July 1, 2017 for Outreach committee to upgrade website, advertise on Facebook and send weekly emails to stakeholders via MailChimp (Nakamura)

Nakamura would like to upgrade the WLASNC website. \$200 to upgrade website. Mailchimp is on free account but we are maxing out on this. We are getting close to 2000 emails which requires payment. But let's use Facebook ads. Would be better for outreach. Handal says it is a procedural item. If we vote on it once then we don't need to look at it each time – we can make it a recurring cost. We can only do things within fiscal year. Nakamura noted that the website has become very interactive and useful. We can authorize the \$1200 this month and next month vote it as a recurring expense through June 2018 (the end of the current fiscal year).

Motion to authorize up to \$1200 for outreach including but not limited to website upgrade and email system. Motion passes. 12 Yes (Kageyama, Migdal, Glisovic, Nakamura, Ghorbani, Keeton, Handal, Torro, Shigematsu, Kerendian, Ross, Kato); 0 No. 0 Abstain. Unanimous. Motion passes.

XIII. Motion to request City Council and/or Housing Department audit any and all SB1818/AB222 units in the district since 2007

Handal noted that so many units being built but affordable housing units are not accessible. Believes that many of these 'affordable' units are given to friends and family members of developers. Possibly going to market rate without any real oversight by LA City. Egregious what is happening with these units. Kerendian noted that he believes benefits should not be given to developers because of issues like this. Ross noted that an amendment to this motion requesting that these affordable units are diverted to Housing Authority for City of LA (HACLA) then that would add another layer of oversight. Keeton noted that Ross can write another motion for next month.

Motion to request City Council and/or Housing Department audit any and all SB1818/AB222 units in the district since 2007. 11 Yes (Kageyama, Migdal, Glisovic, Nakamura, Ghorbani, Keeton, Handal, Torro, Shigematsu, Kerendian, Ross); 0 No; 1 Abstain (Kato).

XIV. Motion to file formal complaint with Code Enforcement on behalf of stakeholder Sylvie Maracci re: excessive noise at 2025 Butler Ave. (Handal)

Air conditioning unit (outside; located right by Ms. Maracci's bedroom window) has never had any sound barriers. Very loud vibrating noise. The case was closed even after being cited.

After 4 months Code Enforcement came and gave a warning that they would be cited. CD11 staff (Len Nguyen) has spoken to the owner but to no avail. Code enforcement has dropped the ball. Need to move forward and write a letter. Glisovic noted that she is aware of other instances with code violations. It is very difficult to get momentum and change.

Motion to file a formal complaint/letter with Code Enforcement on behalf of stakeholder Sylvie Maracci regarding excessive noise at 2025 Butler Ave. Unanimous. 12 Yes (Kageyama, Migdal, Glisovic, Nakamura, Ghorbani, Keeton, Handal, Torro, Shigematsu, Kerendian, Ross, Kato); 0 No; 0 Abstain. Motion passes.

XV. Motion to formally request information from the City Attorney and/or Cannabis Licensing Commission regarding registered marijuana dispensaries within the boundaries of WLASNC (Ross)

General discussion about marijuana dispensaries within WLA area.

Motion to formally request information from the City Attorney regarding registered marijuana dispensaries within the boundaries of WLASNC. 11 Yes (Kageyama, Migdal, Glisovic, Nakamura, Ghorbani, Keeton, Handal, Shigematsu, Kerendian, Ross, Kato); 0 No; 1 Abstain (Torro). Motion passes.

XVI. Motion to Contribute Additional \$4,000 to Senior Wellness Fair Sponsored by CD11 on September 16, 2017

Handal noted that WLASNC has already committed \$2000 for this event. Another \$1000 from other NC's. Also LA City will support. Total budget is \$8250. From the NC side (since this is being held here at the civic center area) what is 'ROI' – Return on Investment if the WLASNC provides \$6000 out of the \$8250 overall budget?

Ron Kato – there is flexibility on advertising. Does not have to be the 'Argonaut' SM local paper – that is just an example on the budget. Can be any type of appropriate and local outreach.

Topics: Resources for those caring for aging parents. Health screenings. Housing issues.

Ron Kato noted that the NC's could pay directly to vendors.

Handal noted that the P card (now called C card) has a limit of \$5200. There is a question on the number of 'swipes' for each transaction. Since this is not an NPG then there is a long list of required documentation.

Some discussion with Ron Kato and Treasurer Handal about whether or not it is being held as CD 11 event. If it goes directly to CD11 then it is a much easier issue. Then it can go directly through interoffice transfer. They can work on the logistics before end of the week.

Motion to contribute an additional \$4000 to Senior Wellness Fair sponsored by CD11 to be held on 9/16/17. 7 Yes (Kageyama, Migdal, Glisovic, Nakamura, Keeton, Handal, Ross); 2 No (Kerendian, Shigematsu); 2 Abstain (Torro, Ghorbani); 1 recused (Kato). Motion passes.

XVII. Motion to approve WRAC motion opposing SB649

General discussion about WRAC motion opposing SB 649. SB 649 would allow telecom companies to install equipment (e.g. cel towers) without having to meet city/local regulations or pay market rates. Why should for-profit companies have a ceiling on rental rates and not have to comply with local oversight?

Motion to approve WRAC motion opposing SB649. 10 Yes (Kageyama, Migdal, Glisovic, Nakamura, Ghorbani, Keeton, Handal, Shigematsu, Ross, Kato); 0 No; 2 Abstain (Torro, Kerendian). Motion passes.

XVIII. Motion to elect and election of ombudsman/stakeholder liaison (Kato)

Motion to have an ombudsman liaison to assist stakeholders.

Handal believes everyone on NC should be an ombudsman in practice. To have a single ombudsman would appear exclusionary and take away power from other NC members who are not the stipulated ombudsman.

Maybe a dedicated email address would work. Handal noted that a board training or retreat would help all NC members to know how to assist stakeholders through the LA City system. Migdal noted that many stakeholders approach him for assistance. Keeton noted that a link on the website which could get forwarded to interested NC members who are knowledgeable and willing to help residents would be helpful. Keeton noted that Kato is very effective as well as other NC members. But she also does not want to appear exclusionary. Some general discussion ensued.

Motion to elect an ombudsman/stakeholder liaison for the WLASNC. 2 Yes (Kerendian, Kato); 5 No (Kageyama, Glisovic, Nakamura, Handal, Shigematsu); 5 Abstain (Ghorbani, Migdal, Keeton, Ross, Torro). Motion does not pass.

XIX. Motion to elect Ron Migdal as an alternate PLUM member

Keeton noted this motion was brought to her by Ross. But in researching this issue there is no such position for PLUM.

Maybe this should be a bylaws issue for review.

A non-member/alternate cannot move in and make a vote (no proxy vote). If more than 4 board members then cannot speak.

The Chair is the de facto committee member for any missing committee member.

There is a general discussion about NC members having rights as a stakeholder to attend and speak as a stakeholder at a PLUM meeting. But if the NC member speaks as a stakeholder (not a committee member) does the NC member have to then leave the room?

Semee Park noted that these PLUM meetings can be put forth as a 'joint' meeting. It is highly recommended that NC members do not speak. Handal asks Semee Park if she can get more clarification.

City attorney has said an NC member can sit in on a PLUM mtg (with 4 other NC members). City attorney does not provide a straight answer.

XX. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

Migdal asked for another volunteer for the upcoming Friday night free ice cream event held in conjunction with the last Stoner Park Summer Movie program.

Veteran Steve D. (The Vet. Voice Foundation): Hope to engage and collaborate with residents. He also is part of the Democratic club and encourages participation (meetings are held at Culver City Senior Center).

Renato Akerman – would like to ask about the poor chairs for the community room at LAFD. Handal advised him to ask the battalion chief to make a request from downtown. There is money in the budget for things like this.

XXI. Board Comment and Announcements

Migdal - Ice cream server needed for Stoner Park

Kato- Asphalt truck on 9/8/17 for asphalt repairs. Please provide info to Kato. Up to 15 locations.

Handal – request to put in reimbursement for Kato for Clean Streets event.

Migdal - Emergency preparedness fair in San Fernando Valley. October 2017. Would like the info to be on the website.

Ross - PLUM mtg on next Wednesday (8/30) Thursday 7 pm. Inviting Manatt Bldg rep. Inviting Tom Safran (Bund/Missouri Project)

Ross – Bylaws committee. Will call a meeting.

Ross - Ex-Parte communications. Request by put on agenda for next month.

Migdal - Dog Park – Sepulveda and Veteran. Behind the Federal building. To open end of September.

Glisovic – Sharing information. She was trying to help rent a place for a family. Clear discrimination against families in WLA. Would like PLUM committee to review this issue in the future.

Keeton – please think about holiday schedule. Nov. 22. And Dec. 28. Both are near holidays. Need alternate dates.

Keeton – I get lots of requests for agenda items. I am assuming that if you submit a project, motion, event, etc. then you have reached out to all of the players involved and coordinate this. Please cc me on your emails.

Keeton – We will be electing officers next month (September). Please submit your information to Kageyama (Secretary).

XXII. Adjournment

Adjourn. 9:26