



UNITED NEIGHBORHOODS OF THE HISTORIC ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, WEST ADAMS AND JEFFERSON PARK COMMUNITIES NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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UNNC Governing Board Meeting

Thursday, January 7, 2010
Council District 10 Field Office
1819 S. Western Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90006

MINUTES

(approved February 4, 2010)

President Stevie Stern opened the meeting at 6:49 p.m. A quorum was present.

Members present: Andrea Dunlop, Roy Amemiya, Laura Meyers, Norman Gilmore, Stevie Stern, Wesley Todd, Billie Green, Joyce Smith, John Arnold, Stephen Wallis, Betty Phillips, Gus Harris, Jr., Jess Bravo, Mason Bendewald, Tae Kim, Brian Song, Moon Chung.

Members absent: Evangela Anderson, Ed Turner, Brenda Bankhead, Marco Giordano, Marva Maxey

AGENDA

Billie Green moved to approve the agenda.

Wesley Todd seconded the agenda.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Allison Cohen Ferraro announced that a new community newspaper is being started called Mid-City Press. She is currently the publisher of two other community papers in Los Angeles: The Los Feliz Ledger and a paper covering Silverlake. Launch is hoped for in the 1st half of 2010. She can be contacted at 323-667-1329 or publisher@midcitypress.com.

Steve Wallis gave an update on the Nuisance and Blight Abatement program. It's designed to help identify and track chronic problems in the area. Currently there is a volunteer north of the 10 who will go out on weekends and take photographs. A separate volunteer helps collate the data online. Steve Wallis will present data to the UNNC Board. A Volunteer is needed to take photos south of the 10.

Quishima Dixon with the US Census Bureau is continuing to get the word out regarding the 2010 US Census. They are available to speak at block club and other community meetings.

Stevie Stern encourages board members connect the census with the block clubs.

Angie Reyes from Senator Curren Price's office announced herself as our primary contact with his office. Senator Price is setting up legislative town halls in Leimert Park, Culver City and Los Feliz.



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Raul Claros (213-744-2111) introduced himself as field representative for Assemblymember Mike Davis. About 1000 folks came out for their job fair, and 800 toys were distributed to community organizations. Board members are invited to their 2010 Martin Luther King event on Friday at the California African American Museum from 6pm to 9pm. Assemblymember Davis is also interested in meeting with Neighborhood Council presidents on a periodic basis.

Laura Meyers stated that the Draft EIR report for the 10th and Washington development is available. It comes in two very large volumes at about 1000 pages each. The issue will be covered at the January 20th Planning and Zoning meeting. There is a copy at the Washington Irving Library.

Council District 10 Update – Albert Lord:

All city departments are asked to cut 20% including city council offices. Wendy Fraticelli has been promoted to work at the downtown CD10 office. Albert Lord now covers all UNNC for CD10.

Albert also informed those who weren't aware yet that Mamie Clayton's son Avery Clayton passed away in December. He was curating a significant collection of African American historical materials, due to be exhibited in Culver City.

Albert wants to point out the nuisance graffiti can also be addressed by providing paint rollers and paint to business owners.

There is a problem with wire theft from street lights. Note there is a \$1000 reward for reporting and testifying against taggers and illegal dumpers.

There is a program for Christmas tree pickup, but it seems to be progressing slowly. If you see a big problem area with multiple trees, please let Albert know. 323-804-5673 cell.

Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) update by Christina Ortega-Libatique:

Stevie Stern announced that Christina Ortega-Libatique will no longer be our liaison to DONE. She is now with the Census office at the city.

The Board of Neighborhood Commissioners is forming a bylaws task force for Neighborhood Councils to standardize bylaws to a template across the system. Saturday January 23rd is the kick off meeting. Stevie feels that this meeting is important and UNNC should be represented and monitor. 4927 Huntington Drive, Suite 200, Los Angeles, 10-2 pm.

Stevie also announced that numerous board members still need to take ethics training. About half of the board has not completed training. It does have to be renewed every two years.

UNNC BUSINESS

A. 2009 Year in Review

Stevie Stern recapped UNNC work done in 2009.

Norman Gilmore presented an 8 minute video showing a selection of UNNC related efforts and UNNC sponsored events from 2009.



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- B. Laura Meyers moved to nominate by acclamation the current officers for another term lasting until a new board is seated after the scheduled June 26, 2010 election. Current officers are:

President – Stevie Stern
Vice President – Billie Green
Treasurer – Wesley Todd
Secretary – Norman Gilmore.

Seconded by numerous board members.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

- C. Billie Green moved to nominate by acclamation the current Chairs of committees to continue as Chairs of their respective committees until a new board is seated after the scheduled June 26, 2010 election. Current chairs are:

Planning and Zoning Chair – Laura Meyers
Economic Development Chair – Jessica Bravo
Outreach Chair - Gus Harris Jr.
Public Safety Chair – Stephen Wallis
Tree Committee Chair – Andrea Dunlop
Youth Committee Co-Chairs - Johanna Chase and Joyce Smith
Parks Committee Chair – Evangela Anderson (added as correction per vote on May 6, 2010)

Betty Philips seconded.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- A. Request for UNNC to partner with 2nd Call to assist with outreach in the community for a Resource Fair on February 21st, at Benny H Potter/West Adams Avenues Park. Skip Townsend presented for 2nd Call.

Skip Townsend acknowledged a previous UNNC grant that was very helpful.

2nd Call has teamed up with the IBEW. 45 individuals have been successfully introduced to career union work.

Skip works directly with youth in the community to help re-engage them in productive work.

Skip wants to bring more community members into engagement with the 2nd Call community. Skip explained Hood Day, divided by Arlington. February 20th east of Arlington, and February 21st on the west of Arlington. Skip's event falls on February 21st by design to engage gang members.

Skip also discussed the history of gang intervention. Bo Taylor, founder of Unity 1, was an influential local gang interventionist who mentored Skip and worked with local activists such as Paysinger and Connie Rice.



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Skip needs help with organizing and tracking his volunteers and general organization and logistics management. Skip needs a fax machine. He needs help getting big attendance.

MOTION: Laura Meyers moved that UNNC partner with 2nd Call in supporting this event with promotional and organizational support, as well as funding up to \$200 toward water and sodas for the event.

Gus Harris, Jr. seconded.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

Gus Harris Jr. volunteered to lead an ad-hoc committee to provide organizational support. Laura Meyers offered to provide input on requirements for putting on an event at the Benny Potter Park.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

B. Planning & Zoning Committee

1. **MOTION:** Laura Meyers moved that the Executive Committee be authorized to develop a short community impact statement regarding the Cultural Heritage Ordinance stating UNNC's support for continuing to protect interiors of existing Historic Cultural Monuments on the same terms as they have for the last 50 years.

John Arnold seconded.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

2. Due to the city budget crisis, the planning department has been particularly hard hit. The Planning Department staff is cut in half as of January 5th.

Gail Goldberg, head of planning, has stopped work on The Accessory Dwelling Unit ordinance that the city was working on to respond to the six year old California legislature action regarding "Granny flats".

A group of West Adams residents met with Ken Bernstein and Gail Goldberg. Gail Goldberg said that her staffing cannot support allowing the pending HPOZs, including Jefferson Park. A proposal to move more HPOZ work to HPOZ boards is being suggested. Applicants should fill out Master Land Use applications at the start, which would reduce HPOZ staff work.

Laura explained a lot of very technical inner workings of the HPOZ board and planning department and options for streamlining that work.

MOTION: Laura Meyers moved that UNNC write a letter, in consultation with the HPOZ boards in the UNNC area, to the planning department proposing that HPOZ related work be streamlined and delegated to HPOZ boards as much as possible in order to save Planning Staff time. No application would be deemed complete until a Master Land Use Plan and detailed and complete plan was filed by the applicant before beginning the review and approval process. This would enable City Planners to go to fewer evening meetings thus requiring less overtime and result in less work for HPOZ boards.

John Arnold seconded.

Vote: Approved unanimously.



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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Jess Bravo moved that the December 2009 minutes be approved as corrected. Gus Harris Jr. seconded.

Vote: 14 in favor, 3 abstentions.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Wesley Todd presented the Treasurer's Report. There was a discussion of the challenges of dealing with payment procedures.

MOTION: Billie moves that we accept the treasurer's report as presented.

Moon Chung seconded.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Laura Meyers agreed to order the food for the February meeting. Betty Philips will order the food for March.

Stevie is ordering 100 business cards per board member. Please review the sheet for accuracy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The 52 unit mixed use project at 8th and Washington has been cancelled.

The meeting with Captain Blake went well. Forty people attended. Moon Chung stated that Captain Blake is being promoted to Commander at the end of the month.

LANCC is meeting this Saturday to discuss the city budget crisis.

Meeting adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Norman Gilmore
UNNC Secretary
February 4, 2010
Corrected May 18, 2010 per vote on May 6,
2010 (showing Evangela Anderson
continuing as Parks Chair)

Attachments:
None