



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

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UNNC Governing Board Meeting

Thursday, March 4, 2010
Council District 10 Field Office
1819 S. Western Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90006

MINUTES

(approved May 6, 2010)

President Stevie Stern opened the meeting at 6:58 p.m. A quorum was present.

Members present: Andrea Dunlop, Roy Amemiya, Laura Meyers, Norman Gilmore, Stevie Stern, Wesley Todd, Billie Green, John Arnold, Stephen Wallis, Betty Phillips, Gus Harris, Jr., Jess Bravo, Mason Bendewald, Evangela Anderson, Ed Turner, Brenda Bankhead.

Members absent: Joyce Smith, Tae Kim, Brian Song, Moon Chung, Marco Giordano, Marva Maxey

AGENDA

Stevie Stern moved to make the following amendments to the agenda:

1. Add items to Executive Committee business regarding the following budget items previously approved on June 4, 2009:
 - a. Production of business cards (action)
 - b. Election Funds (action)
2. Add an item to Executive Committee business to vote on upgrades to UNNC telecommunications services (action);
3. Correct #6 item 2, by changing the address 1608 S St. Andrews to 1808 S. St. Andrews;
4. Add an item for Posters and Telecommunications update;
5. Add an item to discuss the Elections ad hoc committee.

Gus Harris, Jr moved to approve the agenda as amended.

Billie Green seconded.

Vote: Approved unanimously.



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PUBLIC COMMENT

Luis South announced a neighborhood sponsored event for a education and career event called Lifepath 2010 to be held on Saturday April 18th. The group will be presenting a funding request for \$1000 of matching funds to UNNC at the next meeting.

Council District 10 Update – Albert Lord:

For those who had not yet heard the sad news, Albert Lord stated that Charmette Bonpua, Herb Wesson's chief of staff, passed away in February.

There is a plan to renovate the "Protect & Serve" Mural.

Albert reminded us that he is the contact for expediting input from our Blight Abatement ad-hoc committee.

Copper wire theft is becoming a huge problem in the neighborhood. Thieves are stealing wire out of the light poles. This is obviously a huge problem. Two crews can strip wiring damaging a few blocks of lights in a very short time.

Albert's cell 323-804-5673.

Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) update:

There are radical proposals for reorganizing the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (aka EmpowerLA) due to the city budget crisis. Many board members are scrambling to help finalize projects previously approved by the UNNC Governing Board during the 2008-2009 fiscal year, and which rely on using our rollover funds.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- A. **MOTION:** Laura Meyers moved that, with respect to the \$2000.00 in funds for Business Cards which were approved on June 4, 2009 as part of our 2009-2010 budget, that UNNC allocate any expenditures for that purpose against the 2008-2009 roll-over funds, to the extent those remain available.
Ed Turner seconded.
Vote: Approved unanimously.
- B. **MOTION:** Laura Meyers moved that, with respect to the \$2439.16 in funds for "Elections/Bd. Appointments" which were approved on June 4, 2009 as part of our 2009-2010 fiscal budget, that UNNC allocate any expenditures for that purpose against the 2008-2009 roll-over funds, to the extent those remain available.
Billie Green seconded.
Vote: Approved unanimously.
- C. Norman Gilmore presented the upgrade plan for UNNC Telecommunications. Norman Gilmore proposed to change our UNNC voicemail provider from AT&T to Ring Central. AT&T currently charges UNNC \$43.25 per month for voicemail. Ring Central charges about



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\$16.64 per month for their “Professional Plan” and has the ability to automatically email voicemails as attachments. This will enable us to receive and route voicemails rapidly. We would keep our existing phone number.

It is also proposed that UNNC acquire a Sprint Overdrive™ 3G/4G Mobile Hotspot by Sierra Wireless on a two year service plan. This device allows up to five devices such as laptops to use a WiFi connection through a mobile network. The upfront cost is \$100 after discounts and rebates and the per month cost is \$60 for up to 5GB of usage on 3G, and unlimited usage when 4G becomes available.

We do not have internet access at our regular board and committee meeting locations. This device and service plan will allow us to review our website at meetings, refer to online maps including Google Streetviews during planning discussions, refer to city websites and databases, and access our UNNC online photo account during meetings. UNNC has a projector and so all meeting attendees will benefit from access to such material.

Because of the \$26.21 per month savings realized by switching voicemail providers, the net increase in monthly cost for UNNC telecommunications service plans will be \$33.39.

MOTION: Norman Gilmore moved that the UNNC Governing Board approve (i) the purchase of an internet mobile hotspot from Sprint and the payment of associated monthly service fees for the 3G/4G internet data plan (estimated at less than \$80 in a typical month), and (ii) the transfer of our telephone number from AT&T to RingCentral, (resulting in the end of AT&T monthly fees of about \$43 a month) and the payment of the monthly service fees for RingCentral (estimated at typically less than \$20 per month).

Mason Bendewald seconded.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

A. PLANNING & ZONING

1. CASE No. ZA 2009-4008 (CU) – 3036 S. Crenshaw Blvd.
37,500 square foot lot – demolition of the existing Burger King replaced with a new upgraded Burger King and 3600 feet of retail space. 24 hour drive through.
A public hearing is scheduled for March 10, 2010.
Ron Smothers presented plans for an upgrade to the Burger King on Crenshaw near Jefferson.

MOTION: Laura Meyers moved that UNNC write a letter in support of this project as presented, with the following conditions (i) security lights directing light downward and not outward into the neighborhood (ii) signage reminding drive-through patrons to reduce car audio volumes (iii) sound wall adjacent to the drive through and planted with ivy that will cover the sound wall and deter graffiti (iv) use of drive-through speaker technology that minimizes speaker volume spillover into the neighborhood (v) that the building shall be constructed to substantially conform to the drawings and specifications as presented to UNNC, specifically including Coronado Stone “Brookside” Old World.

Andrea Dunlop seconded.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

2. Recommendation regarding CRA-owned single family homes at 2254 W. 25th Street and 1808 S. St. Andrews.



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MOTION: Laura Meyers moved that UNNC write letters to the appropriate entities recommending that CRA place 2254 W. 25th Street, a single family house in an R-1 zone and HPOZ, and 1808 S. St. Andrews, a single family occupancy house, on the open market for sale to the highest offer; in any event requesting that CRA place no programs in either house (noting that this solution is the best for preserving the houses and the historic neighborhoods); that the local Mid City Corridor CRA project manager be involved in the decision making as to the resolution of these two properties (rather than CRA management from another region of Los Angeles); and that the CRA consult with UNNC and the Angelus Vista neighborhood association as to how the latter property would be renovated and regarding its future ownership, with due regard to the character of the house and neighborhood. It is the opinion of UNNC that both properties require extensive and expensive renovation.

Roy Amemiya seconded.

Vote: 15 in favor, 1 opposed, no abstentions.

3. Updates:

3200 W. Adams Blvd (formerly Faith Apostolic Church) - ICEF/Frederick Douglass Charter School Conditional Use Permit

This issue revolves around traffic and safety issues caused by three adjacent schools, parents, students, and buses. The hearing was continued to March 11th after 8:30 am (but could be anytime during the day). This regards a conditional use permit. UNNC recommended various conditions in summer 2009. West Adams Avenues Neighbors, CD10 and the churches and schools along Adams are in active discussions about potential solutions.

4020 W. Washington Bl. - Washington Square Proposed Development

600,000 sq. ft. mixed use project with a 2000 page draft Environmental Impact Statement, which we (a UNNC ad hoc committee) were able to review and comment on by the deadline. Diverse opinions were included. We incorporated the Washington Blvd Specific Plan in our response.

Planning Department Staffing

The department is becoming completely re-organized. It was budgeted for 400, and now has 200 full-time equivalents. Only two principal planners remain. Three deputy zoning administrators remain. Early retirements have greatly reduced experienced staffers.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE UPDATES

Norman Gilmore presented the new 24x36 posters for use at UNNC events. We have three of each poster type, for a total of 15, and two election maps. Thanks to Linda Frost design for the excellent poster designs. All are mounted on a durable Gatorboard backing. AAA Flag and Banner did a great job with the printing and mounting. We now need to purchase portable poster stands that members of the Outreach committee can use to display the posters at events.

We have printed 1000 double sided color flyers with our meeting times on one side and our neighborhood banners map on the other side. They should be passed out at events and our regular meetings. GotPrint.com produced the flyers in less than a week for \$120 including tax and shipping, which comes to only 12 cents per flyer.



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All board members present were provided with an 8.5x11 laminated map of the UNNC area.

Stevie Stern reported that the Election Ad Hoc committee is meeting March 11th. Please let her know if you would like to attend. Please start using your new business cards for election outreach. We want to plan a candidates forum. We need to recruit candidates and volunteers to help run the election on June 26th.

EXPOSITION CONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY

Expo Light Rail Update: Robin Young 323-601-1949, Torri Hill 323-601-1943, Gabriela G. Collins, Pattie Antich, PE.

37 of 38 grade crossings for Expo Phase I were approved by the PUC. All were protested. The crossing at Farmdale Ave near Dorsey was not approved. The amended application was submitted in July 2009. The two alternatives were an overhead pedestrian bridge or to build a station at that location, which would require the train to slow, stop, allow passenger boarding. The station is now the preferred option. The crossing at Farmdale and Exposition will now include traffic signals. The station platform lighting is improved. Security cameras will be installed, as well as secured facility parking for Dorsey High School Staff. Overall the new Farmdale station will be a \$10 to \$15 million dollar investment in the community. The PUC hearing has not been scheduled yet.

Expo Authority representatives kindly responded to a number of questions and assertions from the audience and the board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Gus Harris, Jr. moved that the February 4, 2009 minutes be approved as corrected. Ed Turner seconded.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Wesley Todd presented the Treasurer's Report.

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Ed Turner agreed to order the food for the April meeting.

There is a regional budget day by the mayor's office this Saturday, March 13th from 8:30 to 12:00 pm. Email Stevie so she can RSVP to the mayor's office.

Stevie updated us on the Youth Committee Leadership seminar. The first session took place on last Friday.



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gus Harris, Jr. provided an update on the 2nd Call event at Benny Potter Park which UNNC supported. Attendance was estimated at 200.

Roy Amemiya reminded us that the 3rd Thursday at 7:30 Venice LAPD station is the Community Policing Advisory Board meeting. If you are resident north of the 10 interested in public safety issues and meeting the Senior Lead Officers, please attend.

Mason Bendewald told us about www.nixle.com that provides real time community updates based on your geographic location. Mason has found it to be very interesting and recommends it.

Meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Norman Gilmore
UNNC Secretary
April 1, 2010

Attachments:
None