



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

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UNNC Governing Board Meeting

Thursday, June 2, 2011
Council District 10 Field Office
1819 S. Western Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90006

MINUTES

(approved July 7, 2011)

CALL TO ORDER

President Stevie Stern opened the meeting at 6:50 p.m. A quorum was present.

Members present: Allen Lulu, Evangela Anderson, Billie Green, Jeff Camp, Jess Bravo, Betty Walton, Betty Phillips, Gus Harris, Jr., Andrea Dunlop, Ed Turner, Roy Amemiya, Chris Carlson, Norman Gilmore, Laura Meyers, Stevie Stern, Wesley Todd, Ruth Jones-Sawyer, Myrna Allen. (18 total).

Members absent: Steve Wallis, Fletcher Kauffman, Joyce Smith, John Arnold, Jose Rauda. (5 total).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Gus Harris, Jr. moved to approve the agenda with an amendment to remove Planning & Zoning item 7A2 which is a formatting error in the agenda.

Ed Turner seconded.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jess Bravo said the E-Waste hazardous recycling event was a big success, and it seems that it will be worthwhile to do more often, perhaps quarterly.

Gus Harris, Jr. reported on Fire Station#34 Fire Service day. The fire demo and the Jaws-of-Life were big hits. Because the station was not sure until the day before whether they would have the day off, they were unable to arrange for food beyond the hotdogs and chips provided by UNNC.

Laura Meyers reported that the City Council voted yesterday that Golden State Mutual Life Insurance Building and the integrated murals will be the city's next Historic Cultural Monument.

Saturday between 12 pm and 4 pm June 4th, there will be a tour open to the public to see the murals at Golden State Mutual. The ticket price is \$20 which includes a 48 page booklet on prominent African Americans of West Adams.



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Betty Walton reported that the garage sale at Lafayette Square was a big hit. The bake sale table grossed \$550!

Stevie Stern read a note from Craig Weber, a city planner who wrote to thank UNNC for its support of the annual HPOZ conference.

Norman Gilmore reported that the Nina Simone recital performed by students at the William Grant Still Center was a great experience for the kids and UNNC was credited nicely.

Donna Jones noted that the mansion on Arlington and Adams is not being kept up and she has been contacted about nuisance abatement.

COUNCIL DISTRICT 10 UPDATE

Rancho Cienga Park has new tennis courts. The July 30th Movies in the Park will be at Benny Potter Park, and that will be the big community block party as well.

BUREAU OF SANITATION

Two representatives from the Bureau of Sanitation gave a PowerPoint presentation on issues facing the department. Nutshell: At current rates of spending, Los Angeles sewer pipes will be replaced every 168 years. Sewer pipes are designed to last about 80 years. A pipe that broke recently in the Valley requiring emergency repairs costing \$17 million to fix, plus the city is usually sued for damage caused by major pipe breaks. Scheduled repair of this pipe would have been much less, about \$4 million.

Sewer spills into waterways and the ocean have been eliminated. Sewer backups are down 80% over 10 years. They used to occur daily. Of the 10 biggest cities in the US, we pay the median amount for sewer fees. However, rates will have to go up \$37/year/household each year for the next 10 years to pay for deferred maintenance. The department has already refinanced debt, cut staff and extensively automated plants to reduce costs.

FOUND ANIMALS FOUNDATION

The Found Animals Foundation gave a presentation on the variety of low cost spay neuter programs and pet adoption opportunities. Learn more at their website: <http://www.foundanimals.org/>

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- A. Funding Request – Western Heights beautification project for the bump-outs on Arlington at 20th and 21st streets and at Manhattan at 20th St. – Presented by Andrea Dunlop

\$3400 was approved for this project at UNNC's May Governing board meeting. The project sponsors were asked to return if anything preventing them from using the funds by June 1st.

In 2007, temporary barriers were installed by DOT at the above three locations. The neighborhood formed a traffic easement project committee with sub-committees including a fund-raising committee. For 5 years, volunteers from the neighborhood have worked diligently to make the temporary barriers permanent. Civil Engineers and City Agencies have been hired and paid to approve designs which accommodate approximately 500 square feet of planting areas. All safety requirements from various departments have been met and currently, they are weeks away from permits and beginning construction.



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Western Heights Homeowners Association, on behalf of the Western Heights Neighborhood Association, is requesting funding for landscape, including curbing for bump outs, plants, soil and preparation that will be installed in the street level planters at three intersections in Western Heights.

The planters are a part of the approved design to replace the temporary traffic barriers at the intersection of Arlington and 20th, Arlington and 21st and Manhattan and 20th Street.

The plants will be drought resistant and not require irrigation and the maintenance will be the responsibility of the neighbors.

The total budget estimate: \$48,000 for construction, \$26,500 for permits and city fees, and \$25,500 for engineering costs.

Update for today's meeting: This item is on the agenda on the Board of Public Works Agenda for June 8th. This is to receive an extension to their prior deadline.

The treasurer's report shows that as of this motion, there is \$13,418.82 in the UNNC budget for neighborhood improvement. These funds will not roll over to the next UNNC fiscal year if not spent. They will revert to the city general fund.

There was a robust discussion.

MOTION: Jess Bravo moved to allocate up to \$8,000 for the Western Heights Homeowners Association for the beautification of the above intersections, including concrete, curbing, plants, soil, and labor for installation at the above three intersections per the plans; provided (i) that the applicant shall establish with UNNC that all conditions have been met, including permits and compliance with city rules about allowed expenditures (ii) and that the funds be spent prior to June 15th, 2011.

Gus Harris, Jr. seconded.

Vote: 11 in favor, 4 opposed, 2 abstentions.

B. Funding Request by the 28th St Block Club – Renée Günter - ACTION

Renée Günter presented a funding request for up to \$400 for insurance for the 28th Street Block Club annual 4th of July Block Party. The 28th St. Block Club has had an annual block party for the past eight years. Projected attendance is 150. The street will be closed. The party is from 9am to midnight. Projected attendance is 150.

Frankel & Associates Insurance quoted a liability premium of \$400.

MOTION: Laura Meyers moved to support up to \$400 for one day of insurance for the above event. UNNC shall first attempt to purchase a policy that will cover multiple block club events in 2011-2012. If such a policy is available for less than \$2000 and UNNC would be able to purchase the policy in time to cover the July 4, 2011 event, then UNNC shall purchase the more cost effective annual policy. If such a policy is not available, then UNNC shall purchase a policy to cover the single event above for up to \$400.



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Chris Carlson seconded.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

- C. Funding Request – funding of a UNNC banner to hang at Carson-Gore Academy of Environmental Studies show UNNC’s support for the Academy - ACTION

Chris Carlson explained that the banner would be directed to support student achievement.

MOTION: Laura Meyers moved up to \$500 to be spent before June 15th, 2011 on a design and printing of a heavy duty outdoor vinyl banner, with final wording to be approved by the Executive Committee.

Jessica Bravo seconded.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

- D. Funding Request – Web site operating costs for graphics and to switch our mass emailing from Constant Contact to Mail Chimp – N. Gilmore – ACTION

The Executive Committee and the Communications Ad-Hoc Committee recommend to the Governing Board that UNNC switch our email provider from ConstantContact to MailChimp. We currently pay \$30/month to ConstantContact. At our current list size, we will pay \$15/month to MailChimp. MailChimp has enabled us to create our own custom templates and is much more efficient for producing our complicated regular agendas. We are increasing the type and frequency of email blasts so need the better features.

MOTION: Laura Meyers moved to approved UNNC’s change from ConstantContact to MailChimp.

Myrna Allen seconded.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

Current efforts have been focused on upgrading our email infrastructure. We are turning next to updating our website as previously presented in a written plan at the April 19 Executive Committee meeting.

MOTION: Laura Meyers moved up to \$2000 for a web designer graphic artist to create graphics and HTML for the new website, under the direction of the UNNC Website Ad Hoc committee.

Roy Amemiya seconded.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

- E. Request of a letter from UNNC supporting the upcoming Plan Approval hearing for F. Douglass School to occur ASAP and not be delayed – West Adams Quality of Life Committee – ACTION

The City of Los Angeles will at some point assess whether the school is complying with its conditions for operating.

The neighborhood around Frederick Douglass is concerned that the school is not enforcing previously agreed upon pedestrian and traffic safety rules for students and parents.



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The first plan approval was in 2009. Since then, the neighborhood believes the school has been in compliance for only about two months of that period.

Derek Japha said that the Department of City Planning has not committed to a date for the plan approval hearing prior to the end of June. A hearing would need to be held early in the summer so that any compliance conditions could be implemented prior to the start of the school year. Mr. Japha asked UNNC to support the neighbors' request to the city that the plan approval hearing occur prior to the end of June.

MOTION: Evangela Anderson moved that UNNC write a letter to the Zoning Administrator asking that the Plan Approval hearing for Frederick Douglass school be scheduled as soon as possible, and to also send a copy of the letter to Councilman Wesson.

Gus Harris, Jr. seconded.

Vote: 16 in favor, none opposed, 2 recusals.

- F. UNNC Bylaws – review changes that reflect the current standards by which the organization runs and incorporate the Election Procedures already voted on from the last election. N. Gilmore - ACTION

The UNNC Bylaws were last updated in 2006. In 2009, the Governing Board stipulated to a long list of substantive changes that were required for the City Clerk to run the elections in 2010. This list of stipulations effectively amended the Bylaws. The old Bylaws could no longer be read as an integrated document, since many important sections had been superseded by the stipulation.

The Executive Committee discussed and reviewed proposed changes to the bylaws at the regularly scheduled February 15, 2011 Executive Committee meeting, a publicly noticed special meeting on February 23, 2011, and the regularly scheduled Executive Committee meeting on May 17, 2011.

The Executive Committee went through the Bylaws and removed obsolete language, incorporated updated language, fixed typos, and made changes to reflect current UNNC standards.

A clean copy and a redline comparison of the proposed version and the previous version were posted publicly on the UNNC website and emailed to board members in advance of this meeting.

MOTION: Jeff Camp moved that UNNC adopt the bylaw amendments recommended by the Executive Committee.

Ed Turner seconded.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

Norman Gilmore presented additional amendments to the Article III Definitions of the Bylaws. These amendments add definitions for important terms used frequently in the bylaws. Other changes correct grammar. Finally, the term Area is clarified and distinguished from the term Region.

MOTION: Laura Meyer moved to incorporate the proposed Article III Definitions as presented.



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Betty Walton seconded.
Vote: Approved unanimously.

Norman Gilmore presented a proposed amendment for Article VII – I – 2 to define a procedure for board member removal in the event the board member was no longer qualified to hold their seat.

MOTION: Laura Meyers moved to leave the language regarding automatic removal as is.
Allen Lulu seconded.
Vote: 13 in favor, 1 opposed, 2 abstentions.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

A. Planning & Zoning Committee – Meyers

Laura Meyers presented the Citywide Design Guidelines for Residential, Commercial and Industrial Projects (CPC-2010-714-MS) – the Planning Department proposes to adopt new citywide design guidelines to promote walkability, maintain neighborhood form and character and improve the streetscape experience.

No motion was made.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Wesley Todd presented the Treasurer's report, including the US Bank Statement dated 5-23-2011

MOTION: Billie Green moved to approve the US Bank statement.
Jeff Camp seconded.
Vote: Approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Jeff Camp moved to approve the May 5, 2011 Governing Board minutes as presented.
Chris Carlson seconded.
Vote: Approved unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

The next Executive Committee meeting will discuss the budget. Please come if you have an opinion so that we can present a consensus to the board.

Thanks to Betty Walton for arranging for the food for this evening.
Chris Carlson agreed to arrange for food for the July board meeting.

Joyce Smith has resigned from the board with reticence, and expresses her gratitude to the board for the opportunity to serve.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

No Announcements.



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Meeting adjourned at 9:47 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,
Norman Gilmore
UNNC Secretary
June 13, 2011
Attachments: None