



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

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UNNC Governing Board Meeting

Thursday, July 7, 2011
Council District 10 Field Office
1819 S. Western Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90006

MINUTES

(approved August 4, 2011)

CALL TO ORDER

President Stevie Stern opened the meeting at 6:57 p.m. A quorum was present.

Members present: John Arnold, Steve Wallis, Fletcher Kauffman, Evangela Anderson, Billie Green, Jeff Camp, 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: Betty Walton, Jess Bravo, Allen Lulu, Jose Rauda. (4 total).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Jeff Camp moved to approve the agenda with an amendment to add item E to item 5, Approval of Revised Standing Rules; under item 8 Treasurer's Report, add approval of the 2011-2012 Fiscal Budget; and to switch the order of item 6A and 6B.

Steve Wallis seconded.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Luis South announced that there is a one day conference on the US Health care system at USC on Saturday July 16th. See <http://healthisahumanright.eventbrite.com/> for information.

Gus Harris, Jr. invited everyone to Trinity Baptist for a play being performed Sunday July 24th.

John Arnold announced that the city has approved the Jefferson Park HPOZ.

Laura Meyers announced that the Survey LA work for Arlington Heights and Angelus Vista is going well.

Renée Günter thanked UNNC for the 4th of July block party support.

Ami Motevalli thanked UNNC for supporting the William Grant Still Music Recital.



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Ricardo Mowatt Carlo and Joyce Burrell Garcia from Holman United announced that Holman is having its 66th weekend homecoming celebration, July 29th (concert under the stars) 30th (golf tournament for kids) and 31st (a gospel concert). The events are free and open to the public.

COUNCIL DISTRICT 10 UPDATE

Billie Green announced that today many people recognized Gladys Wesson Strickland service to the community at her memorial service at Holman.

The Movies-in-the-Park program of publicly screened movies for the community is in full swing.

MINUTES

MOTION: Ed Turner moved to approve the June 2nd minutes with the correction remove the funding deadline from the website project.

Gus Harris, Jr. seconded.

Vote: 14 in favor, none opposed, 3 abstentions.

MOTION: Jeff moved to accept June 13 with the correction that Andrea Dunlop was absent, and the meeting was held on a Monday.

Billie Green seconded.

Vote: 13 in favor, none opposed, 5 abstentions.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- A. Norman Gilmore presented a funding request to rent a webserver for UNNC for up to \$50/month.

MOTION: Ed Turner moved to fund up to \$50/month (\$600 a year) for a UNNC webserver.

John Arnold seconded.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

- B. Roy Amemiya presented a funding request for up to \$125 to provide refreshments to an upcoming meeting of the Wilshire Community Police Advisory Board. The CPAB is an important way to reach and engage the community.

MOTION: Jeff Camp moved to fund the above request for up to \$125 for food and refreshment for the July 21, 2011 Wilshire CPAB meeting.

Ruth Jones Sawyer seconded.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

- C. Brian Jett for Western Heights Neighborhood Association presented a funding request for \$3,500 for completion of the beautification and greening of three City-approved traffic easements being constructed on Arlington and Manhattan Place.

Western Heights was approved for these funds in the previous fiscal year, but were unable to complete the funding with the city credit card due to mis-communication with the vendor.

UNNC has previously asked for additional information from Western Heights, specifically, a list



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of pledged amounts from the community. Chris Carlson presented this information for Western Heights.

The list had 33 pledges totaling \$20,946.

Laura Meyers stated that she felt the funds should have been spent by the deadline and that the budget detail should have included a full accounting of the funds raised.

Chris Carlson listed various fundraisers that have provided the additional funds and pointed out that these funds are a capital improvement with a permanent benefit. She noted that Western Heights had reduced its funding request by \$1000.

Stevie Stern stated that she was concerned that this amount had not been spent, however, she acknowledges that volunteers navigating a difficult city process makes it understandable.

Chris Carlson stated that the barriers will be going in, but without funding for the landscaping, she is cannot state when the landscaping will be completed.

Laura Meyers suggested that the neighborhood could come back for additional funding later in the year.

Dianne Lawrence read letters from Brian Eklund and Cecilia Uribe opposing the project, based on barriers limiting access to the streets and based on their opinion that this project is not worthy of city funds. Dianne also stated her opinion that this project does not qualify for city funds.

Luis South stated that he thought the above reasons were not compelling reasons to not fund the project.

MOTION: Laura Meyers moved to fund \$900 toward the funding of the boulders. Steve Wallis seconded.

Chris Carlson moved to amend the motion to support the full amount of \$3500. The movant did not accept this amendment. The motion to amend did not receive a second.

Vote on the original motion: 15 in favor, 2 opposed, 1 abstentions.

- D. Luis South presented a funding request for the Inter-Faith Alley Murals Project. The concept is to beautify the alleys and increase pride of ownership to serve as a model. The community will gather to paint murals at the 2000 block of 30th and 31st St on July 23rd. The requested budget is \$900 for paint and paint supplies.

Ed Turner reported that he checked out the alley under discussion, and its cleaner and better maintained than other nearby alleys.

The city gated off many local alleys several years ago at the request of the neighbors to eliminate the prostitution, vagrancy, dumping and other problems that occurred in the alley. Only residents have keys to their local alley.



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Stevie Stern stated that she received an email from Mr. South complaining that UNNC has not distributed money evenly through the community. She noted that UNNC has funded other Luis South led projects. (n.b. Lifepath 2010 for \$800 and Oktoberfest for \$260).

Several board members wondered that if the murals are accessible to the public since the alley is gated and kept locked.

MOTION: Laura Meyers moved to fund this request for up to \$200.

VOTE: 9 in favor, 8 opposed, 1 abstention.

(Motion fails. Motions must pass by a majority of those present.)

- E. Stevie Stern presented an updated version of the UNNC Standing Rules that has new paragraphs 3a and 3b. Paragraph 3a clarifies board member's obligation to represent UNNC's positions only when speaking as a UNNC representative. When speaking as a UNNC representative, the board member must not mix in personal opinions and agendas. Paragraph 3b codifies the rule that all official written material must be approved by two officers before being sent or printed.

MOTION: Stevie Stern moved that UNNC adopt the Standing Rules with the above additions. Norman Gilmore seconded.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

A. Historic Preservation

1. John Arnold presented a slide show of the Fitzgerald House at Adams and Arlington, and the Washington Irving Library which have fallen into disrepair.

MOTION: Laura Meyers moved that the UNNC governing board take the following position on Fitzgerald House (The Elegant Manor) 3115-3125 W. Adams Blvd., Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument No. 258:

- a) the building is an ongoing nuisance;
- b) the building should be immediately secured;
- c) the city should use any tools available through abatement process to mitigate the nuisance;
- d) within 14 days of any hearing, that the building be stabilized;
- e) within 14 days of any hearing, that the owner retain a design team including an architect, structural engineer and historic consultant to start work on a rehabilitation strategy;
- f) within 30 days of any hearing, meet with the Office of Historic Resources and LADBS Case Management Unit to agree on a rehabilitation strategy that includes the Secretary of Interior's Standard;
- g) within 60 days of any hearing, that plans shall be submitted to LADBS for plan check;
- h) within 120 days of any hearing, that City plan check clearance shall be retained;
- i) within 48 hours of plan check clearance, permits shall be obtained and work shall commence; and



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- j) failure to achieve the above should result in the City petitioning for a receivership with a receiver whose goal is to preserve the historic cultural monument or similar action in which the property's rehabilitation can be controlled by the City.

Any communications on this matter shall include a preamble about UNNC's goals for preserving our historic cultural landmarks.

Myrna Allen seconded.

Vote: 17 in favor, none opposed, one abstention.

MOTION: Jeff Camp moved that the UNNC governing board take position that the Washington Irving Library is a nuisance and should be subject to the same conditions and processes as the Fitzgerald House motion above.

Myrna Allen seconded.

Vote: 17 in favor, none opposed, one abstention.

2. Case Nos. ZA-2007-1874-CU-ZV-ZAA-ZAD-PA1, AA-2007-1846-PMLA-M1, and DIR-2011-857-SPP-SPPA, 3052-3060 S. Crenshaw Blvd., 3501-3515 West Jefferson, and 3049-3055 S. Bronson Ave.

John Arnold discussed the Union Bank building, which is slated for demolition to make a surface parking lot at Jefferson and Crenshaw.

This project was originally proposed as a very large project, perhaps 140,000 square feet. This new project is much smaller, but the developer is proposing to use the same Environmental Impact Statement.

Colleen Davis, a historic preservation consultant, spoke in support of the Union Bank building as a potential resource for the community that could be adaptively re-used.

This project was also discussed at the May 5, 2011 board meeting.

MOTION: John Arnold moved that the UNNC governing NOT support the above project for the following reasons:

- a. creating surface parking lot on a major boulevard (Jefferson) by demolishing an existing building (Bank of Tokyo) that has historic significance is contrary to the supported urban design guidelines of the UNNC;
- b. creating a retail establishment that has its primary entrance facing a surface parking lot and not having a strong entry focal point at the sidewalk is contrary to the supported urban design guidelines of the UNNC and is contrary to the Crenshaw Boulevard Specific Plan; and,
- c. Any project on this parcel should meet the following conditions: that employee parking is located in the nearby parking structure; such parking is covenanted and free for employees; and that its use by employees is mandatory.

Laura Meyers seconded.



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Gus Harris, Jr. expressed support for the Union Bank building.

Chris Carlson expressed concern that Union Bank might leave the building vacant.

Evangela Anderson and Roy Amemiya departed.

Laura Meyers noted that they don't actually need to demolish the building for parking, since the seven spaces they are short can be satisfied by having employees park in an existing nearby parking garage.

Norman Gilmore expressed concern that UNNC's position risked stopping this project, rather than resulting in an improved project, which would leave the NE corner of Jefferson and Crenshaw as an empty parking lot and the decaying Union Bank Building for many years. A grocery store is proposed for this site, and the community needs more full service grocery stores.

John Arnold stated that there are creative solutions that can address UNNC pedestrian concerns.

Vote: 15 in favor, none opposed, 1 abstention.

B. Jeff Camp presented an update on the DWP rate increase.

MOTION: Jeff Camp moved that UNNC support the Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition and join PushBackTheTax.com (a grass roots effort supported by Los Angeles Neighborhood Council); and advocate that no rate increase be made until the voter approved Rate Payer Advocate has been selected by the City Council and has had the opportunity to thoroughly review the DWP's rate increase request.

Steve Wallis seconded.

Steve Wallis noted that DWP is not currently required to pay property owners for excess solar power put back on the DWP grid.

Laura Meyers made a friendly amendment that was accepted by the movant and second, that additional letters be written to all city council members that have stakeholders in UNNC, reflecting the above position.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Wesley Todd presented the Treasurer's report, including the US Bank Statement dated 6-21-2011.

MOTION: Billie Green moved to approve the US Bank statement.

Ed Turner seconded.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

A proposed budget for July 2011 to June 2012 was presented to the Governing Board.



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MOTION: Laura Meyers moved to approve the budget as presented.
Myrna Allen seconded.

Vote: 16 in favor, none opposed, no abstentions.

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Thanks to Chris Carlson for arranging dinner from Kay-Kays.

All board members need to keep their ethics training up to date.

Remember the 405 shutdown is in less than 10 days.

Please start looking for people who might be interested in the open board seat.

We haven't had a board retreat for a year, and need to figure out a good time in August or September.
This will be a publicly noticed meeting open to the public.

We need board volunteers for Movies in the Park at Benny Potter Park.

Stevie Stern asked that board members stay on the lookout for neighborhood improvement projects in the coming year.

Chris Carlson was concerned that resident reps are being asked to recruit for neighborhood improvement projects, and yet the board placed extensive conditions and restrictions on the Western Heights project.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wesley Todd will be out of town July 16 to 26th and no unscheduled UNNC payments can be processed during that time.

Gus Harris, Jr. announced an exercise program promoted by President Obama.

Billie Green announced that on July 23rd, Westside park will have a grand opening. It is near where Fairfax splits from La Cienega. Take Jefferson to Clyde, go north on Clyde and left on Boden St to S. Spaulding Ave.

Meeting adjourned at 10:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Norman Gilmore

UNNC Secretary

August 29, 2011

Attachments: UNNC Budget July 2011 to June 2012