



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

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UNNC Executive Committee Meeting

Tuesday, January 19, 2010
7:00 pm
Council District 10 Field Office
1819 S. Western Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90006

MINUTES

(approved March 16, 2010)

Vice President Billie Green opened the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

Members present: Stevie Stern, Billie Green, Norman Gilmore, Wesley Todd
Members absent: None

Agenda:

MOTION: Wesley Todd moved to approve the agenda with the addition of an item for Economic Development regarding Banners, and an item for Office Administration regarding telecommunications vendors and delaying item B until later in the meeting.

Stevie Stern seconded.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

Public comments:

Norman Gilmore showed current drafts of the UNNC poster project.

Billie Green reported on the MLK day parade. Councilman Herb Wesson has worked to get the city a new skate park at Rancho Cienega Park, with a planned opening in March.

Executive Committee Business:

- A. Johanna Chase and Joyce Smith, Co-Chairs of the UNNC Youth Committee, presented a funding proposal for a seven session leadership program for middle school age kids to run through the end of the 2009-2010 school year. The sessions will take place on Tuesdays from February 23rd to June 11th in partnership with Recreation and Parks' after-school program at the South Seas House. Guest speakers will discuss topics including Education, Poetry & Music, Film & Visual Arts, Politics and Community Activism.



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The funding request is for up to \$400.00 for materials, including by way of example, 25 journals, 50 DVD-Recordables, snacks & drinks for the final session, and any entrance fees or space rental fees for museums or performing arts facilities.

Various suggestions were made regarding the proposal.

MOTION: Norman Gilmore moved to forward the above funding request for up to \$400 for the 2010 Youth Committee Youth Empowerment and Leadership Program to the Governing Board

Wesley Todd seconded.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

- B. Jessica Bravo, Chair of the UNNC Economic Development Committee presented a funding request for two service requests from AAA Flag Banner. Last year UNNC placed approximately 155 banners on light poles throughout UNNC. The banners have been up for one year, and Jessica has renewed the permit with the city through 2010. The banners have been very durable, however, some have been torn or damaged by wind storms. A total of \$700 is needed to check, repair and replace up to 40 banners (as needed) which have ripped or torn over the course of the year.

MOTION: Stevie Stern moved that the above funding request for up to \$700 to repair UNNC banners be forwarded to the Governing Board.

Seconded by Norman Gilmore.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

Economic Development Committee Update:

There was a discussion about how the 300 feet of plantings along Washington Blvd are struggling, perhaps with poor soil. Jessica Bravo has monitored the watering as well as replaced some dead plants and added mulch. Suggestions about a plant expert to contact for advice were offered to Jessica for follow up.

- C. There have been some demolitions of historic buildings on Washington Blvd and they have been replaced by buildings that diminish the character of the streetscape.

Stevie Stern presented a proposal for an Architectural/Development Review Panel that would be tasked with reviewing building permits for Washington Blvd, since Council District 10 has no plan to create a specific plan for the area.

Stevie Stern has discussed this idea with several city officials. Laura Meyers also offered some suggestions.

It could be structured as a Design Review Board (with possibly limited authority), which is a recognized part of workflow by the city ZIMAS planning system.

It also might be structured through or with the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA).



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It may be possible to work with the new head of Building and Safety to create a panel with appointments from Building and Safety, CD10, and UNNC, etc.

Washington Blvd is classified as a highway and a highway is 104 feet wide according to the latest federal standards, and this is causing new buildings on Washington to have a two foot setback. A Specific Plan would be necessary to reclassify this portion of Washington Blvd as a lesser highway with less width requirement (78 feet wide).

Stevie Stern will work with other city departments to move this idea forward.

- D. The Draft EIR for Washington Square is open for public comment. It is about 2000 pages and covers two separate projects, Option A, a tower, or Option B, a structure with more retail and less residential.

Constructing and coordinating a response from UNNC is a somewhat significant project in its own right.

The comment period ends February 22, 2010. There is not a lot of time to read, let alone prepare comments.

As an example of problems with the Draft EIR, the chapter on aesthetics has inadequate renderings, so the project is not properly visualized in context.

MOTION: Stevie Stern moved to forward Laura Meyers' proposal to the Governing Board to approve a task force that will compile comments on the Washington Square Draft EIR, which comments will be reviewed and approved by the Executive Committee at its February meeting. Secondly, UNNC will draft a letter objecting to the lack of pedestrian friendliness on the proposed project plan for Washington Square along Washington Blvd, and express our strong desire that there will be scheduled public hearings.

Norman Gilmore seconded.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

Planning and Zoning Committee Update:

Laura Meyers stated that LA DOT has a new policy that traffic study rules now forbid the analysis of cut through traffic in project plans. Without analysis, such problems are not acknowledged and thus no mitigations can be ordered. Laura Meyers will ask CD10 to encourage LA DOT to send a representative to the Planning and Zoning to explain this policy.

- E. Standing Rules discussion was tabled until the next meeting.
- F. In addition to the above items forwarded to the Governing Board, possible items for the next Governing Board Agenda were discussed.

Corri Ravare with the charter school operator, ICEF, would like to present ICEF's plan to operate the South Region Middle School.



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- G. Review of governing board members absences.
No board members have missed three meetings in a row. One has missed the last two meetings, and partial attendance by one board member is an issue.
- H. Office Administration – 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 \$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.

Following up on a discussion from the November 17 Executive Committee meeting, Norman 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 UNNC change voicemail providers from AT&T to RingCentral, and that UNNC enter into a two-year mobile broadband service plan with Sprint or Verizon and purchase a mobile broadband 3G/4G WiFi access point.

Seconded by Stevie Stern.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report:

Wesley Todd had no exceptions or issues to report.

Committee Updates.

(see above)



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New Business:

None.

Minutes:

Stevie Stern moved to approve the December 15th, 2009 Executive Committee Minutes with corrections noted.

Wesley Todd seconded.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

Announcements:

None

Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Norman Gilmore

UNNC Secretary

February 4, 2010