



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 6, 2011
Council District 10 Field Office
1819 S. Western Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90006

MINUTES

(approved February 4, 2011)

CALL TO ORDER

President Stevie Stern opened the meeting at 6:40 p.m. A quorum was present.

Members present: Evangela Anderson, Betty Phillips, Steve Wallis, Allen Lulu, John Arnold, Norman Gilmore, Laura Meyers, Stevie Stern, Wesley Todd, Ruth Jones-Sawyer, Billie Green, Andrea Dunlop, Jess Bravo, Jeff Camp, Gus Harris, Jr., Joyce Smith, Myrna Allen, Betty Walton. (18 total).

Members absent: Fletcher Kauffman, Chris Carlson, Jose Rauda, Roy Amemiya. (4 total).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Item 6b is being moved to before PUBLIC COMMENT.

Item 2a is moving to the executive committee section.

MOTION: Billie Green moved to approve the agenda with the above amendments.

John Arnold seconded.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Marcia Withers announced that at the Nate Holden Performing Arts Center there will be screening of the documentary "Still Bill" with a performance by Bill Withers Saturday night January 29th, 7pm. The event will benefit Save our Future.

Evangela Anderson reported that there were some placement issues with the cameras at Benny Potter park in terms being too easy to reach to vandalize. She also reported that the new Benny Potter park bathroom construction is moving along.

Jeff Camp reported that Tracy Hauter, Senior Lead Officer is doing a great job.



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COMMITTEE REPORT – HISTORIC PRESERVATION

John Arnold, Chair of the Historic Preservation Committee, reported that there was a very productive meeting with the Planning Department. As a result of the meeting, 60 to 70 properties were properly re-classified as contributing to the historic district. The next step will be a public hearing around March.

COUNCIL DISTRICT 10 UPDATE

Herb Wesson was in attendance and discussed Washington Boulevard upgrade opportunities, especially median upgrades from Normandie to Fairfax.

PRESENTATION OF PLAN FOR MEDIANS ON WASHINGTON BL. BETWEEN ARLINGTON AND CRENSHAW – L.A. CITY GENERAL SERVICES – ACTION

The UNNC Economic Development Committee reviewed the streetscape and suggested some ideas to General Services. Then DOT was brought in to the discussion. Myrna Allen has worked to get the word out to Arlington Heights. Bernie Oliver and Linda Frost have also worked on outreach to neighbors.

Robert Gutierrez, Landscape Section Supervisor, and Ann Kim from Public Works – Bureau of Street Services presented preliminary concept plans for new medians on Washington Blvd between Crenshaw and Arlington. CRA money is available for these medians.

The London Plain tree is suggested, which looks similar to a Sycamore, but is a bit more consistently vertical.

Laura was concerned about turns at the median blocking Norton. Other nearby turns have poor visibility. Gus was concerned about kids crossing and using the medians as “safe havens” to cross at poor locations. The new school is an elementary, and those kids are more closely supervised as far as crossing.

John supported the London Plain tree choice. Will the cross walks penetrate the medians? Alternatively will there be trampling as people cross at 5th. The plants selected may need water to be established but should survive if water is eventually cut off.

Jess supports all three medians locations. Allen was concerned about turns into the future redevelopment that would occur at Washington Square. Sylvia noted that there are appropriate turning points to the sides of the Washington Square property, and perhaps a sign on the median noting the entrance to Washington Square would help. Laura noted that one of the proposed (but no longer advancing) plans had the driveway to Washington Square at the far left.

Councilman Wesson noted that perhaps the third median should go east of Arlington, because a future project at Washington Square might pay for the median and it would be compatible with their entrance.

Betty Phillips arrived.

Robert noted that they will be checking with other agencies such as LAPD and LAFD once the locations of the medians are firmed up.

A member of the audience felt that the median proposed at Norton would be very helpful for traffic calming. There are a lot of quick turns, u-turns, and creative driving in that block due to ATM access and Washington Square departures and the bakery.



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Laura felt that the median would calm traffic at Norton, but it might push some traffic to Bronson. Are there traffic calming ideas for Bronson?

John Arnold left.

Stevie mentioned that the committee had observed traffic at Bronson and Washington and observed a lot of creative driving as well. Stevie has eight letters from neighbors on Bronson north of Washington. One letter was read from a homeowner. They have concerns about drivers using Bronson to make U-turns to go back east. Neighbors believe this is a big issue. Many impatient motorists use Bronson as an alternative to Crenshaw at rush hour. Motorists frequently speed and ignore the posted signs, speed humps, and the stop sign, and the school zone. Stevie is also consulting with the deacon at the church about their view of the traffic on Bronson.

Since Bronson won't be considered as a median location, we need to consider other traffic calming solutions for Bronson.

Herb Wesson has left the building.

MOTION: Jess Bravo moved that UNNC endorse the three medians as currently presented on the concept plan; with the request that a future redevelopment of Washington Square be expected to provide an in-kind public benefit at another location.

Seconded by Myrna Allen.

Vote: 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- A. Recommendation for appointment of candidate for Region 6 Resident Representative vacancy – ACTION
Tabled until the next meeting.
- B. Funding Request for replacement banners – Jess Bravo, Economic Development Committee chairperson – ACTION

UNNC installed 199 banners on street poles in 2009. We have the opportunity to renew the permit for another year. But we have had damage and attrition to some of the banners.

Jess Bravo presented a request to re-hang banners that are dangling or loose. Two maintenance rounds with the cherry picker truck costs \$350 each, regardless of the number of banners fixed.

The general sentiment was that the banners are one of UNNC's best programs and have helped greatly in building neighborhood identity as well as letting people know about the UNNC website.

MOTION: Laura Meyers moved to fund the \$700 to rehang and maintain banners.

Jeff Camp seconded.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

Jess presented quotes for up to 40 replacement banners which came to about \$7,080 + tax. 28



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banners is about \$5936 + tax. These banners would all be installed immediately. None would be stored for later replacement.

There is concern that we need documentation from the installer on the 20 banners that were extra last time and that should have been installed. If no documentation can be found, we should get a credit toward future work. Jess Bravo will follow up with the supplier.

MOTION: Stevie Stern moved to fund up to \$2200 for printing of replacement UNNC banners from Rodeo to Adams Blvd.

Seconded by Gus Harris, Jr.

Vote: 16 in favor, none opposed, 1 abstention.

MOTION: Stevie Stern moved to fund up to \$2200 for printing of replacement UNNC banners from Adams Blvd to Washington Blvd.

Seconded by Gus Harris, Jr.

Vote: 16 in favor, none opposed, 1 abstention.

MOTION: Stevie Stern moved to fund up to \$2200 for printing of replacement UNNC banners from Washington Blvd to Pico Blvd.

Seconded by Gus Harris, Jr.

Vote: 16 in favor, none opposed, 1 abstention.

MOTION: Stevie Stern moved to fund up to \$1500 to have the replacement banners installed, including all necessary hardware and fittings.

Seconded by Gus Harris, Jr.

Vote: 16 in favor, none opposed, 1 abstention.

- C. Funding Request for Spring Fling month-long event – Jess Bravo, Economic Development Committee chairperson – ACTION

Jess Bravo presented an idea for Spring Fling, which would be a month long event where dumpsters would be placed in the neighborhoods for people to use in Spring cleaning events in the neighborhoods. Other ideas were discussed but the secretary couldn't take notes fast enough. Sorry!

MOTION: Gus Harris, Jr. moved that UNNC support further work on developing a Spring Clean program through the Economic Development Committee.

Seconded by Myrna Allen.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

- D. Proposal for UNNC to (1) be an active participant in SLAANC and (2) that UNNC assign 2 Voting Representatives to SLAANC and one alternate – Myrna Allen – ACTION

Myrna Allen has attended two SLAANC meetings recently. The South LA Alliance is comprised of 19 NCs south of the I-10. It is a formerly existing organization that lapsed in 2009. They are asking NCs that were members before to renew membership and to appoint delegates. The idea is work together on issues in common to NCs in the South LA area. The executive committee felt that if there is a volunteer interested in attending SLAANC to see how it develops, then we should delegate a volunteer.



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It was clear that SLAANC would refer decisions to member NCs, and delegates would vote according to their NC's directions.

MOTION: Laura Meyers moved that UNNC rejoin SLAANC, and that we appoint Myrna Allen as our first delegate, and that we seek a second delegate.

Steve Wallis seconded.

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

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

A. Zoning and Planning - Meyers

Recommendation regarding the recently-adopted Community Plan Implementation Ordinance (CPIO, Ordinance No. 181412), which has been appealed to the courts, and the proposed Core Findings Ordinance (CPC-2010-1572-CA), which will have further public hearings in early 2011. City Planning Dept. has issued a statement entitled "Myths and Facts About the Planning Department's Recent Initiatives" discussing these two changes to the City's Zoning Code. One community advocacy group has filed a lawsuit (and issued a statement) against the implementation of the CPIO ordinance – DISCUSSION and ACTION.

The first ordinance that was passed was for CPIO – Community Plan Implementation Overlays. The city has been sued for passing this without analyzing the impacts of rewriting the zoning code and passing the rewrites in nine or more separate ordinances instead of as a group.

The item going to the Planning Commission on January 13th is the new ordinance regarding Core Findings. The city Planning department is streamlining the planning code by going through and attempting to rewrite large amounts of the code but somehow managing to retain the same essential meaning.

Core Finding #1 seems to offer a substantial loophole. Currently the Core Finding #1 is written as "That the project shall enhance the built environment in the surrounding neighborhood or will perform a function or provide a service that is essential or beneficial to the community, city, or region." Planning and Zoning Committee recommends that the or be changed to and.

It is also Laura Meyers' personal recommendation that Core Finding #7 should NOT delete the phrase "that the automotive use is not located in an identified pedestrian oriented, commercial and ??? community design overlay, historic preservation overlay, or transit oriented district area or zone", nor the phrase "that the automotive use substantially complies with the minimum standards set forth in Section 12.26.I.3 of this Code."

MOTION: Laura Meyers moved that UNNC appear and testify at the January 13, 2011 Planning Commission hearing and present the two above issues to the Planning Commission.

Steve Wallis seconded.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Wesley Todd presented the Treasurer's report, including the US Bank Statement dated 12-21-2010.



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MOTION: Steve Wallis moved to approve the US Bank statement.

Jess Bravo seconded.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Gus Harris, Jr. moved to approve the November 4, 2010 minutes with the corrections to Public Storage testimony noted by Laura Meyers.

Wesley Todd seconded.

Vote: 12 in favor, none opposed, 4 abstentions.

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Michele Cortez on behalf of The West Adams Quality of Life Committee wrote a letter letting us know that the cameras funded by UNNC have been installed in Benny Potter Park. They thank us for funding the cameras.

There is a possible CD10 candidate forum at Earlez Grille January 23rd and UNNC has been invited to participate to do outreach.

We have an option to use the outreach table at the Wellington Square Farmer's market. We haven't been since before the election.

January 18th Executive Committee meeting will be meeting with resident representatives to discuss local issues, outreach plans, etc.

Board members who haven't completed their ethics training or whose training has expired need to take the training either online, or with a printed workbook provided by the Ethics Commission.

Thanks to Ruth Jones-Sawyer for bringing dinner tonight.

Betty Walton agreed to arrange for food at our February meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gus Harris, Jr. announced that he will be accepting calls for volunteering on the 23rd.

Meeting adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Norman Gilmore

UNNC Secretary

February 4, 2011

Attachments: None.

cc: Minutes to robert.gutierrz@lacity.org