



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

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## UNNC Governing Board Meeting

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Thursday, May 5, 2011  
Council District 10 Field Office  
1819 S. Western Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA 90006

### MINUTES

(Approved June 2, 2011)

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

President Stevie Stern opened the meeting at 6:48 p.m. A quorum was present.

**Members present:** Billie Green, Steve Wallis, Jeff Camp, Jess Bravo, Betty Walton, Allen Lulu, 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:** Evangela Anderson, Fletcher Kauffman, Joyce Smith, John Arnold, Jose Rauda. (5 total).

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Roy Amemiya moved to approve the agenda with an amendment to handle Planning & Zoning item 5A2 (demolition of Union Bank Building) before Executive Committee.

Ed Turner seconded.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jeff Camp stated that there have been two fires recently: One at 6<sup>th</sup> and Washington, a location with multiple code violations, and a house fire in West Adams Avenues which resulted in a fatality.

Dianne Lawrence announced that she and Hattie McBabb were collecting a list of community issues to take to CD10.

Regina Floyd announced local business Comfort Keepers, who provide non-medical in-home care for Seniors.

Tunua Thrash announced that on Saturday May 21<sup>st</sup> there is a Home Buyer Education Fair and a Foreclosure Fair at the Convention Center on May 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. [www.westangelescdc.org](http://www.westangelescdc.org)

Captain Peter Hsiao of Fire Station #34 reminded everyone about Fire Service Day on May 14<sup>th</sup>. Cadets



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will be performing live fire fighting demonstrations. The demos will be expanded over last year.

Steve Wallis announced that one of his tenants is turning 100 this week!

The Golden State Mutual Life Insurance building will be open for a public tour on Saturday, June 4, 2011 from noon to 4 p.m.

## **COUNCIL DISTRICT 10 UPDATE**

No update this month.

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

- A. Funding Request – Western Heights beautification project for the bump-outs on Arlington at 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> streets and at Manhattan at 20<sup>th</sup> St. – Presented by J. Micucci  
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.

Western Heights Homeowners Association, on behalf of the Western Heights Neighborhood Association, is requesting funding for landscape, including 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.

**MOTION:** Myrna Allen moved to support a funding request from the Western Heights Homeowners Association for up to \$3,400 for plants, soil, and labor for installation of landscaping at the above three intersections per the plans; provided (i) that the applicant shall establish with the UNNC Treasurer that all conditions have been met to proceed with planting (ii) that the funds are spent prior to the June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011 governing board meeting.

Jess Bravo seconded.

Vote: 13 in favor, none opposed, 2 abstentions; 2 recusals.

Roy Amemiya departed.

Andrea Dunlop departed.

Chris Carlson departed.

Billie Green arrived.



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- B. Funding Request - William Grant Still Community Center – funding for Nine Simone Community Concert and Showcase featuring students from William Grant Still music programs; A. Motevalli, Director, WGS Community Center.

William Grant Still has been conducting an annual music education program. This year they are teaching keyboard, vocals, songwriting, guitar, clarinet, drums, ensemble and early childhood music through the music of Nina Simone. The workshops run for 10 weeks and are free to everyone 18 and under. Students range from age 3 to 18. They have a recital scheduled for May 7th from 6pm to 8pm at the Metropolitan A.M.E. Zion church, across from William Grant Still Arts center. MusicLA is the primary sponsor of the program, part of LA Dept. of Cultural Affairs Public Art program, and the Mayor’s Heritage month program, and possibly also the LA County Arts Commission. West Adams Neighborhood Council is supporting their exhibition program with funding.

Ms. Motevalli identified several schools in the UNNC boundaries as having students that are participants in the music program.

Ms. Motevalli presented a funding request for \$750 for sound equipment and engineering, and \$500 for food and drink for a reception after the recital.

Action on this item was delayed until all outreach items on the agenda could be considered.

- C. Funding Request - Wanda Green of the Avenues Neighborhood Watch Association presented a funding request for up to \$500.00 for printing approximately 15 double sided yard signs for announcing their monthly meetings. They cover the Arlington Heights neighborhood which also overlaps Wilshire Area – Basic Car 7A69. The Avenues Neighborhood Watch and Association meets monthly at the Stop-In center, the second Tuesday at 7:00pm. Their Senior Lead Officer attends regularly.

Action on this item was delayed until all outreach items on the agenda could be considered.

- D. Funding Request - Myrna Allen presented a funding request for up to \$640 for flyers and refrigerator magnets to outreach to Arlington Heights neighbors to promote the new neighborhood mailing list. Two hundred magnets are about \$93. Design costs are about \$250. Printing of double sided flyers in English and Spanish will be about \$293.

Action on this item was delayed until all outreach items on the agenda could be considered.

- E. Funding Request - Hosting coffee and pastries for the annual citywide HPOZ conference – Stevie Stern

The annual city wide HPOZ conference which is being held this year at McCarty Church on Adams Blvd includes walking tours of UNNC HPOZs. About 75 people are expected. The best bid by a local business for providing coffee and pastries was \$500. – Stevie Stern

**MOTION:** Allen Lulu moved that (i) UNNC provide up to \$750.00 to host a reception and to provide sound reinforcement services on May 7<sup>th</sup> for the William Grant Still ‘Music of Nina Simone’ recital;

(ii) UNNC pay up to \$500 in printing costs for Avenues Neighborhood Watch Association double sided yard signs;



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(iii) UNNC pay up to \$640 for flyers and refrigerator magnets to promote the new Arlington Heights email list and website; and

(iv) UNNC pay up to \$500 to host coffee and pastries for the annual HPOZ Conference on May 7th.

Norman Gilmore seconded.

Vote: 13 in favor, none opposed, 1 abstention.

- F. Mid-Wilshire Technology Center beautification project – replace drip lines with PVC pipe – Jess Bravo

The drip line on our UNNC beautification project along 300 feet of Washington Blvd is failing due to high water pressure. The UNNC Economic Development Committee recommends replacing the drip line with PVC pipe and pressure regulators.

**MOTION:** Laura Meyers moved to fund the above request for up to \$584.33.

Allen Lulu seconded.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

- G. Carson-Gore banner – tabled.

- H. **MOTION:** Allen Lulu moved that Chris Carlson be appointed to be the Chair of an Education Action Committee.

Jess Bravo seconded.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

## COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- A. Planning & Zoning Committee – Meyers

1. Case No. ZA 2010-2099 (CUW), 2461 West Washington Blvd. - Proposed wireless telecommunications facility (12 antennas) mounted behind a new RF transparent sign on the rooftop -- review of proposed revised design(s) – ACTION

Verizon Wireless previously proposed a new antenna facility at Bob's Automatic Transmissions and presented plans at the UNNC Governing Board meeting on September 2, 2010. At that time, UNNC voted to oppose the project, because the building has been identified as an eligible historic structure. Verizon proposed to tear down the character defining feature of this art deco building and replace it with an out-of-scale replica, which does not meet Secretary of the Interior Standards for Rehabilitation.

At the last Planning hearing, Verizon was instructed to present new designs to UNNC.

At this meeting, Verizon presented three new designs for hiding the antennas behind facades that respected the original art deco building design. Several board members were impressed with the substantially improved designs.

A local resident spoke against the application, emphasizing that the applicant had not claimed there was a "Significant gap" in coverage, merely a "gap". The quoted terms are apparently terms of art used by federal regulators. The Verizon representative noted that her Verizon phone was receiving no signal in the UNNC board meeting room (at the



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CD10 Field Office on Western near Washington Blvd.) and that this facility would address this local gap.

The matter before UNNC was to approve or disapprove the presented designs.

**MOTION:** Norman Gilmore moved that UNNC support applicant's design option #1, an art deco embellishment at the center of the roof with the least visual impact from the street.

Jess Bravo was the first person heard to second the motion.

Ed Turner departed.

Vote: 9 in favor, 4 opposed, no abstentions.

2. (Handled out of order - before Exec Committee Business)

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. - Project description: Demolish 2-story, 12,378-square-foot Bank of Tokyo/Union Bank building to create surface parking lot for new one-story, approximately 17,952-square-foot building with both grocery store and bank, with 71 on-site surface parking spaces at Jefferson and Bronson; and 17 off-site parking spaces (only 36 spaces are required). Applicant previously received approval for a much larger (and also different) project at the subject site; the current proposal requests the utilization of the prior entitlements. UNNC had taken a position on the prior project that was conditional; those conditions were not met in the prior entitlements. The entire proposed project will therefore be reviewed and acted upon. – ACTION

Tunua Thrash of West Angeles Community Development Corporation presented newly proposed plans for the lot at the north-east corner of Crenshaw and Jefferson Blvd, including the adjacent Union Bank building (the former Bank of Tokyo).

Tunua Thrash stated that although the architect of the building practiced locally, he does not meet the definition of Master Architect. She stated that West Angeles CDC conducted outreach to Japanese American community groups, and did not find support for keeping the building for cultural reasons.

**MOTION:** Laura Meyers moved that UNNC affirm the nullification of the original conditional approval of the proposed project based on the substantial changes to the project.

Andrea Dunlop seconded.

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

**MOTION:** Laura Meyers moved UNNC OPPOSE the demolition of the Union Bank/Bank of Tokyo; that UNNC condition approval on the project being redesigned to be Pedestrian Friendly on Crenshaw, specifically an entry point on Crenshaw, and that the Jefferson Park Clock be retained in the design, and that employee parking shall be in the nearby parking structure and it shall be mandatory for employees to use said parking.

Gus Harris, Jr. seconded.



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Laura Meyers moved to table the above motion.  
Ed Turner seconded.  
Vote: 11 in favor, 6 opposed, no abstentions.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Wesley Todd presented the Treasurer's report, including the US Bank Statement dated 4-21-2011

**MOTION:** Laura Meyers moved to approve the US Bank statement.  
Allen Lulu seconded.  
Vote: Approved unanimously.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** Myrna Allen moved to approve the April 7, 2011 Governing Board minutes as presented.  
Ruth Jones-Sawyer seconded.  
Vote: 11 in favor, none opposed, 2 abstentions.

## **PRESIDENT'S UPDATE**

Thanks to Myrna Allen for arranging food from Vees Café.  
Betty Walton agreed to arrange for food at the June meeting.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Betty Phillips has a new grandson!

Meeting adjourned at 10:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Norman Gilmore  
UNNC Secretary  
May 23, 2011  
Attachments: None