

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

Our Voice • Our City • of Neighbors • by Neighbors • for Neighbors



UNNC Governing Board Meeting

Thursday, August 4, 2011
Council District 10 Field Office
1819 S. Western Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90006

MINUTES

(Approved September 1, 2011)

CALL TO ORDER

President Stevie Stern opened the meeting at 6:46 p.m. A quorum was present.

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

Members absent: Roy Amemiya, Gus Harris, Jr., Steve Wallis, Jose Rauda. (4 total).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Billie Green moved to approve the agenda tabling item #4, Stray Cat Alliance, and item #7A, Board Seats.

Wesley Todd seconded.

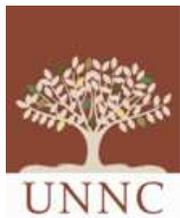
Vote: Approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Andrea Dunlop went to the West Side Park opening and thinks it is a fantastic model for ideas for Jefferson Park.

Chris Carlson reported a large scale palm tree theft. Two trees were removed from the CalTrans slope behind Whidney High School. They were taken out with cranes. Take photos and take down license numbers if trees are being removed from public property, even if it looks official.

Mia Moreno and Chris P. announced a drive to create a new public charter school that will serve students north of Washington. It will have a curriculum based on constructivist and project based education. They would like to serve students between Roberts and Hoover, and between 3rd St and Washington Blvd. The founders previously started several local charter schools, including in Larchmont and the Valley. They will be looking for a site for their initial student body which will be a 6th and 7th grade. Please contact them at info@citycharterschool.org or 323-834-2489.



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COUNCIL DISTRICT 10 UPDATE

Councilman Wesson thanks UNNC for the Movies-in-the-Park success. About 500 families attended. The block party for the avenues immediately preceding also went well.

There was a ground breaking for the Benny Potter Park Annex. Construction will start mid-August. There will be exercise equipment, walking trails, and barbeque pits.

The city is now enforcing rules against parking on your parkway. The sidewalk must remain clear for use by walkers and wheelchair users.

There are wire thefts from city light poles that are disabling city light poles. Please report anyone working on light poles even if they are wearing orange vests or look like city workers.

REPOWER LA PRESENTATION (ACTION)

K. Kwajitahibi, Sr. Community Organizer of Los Angeles for A New Economy (LAANE), a non-profit, gave a short presentation explaining RePowerLA, a coalition advocating energy efficiency programs at DWP which will create jobs locally.

LAANE is at <http://www.laane.org/>. Information about the current campaign should be posted soon.

MAR VISTA GREEN COMMITTEE (ACTION)

Andy Shrader gave a presentation on the severe pollution damaging the ocean. There are a couple state and local initiatives partly addressing this.

- a) State Senate Bill SB 568 banning the use of Styrofoam food containers that leech styrene;
- b) L.A. City Council to consider banning plastic bags given out at grocery stores, pharmacies, convenience stores, etc.

Damage to our local beaches by styrofoam is actually starting to cost us tourist revenue as well.

There are alternative foodware containers from the same suppliers. The price for non-styrofoam 10 oz cups, by way of example, is only 0.003 greater per cup.

In the 47 municipalities that have banned styrofoam already in California, there have been no restaurants or businesses that have claimed hardship.

Moving to plastic bags, Californian's use 12 billion bags per year, and only 3% of the bags are recycled despite outreach for recycling. You pay for plastic with your grocery bill, and in higher maintenance costs for city storm sewers. California communities spend \$25 million dollars per year to clean these up.

Los Angeles County, Thousand Oaks, and Santa Monica have banned plastic bags already.

MOTION: John Arnold moved to support the letter to assembly member Mike Davis supporting Senate Bill 568 (Lowenthal) banning styrene.

Betty Walton seconded.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

MOTION: Chris Carlson moved to support the letter to Councilman Wesson banning single use plastic bags.



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Myrna Allen seconded.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- A. Governing Board At Large Open Position – appointment of new Board member - ACTION

Joe Rauda submitted a letter of resignation for his UNNC board seat.

We have two open board seats. We have received two applications and the Executive Committee will conduct interviews at the next regular 3rd Tuesday meeting.

Item tabled until next month.

- B. Funding Request – Nosey Eye Block Club funding for Insurance for Block Party August 13, 2011 – Tracy Hart – ACTION

Tracy Hart presented a request for the annual Nosey Eye Block Club party for funding for the insurance. The event will be held at 29th Pl between Western and St. Andrews, August 13th from 12pm to 6pm. The block club has been proactive about fighting problems on Western and other local issues, and their efforts have even been covered by the Los Angeles Times. The funding request is for \$262 dollars. The insurance quote is from Merriwether and Williams Insurance Services.

MOTION: John Arnold moved to fund up to \$262 for insurance for the Nosey Eye Block Club annual block party.

Allen Lulu seconded.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

- C. Election of UNNC officers – the yearly election of officers.

MOTION: Norman Gilmore nominated Stevie Stern for President of UNNC.

Evangela Anderson seconded.

Ed Turner moved to close the nomination.

Evangela Anderson seconded.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

MOTION: Evangela Anderson nominated Billie Green for Vice President.

Betty Walton seconded.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

MOTION: Jeff Camp moved to re-elect Wesley Todd as Treasurer and Norman Gilmore as Secretary.

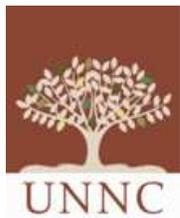
Evangela Anderson seconded.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- A. Planning and Zoning Committee

1. 3200 West Adams Blvd., Case Nos. CPC-2009-3965-CU-PA1 and ENV-2009-1474-



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MND; Applicant: ICEF Public Schools, Corri Ravare - Project: A Plan Approval to satisfy Condition Number 25 of Conditional Use Permit Number CPC-2009-3965-CU which governs operations of an existing public charter middle and high school. The previously approved Conditional Use requires a public hearing to review the effectiveness of, and the level of compliance with, the terms and conditions of the grant, including the effectiveness of the Traffic Management Program required by Condition 17, the management of traffic safety issues and circulation impacts of parking, and any documented impacts on the surrounding residential properties. In addition to that review, UNNC will also evaluate and make a recommendation regarding whether the previously approved Mitigated Negative Declaration adequately describes the potential impacts of the Project, to determine whether or not an additional environmental clearance should be recommended. A public hearing is scheduled for Friday, August 5, 2011 at 10 a.m. in City Hall, Room 1020 - ACTION

MOTION: John Arnold moved that in light of the continuing issues related to the operations of the ICEF/Frederick Douglas School, that the UNNC Governing Board:

- Confirm its original Conditions of Approval; and
- Support the West Adams Avenues Association in its request to expand the conditions in the original Conditional Use Permit; adding several new conditions, including a clear enforcement condition; and to update the environmental clearance/Mitigated Negative Declaration to include “cumulative impacts.”

Furthermore, a notation should be made that UNNC is concerned when any applicant fails to adhere to conditions that have been imposed and agreed to.

Chris Carlson seconded.

Allen Lulu departed.

Derek Japha presented a detailed account of the history of the Conditional Use Permit at this school and the status of the school’s non-compliance or partial compliance over time.

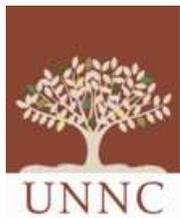
Laura Meyers arrived.

There was a discussion about the Mid-City Magnet buses on Adams Blvd which contribute to safety hazards at Frederick Douglass.

Chris Burunda of ICEF acknowledged that the problems outlined by Derek Japha were substantially correct, although he did not agree in all details. He stated that ICEF had assigned him again to address the traffic issues. He asked for support in getting the Mid-City Magnet buses parking problem addressed. It makes it very difficult to exit the campus safely. He stated that he also met with Senior Lead Officer Tracy Hauter to discuss the issues.

Donna Green noted that within a half-block radius there are three schools with well over 1500 students arriving and departing daily. She said that the director of Benny Potter Park noted in a formal letter to the school that he observes many students congregating at Benny Potter Park during school hours.

Vote: 15 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstention.



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Betty Walton and Laura Meyers departed.

B. Public Safety – Jeff Camp

Proposed rate actions of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power - ACTION

Jeff Camp provided an update that DWP continues to propose power rate increases.

No action was taken.

C. Economic Development – Jess Bravo

The EconDev Committee is working on another E-Waste drop off day at CD10.

MINUTES

MOTION: John Arnold moved to approve the July 7, 2011 minutes with the correction of “valley” changed to “alley” in item D.

Billie Green seconded.

Vote: 14 in favor, none opposed, 1 abstention.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Wesley Todd presented the Treasurer’s report, including the US Bank Statement dated 7-21-2011.

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

John Arnold seconded.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

PRESIDENT’S UPDATE

Thanks to Ed Turner for arranging dinner from Mel’s Fish Market on Jefferson and Farmdale.
Betty Phillips agreed to arrange food for September’s meeting.

Please remember to complete your ethics training.

We will have to delay the board retreat until after September due to time conflicts.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Evangela gave a report on the successful West Adams Quality of Life annual block party.

Jeff Camp announced that Southwest and 77th Division are having a community police academy, held at Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Plaza starting next week. There are ride-alongs, simulators, and other ways to learn about local policing activities.

Stevie Stern mentioned she’s doing a one person show at Hudson Theater on Sunday September 25th.

There is a Congress of Neighborhoods on Saturday the 24th. There will be an ethics training class there so you wouldn’t have to take your class online.

Meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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Norman Gilmore
UNNC Secretary
September 10, 2011

Attachments:

RePowerLA Flyer from LAANE

Letter to Assembly Member Mike Davis regarding Senate Bill 568 (Lowenthal)

Letter to Councilman Wesson regarding Plastic Bag Ban

Table of costs for alternatives to styrene



RePower LA is a broad-based coalition of community and labor organizations, environmentalists, small business and faith-based leaders. RePower LA has identified a strategy and vision that will help transform the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) into a greener and more modern utility that collaborates with the communities it serves and provides job opportunities for our hardest hit communities.

This program will help **control rising electricity costs** and make **homes and workplaces more comfortable**. It will **reduce air pollution** and help **meet clean energy mandates**. And it will **create jobs** where they are needed most.

A Time of Tremendous Challenge

- **Rising cost of power.** Over the next decade, electric rates are expected to rise due to increasing infrastructure and fuel costs.
- **Air pollution and legislative mandates.** Today 39% of our power comes from coal, a dirty energy source that pollutes our air. The LADWP must reduce its reliance on coal or face stiff fines.
- **Massive unemployment.** We are suffering through the biggest economic downturn the country has seen in decades. Unemployment in Los Angeles County is 12%, and the construction industry continues to shed jobs.
- **Workforce shortages.** Around the country utilities are facing a brain drain as experienced workers retire. Utilities must find and train employees who can master the new energy technologies and help us become wiser consumers.
- **Underinvestment in energy efficiency.** LADWP spends less than half as much per person on energy efficiency as neighboring utilities.

Making the LADWP Work for Los Angeles

- **Increasing investment in energy efficiency.** RePower LA has a four-year, \$270 million plan to expand and improve LADWP's energy efficiency program to ensure that it lowers costs for customers and the utility, provide jobs for the local residents, and reduces carbon emissions.
- **Financed by savings.** By making our buildings more efficient, the LADWP can avoid costly investments in the infrastructure it takes to import and distribute power to customers. Those savings can be ploughed into job creation and building upgrades here in Los Angeles.
- **Broad customer benefits.** Thousands of homeowners, renters, small businesses and commercial customers will benefit every year from an expanded program. Measures such as "cool roofs," energy efficient lighting and air conditioning can make buildings more comfortable and reduce bills by 15 to 20%.
- **Enhanced customer service.** RePower LA proposes building LADWP's capacity to provide customer service, marketing and outreach, helping the LADWP to transform itself into a twenty-first century utility focused on energy planning.
- **Career-path jobs.** The program will create career path jobs for local residents by drawing staff from the LADWP's new eighteen month trainee position. These workers will become the future workforce at a utility where 30% to 40% of employees are of retirement age. Over the four years, 1,600 people are expected to be employed by the program.
- **Rigorous Reporting.** The program will require regular reporting of energy saved, jobs created, and customers served, helping LADWP to evaluate and improve the program over the course of its ramp up.



August 4, 2011

Assembly Member Mike Davis
Administrative Offices West
700 State Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90037

SUPPORT: Senate Bill 568 (Lowenthal): Polystyrene Foam Takeout Food Packaging

Dear Assembly Member Davis,

The United Neighborhoods Neighborhood Council wants to express its support of Senate Bill 568 and encourages you support it in the Assembly Appropriations Committee and on the Assembly floor.

We feel strongly that SB 568 is a social justice issue. The National Toxicology Program recently designated Styrene, a major component of Styrofoam, as a "likely human carcinogen," which means it can cause cancer, especially to workers in the industry. Workers exposed to it may suffer increased risk of leukemia and lymphoma and neurological problems such as loss of hearing, balance, and spatial orientation. For consumers, the Styrene in food containers leaches into the food when heated, or in contact with acids, or grease and oil. We all know we're not supposed to put it in the microwave, but people still do. In a 1986 study, U.S. EPA scientists found Styrene in 100 percent of all human tissue samples. That means it affects us all.

We all know how much of an environmental problem Styrofoam is, crumbling into pieces and being impossible to pick up off our streets and beaches. There are comparably-priced alternatives available from the same companies who make polystyrene, which are easier to clean up and safe for workers and consumers. In the 47 cities and counties who have banned polystyrene in California, not a single restaurant has filed for financial hardship. It also promotes green job growth for people making alternative, safer containers.

The United Neighborhoods Neighborhood Council supports Senate Bill 568, which represents an effort to reduce blight on our streets, eliminate costly waste -- particularly in our city budgets -- prevent the proliferation of marine debris, and protect human health and welfare. We appreciate your vigorously representing our community by supporting it like our Senator Kevin De León did.

Sincerely,

Stevie Stern, President
United Neighborhoods Neighborhood Council

cc: Mayor Villaraigosa, Council Member Garcetti, Council Member Perry,
Council Member Reyes, Council Member Krekorian, Council Member Rosendahl,
Council Member LaBonge, Council Member Koretz, Council Member Cardenas,
Council Member Alarcon, Council Member Parks, Council Member Wesson,
Council Member Englander, Council Member Huizar, Council Member Zine

Senator Kevin De León

August 4, 2011

Council Member Herb J. Wesson, Jr.
200 North Spring St., Rm. 430
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Subject: Ban of Plastic Bag Issuance by Retail Establishments in Los Angeles

Dear Council Member Wesson,

The United Neighborhoods Neighborhood Council would like to respectfully urge you to approve an ordinance banning the distribution of single-use carry-out plastic bags in Los Angeles, as promised by the City Council in July 2008. **This is an urgent issue for the city to address. The International Programme on the State of the Ocean (IPSO) released a report last month saying the world's oceans are in "shocking" decline.**

In these tough economic times, an ordinance such as this would help lower cleanup and compliance costs. Californians use an estimated 12 billion plastic bags per year. According to CalRecycle, only three percent of these bags are actually recycled. The rest end up in landfills or as litter. Los Angeles, along with other municipalities statewide, spends more than \$25 million each year to clean up plastic single-use bags from public places, storm drains, and from our waste stream. Local taxpayer dollars are also spent to comply with Stormwater Permit requirements and other standards in communities with "trash-impaired" waterways as defined under the federal Clean Water Act.

In addition to the economic benefits of a plastic bag ban, there are countless environmental benefits. These include reduced use of natural resources for bag production, reduced wildlife fatalities from strangulation and suffocation, improved water quality, and—most salient for our Los Angeles economy—cleaner beaches. For all intents and purposes, plastic never biodegrades, but slowly photo degrades. As it photo degrades, plastic film breaks into smaller and smaller pieces which attract surrounding toxins. When mistaken as a food source, these plastic particles form a progressively greater health risk of food chain contamination.

Plastic marine pollution is a global problem with a local solution. Banning the free distribution of plastic bags is widely considered an appropriate and practical legislative action that can protect our environment and save financial resources. The County of Los Angeles, and our neighbors in Calabasas, Santa Monica and Long Beach, along with other local governments in the region, around the state, and around the world, have already taken this approach, and we strongly urge you to do the same.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

Stevie Stern, President
United Neighborhoods Neighborhood Council

cc: Mayor Villaraigosa, Council Member Garcetti, Council Member Perry, Council Member Reyes, Council Member Krekorian, Council Member Rosendahl, Council Member LaBonge, Council Member Koretz, Council Member Zine, Council Member Alarcon, Council Member Parks, Council Member Cardenas, Council Member Englander, Council Member Huizar

Assembly Member Mike Davis
Senator Kevin De León

LOWEST COST POLYSTYRENE FOAM CONTAINERS VERSUS LOWEST COST ALTERNATIVES

	Polystyrene Product (Lowest price, various suppliers)	Cost per unit	Non-foam Product (Lowest price, various suppliers)	Cost per unit	Difference in Marginal Cost
10 oz Cup	Foam Dart 1000 ct \$19.99	\$0.020	Plastic Dart 2500 ct \$56.99	\$0.023	\$0.003
12 oz Cup	Foam Dart 1000 ct \$22.49	\$0.022	Plastic Dart 1000 ct \$25.99	\$0.026	\$0.004
16 oz cup	Foam Dart 1000 ct \$32.49	\$0.032	Plastic Dart 1000 ct \$35.94	\$0.036	\$0.004
12 oz Bowl	Foam Dart 500 ct \$17.49	\$0.035	Plastic Genpak 1000 ct \$41.99	\$0.042	\$0.007
16 oz Bowl	Foam Dart 500 ct \$19.49	\$0.039	Plastic Genpak 1000 ct \$69.99	\$0.070	\$0.031
6" Plate	Foam Dart 1000 ct \$29.99	\$0.030	Paper AJM 1000 ct \$19.99	\$0.020	(\$0.010)
9" Plate	Foam Dart 500 ct \$17.99	\$0.036	Paper AJM 1000 ct \$25.87	\$0.026	(\$0.010)
6" Hinge Container	Foam Dart 500 ct \$18.99	\$0.038	Plastic 500 ct \$31.99	\$0.064	\$0.026
9" Hinge Container	Foam Dart 200 ct \$14.49	\$0.072	Plastic 200 ct \$24.99	\$0.125	\$0.053

12,000