



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

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## UNNC Executive Committee Meeting

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Tuesday, March 20, 2012  
Council District 10 Field Office  
1819 S. Western Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA 90006

### MINUTES

(approved April 17, 2012)

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Vice-President Billie Green opened the meeting at 7:01 p.m. A quorum was present.

**Members present:** Stevie Stern, Billie Green, Wesley Todd, Norman Gilmore

**Members absent:** None.

**Additional UNNC board members present:** Myrna Allen, Chris Carlson, Jess Bravo

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Wesley Todd moved to approve the agenda as presented.

Norman Gilmore seconded.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Peter Schulberg presented Project Restore from Ecological Art Gallery. They recycle billboard signs as paintings made by local youth and put the art back up on the billboards or hang the vinyl billboards in temporary locations. They are working specifically on a new series for Mid-City. Schools and construction fences are prime spots for mitigating visual clutter. He would like to bring a proposal to various Neighborhood Councils to support murals over the course of one year. Project Restore has received grants from the Lia Fund, the Vinyl Institute, and The Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative. Eco-LogicalART is a 501c3 non-profit located at 4829 W. Pico Blvd, LA 90019. 310-525-0676 or [www.eco-logicalart.org](http://www.eco-logicalart.org)

Billie Green showed a great postcard design created by West Adams Heights Sugar Hill Neighborhood Association that lists all their meeting dates for the year.

#### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

- A. Funding Request – Holy Name of Jesus School – For Electric LED Sign - Wesley Todd –  
ACTION

Julia Robinson Shimizu and two students from the student council presented a funding request for



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an LED sign that would be mounted on the Holy Name of Jesus School on Jefferson Blvd. The executive committee explained that Neighborhood Councils are not allowed to expend public funds for private use. In addition, we noted that the church and school are within the Jefferson Park Historic Preservation Overlay Zone. They should contact the city planning department to discuss any exterior alterations or additions to a building in the HPOZ. We requested that they talk with us more to develop feasible ideas to partner with UNNC.

Stevie Stern arrived.

B. Funding Request – Arlington Heights Upper Avenues Beautification Project – M. Allen – ACTION

Myrna Allen presented a funding request on behalf of Arlington Neighborhood Watch Association to plant vines along 1 mile of the freeway wall from Washington to Crenshaw. The plan would require extensive curb cuts. The hardscape architect for CalTrans expressed enthusiastic support. The LA Conservation Corp is reviewing what it would cost to make the curb cuts. The permit cost is unknown as of this meeting. This project can be scaled to the amount of money, because a shorter section of wall can be planted.

The Executive Committee recommended that more in-kind donations be sought.

The project proposal is estimated at \$1500 for curb cutting and \$3000 for plants. The total cost of permits is not yet known.

**MOTION:** Norman Gilmore moved that the above project be considered by the governing board for up to \$5000.

Stevie Stern seconded.

Vote: 3 in favor, one opposed.

C. Funding Request – beautification project of planters in front of the freeway sound wall at 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue in West Adams Avenues – M. Closson – ACTION

Maisha Closson presented a funding request for up to \$2,355.24 for planters to be placed at 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue at the 10 Freeway. Billie Green said she would provide a contact that could have a lead on sources of free planters from the city, and Chris Carlson suggested asking home improvement stores to donate any bags of soil that are broken in unloading at the store.

**MOTION:** Stevie Stern moved that the above project be considered by the governing board for up to \$2,355.24.

Norman Gilmore seconded.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

D. Funding Request – booking Aquarium of the Pacific for two dates during the summer of 2012 to come to Benny H. Potter/West Adams Avenues Park – C. Stubbs – ACTION

Carlton Stubbs, Benny Potter Park Director, presented a funding request on behalf of West Adams Avenues to bring the Aquarium of the Pacific mobile unit to Benny Potter Park on two different days, possibly Saturday July 21<sup>st</sup> and Friday August 10<sup>th</sup>. The mobile unit would be open for two hours on each day.



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Stevie Stern moved to forward this request to the Governing Board for consideration for up to \$1450.

Wesley Todd seconded.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

E. Funding Request – beautification project of historic sign posts in Western Heights – K. Johnson – ACTION

Karlyn Johnson Brown presented a request for up to \$2847.00 for the purchase and installation of four decorative posts for the new landscaped bump outs on Arlington Avenue.

The executive committee recommended that the applicant get the formal endorsement of one of the Western Heights Associations (Residents or Homeowners). Chris Carlson offered to work with Karlyn on obtaining neighborhood support.

**MOTION:** Stevie Stern moved that this item be tabled to allow this project time to go through neighborhood review.

Norman Gilmore seconded.

Vote: Unanimous.

F. Funding Request – EGGstravaganza community event at Queen Anne Park on April 7, 2012 – G. Lemus – ACTION

Glenda Lemus presented a funding request for the First Annual Mid-City Eggstravaganza that would be held at Saturday April 7<sup>th</sup> at Queen Anne Park, in partnership with City Rec and Parks. It would be from 10 am to 2 pm. There will be egg hunts for four age groups. There will be activities such as jumpers and face painters, 2 bands, a Balloon artist and a Cartoon artist. The event is free to the community.

They report they have sought support and in-kind donations from local businesses including: Lowe's, AMF Midtown Lanes, World On Wheels, Baseball Central, Westside Boxing Club, Pizza Hut, Panda Express, Subway, Walgreens, Baskin Robbins, Starbucks, McDonalds, Jack In the Box, Yum Yum Donuts, Winchells, and Imperial Party Rentals. They also have requested and received some support from other neighborhood councils such as OPNC and MINC. City departments such as EG Roberts Aquatic Center, Fire Station #68 and LAPD would also participate.

They also have some local radio station support, and they have also done outreach to local elementary school principals. They have done extensive outreach to local businesses and organizations. They are expecting over 1000 visitors.

There will be tables put out for the neighborhood councils to do outreach.

The presenter provided four budget breakdown alternatives, the lowest totaling \$5326.50, and the highest totaling \$20,312.68.

**MOTION:** Norman Gilmore moved that the governing board consider funding up to \$500.00 to be used toward the cost of food provided to the public at the above event.



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Stevie Stern seconded.

Vote: Three in favor, one opposed.

- G. Funding Request – UNNC outreach - purchase of a large bulletin board for posting UNNC agendas and flyers in the Benny H. Potter/West Adams Avenues Park – S. Stern – ACTION

The UNNC Bulletin Board at Benny Potter Park needs to be replaced. UNNC has a bulletin board available due to the Stop-In Center on Washington Blvd being closed. Billie Green will call Rec & Parks to ask them to provide the labor to replace the broken bulletin board with the one from the Stop-In Center.

Stevie Stern recommended that UNNC place an additional bulletin board in the main Benny Potter Park, since it is heavily used and this will enable UNNC to reach more people.

**MOTION:** Stevie Stern moved that the Governing Board consider funding up to \$1000 for a new UNNC bulletin board at Benny Potter Park.

Wesley Todd seconded.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

- H. Funding Request – UNNC Outreach – refrigerator magnets with UNNC information – S. Stern – ACTION

Stevie Stern presented a funding request to produce 1000 magnets printed with UNNC information for distribution at events and meetings. Stevie recommended reserving funds for up to three hours of design, totaling up to \$270. Production cost for 1000 magnets would be \$249 plus \$20 shipping.

**MOTION:** Stevie Stern moved that the Governing Board consider funding up to \$570 for design and production of 1000 magnets to promote UNNC.

Norman Gilmore seconded.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

- I. Funding Request – UNNC Outreach – pop-up tent with UNNC logo – S. Stern – ACTION

Stevie Stern presented a quote from EZ-Up for a 10x10 sun shelter (Model Eclipse II) with the UNNC logo and name printed on all sides for use at all events where UNNC does outreach. The quote will be updated to include a carrying case with built-in wheels for transport.

**MOTION:** Stevie Stern moved that the Governing Board consider funding up to \$2,500 for the purchase of a 10x10 EZ-Up portable with the UNNC logo and name printed on the top and sides.

Norman Gilmore seconded.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

- J. Funding Request – cases of water for meetings and events – S. Stern – ACTION

Stevie Stern requested funding for a case of water for events. This expense can be approved administratively as it is for direct use of UNNC.

- K. Request for UNNC resolution of support to continue adult and career education at Mid-Wilshire



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Center despite LAUSD considering the elimination of these classes – M. Cohen – ACTION

Item tabled.

- L. Request for UNNC-appointed liaison to Department of Animal Welfare – P. Darrigo – ACTION

Item handled out of order.

Paul Darrigo previously requested funding from UNNC for Reserve Animal Control Officer. 11 volunteers successfully completed the class. Unfortunately, 9 of the volunteers were also employed by Animal Control. They were taken off the volunteer duty due because Animal Services claims that federal law prevents employees from volunteering for their agency. Paul Darrigo claims the law more precisely forbids a person from volunteering for their job, but that, for example, a clerk should be able to volunteer as an animal control officer. Kathy Davis was the assistant general manager at the Animal Control Department, and originally agreed to this program. She did not follow up and explain Animal Control department employees could not volunteer as RACO. Paul has met with Richard Alarcon, Tom LaBonge and three other council members to ask for a motion asking the new General Manager, Brenda Barnett, to explain why this program cannot continue. This department has also not provided any performance data to the city. He also gave an example of really bad response time by Animal Control in responding to emergencies. The euthanasia rate in the city of LA animal shelters has increased to 47%. This is about 2000 animals a month, which Paul notes that number could reasonably be adopted out.

Paul Darrigo requested that UNNC write a letter of support to the mayor, copying the Department of Animal Services and our council member Herb Wesson, including the PAWS subcommittee of city council, asking for accountability regarding the RACO program, both regarding the lack of recruitment of volunteers and regarding the prevention of existing trained volunteers from participating.

**MOTION:** Norman Gilmore moved that UNNC write a letter to the mayor, the General Manager of Animal Services, and the PAWS subcommittee of city council, asking for accountability regarding RACO program, both regarding the lack of recruitment of volunteers and regarding the prevention of existing volunteers from participating.

Stevie Stern seconded.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

**MOTION:** Norman Gilmore moved that the UNNC board solicit volunteers to serve as the UNNC liaison for all animal welfare issues.

Wesley Todd seconded.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

- M. Review timeline for outreach and replacing two vacant board positions – S. Stern – ACTION

UNNC has a vacant at-large seat, and a vacant Region 3 (West Adams Avenues) seat.

Stevie Stern presented draft materials for outreach and candidate filing forms.

Stevie Stern proposed the following timeline:



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April 1 – Announce open seats, via the email list and the locations that UNNC publicly posts our agendas.

April 17<sup>th</sup> – Interviews at Executive Committee

May 3<sup>rd</sup> – Discuss and vote at Governing Board

Members of the executive committee had no objection to this timeline.

N. Review Board Member absences.

No board members are currently at risk of exceeding the maximum number of absences.

O. Plan agenda for the next Governing Board meeting.

Items noted above will be agendized for the Governing Board meeting.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Wesley Todd asked for updates on outstanding projects. He hasn't received an update on the Benny Potter Park cameras which were approved at the last meeting.

## COMMITTEE UPDATES

Norman Gilmore gave an update on the UNNC website project.

## OLD BUSINESS

Michele Lazzarino-Cortez is reworking the summer class program with Recreation and Parks input.

Ed Holder has sent a letter saying Mercy Housing agrees to comply with the positions requested in UNNC March 1, 2012 motion regarding the Jefferson Terrace 60 unit apartment project on Western Avenue.

Stevie Stern contacted LAUSD Board Member Margueritte LaMotte's office regarding the rumored/proposed baseball field. Stevie was told that Joint-Use agreements do not go through the board's office, but rather the school director. Stevie contacted the school director, who stated she was unaware of any pending or proposed Joint-Use agreement with a youth baseball league.

Myrna Allen gave an update on the Community Garden Academy.

Chris Carlson stated that the Western Heights curb bumpouts and gate landscaping were completed but the city was not signing off the permit because of two bollards that were presumably placed by a local business. After letting the local businesses know that the city expected the bollards to be removed, the bollards disappeared. However, the city claims that the sidewalks damaged by the bollards should be repaired as a condition of signing off on the permit. The neighborhood denies that they caused or had any responsibility for the bollards, or that they were in any way connected to this project. All UNNC approved funding for this project has been completed.

## NEW BUSINESS

None.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**MOTION:** Wesley Todd moved to approve the February 21, 2012 minutes.



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Norman Gilmore seconded.  
Vote: Approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned around 9:30 pm, I think.  
Respectfully submitted,  
Norman Gilmore  
UNNC Secretary  
March 26, 2012  
Attachments: None.