



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

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UNNC Governing Board Meeting

Thursday, October 4, 2012
Council District 10 Field Office
1819 S. Western Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90006

MINUTES

(approved November 1, 2012)

CALL TO ORDER

President Stevie Stern opened the meeting at 6:47 p.m. A quorum was present.

Members present: John Arnold, William Hernandez, Chris Carlson, Steve Wallis, Gus Harris, Jr., Wesley Todd, Elizabeth Fenner, Betty Phillips, Ed Turner, Jess Bravo, Jeff Camp, Billie Green, Laura Meyers, Dolores Spears, Sandra Pruitt, Myrna Allen, Norman Gilmore, Stevie Stern. (18 total).

Members absent: Betty Walton, Fletcher Kauffman, Andrea Dunlop, Roy Amemiya, Ruth Jones-Sawyer. (5 total).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Billie Green moved to approve the agenda.
William Hernandez seconded.
Vote: Approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Steve Wallis said the food tonight is from a new restaurant on Pico called Del Valle.

Ed Turner introduced Betty Anderson, a resident from Jefferson Park, who is interested in running for the board.

Dolores Spears said that the Mayor's budget proposal specifies 10% reductions in staff across the board, which means that city services will be cut proportionately.

Gus Harris, Jr. announced the Community Election forum to be held October 27th at Trinity Baptist from 10 a.m. to noon. Karen Bass, Maxine Waters, Rod Wright, Isadore Hall, Jackie Lacey, and Mike Davis will be panelists.

Donna Jones announced that West Adams Avenues is putting together a quarterly joint-neighborhood meeting for all UNNC neighborhoods.



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Donna Jones announced that the city will be considering gating some pedestrian bridges over the 10.

Jeff Camp announced that the Taste of Soul will be Saturday October 20th on Crenshaw.

Betty Phillips said that Trinity Baptist Church has a deadline for ads in (?).

Betty Anderson introduced herself as a resident of 29th Street in Jefferson Park who would like to run for the UNNC board as a Region 6 representative. Stevie Stern noted that since the candidate filing deadline has passed, after the election, UNNC will be publicly noticing the vacancy of Region 6 Resident Rep, and take applications at that time. The Board will appoint that representative.

Mark DeMan, introduced himself as a candidate for the UNNC Board, and stated that he has been a resident of Harvard Heights since 1988, and he is a recent retiree from LAUSD and that he served on a statewide committee in Sacramento related to state funds for school construction. He also is on the LANI advisory committee for the Normandie-Cordova Park.

Leigh Rosensteel-Patrick, a mother of a 7 year old and a volunteer at Arlington Heights Elementary presented herself as a candidate for the UNNC Board.

Carlton Stubbs introduced himself as a candidate for At-Large position on the UNNC Board. He is the park director for Benny Potter Park. He wants to encourage more youth involvement in UNNC.

He is also looking for judges for the South Seas House Halloween costume contest.

He also announced that there is a book drop off at the South Seas house for a charter school that is collecting books for elementary school age children. (but not sure if only certain books are sought or if it is for a fund-raising book sale.)

Charlzetta Driver is running for an At-Large position on the board. She is a veteran of the armed forces and a mother, and is interested in working on solutions. She wants to make sure that our community has all the resources that people need from food to medical resources.

Marilyn Romero presented herself as a candidate running for Jefferson Park Resident Representative.

Gus Harris, Jr. announced that he is running for the UNNC Board as an At-Large Representative.

Sandra Pruitt announced that she is running for the UNNC Board as an At-Large Representative.

Rosalie Preston, Independent Election Administrator, thanked all of the candidates for running for office.

COUNCIL DISTRICT 10 UPDATE

Albert Lord said that due to a lawsuit against the city of Los Angeles, the city cannot currently collect items that appear to be abandoned because they may belong to homeless people. Albert Lord said the Taste-of-Soul will be bigger than ever this year.

Albert Lord also discussed potential viewing options for the Shuttle Endeavour transport from LAX to the California Science Museum.



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Albert noted that Jefferson Park Terrace, the new apartment building being built by Mercy Housing, is inviting the community to the cornerstone placement ceremony on October 15th.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- A. Funding Request – solar lighting for Jefferson Park sign on Jefferson just west of Western – Rev. Marzette – **ACTION**

Rev. Marzette introduced himself, Alvin Tunstill, and Bill Holden, the owner of Greencrest Lighting Company.

Rev. Marzette presented a proposal to light the Jefferson Park entry monument on Jefferson Blvd just west of Western Avenue. The sign was originally designed to have lighting, but lighting installation was not completed when the sign was originally installed in 2003. The electrical installation needs to be completed and a responsible party identified for the monthly electric bill.

Rev. Marzette stated that LAPD also supports the project since they are of the opinion that improved lighting helps neighborhood pride.

Rev. Marzette also presented a letter from LANI supporting the project. LANI was an original funder of the sign and has matching funds available to contribute to the current upgrade.

Bill Holden of Greencrest held up a scale foam mockup of a section of the I-beam showing two letters and the approximate dark umber color of the sign, and demonstrated to the board how the sign would look with LEDs pointed at the I-Beam behind the letters, and how it would look with the LEDs in front of the letters.

MOTION: (see amended motion below) Norman Gilmore moved that UNNC fund up to \$3200 for the parts and installation needed to upgrade the Jefferson Park entry sign with electrical power and lighting.

Stevie Stern seconded.

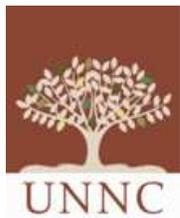
Rev. Marzette clarified that Jefferson Park Improvement Project put together the Jefferson Park BID.

Laura Meyers asked if they have undergone any review or approvals relating to the Jefferson Park HPOZ. They have not.

Laura Meyers asked if Rev. Marzette had approached the NC for funding that is on the south side of Jefferson (Empowerment Congress North Area). They have not.

John Arnold asked who owned the sign, and who will maintain it. Rev. Marzette said that the Jefferson Park Business Improvement District will be responsible for maintenance. The businesses and churches in Jefferson Park are members of the BID.

Steve Wallis said he was concerned that \$3200 was a large amount of the \$11,887 available for Neighborhood Improvement projects through the rest of the fiscal year.



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John Arnold said he was confident that he could raise \$200 in the neighborhood to support the sign upgrade, and as a result, the request to UNNC could be reduced by that amount.

Rev. Marzette noted that the Southwest Area Clergy Police Council also submitted a letter in support.

MOTION: (after friendly amendments) Norman Gilmore moved that UNNC fund up to three-thousand dollars (\$3000) for the parts and installation needed to upgrade the Jefferson Park entry signs with electrical power and lighting.; provided that the appropriate clearances are obtained with respect to the Jefferson Park HPOZ. (reduced to \$3000 after accepting a friendly amendment from John Arnold.)

Vote: 11 in favor, 1 opposed, 5 abstentions.

It was the sentiment of the board that the letters on the sign should be backlit.

B. Funding Request – Jefferson Park HPOZ mailing targeting non-resident property owners – A. Arlington – ACTION

John Arnold reviewed the recent formation of the Jefferson Park HPOZ and the outreach activities that had been done in connection with that, such as the UNNC funded doorhanger that was distributed to all addresses in the Jefferson Park HPOZ. It announced the formation of the HPOZ in both English in Spanish.

However, the concern is that many buildings in the HPOZ are owned by absentee owners, and that tenants are unlikely to have provided the doorhanger to their landlords.

On behalf of Audrey Arlington, the project manager, and Jefferson Park United, John Arnold presented a funding request for printing, folding, inserting, addressing, and postage for mailing a letter explaining the HPOZ to absentee owners, letting them know where to find additional information and who to talk to at the city, and showing a map of the HPOZ.

The mailer would also include a copy of the city produced and provided brochure HPOZ Living.

The project has obtained a list of 500 names and addresses of property owners in the Jefferson Park HPOZ who are likely absentee owners (i.e., landlords).

The funding request included a quote for all the above services from FedEx office for \$426.03.

MOTION: Norman Gilmore moved the above funding request for \$426.03 be funded by UNNC for printing, postage and services related to distributing a letter and brochure to a list of 500 property owners in the Jefferson Park HPOZ.
William Hernandez seconded.

Chris Carlson asked if WAHA had been approached for funding. Laura Meyers said that previously WAHA has put about \$10,000 into the Jefferson Park HPOZ, and has expended all funds available for the Jefferson Park HPOZ at this point.

Vote: 12 in favor, none opposed, 5 abstentions.



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C. Review protocol for making motions before the governing board

Billie Green and Norman Gilmore explained that Chairs are encouraged to make the motions coming out of their committees at the end of their introduction of the issue or proposal to the Governing Board.

Committees will be offered, **as a courtesy**, the first opportunity to make the motions that are being recommended by their committee. The committee chair is encouraged to offer their motion immediately after the initial presentation of the committee report on their proposed motion, **before discussion starts**. Once discussion starts, anyone may make a motion on the subject as usual. So committee chairs should be prepared if they want the courtesy of introducing a motion first.

As funding requests come through Executive Committee, the Executive Committee would like to have the opportunity to offer the first motion made for funding requests. Since the Executive Committee Chair is Chairing that portion of the Governing Board meeting, another member of the Executive Committee may move the funding request. The exception would be funding requests that come through committees, such as Economic Development. In that case, the committee chair or a member of that committee will be offered the first chance to make the funding motion. If they decline, the Executive Committee may then make the initial motion.

Of course, if the board does not pass the first motion, any board member may step in to offer a new motion.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

A. Planning & Zoning Committee

1. West Adams-Baldwin Hills-Leimert Park Community Plan REVISION: Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) and Draft Plan Update

The updated/revised Community Plan for the UNNC neighborhoods west of Arlington and south of Pico has been released; the Plan will shape the future of this community for the next 20 years, guiding future growth, and having as its stated goals “protecting neighborhood character, creating new economic opportunity, and enhancing the quality of life for all who live, work, visit and invest in the area.” The documents include proposed zone changes (including mixed use on some of the commercial corridors), some special overlay zone areas, and the initial results of Survey L.A. Recommendation that UNNC request an extension of the Comment Period, and in lieu of that, that the final decision for UNNC comments be delegated to a meeting of the UNNC Executive Committee, which shall be authorized to act on behalf of the Governing Board. -
DISCUSSION AND ACTION

MOTION: Laura Meyers moved that UNNC write a letter to Michael Logrande, Alan Bell, Ken Bernstein, and the planners, Arthi Varma and Reuben Caldwell to extend the deadline for comments on the West Adams, Leimert Park, Baldwin Hills Community Plan Draft and EIR.

Norman Gilmore seconded.



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Vote: 13 in favor, none opposed, 5 abstentions.

MOTION: Laura Meyers moved that the final UNNC comments on the West Adams, Leimert Park, Baldwin Hills Community Plan draft be delegated to a UNNC Executive Committee meeting in the event that the Planning Department refuses to extend the deadline until after the next regularly scheduled UNNC Governing Board meeting. Norman Gilmore seconded.

Vote: 13 in favor, none opposed, 5 abstentions.

Laura discussed that the new plan specifies the wrong setback policy for Washington Blvd.

Furthermore, the Survey LA results are incorporated as an appendix, but in the opinion of the Planning Committee there are many disputable elements of the Survey LA results, and therefore it would be undesirable to lock the incorrect elements in under CEQA by incorporating Survey LA as an appendix in its current state.

B. Historic Preservation Committee Arnold
No updates.

C. UNNC October 27, 2012 Elections Stern
1. Updates, Outreach, and Volunteer opportunities
Dolores Spears updated the volunteer lists for upcoming election outreach events.
2. Budget – **ACTION.**

MOTION: Stevie Stern moved that UNNC contribute \$100 to the DONE radio ad election outreach campaign. Dolores Spears seconded.
Vote: None in favor, 9 opposed, 9 abstentions.

D. Committee Reports (as needed)
Stevie Stern discussed a letter to the Executive Committee drafted by Tree Committee Chair Andrea Dunlop. The letter would be sent to companies along Washington Blvd and ask them to voluntarily take care of necessary tree trimming.

Andrea Dunlop called PXP Oil and they were very receptive to trimming the trees along the parkways by their property. Since being contacted, board members have observed tree trimming in action. PXP has about 15 trees along their property.

Chris Carlson noted that a number of olive trees were planted along Washington Blvd near 4th Ave. The planting locations seemed non-standard, and Chris called to check if they were a city initiative.

Chris Carlson, Chair of the Education Committee, noted that the fall statewide ballot includes crucial funding initiatives Proposition 30 and 38, and without one of them passing, the schools will take a huge hit and the academic year will likely be cut one month.

LAUSD is already 17 days short of the traditional calendar.



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TREASURER'S REPORT

A. Approval of monthly expenses and Bank statement – W. Todd – **ACTION**

Wesley Todd presented the September 21, 2012 US Bank Statement for approval.

MOTION: William Hernandez moved to approve the US Bank Statement.

Myrna Allen seconded.

Vote: 12 in favor, none opposed, 6 abstaining.

MINUTES

Norman Gilmore presented the September 6, 2012 Governing Board Minutes for approval.

MOTION: Jeff Camp moved to accept the minutes with corrections as noted.

Billie Green seconded.

Vote: 16 in favor, none opposed, 2 abstentions.

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

A. Thanks to Steve Wallis for arranging dinner from Del Valle. John Arnold volunteered to arrange food for November.

Stevie Stern mentioned that the LANI Grant Beautification grant can still be applied for. Deadline is October 29th.

Mercy Housing will be presenting at the next Planning and Zoning meeting, probably about the colors of the new Jefferson Park Terrace apartment building on Western.

There is a community day of service organized by CD10. Volunteers will be meeting at 8:30 on October 27th. (Note, this is the same day as the UNNC Election.)

A few months ago (in the last fiscal year), UNNC voted to fund \$1500 to a local non-profit, Kitty Bungalow. They have a variety of programs, including education, outreach, feral cat socialization, and feline spay & neuter. Because one of their programs is Trap Neuter and Release, the City Attorney held up the funds. DONE, instead of holding on to our funds to wait a resolution, returned the UNNC funds to the city general fund. UNNC has clarified its motion to make sure that UNNC funds would not be spent on programs that release cats back into the community.

Stevie Stern said that it is her feeling that DONE should go to city council and request the money back from the general fund since it was an error on the part of DONE. This was also the sentiment of the board.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CicLaVia is on Sunday.



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Meeting adjourned at 9:28 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,
Norman Gilmore
UNNC Secretary
October 26, 2012
Attachments: None.

n.b. Chris Carlson, Jess Bravo, Laura Meyers, William Hernandez and Ed Turner abstained from voting at this meeting.