



# 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, November 1, 2012  
Council District 10 Field Office  
1819 S. Western Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA 90006

### MINUTES

(approved December 6, 2012)

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

President Stevie Stern opened the meeting at 6:44 p.m. A quorum was present.

**Members present:** Betty Walton, Fletcher Kauffman, Andrea Dunlop, John Arnold, William Hernandez, Steve Wallis, Gus Harris, Jr., Wesley Todd, Betty Phillips, Ed Turner, Jess Bravo, Jeff Camp, Billie Green, Laura Meyers, Dolores Spears, Sandra Pruitt, Myrna Allen, Norman Gilmore, Stevie Stern. (19 total).

**Members absent:** Elizabeth Fenner, Chris Carlson, Roy Amemiya, Ruth Jones-Sawyer. (4 total).

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Billie Green moved to approve the agenda.

Betty Walton seconded.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

#### **HONORING OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS AND SWEARING IN OF NEWLY ELECTED**

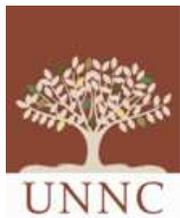
##### **BOARD MEMBERS**

Stevie Stern reported that the UNNC Election went smoothly.

Stevie Stern recognized outgoing board members Gus Harris, Jr., Steve Wallis, and Ruth Jones-Sawyer for their service to UNNC.

Stevie announced the newly elected board members.

Betty Walton – Region 1  
Billie Green – Region 2  
Elizabeth Fenner – Region 3  
Andrea Dunlop – Region 4  
Norman Gilmore – Region 5



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**At Large Representatives:**

William Hernandez  
Jessica Bravo  
Sandra Pruitt  
John Arnold  
Carlton Stubbs  
Anthony Carter

Michael Bai swore in the new board members.

**New board attendance:**

**Members present:** Elizabeth Fenner, Betty Walton, Fletcher Kauffman, Andrea Dunlop, John Arnold, William Hernandez, Wesley Todd, Betty Phillips, Ed Turner, Jess Bravo, Jeff Camp, Billie Green, Laura Meyers, Dolores Spears, Sandra Pruitt, Myrna Allen, Norman Gilmore, Stevie Stern, Anthony Carter, Carlton Stubbs. (20 total).

**Members absent:** Chris Carlson, Roy Amemiya. (2 total).

n.b.: Region 6, Seat 1 is currently open.

**ELECTION OF UNNC GOVERNING BOARD OFFICERS**

Stevie Stern opened the floor for nominations for UNNC Officers. Self-nominations are accepted.

All board members were provided with a copy of the UNNC Responsibilities of Officers document.

Individuals may decline to be nominated. When asked if interested, Jeff Camp responded “Heck No”.

**MOTION:** Laura Meyers moved to nominate existing officers by acclamation.  
Myrna Allen seconded.

Each of the below officers indicated their willingness to consider serving in their respective roles.

President: Stevie Stern  
Vice-President: Billie Green  
Treasurer: Wesley Todd  
Secretary: Norman Gilmore

Vote: Approved unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mike Feuer, currently the Majority Policy Leader of the California Assembly, introduced himself as a candidate for Los Angeles City Attorney in 2013. He has previously been a Los Angeles City Councilman for six years.

Mike directed one of the country’s leading public interest law firms, Bet Tzedek, which helped more than 50,000 elderly or disabled clients on cases involving nursing home abuse, consumer fraud and access to health care.



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On the city council he wrote tough anti-gun violence laws. He wrote the laws to create the 311 system in Los Angeles.

Ami Motevalli invited the UNNC Board to a personal tour of their exhibit “Dragon’s Flight”. She thanked UNNC for funding the electronic equipment purchased for William Grant Still Center. The exhibit includes works by prisoners who have been in solitary confinement.

Dianne Lawrence, editor for the Neighborhood News, announced the Neighborhood News video library of local events, and encouraged people to sign up for her email list of local events and announcements.

Betty Walton thanked all the volunteers who worked at the polls for the NC Elections on last Saturday. She also said that the cleanup went well.

Melvin Canas from Department of Neighborhood Empowerment welcomed the new and returning board members. Melvin invited the new board members to this coming Saturday’s orientation and training. There is also a “Councils for Councils” program for veteran board members. The training this Saturday is an overview and does not include ethics training.

The mayor’s community budget day is on Saturday, November 17, 2012 at 8:00 am at City Hall.

Dolores Spears, Outreach Chairperson of the UNNC Election Ad-Hoc committee, thanked Betty Walton, Betty Phillips, Gus, William, Wesley, and Sandra and her daughter who all worked at the Taste-of-Soul outreach table.

Chris McCain, a resident of Western Heights, has been on a crusade to eliminate fire hazards, specifically overgrown brush. He is a member of the LAFD Community Emergency Response Team and volunteers with the local fire station.

Sandra Pruitt announced that on November 15<sup>th</sup>, there will be a community meeting about remodeling the Leslie Shaw Park to discuss ideas for the park with Mike Schull. It will be from 6:30 to 8:00 pm at the Jefferson Park Library.

Sandra Pruitt said she would like to organize a blood drive.

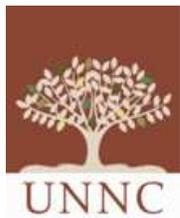
Carlton Stubbs said that every year they work with the engineering students at USC to discuss ways of fixing the house next to the South Seas House, which the city owns, but is not currently used while funds are sought for lead abatement and restoration. One of the USC engineering groups sent out a survey for community members to fill out.

Community members can contact Carlton if they would like to hear the presentations by the USC students with their ideas.

Gus Harris, Jr. said he had learned a lot from serving on the UNNC board and appreciated the opportunity to serve. He looks forward to continuing to work with UNNC and the community.

Rashad Rucker-Trapp, a DONE representative, said that they were entering the voter information and voter survey into a database for use by the neighborhood council.

Ed Turner announced that Trinity Baptist’s 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration is coming up.



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## COUNCIL DISTRICT 10 UPDATE

Billie Green said that 500 people showed up for the community cleanup from Pico to Washington and Arlington to Normandie.

The Winter Wonderland event this year will be Saturday December 15<sup>th</sup>.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- A. Request for UNNC Support and MOU regarding the formation of a new Charter school in the West Adams area (location TBA) – A. Dunlop – **ACTION**

Mia Marano presented on behalf of a group of parents from the West Adams neighborhoods who are working to form the City School West Adams first through third grade charter school. This parent group is working to start a new bi-lingual charter school (Possibly Spanish and French). They need to finish raising \$250,000, as well as take other steps in getting the charter school approved.

They approached the founders of Larchmont, Larchmont West Hollywood, Valley, Citizens of the World Silverlake which are very high performing schools in LAUSD. They have a constructivist teaching philosophy. Their API scores are consistently better across various groups. They are proposing a school that would focus on language immersion.

The school has submitted their charter application to LAUSD. They are actively fundraising to meet the funding requirements to start the school.

Mia Marano stated that she feels the school would retain the diversity of the neighborhood within the school, and increase the social connections within the neighborhood.

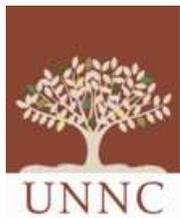
Laura Meyers noted that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as noted on the agenda is a contract, and the Neighborhood Council cannot enter into contracts that are outside the guidelines of the City Attorney.

Norman Gilmore read the Executive Committee sample motion that: UNNC Governing Board consider sending a letter addressed to LAUSD expressing UNNC's support of quality education, school choice, parent involvement, and dual language immersion programs.

Norman Gilmore clarified that the Executive Committee motion did not contemplate identifying a specific school by name.

Norman Gilmore noted that the issues raised at Executive Committee had not been put in a revised letter. He suggested that the issue was not ripe for decision and should be referred to the Education Committee for further discussion.

Stevie Stern was concerned about the MOU being one-sided. Because the school is not in existence yet, it is hard to have a mutual negotiation about how the school and community will relate to each other.



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John Arnold asked why we could not write a letter of support.

Laura Meyers suggested that we could write a letter of support for the concept of the school. She said it wasn't the role of the Neighborhood Council to recommend specific schools, nor should the letter imply support for any school location to be selected later.

Ms. Marano stated that Devora Inwood wrote the charter and is their founder educator. Lindsay Sterman is a co-founder who participated in forming the schools referenced above.

Norman Gilmore re-read the sample Executive Committee motion, and Mia Marano noted that reflecting neighborhood diversity would be another key element of their school philosophy.

Anthony Carter asked Mia Marano what the purpose of the letter is, and what the potential consequences were for having or not having the letter.

She answered that City School West Adams has submitted their 500 page charter to LAUSD but they are seeking to enhance their documented support from local organizations in the neighborhood.

**MOTION:** Norman Gilmore moved that the UNNC Governing Board send a letter addressed to LAUSD expressing UNNC's support of the City School West Adams philosophy of quality education, school choice, parent involvement, dual language immersion programs, and recruitment of a student population reflecting the diversity of UNNC neighborhoods. Jeff Camp seconded.

Vote: 15 in favor, none opposed, 4 abstentions.

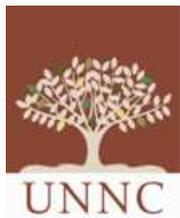
## **B. Funding Request – Rebuilding Harvard Heights monument at Venice and Westmoreland in conjunction with LANI Beautification Matching Grant – M. DeMan – ACTION**

Steve Wallis and Mark DeMan presented a funding request for restoring a granite monument in Harvard Heights, in particular stripping the paint which has accumulated from years of graffiti paint-outs. The monument is on the southeast corner of Venice and Westmoreland. The monument has been painted so many times the lettering is getting filled in.

The Harvard Heights Neighborhood Association is applying to LANI for a neighborhood maintenance grant of \$3000. If LANI does not approve the grant, HHNA would fund the shortfall.

The low bidder of two was Spectra Company, for \$4,142 dollars, and Harvard Heights is asking for \$750 from UNNC toward the restoration cost. Harvard Heights Neighborhood Association is committing to \$392 minimum contribution.

**MOTION:** Norman Gilmore moved that UNNC contribute \$750.00 to remove paint and refurbish the granite street monument on the southeast corner of Venice and Westmoreland, including re-grouting, abating lead-based paint materials, applying anti-graffiti coating, and related services; subject to approval of the LANI grant. Andrea Dunlop seconded.



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Vote: 16 in favor, none opposed, 4 abstentions.

C. Funding Request – UNNC banners in conjunction with LANI Beautification Matching Grant – J. Bravo, UNNC Economic Development Committee – **ACTION**

Jessica Bravo and Andrea Dunlop presented a funding request from the UNNC Economic Development committee. During the year, various windstorms damage some of the street banners that identify various neighborhoods within the UNNC boundaries. The current bid from AAA Banner is \$12,856.25 to print and mount 104 neighborhood banners.

LANI has informed them that this project is within their funding guidelines.

The Econ Dev committee, in cooperation with West Adams Heights Neighborhood Association north of the freeway and West Adams Avenues south of the freeway, has submitted two separate grant requests to LANI. Each LANI grant request is for the maximum of \$3000.00. This would leave a balance of \$6,856.25 to be funded by UNNC.

**MOTION:** Norman Gilmore moved that UNNC fund \$3,378.13, in association with West Adams Heights Neighborhood Association and LANI, for repair and replacement of neighborhood street banners north of the 10 freeway.

Andrea Dunlop seconded.

The board discussed the UNNC budget and how all the current projects would impact the project.

Elizabeth Fenner and Steve Peckman both endorsed the banners but asked if the banners could be made more durable against wind storms.

Vote: 16 in favor, none opposed, 4 abstentions.

**MOTION:** Norman Gilmore moved that UNNC fund \$3,478.13, in association with West Adams Avenues and LANI, for repair and replacement of neighborhood street banners south of the 10 freeway.

Betty Walton seconded.

Vote: 16 in favor, none opposed, 4 abstentions.

D. Funding Request – Jefferson Park metal HPOZ signs in conjunction with LANI beautification Matching Grant – S. Peckman - **ACTION**.

Steve Peckman, on behalf of Jefferson Park United, presented a funding request for 30” x 30” metal signs marking the Jefferson Park HPOZ. There are about 2000 structures within the HPOZ.

Jefferson Park United, in cooperation with West Adams Heritage Association and UNNC, previously did extensive outreach to all affected properties, with doorhangers in English and Spanish distributed to all affected parcels both before and after the June 2011 adoption of the HPOZ.

The Department of Transportation has approved 12 locations.



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The funding request is for \$793.25 from UNNC, out of a total projected project cost of \$2379.75, to produce and install 26 metal signs.

Steve Peckman said that the LANI Maintenance Matching Fund is being asked for the balance of \$1,586.60.

**MOTION:** Norman Gilmore moved that UNNC fund up to \$793.25 for the design, manufacture, and installation costs for 12 signs designating the Jefferson Park HPOZ, subject to approval of the LANI grant.

Jeff Camp seconded.

John Arnold, a member of the Jefferson Park HPOZ Ad-Hoc committee, said that the committee had reviewed the proposal and voted to recommend that the UNNC Board approve this proposal.

The signs are coated with FCAL which is an anti-graffiti coating, which allows warm water and mild soap to remove graffiti.

Vote: 16 in favor, none opposed, 4 abstentions.

## COMMITTEE BUSINESS

### A. Planning & Zoning Committee

West Adams-Baldwin Hills-Leimert 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.). Comment Period is until November 13, 2012. - DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Laura Meyers presented a large approximately 30” by 48” map of the West Adams, Baldwin Hills, Leimert Community Plan with zoning color coded.

The plan itself is not final. The Draft Environmental Impact Report is out, and the comment period ends November 13, 2012.

The northern boundary of the plan is Pico, and the Eastern boundary is Arlington. Thus the southwest corner of UNNC intersects the northeast quadrant of the above Community Plan.

Laura Meyers reviewed photographs of Jefferson Park showing that a single family area was still zoned for higher density apartments. For example, the zoning in some places might allow a developer to build 14 units on three combined single family lots.



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It was noted that if every density bonus was granted, the total units could be increased 35% over the 20,000 increase in capacity currently proposed.

Betty Walton, Jessica Bravo, and Jeff Camp departed.

Laura Meyers went through the list of 11 questions and concerns raised by the Planning and Zoning Committee recommendations regarding the Community Plan. (attached).

**MOTION:** Laura Meyers moved that UNNC draft a letter, to be approved by the Executive Committee, commenting on the West Adams, Baldwin Hills, and Leimert Community Plan Draft Environment Impact Statement, addressing the issues raised by the committee (attached) and other issues that may be identified by the comment deadline.

Billie Green seconded.

There was discussion about the about the Washington Blvd. specific plan endorsed by the UNNC board several years ago.

John Arnold noted that the primary issue is that the nice sounding goals of the community plan are not fully reflected in the technical implementation.

Stevie Stern asked when we should ask Councilman Wesson for support.

Vote: 14 in favor, none opposed, 3 abstentions.

## B. UNNC October 27, 2012 Elections

Stern

### 1. Debrief.

Stevie thanked Dolores, Sandra, Billie, and Rosalie who all gave a ton of time to the election. Stevie thanked the Election Committee members.

There are seven NCs in Region 10, and six elections were held. UNNC had the most candidates and most voters in Region 10.

Rosalie Preston said that UNNC did a great job of election outreach.

Rosalie recommended that UNNC carefully document the pros and cons of how the election was run by DONE. The City Clerk is interested in running the election in two years.

Rosalie suggested that at the next election the City Clerk could certify candidates and DONE run the election. She said the certifying candidates was very labor intensive.

Ed Turner departed.

Billie Green thanked Wesley Todd for running around and buying stuff needed for the election.



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## 2. Budget – ACTION.

Stevie presented a complete accounting of the Election expenses. (attached)

The election came in \$12 under the approved budget.

- C. Committee Reports (as needed)  
None.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

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

Wesley Todd presented the October 22, 2012 US Bank Statement for approval.

**MOTION:** Billie Green moved to approve the US Bank Statement.  
Betty Phillips seconded.  
Vote: 13 in favor, none opposed, 2 abstentions.

## MINUTES

Norman Gilmore presented the October 4, 2012 Governing Board Minutes for approval.

**MOTION:** Betty Phillips moved to accept the minutes as presented.  
Sandra Pruitt seconded.  
Vote: 11 in favor, none opposed, 4 abstentions.

## PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

- A. New, Continuing, and Old Business

President Stevie Stern reminded everyone of the DONE board training this Saturday morning.

Stevie reminded new board members about the need to take ethics training within four months. The training and test are available online.

There are multiple standing committees and several ad-hoc committees, and UNNC will be electing committee chairs next month.

We need candidates for Region 6 Resident Representative.

Stevie reviewed the status of the \$2,500 approved by UNNC on May 3, 2012 for Kitty Bungalow. The funds were to be used for education, outreach, and spay/neuter programs. We were under the impression that when the funds were delayed for City Attorney review, that DONE had returned those funds to the city general fund at end of the fiscal year. Stevie has now learned, that previously unbeknownst to us, the funds actually were added into our rollover funds, which we just spent as our election budget.



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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Marius Stelly introduced himself as a candidate for the Region 6 Resident Representative.

Meeting adjourned at 9:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Norman Gilmore

UNNC Secretary

December 6, 2012

Attachments:

UNNC Questions, Concerns, and Recommendations regarding the West Adams, Baldwin Hills, and Leimert Community Plan Draft EIR.

Election Budget Closeout Summary

**West Adams-Baldwin Hills-Leimert Park Community Plan  
Concerns/Issues/Comments (from the UNNC Planning & Zoning Committee)**

We have begun to evaluate this proposed Plan Update and its associated Draft Environmental Impact Report based on certain citywide policies already in place, among them:

- The mandate to “Conserve Character Neighborhoods” (Framework Element)
- The mandate to handle additional housing unit capacity primarily (or entirely) on the City’s commercial corridors and in its Regional Centers (Downtown, Hollywood, Century City, Warner Center)
- The concept of “Fair Share” for Affordable Housing to be spread among all 35 Community Plans and not concentrated in South Los Angeles
- It doesn’t seem as if the goals in the policy statements are well-aligned with the actual, technical Plan

So, we have identified about a dozen broad questions and concerns (so far):

1). The Housing Capacity number (20,000 additional housing units) identified in the draft Plan does not appear realistic, appropriate or representing a fair share of the City’s total mandate – without risking changing the character of our residential neighborhoods and going against goals stated in the Plan. *(By way of comparison, the Hollywood Community Plan adds 15,000 units; the combined Sylmar and Granada Hills Plans subtract 10,000 units.)*

2). How did the Plan authors get the number 20,000? Is this number based on the use of transit and/or affordable housing density bonuses? *(Quick answer is “no” – the density bonuses have not been calculated.)*

3). If there are these increases (perhaps dramatic housing unit capacity increases) why are there not some corresponding decreases in zoning designations within character residential neighborhoods?

4). What is the reasoning behind the transit-oriented “nodes” along Arlington Avenue? (*UNNC previously raised an objection to this, at a scoping meeting.*)

5). Historic Preservation issues:

- \* Arlington Heights HPOZ recommendation in the Survey L.A. appendix

- \* Why is Survey L.A. an appendix? Other issues related to this.

6). Parks – there are currently 414 acres of parks and open space, but of that 285 acres (70%) is Kenneth Hahn Park in the Baldwin Hills. There are 11 pocket parks, 2 neighborhood parks and 5 community parks in the entire Community Plan area.

- \* The Plan does not seem to identify any other potential parks, and the Draft EIR does not address this lack of parks and recreational opportunities.

7). Pedestrian/Walkability – the Mobility section (section 4) skipped Jefferson, Washington and Pico boulevards.

8). Bicycle Policy – How is the Community Plan going to implement citywide bicycle policies?

9). Washington Boulevard Specific Plan: UNNC voted (2004-2005) to propose the adoption of a Specific Plan for Washington Boulevard, from Normandie to Crenshaw. Although staff assured us over the years that its “elements” would be a part of the Community Plan revisions, that does not appear to entirely be the case. (*We recommend ratifying once again UNNC’s support for a Specific Plan on Washington Boulevard, as previously written and approved.*)

10). Libraries – How was the number of people served evaluated?

11). We would like a clarification of “projected” versus “potential.”

## UNNC Elections October 27, 2012

### Final Expenses

#### Budget

Monies encumbered from 2011-2012	\$8,355.79
Extra funds per Governing Board vote in September 2012	<u>\$ 500.00</u>
	\$8,855.79

#### Expenses

GotPrint.com – flyers and Come Out and Vote door hangers	\$2,129.02
GotPrint.com – 2 <sup>nd</sup> door hangers	\$1,818.12
Walking Man distribution – 2 rounds of door hangers	\$3,200.00
Artwork and graphics by Linda Frost	\$ 886.42
Ad in the Neighborhood News	\$ 375.00
Ad in WAHA Newsletter	\$ 100.00
Ralph’s - platters for Candidates Meet & Greet	\$ 149.96
Food For Less – drinks/snacks/paper goods for Meet & Greet and Election day	\$ 15.22
Winchell’s – for volunteers on Election day	\$ 22.47
Subway – sandwiches for Election day volunteers	\$ 120.06
Smart & Final	\$ 123.09
Smart & Final	<u>\$ 4.33</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES FOR 2012 ELECTION	\$8,843.69