



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

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UNNC Governing Board Meeting

Thursday, February 7, 2013
Council District 10 Field Office
1819 S. Western Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90006

MINUTES

(approved March 7, 2013)

CALL TO ORDER

Stevie Stern opened the meeting at 6:49 p.m. A quorum was present.

Members present: Chris Carlson, Billie Green, Andrea Dunlop, Bettye Smith-Anderson, Jeff Camp, Anthony Carter, John Arnold, Laura Meyers, Elizabeth Fenner, William Hernandez, Myrna Allen, Sandra Pruitt, Betty Phillips, Norman Gilmore, Stevie Stern, Wesley Todd, Roy Amemiya. (17 total).

Members absent: Carlton Stubbs, Fletcher Kauffman, Dolores Spears, Jess Bravo, Betty Walton, Ed Turner. (6 total).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Billie Green moved to approve the agenda with the addition of item 5C for committee updates as needed, and correcting that Item 7 to include approval of both December 2012 and January 2013 minutes.

Bettye Smith-Anderson seconded.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Maryam Hosseinzadeh from William Grant Still Art Center announced that they are honoring the composer Sun-Ra with a music festival. There is a special performance from 3pm to 6pm with Dale Williams and Mark Tribble, and many other great performers.

They are starting music and art classes for kids now at the center. Music classes are mostly filled, but there are openings in the free art classes. Maryam left a copy of the William Grant Still Winter & Spring calendar.

Keisha Sexton from the office of Congresswoman Karen Bass introduced herself. She noted that Karen Valencia is the staff member assigned to our neighborhood. Karen Bass was re-elected to represent the 37th district. The Congresswoman had a recent workshop for homeowners dealing with both foreclosure and home buying.



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The Congresswoman is interested in having the community fill out a survey on issues that people feel Congresswoman Bass should be working on as priorities.

Elizabeth Fenner noted that West Adams Prep Heights won the local round of the national high school healthy cooking competition.

Elizabeth Fenner offered to be a point person to collect specially marked box tops for the Support Our Schools campaign. Schools can redeem these box tops for ten cents each.

Andrea Dunlop announced that the City School West Adams charter application was approved by LAUSD, and they are moving on to principal selection and site selection.

Sandra Pruitt announced that the blood drive at Frederick Douglass was a success.

Sandra also announced that the next meeting of the Leslie Shaw Park steering committee is Thursday February 21st.

Christine Carlson announced that a Parent Trigger Petition for 24th Street Elementary School was accepted by LAUSD. So the parents are now able to put forward proposals for restructuring the school.

Billie Green said that there will be a full ethics training in the evening here at the CD10 space. Board members have to take the ethics training or test every two years.

COUNCIL DISTRICT 10 UPDATE

There is a kick-off ceremony for African American History month at City Hall. The presentation is at 10am at the John Feraro Council Chambers, with the event continuing nearby at the mall.

This year Shirley and Bernard Kensy have contributed some of their collection for the display at the City Hall Bridge until March 1st.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- A. Jeff Jacobberger presented an update on plans for bike paths in Los Angeles. He is Herb Wesson's appointee to the Bicycle Advisory Committee. Jeff.Jacobberger@gmail.com, 323-646-3308

He was joined by Eric Bruins (eric@la-bike.org), Planning & Policy Director, LA County Bicycle Coalition. <http://la-bike.org/>

Jeff presented an update on the bike plan.

First, some definitions.

Bike Lanes – part of roadway dedicated to bikes

Bike Paths – exclusive bike facility

Bike Routes – sign on a street, but nothing else

Bike Sharrows – marks on street showing where bikes go

Bicycle Friendly Streets – collector or local street with signage and two additional traffic calming



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measures

Bike Bus lanes – buses and bikes sharing a lane.

In 2011, the City adopted a new bike plan. The plan includes 1680 miles of bikeways. Before the city implements a bikeway, it will conduct outreach to affected communities.

Overall goals of the city bicycle plan are:

- Increase number and type of bicyclists in Los Angeles
- Make every street a safe place to ride a bicycle
- Make the City of Los Angeles a bicycle-friendly community

The two upcoming proposal that affect our neighborhood are:

- Extend bike lane on Venice to downtown
- Connect Vermont bike lane from Venice to Wilshire

On Venice from Crenshaw to Arlington, the road would be restriped from two lanes in each direction to a car lane, and a bike lane and a continuous left turn lane. With the continuous left turn lane (not just at lights), any car wanting to turn left will not block the #1 lane, and cars waiting to turn left at lights will not fill up the left turn lane and block the #1 lane.

On Venice from Arlington to Figueroa, there would be a peak hour bus-bike lane. Bus bike lanes are feasible because bikes and urban buses both average about 12 mph.

Jeff presented tables from DOT traffic studies and traffic study simulations. The tables show existing peak hour traffic delays along Venice at each light, and the simulations show estimated times after the proposed restriping with bike lanes.

On February 14th there will be a public hearing downtown at the Caltrans building about the new proposed bike lanes in several parts of the city.

Laura Meyers expressed concern that Venice is currently a functional car route, and slowing it down will push cars to Washington and Pico, and increase the risk of cut-through traffic.

Eric Bruins said that with a continuous turn lane, lane #1 won't back up.

Roy Amemiya asked how many street parking spaces would be lost on Venice as the result of restriping.

Jeff said that between 7th and Crenshaw is where the parking spaces would be lost. Eric said DOT looks first at minimum width lanes before removing parking.

Roy asked if there was a statistical projection about how many riders will use this in the next 5 to 10 years?

Eric said they are doing bike counts every 2 years, and right now it is growing 30% every two years. Generally adding a bike lane doubles or triples usage.

William Hernandez asked about enforcement of traffic safety rules for bikers.



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Eric Bruin said that they find that when the roads aren't safe for bikers, the people willing to ride are those with less regard for risk, and they tend to have poor traffic manners. As ridership increases, more well-mannered riders will be on the road, so the problem of manners shouldn't get worse.

Audience member Deborah asked about safety statistics related to bikes.

Jeff said that without bike lanes, bicyclists tend to ride on the sidewalk, which increases risk of collisions with cars backing up out of driveways, and is hazardous for pedestrians.

Eric said that he expects that the project will substantially improve safety compared to the current configuration.

MOTION: John Arnold moved that the UNNC Governing Board support the idea of bike lanes, and putting them on main boulevards; but that UNNC does not support turning Washington Boulevard or Pico into an alternative route for drivers who otherwise prefer Venice or the freeway, and that UNNC requests as mitigation for this project that the Washington Boulevard speed limit be posted at no greater than 35 miles per hour and not be increased in the future, and UNNC takes the position that DOT should minimize parking impacts of this bike lane project on Venice from Crenshaw to 7th.

Norman Gilmore seconded.

Vote: 15 in favor, none opposed, 2 abstentions.

Laura Meyers noted that the current updates of the West Adams-Baldwin Hills-Leimert Community Plan and South LA Plan are not coordinated with this bike plan.

The next CicLaVia is April 21, 2013 from 10 am to 3pm. It will be going from downtown LA to the beach via Venice Blvd. This is a great opportunity to promote the neighborhood to 100,000 visitors bicycling through.

Elizabeth Fenner asked that we agenda UNNC's plan for CicLAVia at the next meeting. UNNC would like Aaron from CicLAVia to attend an upcoming meeting.

B. Planning and Zoning – Meyers

Proposed continuation of Full Line of Alcohol Sales (off site) at existing market – Case No. ZA-2012-43229-CUB – 4040 Washington Boulevard (Washington Square Market/Shopping Center)

Applicant is seeking a new Conditional Use Permit to continue the off-site sales of a full line of alcohol in conjunction with the existing 23,250-square foot market, with hours of operation from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. daily. The public hearing will be held on Wednesday, February 6, at 10:00 a.m. (the MORNING before this meeting) in Los Angeles City Hall, 200 N. Spring Street, Room 1020. UNNC is requesting that the case file remain briefly open to provide time for stakeholders' written comments, as well as possible UNNC Governing Board action. – **ACTION**

The Washington Square Market applying for a new CUP. The hearing was yesterday morning. The case file is open till close of business on this coming Monday.

They had received a CUP in 2006. The time limit expired, and instead of applying for a



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reconsideration, they applied for a new one. The new CUP is not asking for any changes compared to the old CUP. The operator of the grocery store is the owner of the shopping center. However, the CUP right goes with the land, not the operator. The Zoning Administrator is willing to hear from the neighborhood.

MOTION: John Arnold moved that UNNC support the approval the CUP for a term for seven years (not 10 years or indefinitely), and that the Zoning Administrator reserve the right to add additional conditions in the future, and that UNNC, CD10, or a bona-fide neighborhood group may request a Zoning Administrator hearing if the conditions are not sufficient to prevent problems, without having to go through a nuisance revocation process.

Norman Gilmore seconded.

Alex Woo with Genesis Consulting Inc., representative for the applicant, stated that the applicant feels the requests made by the UNNC Planning & Zoning committee are reasonable. He thanked Laura Meyers and Myrna Allen for their input and expertise.

Billie Green said that in her experience, they have been good operators.

Elizabeth Fenner asked about a recent break-in. Bring Song said they were broken into, and the alarm company notified him and police responded. The alarm went off and so the thieves got away with only some liquor and cigarettes.

Chris Carlson asked about the possibility of the parking lot being landscaped with trees someday.

Vote: 15 in favor, none opposed, 2 abstentions.

C. Planning 101 – Arnold

Power point presentation and discussion of Planning principles and considerations

John Arnold, Chair of Historic Preservation, presented Planning 101, a short presentation and discussion on the basics of how the city zoning code works, and how and when UNNC has input into projects.

D. Jeff Camp announced he will be attending the city-wide emergency response planning seminars.

TREASURER’S REPORT

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

MOTION: Sandra Pruitt moved to approve the January 21, 2013 US Bank Statement.

Roy Amemiya seconded.

Vote: 17 in favor, none opposed, no abstentions.

MINUTES

MOTION: Sandra Pruitt moved to approve the December 6, 2012 minutes.

Chris Carlson seconded.

Vote: 10 in favor, none opposed, 7 abstentions.



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MOTION: John Arnold moved to approve the January 3rd, 2013 minutes as presented.

Myrna Allen seconded.

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

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

A. New, Continuing, and Old Business

Thanks to Elizabeth Fenner for arranging dinner tonight.

Anthony Carter agreed to arrange the food for March.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Billie Green said she attended the president's inaugural and it was fabulous.

Bettye Smith-Anderson also attended the inauguration and enjoyed attending three inaugural balls.

Stevie's show is Tuesday February 19th at the Morgan-Wixson theater in Santa Monica. There's a five piece band. \$30 donation to cover the musicians.

Bettye Smith-Anderson reported that Ed Turner was hanging in there after his surgery.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Norman Gilmore

UNNC Secretary

February 7, 2013

Attachments: None.