



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

### MINUTES

(approved April 4, 2013)

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Stevie Stern opened the meeting at 6:45 p.m. A quorum was present.

**Members present:** Jess Bravo, Betty Walton, Carlton Stubbs, Fletcher Kauffman, Bettye Smith-Anderson, Anthony Carter, Laura Meyers, Myrna Allen, Sandra Pruitt, Betty Phillips, Billie Green, Norman Gilmore, Stevie Stern, Wesley Todd. (14 total).

**Members absent:** Roy Amemiya, Andrea Dunlop, Jeff Camp, John Arnold, William Hernandez, Elizabeth Fenner, Chris Carlson, Dolores Spears, Ed Turner. (9 total).

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

Wesley Todd seconded.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

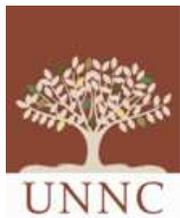
#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Carlton Stubbs announced that Saturday March 23<sup>rd</sup> will be the South Seas House Spring Festival, from 11 am to 2pm.

Stevie Stern announced a workshop/seminar by EmpowerLA on advocacy tools called “Advocacy: Council Files & Other Tools”. It will be offered in different areas of the city on March 23, March 30, April 20, April 27, and May 18.

Stevie reported that LANI had just delivered funds for the Jefferson Park sign lighting project to Rev. Marzette and Greencrest Energy Solutions. If permitting goes smoothly, they expect the work to be done by the end of March.

Stevie Stern announced that The William Grant Still Art Center is having an event on Friday March 15<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm, with an Egyptian theme based on the book Ahwa.



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Billie Green reported that the Westmoreland monument has been cleaned. We will get a report next month.

A new café at Washington at Harvard, called the Blue Elephant café, will be opening soon.

Kokayi Kwa Jitahidi, Planning and Land Use Chair for Empowerment Congress Southwest, announced a joint NC meeting for responding to the upcoming South LA Plan revision. It is on Wednesday March 13, 6:30 on Christ Unity Center, 7825 South Western Ave, just south of Florence.

## **COUNCIL DISTRICT 10 UPDATE**

Billie Green said that the CD10 website has been overhauled. They have added neighborhood associations and links to UNNC. Wendy Fraticelli is the point of contact. It includes a list of community resources as well. <http://herbwessoncd10.com/>

Billie said that 6 or 7 UNNC Board members attended the ethics training on Monday, with over 55 people attending in total.

## **PRESENTATION BY REPOWER L.A.**

Energy-efficiency programs through the Department of Water and Power (DWP) that will enable people to save money on their energy bills while creating career-path jobs and training.

Kokayi Kwa Jitahidi, Senior Organizer for the RePower LA Campaign, presented. ([kkwajitahidi@laane.org](mailto:kkwajitahidi@laane.org)) He is with Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy. They create public good through environmental programs, jobs creation, and community engagement.

There was a contentious budget battle for the recent DWP rate increase. LAANE fought to ask DWP to invest in energy efficiency programs. Historically, DWP did not invest in energy efficiency, especially for homes. Energy efficiency includes things like attic insulation, double pane windows, and weather stripping.

They got DWP to commit \$127 million for energy efficiency. \$20 million is for LAUSD efficiency upgrades. They are interested in knowing what schools in our area have problems with heating and cooling systems. 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Arlington Heights schools were called out by the audience.

SBDI is a program that provides energy efficiency upgrades to small business owners.

They are also interested in identifying the business corridors that need attention.

The Home Energy Improvement Program (HEIP) program is an energy efficiency program for people who can't afford upgrades, whether due to fixed income, unemployment, or otherwise.

To find the HEIP application go to <http://ladwp.com/> and navigate through Residential, Saving money, Rebates and programs, and then select HEIP program. (<https://www.ladwp.com/ladwp/faces/ladwp/residential/r-savemoney/r-sm-rebatesandprograms/r-sm-rp-homeenergyimprovementprogram>)

Besides getting the energy efficiency analysis, having DWP review your energy systems is a good opportunity for finding out about issues you may not be aware of, such as cracked heat exchangers or



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other dangerous conditions.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- A. Update on Banners and possible supplemental UNNC Funding to offset the lesser LANI grant awarded – J. Bravo/A. Dunlop, Economic Development Committee – **ACTION**

Overall the banners have been much more durable than originally expected. When the banners were first put up in 2009, the expected lifetime was one year. Because the banners proved durable and only a smallish percentage are lost each year due to winter windstorms, it has been possible to periodically replace missing banners cost effectively. We have now run out of spare banners.

Last year the Economic Development Committee coordinated two separate \$3,000 grant applications to LANI, one from UNNC and one from West Adams Heights/Sugar Hill Neighborhood Association, for manufacturing and hanging street banners. However, LANI awarded \$1500 for each grant, for a total of \$3000.

The UNNC Governing Board previously approved \$6,856.26 for these two projects on November 1, 2012. So the total amount available from UNNC and LANI is currently \$9,856.26.

Jessica Bravo presented a funding request for an additional \$3,943.20, which would allow UNNC to order 104 new banners instead of just 66. Without additional funding, the price per banner would be about \$149, but if we increase the order to 104 banners, the price goes down to about \$123 per banner.

**MOTION:** Norman Gilmore moved that UNNC fund an additional \$3,943.20 for manufacturing and installing 104 UNNC banners along the boulevards.  
Myrna Allen seconded.

Vote: 13 in favor, none opposed, no abstentions.

## COMMITTEE BUSINESS

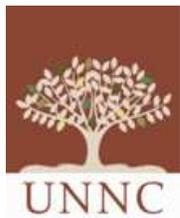
- A. Recreation and Parks – Pruitt
  - 1. Updates on the meetings taking place for a proposed renovation of Leslie Shaw Park, and board approval to make this a UNNC-supported project and of the current plans for the upgrade – **ACTION**

Sandra presented the latest Leslie Shaw Park concept layout prepared by the Department of Recreation and Parks which reflects community input. (See attachment.)

We discussed how the new design should activate the park more.

Sandra has reached out to nearby stakeholders, including Westminster Presbyterian, the neighboring preschool, and the local senior housing, to let them know about potential park upgrades.

Laura Meyers asked about where the namesake Leslie Shaw would be recognized.



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Stevie Stern asked if we could put a bulletin board in the park to announce community events.

**MOTION:** Myrna Allen moved that UNNC (i) support the major renovation of Leslie Shaw Park as a UNNC project; (ii) endorse the new design for Leslie Shaw Park as presented, with the addition of design elements to recognize the park namesake and a bulletin board to announce community events; and (iii) assist in fundraising for the project.

Norman Gilmore seconded.

Vote: 14 in favor, none opposed, no abstentions.

## B. Planning & Zoning – Meyers

1. Proposed Citywide Mobility Element Update – Discussion and ACTION - Background: The Citywide Mobility Element Update is a project of the Los Angeles Departments of City Planning and Transportation to envision a new way of moving around the city, using its streets for mobility and beyond. If what we have today is less than ideal, what should the City's streets look like, how should they function, and how do we get there from here? Goals and strategies include: (1) Develop a revised Mobility Element which will identify goals, objectives, policies, and programs that reflect the communities' future mobility ideas and suggested strategies; (2) Identify a layered network of arterial streets that assist all types of mobility (especially trucks, cars, bicycles, and pedestrians) to get around; (3) Update the City's Street Standards to reflect all transportation modes (trucks, cars, scooters, bicycles, and pedestrians); (4) Produce a Streetscape Manual that will provide new guidelines and standards that will identify streetscape elements and characteristics (curb extensions, crosswalks, landscaped medians, parkways, sidewalk widths, pedestrian lights) that are appropriate for each street standard; (5) Revise the City's Performance and Measurement Tools for evaluating the quality of our streets and mitigating the impacts of future projects, (6) Develop an Implementation Strategy that identifies the capital and maintenance costs as well as potential funding sources for implementing new street improvements and maintaining our City's streets and sidewalks in good condition.

Michael Macdonald and Myrna Allen presented for the Planning and Zoning Committee.

Betty Walton departed.

**MOTION:** Myrna Allen moved that the UNNC Governing Board offer its support to the goals and strategies that are summarized in the City Mobility Update, dated February 2013 and offer the following added comments:

1. Develop a revised Mobility Element which will identify goals, objectives, policies, and programs that reflect the communities' future mobility ideas and suggested strategies.  
ADD: That the Mobility Element should prioritize safety over speed; not constrict business development on boulevards; and be inclusive of all users.
2. Identify a layered network of arterial streets that assist all types of mobility (especially trucks, cars, bicycles, and pedestrians) to get around.



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CHANGE: Network should include a comprehensive plan for ALL streets, not just arterials.

3. Update the City's Street Standards to reflect all transportation modes (trucks, cars, scooters, bicycles, and pedestrians).

ADD: Such standards should cross-reference zoning, current neighborhood character and use, and specific plans with an inclination towards downgrading street designations, and seek to remove incompatible or unnecessary highway dedications and widening.

4. Produce a Streetscape Manual that will provide new guidelines and standards that will identify streetscape elements and characteristics (curb extensions, crosswalks, landscaped medians, parkways, sidewalk widths, pedestrian lights) that are appropriate for each street standard.

ADD: Such guidelines should encourage and allow alternative design standards and innovative best practices as appropriate to further safety and mobility goals designed for specific streets; and standards should be developed that encourage recreation as well as mobility on designated streets; and integrate best practices for sustainability.

5. Revise the City's Performance and Measurement Tools for evaluating the quality of our streets and mitigating the impacts of future projects.

ADD: Such measurement tools should give due consideration to pedestrians, bikes, and people of all means and abilities, with an inclination towards safer, slower, and greener streets.

6. Develop an Implementation Strategy that identifies the capital and maintenance costs as well as potential funding sources for implementing new street improvements and maintaining our City's streets and sidewalks in good condition.

SUGGEST: Foster cross-departmental communication and funding to realize common goals, for example between Recreation and Parks and the Department of Transportation, to make streets built for mobility AND recreation.

Sandra Pruitt seconded.

Vote: 12 in favor, none opposed, 1 abstention.

Laura Meyers presented the City of Los Angeles Mobility Element Update: Draft Goals and Policies.

We reviewed the following questions:

GOAL 1: SAFETY FIRST. Will the following policies help us achieve our goal of Safety First?

GOAL 2: WORLD CLASS INFRASTRUCTURE. Will the following policies lead us to developing and maintaining a world class transportation infrastructure system?

GOAL 3: ACCESS FOR ALL ANGELENOS. Will the following policies help us achieve Access for All Angelenos?

GOAL 4: INFORMED CHOICES. Will the following policies help individuals, businesses and public agencies to make more Informed Choices related to transportation?

GOAL 5: CLEAN ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES. Will the following policies help us achieve a Clean Environment and Healthy Communities through changes in our transportation system?



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GOAL 6: SMART INVESTMENTS. Will these policies help us achieve Smart Investments in our transportation system?

Please give your comments on our Online Town Hall: <http://ideas.la2b.org> by March 31, 2013 and visit our companion blog: <http://la2b.org> to learn more about everything you have read in this packet. Contact Claire Bowin (claire.bowin@lacity.org, 213-978-1213) or My La (my.la@lacity.org, 213-978-1194) with your comments and questions as well.

(NB: Unfortunately, I was unable to capture the details of the complex discussion. Michael Macdonald also took notes that will be included in the letter.)

Selected notes:

Goal#1, item 4. Construct and manage streets, and consider traffic calming measures, so that motorists adhere to intended speeds on all roadways.

The goals should include light rail all the way to LAX terminals and to the beach. Goals should include supporting commercial endeavors to address first and last mile mobility such as bus and van loops and taxi and pedicab businesses. (by allowing commercial operators to use public bus stops and transit centers for pickup and drop off, and providing staging areas for businesses such as pedicabs and taxis.)

Goal #3, item 7. Encourage the city's major employers to develop bus transit for their employees. Allow private buses to share Metro park and ride facilities. The city could encourage employers to partner with companies like Zipcar to provide backup options for transit so employees don't feel trapped at work in case of a personal emergency.

This city should provide tax rebates to businesses that invest meaningful dollars into giving employees alternatives to commuting in cars.

Goal #5, item 3. Incentivize the private sector rather than "engage."

The overall goals should focus on measures of how many people the system can move, rather than how many cars the system can move.

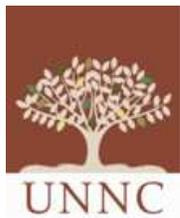
**MOTION:** Laura Meyers moved that the Planning & Zoning Committee Chair draft a letter to the Department of Transportation incorporating the various comments made to the Mobility Element Update, with the letter to be reviewed and approved by two UNNC officers.

Sandra Pruitt seconded.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

The West Adams-Baldwin Hills-Leimert community plan hearing at the Planning Commission is coming up at 8:30 in the morning on April 11th. We won't get feedback on whether our previous comments will be incorporated or not until after the deadline for submitting letters to the commission!

We want to write a letter asking that Neighborhood Councils be allowed to present for at least five minutes.



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## TREASURER'S REPORT

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

**MOTION:** Billie Green moved to approve the February 21, 2013 US Bank Statement.

Carlton Stubbs seconded.

Vote: 13 in favor, none opposed, no abstentions.

## MINUTES

**MOTION:** Billie Green moved to approve the February 7, 2013 minutes with the various corrections noted.

Betty Phillips seconded.

Vote: 10 in favor, none opposed, 3 abstentions.

## PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

### A. New, Continuing, and Old Business

Let's look for projects in our community so that we can deploy our budget in the community.

We could put up a new community bulletin board, if anyone can identify a good location.

We could put funds into replacing the scratched windows at the Jefferson Park branch library.

We could invest in installing the security cameras that were taken down from the Stop-In Center.

We could put remaining funds into the Leslie Shaw Park fund.

Thanks to Anthony Carter for arranging dinner tonight.

Betty Walton agreed to arrange the food for April.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

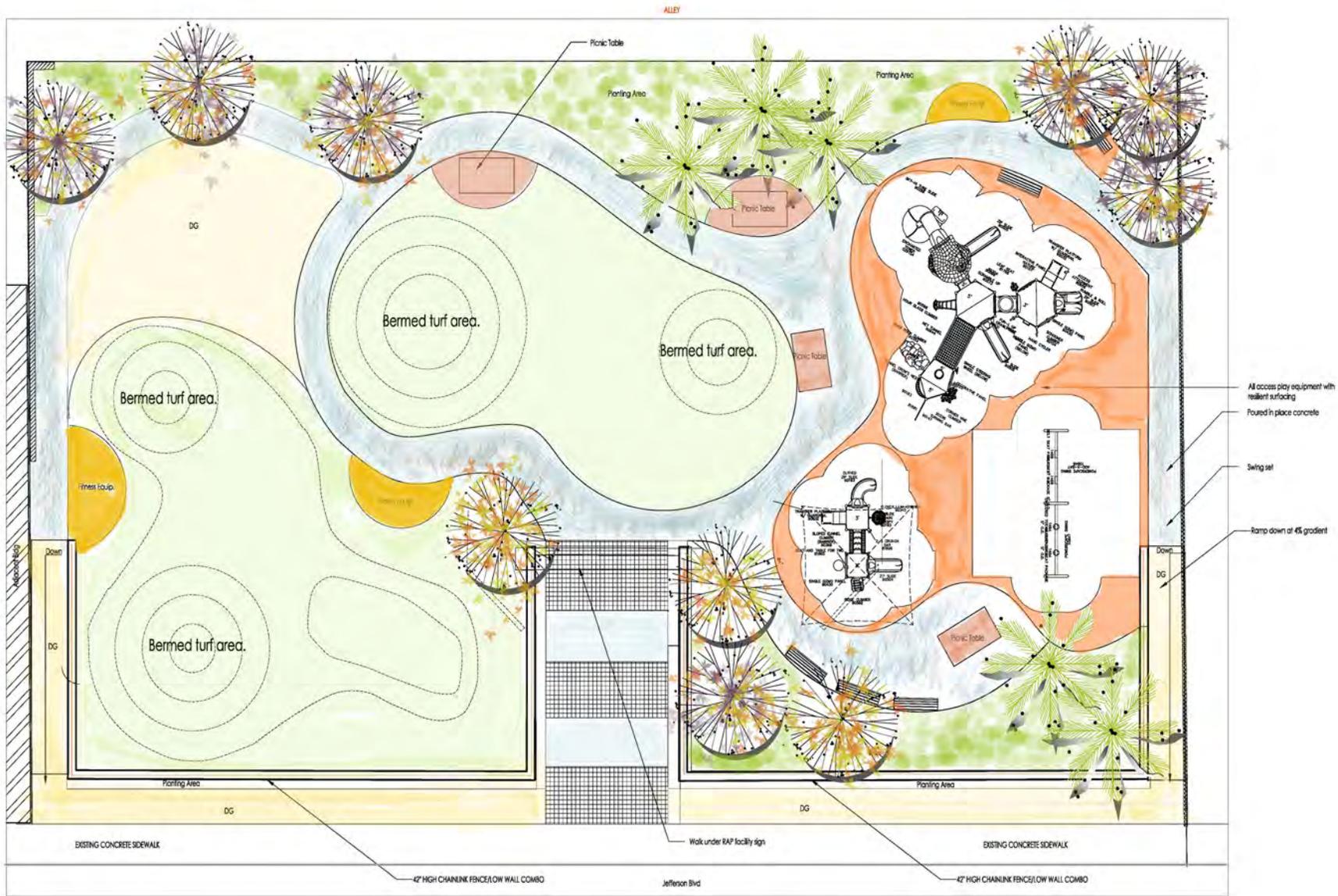
Respectfully submitted,

Norman Gilmore

UNNC Secretary

April 20, 2013

Attachments: Leslie Shaw Park February 27, 2013 concept layout.



# Leslie Shaw Play Lot Design Layout.

250 Jefferson Boulevard Los Angeles Ca  
 Scale: 1/8"=1'-0" Date: 02-13-2013