

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

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UNNC Governing Board Meeting

Thursday, April 4, 2013
Council District 10 Field Office
1819 S. Western Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90006

MINUTES

(approved May 2, 2013)

CALL TO ORDER

Stevie Stern opened the meeting at 6:37 p.m. A quorum was present.

Members present: Chris Carlson, John Arnold, Jess Bravo, Roy Amemiya, Dolores Spears, Elizabeth Fenner, William Hernandez, Andrea Dunlop, Jeff Camp, Betty Walton, Carlton Stubbs, Fletcher Kauffman, Anthony Carter, Laura Meyers, Myrna Allen, Sandra Pruitt, Betty Phillips, Billie Green, Norman Gilmore, Stevie Stern, Wesley Todd. (21 total).

Members absent: Bettye Smith-Anderson, Ed Turner. (2 total).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Norman Gilmore moved to approve the agenda with Item 5E tabled until next month, and correcting 9A to state that the March 2013 minutes will be presented for approval.

Fletcher Kauffman seconded.

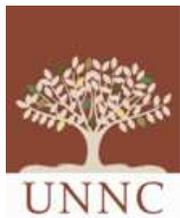
Vote: Approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Brennan Norton with the non-profit Freedom Water Watch announced that they would like to present at next month's UNNC meeting. She spoke about Governor Brown's water bill for infrastructure. She stated that the Los Angeles DWP share could be \$7.5 billion according to an analysis.

She presented a letter asking that UNNC support asking the LA City Council instruct DWP to not participate in this project.

Sandra Pruitt introduced Esmerelda Chacon(sp?) who represents parents who are organizing a petition with Parent Revolution. They have enough signatures for the school to be re-organized, along with district support. The parents met with several charter school operators, and have narrowed it down to three. They will be selecting a charter school operator on April 9th. Parents will be able to vote on April 9th from 7am to 7pm at Benny Potter Park. Crystal Blue-Santos said UNNC is invited to set up a booth to introduce ourselves to parents that will be attending to vote.



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Chris Carlson asked if it was expected that the back part of the Union Bank Building at Jefferson and Crenshaw would be demolished, since that is happening right now. (Yes, this was expected and part of the agreement reached.)

Michael Macdonald said that CicLaVia would be coming up April 21st, from downtown to Venice beach along the length of Venice Boulevard. He is organizing a feeder ride from Leimert Park.

Steven Meeks with LA Green Grants said that they install vegetable gardens in residential front yards and apartment locations where they can install the garden. It is very low cost and they just ask the homeowner to maintain it.

Elizabeth Fenner is hosting a grey water workshop this Saturday at her house. For a couple hundred dollars, you can divert gray water from the washer, and this workshop will show how to set this up. The cost is \$35.

Dolores Spears said that Councilman Englander is suggesting combining City Planning and Building & Safety departments.

City Budget hearings are coming up. Dolores Spears wants everyone to know that employees of the city of Los Angeles have been paying their fair share of pension contributions. (11% of their salary.) Also, she noted that city employees do not get social security.

Sandra Pruitt reported that Fresh 'n' Easy might not finish moving into the Jefferson and Crenshaw location.

Betty Walton asked about the change of the name of the sign at the top of the Public Storage building from "Bekins" to "Public". This change was unfortunately approved by someone in the planning department, although it should not have been approved or done.

COUNCIL DISTRICT 10 UPDATE

This Monday, April 22nd, at 4th Ave and Adams, there will be a ceremony for the new signal light that will be going up. Contact Billie Green to find out the exact time.

PROPOSED STREETScape IMPROVEMENTS PLANNED FOR EXPOSITION BOULEVARD ALONG THE EXPO RAIL – DISCUSSION and ACTION

Robert Gutierrez, Landscape Section Supervisor, Audrey Netsawang, Landscape Architect, and Ana Tabuena-Ruddy, all from Bureau of Street Services, presented.

The proposal is to repair sidewalks, improve crosswalks, add and replace trees and install street furniture from Crenshaw to Figueroa St. along Exposition Boulevard.

They are proposing the Chinese Flame Tree, Golden Trumpet Tree, and Fern Pines. They will also be fixing broken sidewalks, curbs, curb ramps, gutters, deteriorated alley approaches, and bus stop improvements, including bus benches where space is available. They also will be installing bus stop safety lights. They also are making cross walk enhancements. However, DOT is now requiring high visibility crosswalk designs which are essentially wide white stripes. LA Bureau of Street Services may not be allowed by LADOT to use pavers for the crosswalks.



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The trees are a mixture of evergreen and deciduous.

Some unhealthy trees are proposed to be removed. Also some palm trees that self-seeded will be removed.

This is a project that they pitched to the overlapping Council Districts. They expect arranging construction funding to take six to eight months, so construction would begin in late summer.

The city has a multi-year contract with CBS for bus shelters. They have right of first refusal on new shelters. Robert said the sidewalks in this area are generally very narrow and not likely to support bus shelters. The intersections at Expo and Hoover and Expo and Figueroa have 25 foot sidewalks and so there is room for bus shelters there.

The minimum width of the sidewalk is about 12.5 feet for a very narrow bus shelter.

After discussion, Audrey and Ana said that they will research each location that could support a bus shelter and they will revisit the locations with CBS Outdoor. They asked for four to six weeks to hear back from CBS Outdoor.

Roy Amemiya arrived.

Robert said they would revisit the bus shelters. Because CBS installs and maintains them, along with responsibility for cleaning graffiti, and emptying trash cans, the quid pro quo is the advertising space. So the bus shelter can't have zero width.

Chris asked if the new cross walks could interleave the white safety stripes ("continental") and the bricks ("decorative"). Bureau of Street Services and DOT are currently discussing cross walk designs at a high level.

Myrna said that Santa Monica had developed some creative cross-walks.

Laura Meyers said that the Planning Department has received major funding for pedestrian improvements along Crenshaw. They don't have to get DOT approval according to Laura. She suggested that Robert should talk to Andre Parvenu(sp?).

Robert feels that because of the proximity to the rail line, DOT will prevail on insisting on the Continental Crosswalks. DOT wants the maximum visibility and believes Continental white stripes deliver that.

The sentiment of the board was that Robert, Audrey, and Ana should return next month after refining the plan.

The total budget will be \$3.2 million for 2.5 miles of pedestrian improvement. This will be mainly funded by the Expo Rail Authority.

Jess Bravo arrived.

John Arnold arrived.



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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- A. Funding request for \$2,379.75 to purchase twelve 30"x30" metal signs to designate the Jefferson Park Historic Preservation Overlay Zone (HPOZ) – Steve Peckman on behalf of Jefferson Park United – ACTION

Steve Peckman presented a proposal to make and install 12 metal signs announcing the Jefferson Park HPOZ. They will be installed primarily on street light poles at intersections at the boundary of the HPOZ.

This project has letters of support from Herb Wesson and West Adams Heritage Association.

The HPOZ was approved in July 2011, and includes about 2000 structures. Last November, UNNC supported this project contingent on LANI support. LANI said the project application was strong and there was an excellent maintenance plan. They saw no significant weaknesses in the grant request. However LANI received twice the number of applications as normal for three times the available funding amount.

The city approved vendor that provided the quote is Maneri Sign Company, Inc., which has 30 years of sign manufacturing experience.

The signs will be coated with FCAL for easy graffiti removal.

MOTION: Norman Gilmore moved that the UNNC Governing Board fund this request for manufacturing and installing twelve HPOZ signs in Jefferson Park for \$2,379.75.

Laura Meyers seconded.

Billie Green noted that UNNC has more HPOZs than any other neighborhood council in the city. Most of our other HPOZs have signs up.

Chris Carlson asked about getting signs for other HPOZs in UNNC, if that lowered the per unit cost. Steve Peckman said that if the information on the sign is different, the vendor considers it a new sign, so it would not lower the per unit cost.

William Hernandez asked about signage at Arlington and Jefferson. Steve Peckman explained that DOT wants the signs on the perimeter, not on the interior of the area.

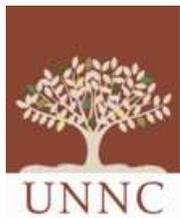
Vote: 19 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstention.

- B. Funding request for \$2,950 to rehabilitate the deteriorated window films on the Jefferson Park Library at 2211 W. Jefferson Boulevard – Khaldoon Khairuddin – ACTION

Khaldoon Khairuddin presented a funding request for the Jefferson Park Library.

In the late 90s, Killefer Flammang was the architecture firm that designed the renovation and expansion of the library.

Since the library was renovated more than 15 years ago, the window film on the front windows



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has become very faded and scratched. It is very unattractive, and also a safety concern since it is not as transparent as it was and it is hard to identify who is near the front door.

The funding request for UNNC is \$2,950 out of a total project budget of \$4,950. Architecture firm Killefer Flammang has pledged \$1500. They plan to raise an additional \$500 separately.

The project is supported by John Frank, the Jefferson Park branch Librarian, and Council President Herb Wesson.

MOTION: Norman Gilmore moved that the UNNC Governing Board fund replacement of the protective window film at the Jefferson Park Branch Library for up to \$2,950, including necessary supplies, labor and mounting frames that enable easy posting of notices that can be read by anyone standing outside the library at the front window.
William Hernandez seconded.

Stevie Stern asked about maintenance. Khaldoon said they are providing maintenance specifications to the city General Services department, and are also trying to maximize the warranty provided by the film vendor.

The new film will not be tinted, and should be completely transparent.

Jeff suggested spraying on FCAL.

John Arnold doesn't know if the existing film was properly specified when selected and installed originally.

A to Z Glass & Mirror is the city approved vendor, and the quote is \$4,950. They will be specifying the highest possible quality window film. There will also be a plastic holder that will allow the posting of public notices to be visible through the window.

Chris Carlson said that cleaning with soap and water only is essential, as chemical cleaners will quickly ruin the film again.

Elizabeth Fenner suggested that a sign be posted acknowledging Killefer Flammang and UNNC's contributions to this project.

Vote: 20 in favor, 1 opposed, no abstentions.

- C. Funding request for \$563.00 for equipment, safety items and supplies to use in the cleaning up of trash off the streets in Arlington Heights – Wanda Green on behalf of the Arlington Heights Neighborhood Watch Association – ACTION

Wanda Green of Avenues Neighborhood Watch (ANWA) is trying to get a handle on the trash problem in their area.

They meet every 2nd Tuesday at the Washington Irving Library. Wanda is also the Treasurer for the Friends of the Washington Irving Library. The Friends of the Library are also supporting this project.



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They are planning to schedule teams of four to go out and pick up trash. They will be able to put items in a dumpster that's at the council office.

She presented a funding request for \$563.00 for one handle ratchet pruning shears, a bundle of 50 pairs of gloves, one pick up pin stick, two reacher pick up tools, one claw scoop, six helmets, 25 caps with the ANWA logo, 15 ANSI safety vests, and a plastic storage bin.

Wanda noted that the city would be providing two scoop shovels, two leaf rakes, one regular rake, and contractor trash bags directly from city inventory, and those were line itemed at zero in this request.

MOTION: Norman Gilmore moved that the UNNC Governing Board fund the following items for up to \$630.36: one handle ratchet pruning shears, a bundle of 50 pairs of gloves, one pick up pin stick, two reacher pick up tools, one claw scoop, six helmets, 25 caps with the ANWA logo, 15 ANSI safety vests, and a plastic storage bin

Roy Amemiya seconded.

John Arnold asked who would store the equipment and where it would be stored. Wanda said there was a designated person who would be storing the equipment. Bernie Oliver stood up and said he would be responsible for storing and inventorying the equipment. He would sign out the equipment to individual volunteers and hold them accountable for the return.

He personally has adopted West 23rd from Crenshaw to 4th Ave. He is planning to log the hours that people participate. So students may be able to get community participation credit.

Betty Walton said to contact her and she would rally her block club and she also knows students who will participate.

The vests will say "A.N.W.A. Community Volunteer". Elizabeth Fenner suggested that T-shirts would help people understand that their neighbors were volunteering, whereas the vests may lead people to think it is a city provided service.

Myrna Allen said they also are purchasing caps with the ANWA logo. They have T-Shirts from previous spring cleanups, so they won't all be in vests.

Billie Green said CD10 might still have some "Spring Cleanup" T-shirts.

Chris Carlson congratulated Wanda and Bernie for the initiative and leadership for this project.

Vote: 17 in favor, none opposed, 4 abstentions.

- D. Funding request for \$250 for ten 24" x 18" yard signs announcing Arlington Heights Neighborhood Watch meetings – Wanda Green and Myrna Allen on behalf of ANWA – ACTION

Wanda Green presented a funding request for ten 18" x 24" yard signs announcing the block club meetings for ANWA.

They got a quote for:



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\$275 – 10 double sided meeting signs
\$15 for 10 H Wire stakes
\$275 Art Layout Fee
\$50.85 Tax
\$615.85 Total

After discussion, the sentiment of the governing board was that \$250 would be sufficient and the project leaders should seek better pricing from other vendors.

MOTION: Norman Gilmore moved that the UNNC Governing Board fund design and printing of up to ten yard signs with metal stakes announcing ANWA meetings for up to \$250. Chris Carlson seconded.

Dolores Spears asked if email and walking flyers wouldn't be as effective.

Sandra Pruitt said that the signs are a good idea and said she likes the idea for \$250.

Myrna Allen said it is 35 or 40 city blocks so walking it isn't that feasible.

Laura Meyers said that this is a popular outreach technique. It's a good way to get the new neighbors to be aware of the local block club.

Vote: 19 in favor, none opposed, 2 abstentions.

- E. LA Native/Palms Neighborhood Council Requesting Support from UNNC for sustainable native landscaping of the Crenshaw Line – Charles Miller – ACTION

Tabled until next month.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

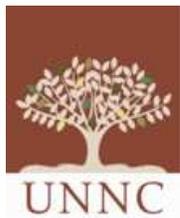
- A. Planning & Zoning – Meyers
 - 1. Proposed New West Adams-Baldwin Hills-Leimert Community Plan Revision – Review the staff report and plan UNNC's response to present to the Planning Commission meeting scheduled for Thursday, April 11, 2013 – ACTION

Handled out of order after Planning and Zoning Item A2.

The Staff Report to the Planning Commission disregarded all of UNNCs prior input and recommendations to the South Los Angeles Community Plan. Laura Meyers has written a new letter to the Planning Commission explaining all of UNNCs objections to the Staff Report.

UNNC asked for four or five minutes to present, rather than the one minute that will be granted by default.

April 11th is the Planning Commission Hearing starting at 8:30 am through lunch time.



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2. Case No. ZA-2013-815-ZAA, ENV-2013-816-CE; 1331 S. Arlington Avenue – proposed Zoning Administrator’s Adjustment (ZAA) for a triplex and accessory dwelling, to permit the reduction of sideyards to 3 feet in lieu of the required 5 feet and rear yard setback of 5 feet in lieu of 15 feet in conjunction with the conversion of an accessory living quarter into a habitable unit, all with a RD1.5-1-0 zoned property - ACTION

This property has gone through a number of small incremental changes in an attempt to convert a single family house to a triplex and accessory dwelling.

The Planning and Zoning Committee would like to oppose a waiver of the public hearing.

MOTION: Laura Meyers moved that the UNNC Governing Board write a letter to the Zoning Administrator stating that UNNC does not support ZA-2013-815-ZAA because of (i) insufficient parking, (ii) lack of open space on the property, (iii) desire to not reward non-compliance, and (iv) lack of community benefit; and that UNNC oppose a waiver of public hearing.

John Arnold seconded.

John Arnold asked to amend the motion to state that UNNC opposes a waiver of the public hearing. Laura Meyers accepted the amendment.

Myrna Allen said that it would also be an eyesore in the neighborhood because the single family houses do have lawn, and this property would have parking on the front.

Laura Meyers said ultimately the owner has added three units where there had been a single family house.

Vote: 21 in favor, none opposed, no abstentions.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Sandra Pruitt wants to investigate the possibility of a mural in Jefferson Park at Leslie Shaw Park.

TREASURER’S REPORT

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

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

Betty Walton seconded.

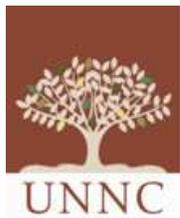
Vote: Approved unanimously.

MINUTES

MOTION: Laura Meyers moved to approve the March 7, 2013 minutes with the corrections noted.

Myrna Allen seconded.

Vote: 12 in favor, none opposed, 9 abstentions.



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PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

- A. Participation and monetary support for the South L.A. Alliance of Neighborhood Councils Mayoral Candidates' Forum – ACTION

SLAANC is trying to put on a Mayor's candidate forum, tentatively for May 11th. They are asking for support from their NCs. This would include use of our logo on invitations and promotional materials, participation in the planning meeting on April 18th, that we would help promote the event, and that we contribute toward refreshments.

UNNC has participated in Mayoral forums before. If we are going to participate in this, we should have a representative to oversee our contributions to the project. Stevie Stern thinks it is a worthwhile project.

Laura Meyers advocates participating, as she thinks it's important that UNNC gets to ask questions that reflect the concerns of our neighborhood, such as preservation and conservation in our residential neighborhoods.

Chris Carlson supports participating, and noted that candidate Eric Garcetti voted in the October 2012 UNNC Election as a stakeholder.

Dolores Spears expressed an interest in participating.

Elizabeth Fenner encouraged people who have contact with high schools to get the word out that this would be very educational for high school students.

Myrna Allen also is willing to help coordinate. Laura Meyers may also be able to attend the planning meeting.

MOTION: Laura Meyers moved that UNNC offer the help of two individuals and contribute up to \$250 for refreshments and printing costs related to the mayoral forum.

Norman Gilmore seconded.

Vote: 21 in favor, none opposed, no abstentions.

- B. UNNC response to DONE and Neighborhood Council funding for the fiscal year 2013-2014 – ACTION

Stevie Stern presented a letter that opposes any proposed delays.

MOTION: Laura Meyers moved that UNNC write a letter to the Mayor and City Council (i) opposing any delays in the 2014 Neighborhood Council elections; (ii) requesting that the city fully fund Neighborhood Council 2014 elections; (iii) requesting that Neighborhood Council budgets not be further cut, but rather be restored to \$50,000 annually; (iv) requesting that the city cease and desist from sweeping of Neighborhood Council funds.

Jeff Camp seconded.

Vote: 20 in favor, none opposed, 1 abstention.



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C. New, Continuing, and Old Business

Stevie is arranging a meeting with DWP to help them deal with energy efficiency in historic homes. Chris Carlson wants to participate.

Thanks to Betty Walton for arranging dinner tonight.

Carlton Stubbs agreed to arrange the food for May.

Sandra Pruitt volunteered to arrange food for June.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dolores Spears asked for updates on the Jefferson Park Square (Mercy Housing). Dolores Spears would like to hand out a flyer for UNNC to hand out to the new neighbors.

Debra Bradford announced that Mr. John Oliver passed away. He was Executive Director of AAYF. Debra Bradford is the Vice President of the Adults Adolescence Youth Foundation (AAYF) and she stated she will be the new executive director.

AAYF is at 2061 W. Jefferson Blvd. AAYF offers programs for court ordered services related to domestic violence, anger management, drug counseling, and community service. 323-373-9927.

John Arnold has been tracking the Crenshaw and Jefferson Fresh 'n' Easy, including the substantial renovations to the old Union Bank branch. John said that his observations are that they are constructing according to our discussions and their commitments.

Chris Carlson said she attended an exceptional presentation on community emergency preparedness. CERT Training is going back on the fire department calendar, and Chris thinks we should arrange a CERT training here at CD10. Chris would be willing to help coordinate this. Jeff will help Chris in his role as Public Safety Chair. Carlton Stubbs can advise as well.

Meeting adjourned at 9:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Norman Gilmore

UNNC Secretary

May 2, 2013 (with corrections on p. 9)

Attachments: None.