



# 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, June 6, 2013  
Council District 10 Field Office  
1819 S. Western Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA 90006

### MINUTES

(approved September 5, 2013)

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Stevie Stern opened the meeting at 6:48 p.m. A quorum was present.

**Members present:** John Arnold, Andrea Dunlop, Wesley Todd, Bettye Smith-Anderson, Anthony Carter, Laura Meyers, Elizabeth Fenner, Fletcher Kauffman, Myrna Allen, Sandra Pruitt, Betty Phillips, Norman Gilmore, Stevie Stern, Dolores Spears.

**Members absent:** Jeff Camp, William Hernandez, Betty Walton, Carlton Stubbs, Jess Bravo, Ed Turner, Roy Amemiya, Chris Carlson, Billie Green. (8 total).

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Wesley Todd moved to approve the agenda with Planning & Zoning Item 2 and 3 moved to the beginning of Planning & Zoning, and revising Item 9 to state that the April 4, 2013 minutes will be presented for approval.

Fletcher Kauffman seconded.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Wesley Todd announced that he would be resigning his position and that he has greatly enjoyed working for UNNC for the last 10 years.

Andrea Dunlop said *The K-2 Spanish Language Immersion City Charter School West Adams* will be co-locating with Virginia Elementary for the next year.

Guy Leemius, former UNNC Board President and founding board member of UNNC commended Wesley Todd on Wesley's diligence and care for the community. Guy Leemius expressed his appreciation for Wesley's giving spirit for many years. He knows that Wesley will continue to keep a sharp eye on UNNC spending.

Marina Perez and Alonda Garza, with BTSC (California Board of Toxic Substances Control) spoke about



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the clean-up of groundwater at Carson-Gore Academy of Environmental Studies. The Draft EIR is available for comment through June 17<sup>th</sup>. This was extended from June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The site originally had underground storage tanks. There were automotive uses and dry-cleaning uses previously. This ground water is not used for drinking.

The clean-up is anticipated to start in mid-June. Work hours to install the cleanup system will be from 7am-5pm. There will be work notices to the residents in the area prior to start of work. There will be noise and dust monitoring programs in place to make sure the work is not impacting the residents.

The school was designed to not be affected by the affected ground water pollution which is 100 feet below ground. The ozone injection system will be installed this summer, and the system will operate from 7 pm to 7am. Detailed documents describing the plan and system are available for review at Carson-Gore Academy administrative office, Pio Pico Middle School Main Office, and Washington Irving Branch Library Reference Desk.

Fletcher Kauffman reminded everyone that the Blue Elephant Café is now open on the south side of Washington. Check it out.

Sandra Pruitt asked for an update about the 4<sup>th</sup> Street Pedestrian Bridge. The result of a recent community meeting was to take back the bridge by increasing positive uses. The council office was asked to improve the lighting as well.

## **COUNCIL DISTRICT 10 UPDATE**

Liz Carlin announced that this Saturday LAPD and LAFD will be in the Council District 10 meeting room to address concerns about fireworks.

There will be a cleanup starting at Adams and Harcourt. All are welcome to pitch in!

President Obama will be on the west side tomorrow, so plan your travel accordingly.

There is a 2013 Festival Guide on the back table.

Liz Carlin, staff member for Council President Herb Wesson, presented a certificate to Wesley Todd in appreciation of his service to the City of Los Angeles.

Grayce Liu, the General Manager of DONE, presented a city proclamation and a special certificate from DONE honoring Wesley Todd for his 11 years of service.

## **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 Expo Line streetscape improvements.

The improvements are from Crenshaw to Figueroa St. Design and construction is by Bureau of Street Services. The corridor crosses three council districts, 10, 9, and 8, and two NCs, UNNC and NANDC.



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There are currently a few trees, and 40 foot tall power lines along much of the corridor. The proposal is to put numerous additional trees along the corridor. From Western to Vermont, the sidewalk is only six feet wide. There are light poles and utility poles in the actual sidewalk as well.

A lot of parkways are not maintained as well. Because the parkways are unmaintained, they have proposed to pave those parkways between Crenshaw and 11<sup>th</sup> to increase side walk space.

They will also be replacing buckled sidewalks, broken curbs, and driveways.

They will also be installing curb ramps where they are missing.

Four main issues:

Plans for Expo and Crenshaw – Yes, there are mainly crosswalks being added. Not significant impact on Crenshaw Line.

Crosswalks – continental white stripes vs. decorative.

Existing crosswalks are not that visible. LA DOT wants continental crosswalks near trains and schools.

There are 23 bus stops on Exposition Blvd, with 3 nearby on intersecting streets. Seven bus stops are on six foot wide sidewalks. There is a wide enough sidewalk at the NW corner of Crenshaw to re-locate a bus shelter to.

There is no way to put bus benches on six foot wide sidewalks. The bus benches have a more ornate design.

Bus stops – Transit shelter and benches were discussed.

Bus stops – Lighting was discussed.

They will be removing just four trees along the corridor that are volunteer palms, or they are unhealthy, or they are underneath guy wires. They will be planting 262 trees. The main tree will be an evergreen, and there will be an accent tree to alternate. They are very reliable, hardy, and drought tolerant trees. They also provide seasonal color to the corridor.

The main tree is the Australian Willow. The first accent tree is the Pink Trumpet tree. The Golden Trumpet tree is an alternate accent tree. Both of these trees are deciduous and when the leaves drop, the flowers are present. So the trees never look seasonally bare.

These trees are very suitable because they fit under powerlines.

Smaller native trees need more regular pruning in order to look good.

The Western Red (something) is too shrubby and also doesn't offer as much shade.

There are some Jacaranda trees being added as in-fill near Vermont, because there are already Jacaranda trees along that segment of the road.



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Dolores Spears arrived.

**MOTION:** Laura Meyers moved that UNNC support this project as presented today with the exception of not supporting the paving of parkways that are wider than two feet; and that we urge the BOS to seek funding for on-going maintenance, watering, trimming, and weeding; and (iii) and that BOS implement best-practices for storm water run-off mitigation; and (iv) that BOS further evaluate native tree alternatives.

Myrna Allen seconded.

Vote: 12 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstention.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- A. Allocate unused end-of-fiscal year funds for purchase of an upgrade for the renovation of Leslie Shaw Park in Jefferson Park – N. Gilmore – ACTION

**MOTION:** Norman Gilmore moved that UNNC fund an outreach letter and postcard, design and printing, and/or postage for up to \$1,000 with content approved by the city attorney.  
Dolores Spears seconded.

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

- B. Review and approve updated UNNC Bylaws and Standing Rules – ACTION

UNNC last updated its bylaws in June 2011. Grayce Liu at the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment reviewed the UNNC changes and made extensive additional revisions in August of 2012. The vast majority of the revisions were to bring the bylaws into alignment with a standardized table of contents.

Stevie Stern noted that most of the changes were re-arranging the sections and clarifying the language, to make the organization uniform between Neighborhood Councils. One section was moved from the Standing Rules to the Bylaws as well.

The changes proposed by the DONE were projected on the screen and reviewed by the board. The version amended by the motions below is the version sent by DONE in August 2012. Some but not all changes suggested by the UNNC Executive Committee were accepted by motions below.

**MOTION:** Norman Gilmore moved to retain the original UNNC definition of stakeholder, by changing the words in the definition of “Stakeholder” in *Article IV* from “those who declare a stake in the neighborhood and affirm the factual basis for it” to “those who declare a stake in the neighborhood and affirm the factual basis for it based upon their participation in among other things, parks, recreation areas, public safety organizations, environmental organizations, medical/health organizations, libraries, educational institutions, religious institutions, community organizations, service organizations, non-profit organizations, or other at large entities.”

John Arnold seconded.

Vote: Approved unanimously.



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**MOTION:** Anthony Carter moved to change all references to “Council” to “UNNC” throughout the Bylaws wherever the word Council refers to UNNC specifically.

Myrna Allen seconded.

Vote: 13, 1 opposed, no abstentions.

**MOTION:** John Arnold moved that that the following sentence be added to *Article I*: “The UNNC is comprised of the Governing Board, its committees and its stakeholders.”

Stevie Stern seconded.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

**MOTION:** Laura Meyers moved to change the word Secretary to President in *Article V, Section 9: Removal* so that the sentence reads “The President shall then have the matter placed on the agenda for a vote of the Board at the next regular meeting of the Board. “

John Arnold seconded.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

**MOTION:** John Arnold moved to strike the pre-amble of *Article VII* as follows: “~~All committees, subcommittees, and/or ad hoc committees shall be made up of members that are appointed by the Board.~~”

Dolores Spears seconded.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

**MOTION:** Norman Gilmore moved to insert a new paragraph B to *Article VII, Section 3* that reads “The Board shall establish the rules for Committee membership in the Standing Rules.” and re-labeling the former paragraph B as paragraph C.

Sandra Pruitt seconded.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

C. Review new Neighborhood Council Funding Program – ACTION

Grayce Liu, General Manager of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, answered questions about the new funding program.

D. Approval of final reconciliation of UNNC 2012-2013 budget - ACTION

This item was postponed.

E. Approval of 2013-2014 Budget – ACTION

This item was postponed.

## COMMITTEE BUSINESS

A. Planning & Zoning – Meyers

1. Case No. Unassigned; 3101 West Venice Boulevard - Proposed development at 3101 West Venice Boulevard (at Arlington) with 48 units of housing for Homeless Veterans and Individuals with an income of 30% of Area Median Income. – ACTION



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Handled out of order after item 3.

Armen Ross presented the Arlington Square Project.

Community of Friends since 1988. Have developed 40 buildings, and kept 35, with 5 given to non-profit partners. 90% built in Los Angeles County. There have been two built in Council District 10.

Chandler Pratt and Partners. 40 year old company that does urban infill apartments, both market rate and affordable. They have an in-house general contractor and build their own buildings. They built 145 units of affordable workforce housing in Inglewood.

OPCC will be providing the on-site services.

Wesley Todd departed. Stevie Stern presented Wesley Todd a Certificate in Appreciation of his 11 years of service to UNNC.

**MOTION:** Laura Meyers moved that UNNC support 48 units of permanent supportive housing for formerly homeless, and/or mentally-ill and/or veterans, and that UNNC supports the massing, scale and proposed setbacks as presented at this meeting, and UNNC requests that the developer continue to communicate design and program details with UNNC to obtain UNNC's input on those design and program details.  
John Arnold seconded.

There will be two staff members on site. The representative from OPCC stated that the staff ratio is appropriate within their experience. There is licensed clinical staff that also does site visits.

The staff is on-site from 8am to 5pm. If any tenants caused a nuisance, OPCC would work with property management to make sure the tenants are not a nuisance.

People with a history of violent conduct are not considered for these units.

Vote: 9 in favor, 4 opposed, no abstentions.

2. Case Nos. ZA 2013-1028(ZV); ENV 2013-1029-CE; 2022 West Adams Boulevard (corner Manhattan Place in Jefferson Park HPOZ) Proposed Zone Variance from Section 12.21-A,4(a) to allow zero additional parking spaces in conjunction with the conversion of an approximately 950 square-foot one-bedroom dwelling unit into two studio units, resulting in a total of 39 dwelling units with zero on-site parking spaces. – ACTION

Laura Meyers moved to not support the application for a variance at 2222 West Adams Boulevard.

Andrea Dunlop seconded.

Vote: 12, none opposed, 2 abstentions.

3. Case Nos. ZA-2013-815-ZAA; ENV-2013-816-CE; 1331 S. Arlington Avenue - Proposed conversion of an accessory living quarter into a habitable unit within a property that has an existing triplex, in the RD1.5-O Zoned property; would permit the reduction



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of a side yard to 3 feet in lieu of the required 5 feet and a rear yard setback reduction to 5 feet in lieu of the required 15 feet. – ACTION

**MOTION:** Laura Meyers moved that UNNC oppose the proposed conversion of the accessory living quarters into a habitable living unit.

Andrea Dunlop seconded.

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

## COMMITTEE UPDATES

We will meet Thursday June 27<sup>th</sup> instead of July 4<sup>th</sup> to approve our budget for the next fiscal year.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

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

**MOTION:** Laura Meyers moved to approve the May 21, 2013 US Bank Statement.

Sandra Pruitt seconded.

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

Elizabeth Fenner left.

## MINUTES

No minutes to approve.

## PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

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

Thanks to Carlton Stubbs for arranging the food tonight from Taqueria Los Anaya on West Adams near Buckingham.

Sandra Pruitt volunteered to arrange food for June.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Elect Garcetti will be at Holman Saturday the 8<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting adjourned at 10:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Norman Gilmore

UNNC Secretary

September 18, 2013 corrections: Planning and Zoning motion corrected. Delete text accidentally carried over describing approval of April 4, 2013 minutes.

Attachments: None.