



OLYMPIC PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
City of Los Angeles PO Box 19348 Los Angeles, CA

www.opnc.org

OFFICERS: Jocelyn Duarte: PRESIDENT / Anya Adams: VICE-PRESIDENT

Alexander Mena: TREASURER / Judith Wyle: SECRETARY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: **February 19, 2015** at 7:00 pm

NOTE NEW LOCATION: Legal Aid Foundation 1102 Crenshaw Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90019



OPNC- February 19 2015 Minutes

1. Call to Order/Roll (7:15 PM) (see OPNC_2.19.15_Vote_Item#1_Roll Call)
2. Approval of Minutes minutes approved subject to corrections
3. Reports of City Officials, City Departments and Agencies: Officer Cho addressed the board. He has been made our Senior Lead Officer. There will be an Anti-Gang event at the Olympic Police Station on February 28th from 11-3PM at 1130 So. Vermont. Hot Dogs will be served. There has been a rash of distraction crimes in the area targeting the elderly. A white, newer model Ford 350 or Dodge Ram with two whitish men in it have a routine. One knocks on the front door informing the resident that he is a contractor that has been hired to work on the neighbors adjoin fence. He lures the resident out into the backyard while his partner ransacks the interior for valuables. The residents at the 900 block of Westchester have been victimized. There was a wallet stolen at knifepoint at 11th and Grammercy at 10PM. A female was robbed of cash by 3 black males armed with a switchblade at 8AM.
4. b) Treasurer's Report: Pamela Whittenbury guides the board through the line item review of the Treasurer's Report
 - c) Vote approves the MER (Monthly Expenditure Report) (see OPNC_2.19.15_Vote_Item#_4c.pdf)
5. Public Comments. A stakeholder who attended the PLUM Committee was distressed at evidence of ethnic strife expressed by committee members. She asked that the code of conduct be enforced at PLUM Committee meetings as they are mandated at OPNC board meetings. She also inquired about the security cameras that were slated for Queen Anne Park, noting their absence. It was determined that they were never actually ordered do to an administrative conflict. No refund was necessary as no monies were outlaid to acquire them. A stakeholder spoke on behalf of city council candidate Grace Yoo. Grace Yoo also spoke for herself, touting her experience as an attorney and children's advocate. There will be a candidate's forum this Sunday at Vintage Hollywood 4000 W. Washington Blvd. LAHS alumni association informed the board of upcoming events that they are planning to try and promote their agenda to engage the community with LAHS. An Earth Day Fair is planned for Saturday April 18, 2015. With a Community Garden presentation. Lowe's will be participating along with Solar Power Installers. A Solar Cooker will be demonstrated. The LAHS Alumni is seeking involvement from the OPNC Board, perhaps in the form of an NPG Grant or sponsorship of some kind.
6. Bonnie Strong steps forward to discuss her candidacy for one of the vacant positions on the board. She has extensive volunteer experience with L.A. Youth Volunteers and retired from the LA Times after 39 years of work. She offered her research, teamwork and negotiation skills as assets to share with our board. The board voted, unanimously, to admit her to the board. (See OPNC_2.19.15_Vote_Item#6)
7. Joyce White is introduced by Daphne Brogdon as a candidate to fill one of our board vacant seats. Her years of experience as an active and engaged member of the neighborhood and a leading organizer of the LANA Neighborhood Watch Organization as well as an active advocate of LAHS impressed the board. Her candidacy was voted on and she was unanimously approved for membership on the board.(See OPNC_2.19.15_Vote_Item#7)

8. PLUM Committee Chair Updates the board on their ongoing efforts reporting on the committee's recent meeting where support was given by a vote of 4 to 1 to support KLG Health Clubs application to renew an existing CUP for code change allowing a residentially zoned lot to be used for a parking lot for an adjoining business, currently in use by the property owner. A CUP is being requested for another adjoining, applicant owned property that is currently occupied by a six unit @ one bedroom apartment residence. The owners have vacated all but one of the apartments and are in the process of vacating the last tenant. They are seeking a permit to demolish the 1940s era apartment building to use the land for 12 parking spaces for their adjoining business. The business is in need of additional parking. The PLUM chair was the sole dissenting vote, concerned with removing moderate incoming housing in the OPNC, especially given the city's "housing crisis." Citing the need for more information, she stated were the case to go to hearing she would request a public comment period from the Zoning Administrator. Information that the applicant had provided about the buildings possible historic value, site, and the impact that this might have on the block's residences and residential nature was also in short supply. She also made the board aware that there are ongoing discussions with the Mayor's Office Business Development Arm, Business Source LA which has expressed an interest in arranging Small Business and Entrepreneurship Workshops in and for our neighborhood (in possible combination with the Hollywood area). Locating these workshops at LAHS might further the LAHS alumni agenda of integrating LAHS into its surrounding community in beneficial ways.

9. Julia Lee presented CUP Case#: ZA-2015-48-CU & ENV-2015-49-EAF to the board. Please see Agenda Item # 8 on these minutes for a description of the case substance. Ms. Lee was queried by the board members with the following questions: Is there anyone currently residing in the building? Does the business have other options to solve their parking issues? How is the Health Club Used? Who uses it? What will the effects be on the adjacent building if the apartment building in question is torn down? Won't this result in a reduction to the property value to the adjoining neighbor's property? Has any thought been given to mitigating the effects of the parking lot to the adjacent residences? Has any thought been given to using a valet system, whereby stacked parking could increase the efficiency and capacity of the current lots? Approximately 6 stakeholders came forward to speak in favor of the applicant's CUP application. All were regular health club users citing: Health Club Users are forced to park on adjoining streets, removing needed parking from the residential occupants of the neighborhood. Many of the KLG Health Club clients feel unsafe parking on the public street in this neighborhood during the later evening hours. The Board asked for the CUP applicant to come back to the board with more information that addressed the questions posed. Photographs of the building and neighborhood were requested long with more information about the building's operations and users and some efforts at designing a screen, perhaps landscaping, to mitigate the effects of losing this building were the CUP to be approved.

10. Agenda item was tabled as stakeholder is still working with her neighbors on a plan for restricted parking and was not ready to address the board at the time.

11. Boardmember & PLUM Chair Wyle discussed efforts to bring business education to the neighborhood's businesses in conjunction with Business Source L.A. There was confusion regarding whether this should be the purview of the PLUM Committee. Wyle defended the idea that Small Business development, historic preservation and neighborhood revitalization are a complex tangle of Economic Development and Land Use and Planning Issues and that it should be considered as part of the Committee's concerns.

12. Discussion was had regarding the OPNC's need for Board recruitment materials on an ongoing basis. We have had a number of vacant seats due to our small size and ongoing attrition and it has been challenging to attract people to a board that the stakeholders know little about. A vote was had, that approved setting aside \$500 for printed public outreach materials that can be used for recruitment purposes. This money is being used in lieu of election funds that had been set aside in the budget in a non-election year. (See OPNC_2.19.15_Vote_Item#12)

13a. An NPG grant was requested by the Wilshire Crest Music Program to fund instrument acquisition, repair and instruction. The board unanimously approved the grant (See OPNC_2.19.15_Vote_Item#13)

13b. Elizabeth Fuller approached the board regarding an NPG for \$4770, to fund a scholarship program at The Enrichment Center Summer Camp at Wilshire Crest Elementary School. The monies would provide scholarships to either 6 children for 9 weeks or 8 children for 7 weeks at a cost of \$85 per child per week. The camp has been in operation for a number of years and has been a past recipient of NPGs from other NCs. TI provides both academic and recreational activities to a community of children with few resources. 5 NCs have been approached including, GWNC, PICO, Mid City 5, Mid City West & Greater Adams. The Operating Cost of the Camp is \$60-70,000 and it is a 501.CK. Since this was not properly agendaized, no vote was had. The applicant was asked to come back and address the board again so a vote could be taken.

As covered under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services, and activities. Sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability of services, please make your request at least 3 business days (72 hours) prior to the meeting you wish to attend by contacting the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment. In compliance with government code section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to all or a majority of the Board members in advance of a meeting may be viewed at our website by clicking on the following link: www.theopnc.org, at a location given in the item number of the agenda or at the scheduled meeting. In addition if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the Agenda, please contact the Olympic Park Neighborhood Council via email info@theopnc.org.