OPNC- March 2015 Minutes

1. Call to Order/Roll (7:12 PM) (see OPNC_3.2.15_Vote_Item#1_Roll Call)
2. Approval of Minutes minutes approved subject to corrections
3. Reports of City Officials, City Departments and Agencies: Officer Rodriguez addressed the board. A new Burglary Task Force has been initiated, whereby an 18 arrest sweep took place. It involved undercover police and chase vehicles. It has been very effective at reducing the number of burglaries in the neighborhood. Car theft continues to go up. “Break Ins” removing property from cars are typical, as are thefts of Catalytic Converters. We were asked to be mindful of suspicious looking individuals in our neighborhood. “Knock, Knock” burglaries are common, where burglars attempt to determine if people are home. They often ask for a person who doesn’t live in the house to save face. We were urged to report any instances of this activity we may encounter and to make eye contact with suspicious looking persons so that they know they have been noticed. The burglary uptick is likely attributable to the passage of AB 109 and Prop 47, limiting jail time for non-violent offenders. A discussion regarding food trucks took place. The police cannot enforce laws regulating food vending as that is the jurisdiction of the Health Dept. Trash scavenging the night before pick-up was discussed. The police recommend waiting as long as possible to put out trash. An anti-gang event will take place at Olympic station on the 28th of the month.

Sylvia Lacey addressed the board. The City of L.A. is in the process of rewriting the vending ordinance which will involve setting up specific vending districts. This will help the city manage and regulate this activity. L.A. high is being brought to the city council to be honored for their football successes and their marching band achievements. The light at Pico & Rimpau is being fixed, the associated median is being planted and a crosswalk adjacent to the Yoshinoya Bowl Restaurant is being retimed. Confusing painted lane lines at Mid Town Crossing were also addressed.

4. b) Treasurer’s Report: Alex Mena guides the board through the line item review of the Treasurer’s Report
   c) Vote approves the MER (Monthly Expenditure Report) (see OPNC_3.2.15_Vote_Item#__4c.pdf). Budget revisions were suggested by Pamela Whittenbury, former treasurer and current advisor to the treasurer. Funds could address: Community Development, Beautification, Street Cleaning, Civic Participation, Planting Trees, Public Sidewalk Trash Cans. Printed handouts and mailers, business cards and an OPNC Newsletter would enhance our outreach operations. The board was urged to talk with stakeholders and arrange for Town Hall Meetings with Block Captains. By Laws were mentioned. Of our standing committees, our outreach committee could be re-invigorated as per the by-laws.

5. Public Comments. A street beautification and clean up event was suggested by a stakeholder, along with a request for money to be set aside for Town Hall meetings at Los Angeles High. It was suggested that we circulate paperless MER reports to the board in the future. Ray Virtues, from the So. Cal. Gas Co. addressed the board regarding the Advanced Meters being installed. A team will be coming through our neighborhoods to upgrade the network communication and provide a physical replacement of the current meters. Stakeholders should expect a letter from the So. Cal. Gas Co. to the meter replacement. Pet Owners or those with locked gates must call
the number in the letter to arrange a window of opportunity for the meter exchange and installation. The upgrade includes giant shut off valves servicing many users at once.

6. Motion to table agenda item 6 passes.

7. Earth Day Fair at L.A. high was cancelled due to insufficient preparation time. Ken Marsh requests an NPG to support Community Forums at L.A. High. He explains the LAHS Alumni Association agenda to engage the community in the high school for the benefit of both the community and the students. An underutilized resource, could be a community facility with modest financial support form the OPNC. If events do not take place the allocated funds would be returned to the OPNC. The NPG was approved. (see OPNC_3.2.15_Vote_Item#_7.pdf)

8. The Pico Clean Up was discussed as a good use of funds. Outreach to MINC, UNC and Non-profits such as Heal the Bay might be suitable co-sponsors for the event.

9. There were no specific announcements

10. Meeting was adjourned at 9PM