

OLYMPIC PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 6, 2017  
LOCATION: UNION 4067 Pico Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90019

**I. WELCOMING REMARKS:**

- Call To Order (President - Laura Rudison)
  - President Laura Rudison called the meeting to order at 7:15pm PST.
  
- Roll Call (Secretary Ava Post)
  - Secretary Ava Post conducted the roll call.
    - 8 Board Members in Attendance: Curtis Clark, Mitchell Edelson, Ava Post, Laura Rudison, Faalangia Smith, Bonnie Strong, Gracious Williams, Joyce White
    - 5 Board Members Absent (Unexcused) and 2 Board Members Absent (Excused)

Following the roll call President Laura Rudison asked that the names of those board members with unexcused absences, as well as the names of those members that have missed four meetings be noted. She shared that with the aforementioned absences the board was without quorum. She then added that she knows of 3 individuals that want to serve on the board and are willing to attend.

President Rudison then asked Officer Rodriguez to give his presentation on law enforcement in the neighborhood first since the board was without quorum.

• **Law Enforcement - Wilshire**

- Officer Rodriguez shared that between February 1, 2017 and March 4, 2017 there was a total of 54 crimes in the area. He shared that the majority of those crimes were crimes of opportunity with most consisting of vehicle break-ins and theft. He shared that 25% of the burglaries are done on homes that are left unsecured and 36% of theft is due to unattended property. He stated that this year theft is up by 23% which based off of the percentage of these crimes that occur due to unsecured or unattended property, shows that these crimes can be prevented.
- Officer Rodriguez then encouraged stakeholders and constituents to attend the “Coffee With A Cop” event taking place at Wilshire Blvd and Detroit on March 22, 2017 from 8:00 am - 12:30 pm PST. Officer Rodrigues expressed that this would be a perfect time to meet some of the officers that work these burglaries in the neighborhood in an informal setting.
  
- **Public Comments/Questions:**
  - A Stakeholder asked if there was any update on the murder in memorial park. *Officer Rodriguez explained that currently there are no further details. There is unfortunately still no word on why this murder took place.*

- A Stakeholder then asked if perhaps there was a connection between the murder and a transient individual in the drive way. *Officer Rodriguez responded that there is no connection, because there were no transients in the park at the time of the murder.*
  - A Stakeholder asked for a reminder regarding carnival. *Officer Rodriguez explained that more info on the carvel is coming. However the dates for the event are April 7, 8, 9 and the hours are 12pm - 9pm.*
- **Law Enforcement - West Traffic Division**
    - Officer George Arellano from the traffic division explained that he's a part of a unit that deals specifically with constituent complaints pertaining to traffic issues and concerns. He explained that once a complaint is received his division will check out the traffic area of concern and spend time there to see how many violations they witness. They will then follow-up with additional trips to show their presence in the area.
    - Officer Arellano then passed around a notebook asking the board and constituents to please note any current traffic related problems that they are having. Board Members noted 12th Street and Keniston Avenue; Hudson and 12th Street from Olympic to Keniston Avenue; Corner of Mansfield and Olympic; and others which were added to Officer Arellano's notebook.
  - **Public Comments/Questions:**
    - Board member, Mitch Edelson then asked if Officer Arellano could speak to any traffic fatalities or accidents. *Officer Arellano shared that he didn't have that info on him, but will have it for the next meeting.*
    - Mr. Edelson then asked if Officer Arellano was aware of any bike lanes coming to the area. *Officer Arellano shared that the decision regarding bike lanes are made higher up the chain, so he is unaware.*
- **Law Enforcement - Olympic**
    - Officer Cho shared some incidents that occurred recently. He explained that there was a homicide on the train. An elderly rider was unfortunately attacked and killed. He shared that in his opinion he believes that in the future Metro may go back to having their own police department.
    - He then added that yet and still most crime in the area is car theft. And like Officer Rodriguez before him, he stressed awareness and being mindful as the key to preventing these crimes of opportunity.
  - **Public Comments/Questions:**
    - Ms. Williams then asked Officer Cho about ideas for handling all the bomb threats and death threats at local schools. Officer Cho explained that most schools have specific programs that address active shooters, bomb threats, earthquakes, and every other scenario. He then advised Ms. Williams that if ever in this situation its best to stay away from doors and windows, make sure both are locked, and try to maintain communication with outside administration and staff.

*\*\*President Rudison again citing the lack of quorum explained that only items not on the agenda could be discussed.*

- **Public Comments/Questions on Non-Agenda Related Items:**

- Mr. Edelson commented that he saw a post on the council's website regarding Measure S, but did not see on the site the board's stated opinion on Measure S, even though the board opposed Measure S in its February meeting. Ms. Rudison asked that board member, Bonnie Strong be contacted in the future if there are any mistakes on the site.
  - Ms. Rudison encouraged the board to attend the September Congress of Neighborhood event on September 9th, located at City Hall. She shared that they provide breakfast, lunch, and a variety of workshops.
  - Student Representative - Board member, Gracious Williams asked for the council to set-up a table at LA High School for her school's American Cross blood drive on April 6th. She shared that she has fellow students already willing to staff the table. In addition Ms. Williams asked for a phone or email blast, and an announcement about the blood drive on the council's website. **ACTION:** President Rudison explained that they were unable to do a phone blast, but that the council would do an email blast, add the blood drive to the website, and also provide literature as well as hoodies for the table.
  - Ms. Rudison then introduced Adrian Nicole Edwards, a budget Advocate from Region 6. Ms. Edwards shared that she worked with the NID housing Council and works in the area. She then expressed her sincere interest and hope in joining the board. Without quorum no motion was made, but her interest was noted by all the board members that were present.
  - Ms. Rudison then explained that while board members are welcome to attend DONE meetings and other meetings, members must keep in mind that when expressing a public opinion in a public forum on an issue that the Olympic Park Neighborhood Council (OPNC) has not discussed or voted on, you must state ahead of your opinion that "this is my opinion" so as to be clear that you are not representing the board.
  - President Rudison then shared that they had a great budget meeting at the LA ZOO. She expressed regret that those members not in attendance missed an informative presentation.
  - President Rudison also announced that from henceforth speaker cards will be used for stakeholders and anyone else coming to speak at council meetings. **ACTION:** Mr. Edelson then suggested that this be added to the agenda for the April meeting. President Rudison agreed.
  - President Rudison encouraged members to go to the Highland/Wilshire/La Brea area and see all the renovations that are underway. She noted a "Target" and a "Sprouts".
- President Rudison then closed the meeting at 8:15pm PST.