

OLYMPIC PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING  
September 05, 2017 – 7:00 PM  
LOCATION: UNION 4067 Pico Blvd. Los Angeles CA 90019

I. WELCOMING REMARKS 7:05PM

- President Laura Rudison called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM, requesting roll call to wait until a quorum was reached. The quorum was reached at 7:08 PM, during Officer Harry Cho's remarks.
- Faalaniga Smith called roll at 7:35 PM after the five-minute recess.
  - Present: Laura, Curtis, John, Joanne, Gerry, Ted, Joyce, Mitch, Bonnie, Hank
  - Excused Absent: Adrienne
  - Unexcused Absent: Ava, Gracious

II. CITY OFFICIALS/CITY, COUNTY, STATE AND OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPTS/AGENCIES

- Officer Harry Cho was present from the LAPD with updates at 7:06 PM.
  - Officer Cho notified the board that there has been an increase in home and car burglaries. He noted that although burglaries are on the rise, they are usually common in mid to late summer and will hopefully decrease as the season ends. He distributed "Hide It, Lock It, Keep It," fliers and burglary prevention fliers. He stated that thieves have been targeting middle to upper class homes, working in teams. The LAPD recently arrested a crew that came in from the valley to target nice neighborhoods, knocking on doors and breaking into houses if nobody answered the door. Thieves also check homes for partially open windows.
  - Officer Cho said that an alarm system will not prevent a burglary, but it will reduce a homeowner's loss, since neighbors and security will hear the alarm going off. Burglars will grab something quickly and go, knowing that someone will be coming to check on the home. Home and business security camera footage has also been helpful for apprehension of burglary suspects.
  - Officer Cho noted that the LAPD has a lot of security footage and needs the public's assistance in identifying suspects from the footage.
  - Thieves also walk up and down the streets and into driveways, checking for unlocked car doors. If the car door is open, theft becomes a misdemeanor instead of a felony.

- Lynn told Officer Cho that recently, a young woman came to her door asking to measure the back fence. Jenn did not let her into the house, but when she told her neighbor about the incident, her neighbor informed Jenn that she was robbed the previous Wednesday.
  - Officer Cho responded that the young woman might have been involved in what is referred to as a Distraction Burglary. Distraction Burglaries are described as when a person pretending to be a contractor or LADWP employee distracts the homeowner by taking him/her to the far corner of the backyard while the partner enters and robs the home. Distraction Burglaries usually target older homeowners.
- Beth McNamara informed Officer Cho that her neighborhood uses the Nextdoor App, which she encouraged the LAPD to check for citizen complaints.
  - Officer Cho responded that every neighborhood has a contact person at the LAPD, whom citizens are welcome to notify directly with complaints.
- Mary Kim was present from the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment with updates at 7:20 PM.
  - Ms. Kim informed the board that elections have been moved to 2019. If anyone wants elections in 2018, they can use the election stipulation worksheet. Online elections will be available in 2019, and bylaws are opening immediately.
  - Ms. Kim discussed the logistics for the board retreat. She proposed the date of **September 30**, which will be the last Saturday in September, from 10am to 2pm. She was open to other suggested dates and times. The location remained to be determined but must be within OPNC boundaries. Laura noted that the location could also be in an adjacent area. Bonnie will check the Wilshire Community Room, the Memorial Library, Herb Wesson's office. **Bonnie will send Officer Cho an email regarding the meeting.**
  - Faalaniga asked whether the board needed to vote on having a selection process in 2018. Ms. Kim answered that the board does need to vote.
    - Laura reminded the board that they agreed to retain the historical value of the board by opening only half the seats in each election, voting for the other half the next year. This would make it less cumbersome and easier to deal with. Mitch suggested a lottery to determine whose seats would be up for election.

- Faalaniga asked when the selection process would be discussed. Laura answered that the board will have an outreach committee to discuss the election committee.
- Mary Kim informed the board that the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment is conducting a voluntary demographic survey. She passed the survey around on a tablet. The survey could also be taken from a home computer, since it was not officially due until September 30. Ms. Kim also passed around a roster so board members could update their contact information.
- Ms. Kim reminded the board that Congress is coming up, and they could still sign up to attend. The website is [www.nccongress.la.com](http://www.nccongress.la.com).

FIVE (5) MINUTE RECESS – 7:29PM

ROLL CALL – 7:35PM (see 1b)

PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM SPEAKER CARDS

- Joyce Klyfeld, Executive Director of the Harrison Trust, was present from LA High School to announce its **Centennial Celebration on October 21**.
  - LA High is the oldest high school in Southern California and has a rich history. It will be celebrating the 100-year anniversary of its 1917 move from Downtown LA to its current location. Ms. Klyfeld left the board copies of the celebration invitations.
    - The Celebration will also honor alumni, including actor and activist George Takai (1956), magician and owner of the Magic Castle, Milt Larson (1949), and sound producer Jerry Brown (1956).
    - The Centennial Celebration will take place at the Peterson Automotive Museum on October 21, 2017. The Peterson Museum CEO is an alumnus.
    - LA High will also have souvenir program from 1973. Similar programs will be selling ads. Anyone interested in buying ad space, promoting or attending the celebration were invited to contact Ms. Klyfeld, Bonnie, or Joyce.

III. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS (Laura Rudison)

- **Joanne moved to approve the August 2017 Board Minutes.**
- **Bonnie seconded this motion**
- **The motion passed unanimously.**

#### IV. PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Laura Rudison)

- Laura noted that there were still some board seats that needed to be filled. An amendment would reduce seats from 19 to 17, with 8 seats representing the east side and 8 seats representing the west side of Crenshaw. Quorum would be reduced to 8 from 10 members.
- Laura tabled the Pio Pico Middle School Musical Group discussion until the October meeting.
- Laura proposed a town hall meeting, which would use a report card system to rate area supermarkets to find out how well they are serving the community. The town hall meeting would be called, "Consumer Rating of Midtown Grocery Stores."
  - Laura would like to begin the rating by composing a report card for Smart & Final. Smart & Final has received a lot of negative feedback from the community, and is known to have expired products and poor service. Many people in the area refuse to shop there. Ms. Rudison believes that a report card on service and quality will convince the management to come to the table and learn how to better serve the community. She noted that she would like to see the departments of health and agriculture at the town hall.
  - Laura passed the report card town hall project on to the Outreach Committee.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM SPEAKER CARDS

*Commentary was invited after each committee report was given.*

#### OPNC COMMITTEE REPORTS

##### V. SECRETARY REPORT (Ava post/Faalaniga smith) 7:46PM

- Faalaniga informed the board that she has not yet updated the roster.
- Since Ms. Post is no longer attending the board meetings, Laura stated that she would like to have some volunteers for the Secretary position. She would like to see more diversity, specifically more males, on the executive committee board. Mitch volunteered for the position.
  - **Nina Smith moved to remove Ava Post from the Secretary position and elect Mitch as Secretary.**
  - **Bonnie seconded this motion.**
  - **Curtis abstained. All other board members approved the motion.**
  - **The motion passed and Mitch will now take over the duties as Secretary.**

VI. TREASURER REPORT (Faalaniga Smith) 7:50PM

- Faalaniga informed the board that the monthly report is not yet ready from the city. She had requested 14 payments, with only 3 disapproved.
- The board will review the treasurer report at the October meeting.
  - **Mitch moved to approve reimbursement for Ted Smith and Faalaniga Smith.**
  - **Joyce seconded this motion.**
  - **Curtis abstained. All other board members approved the motion.**
  - **The motion passed.**
  - **Faalaniga moved to remove the Apple One bookkeeper position, assistant to the treasurer.**
- Laura stated that she was not in favor, and needed assurance that if Nina is not available, someone will be available to perform the duties, make sure bills are paid in a timely manner, and bills are tracked.
- Nina stated that right now, the only person authorized to request payment is the treasurer. Laura noted that she is the second signer, and she would need the assistant's support if the treasurer were not available. She stated that the assistant that the board uses is very experienced and would know how the system works.
- Nina suggested that the board submit her name to the funding folks and have her trained as a treasurer in the new system.
  - **Mitch seconded Faalaniga's motion.**
  - **In favor of removing the position - 5**
  - **Opposed to removing the position (in favor of keeping the position) - 5**
  - **Since the vote was tied, the board will keep her on until there is a quorum enough to break a tie.**

VII. TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC SAFETY (Gerry Pass) 8:04

- Gerry attended a CPAB, traffic and safety special meeting. He suggested that OPNC become more involved in problems. The meeting discussed the San Vicente and La Bread development project.
- Gerry introduced Beth McNamara, who is involved in the project.

- Ms. McNamara found the plan online. She has explored how to address concerns about buy-right developments. She has talked with Metro developments, the Department of Safety, and neighborhood councils.
- Ms. McNamara met with the principal at the developer and told him that they need to come to neighborhood meetings if they truly want to be a part of the community. Ms. McNamara was concerned about the car count and how it would factor into neighborhood quality of life and pedestrian safety. The developers told her that they were waiting to lock down Sprouts before engaging the community, because of their experiences with past council meetings.
- Ms. McNamara informed the board that the developers were interested in doing a bid for a farmer's market. She recommended involving Herb Wesson's office for traffic studies and official data.
- Ms. McNamara requested a letter to Herb Wesson's office saying that the board met with the developers and it needs to have official studies done. Curtis offered to help.
- **Gerry moved that Traffic and Public Safety works with PLUM to draft a letter to Herb Wesson recommending that his office becomes involved in the community response to the development.**
- **Joanne seconded this motion.**
- **The motion passed unanimously.**
- Frank Rosato, Co-chair of the Wilshire CPAC was in attendance.
  - He notified the board that CPAB recently formed a traffic committee. Curtis and Jerry are also on the committee. Mr. Rosato attended the OPNC board meeting to hear what the board had to say about the development.
  - The next **CPAB traffic committee will meet next Friday, September 15**. Mr. Rosato suggested that the developers might be willing to do something for the board in good faith, and may be willing to hear what you should say if there are any suggestions.
  - **Mitch moved to draft a letter to send to Herb Wesson's office to organize a meeting.**
  - **Jerry seconded this motion.**
  - **The motion passed unanimously.**

- Bonnie reminded the board **that Congress 2017 is at City Hall on this coming Saturday, September 9** and registration is still open. Congress will have several interesting workshops. Remember to print your parking pass.
- Bonnie informed the board that a group of board members met and organized the public storage space.
- Joyce informed the board that OPNC partnered with the neighborhood watch, and will host a community meeting on **Tuesday, November 7 at LA High School. The meeting will take place from 6:30 to 8:30PM** and will include dinner from 6:30 to 7PM. The meeting will host guest speakers such as a police liaison, an earthquake preparedness representative, and Herb Wesson. The Outreach Committee would like to add a speaker to discuss the new development. Joyce requested volunteers and neighborhood association representatives to help distribute fliers and solicit food donations from restaurants.
- Bonnie informed the board that the OPNC partnered **with Queen Anne Park for an event on October 31 from 4-8PM**. OPNC also partnered with Herb Wesson's office for a Winter Wonderland event in December 2017.
- Bonnie stated that the board needed to decide what to put on the 2018 Calendar.
- Bonnie announced that Hank Williams would be the new Assistant for the Outreach Committee.
- Mitch requested to put live-streaming meetings on the Outreach agenda.
- Lynn requested that the board consider if to donate to Winter Wonderland. Laura replied that the board did not contribute for the last three years.
- Nina asked Bonnie whether she had any information about a December Christmas event at Queen Anne Park. Bonnie replied that she had not yet heard from them, but they can discuss it at the Outreach meeting.
- Bonnie notified the board that the next **Outreach Committee meeting would be Thursday, September 7, 2017 at 7PM in the Wilshire West Community Room. 4861 West Venice Blvd.** She asked the board to try and attend the meeting.

IX. P.L.U.M. COMMITTEE (Ted Smith III) 8:30PM

- Ted stated that he would try to get the guy from CIM to attend a PLUM meeting.

- Ted informed the board that at Gramercy and Olympic, there is a Korean restaurant. The owners of that building are considering tearing it down and replacing it with a convalescent home. Country Club is up in arms.
- Ted stated that there are so many alcohol licenses in the area that it is becoming a concern. Also, there is a prostitution issue on Western at Pico.
- Ted will draft a letter and bring a final version next month.
- Ted notified the board that the next **PLUM Committee meeting would be September 18, 2017 at 7:30PM at UNION. 4067 W. Pico Blvd.**

X. OPNC BUDGET ADVOCATES (Adrienne Edwards/Hank Williams)

*no updates*

XI. TRADE, COMMERCE, TECHNOLOGY, PUBLIC WORKS (Mitch Edelson)

*no updates*

XII. YOUTH PULSE

*no updates*

XIII. UTILITY AND BUILDING SERVICES

*no updates*

XIV. OPNC "ONGOING" BUSINESS

- Laura informed the board that Neighborhood News received their final payment of \$150.

XV. OPNC NEW BUSINESS

- The board discussed OPNC Grievance #83, by Gerry Pass against Laura Rudison.
  - Laura stated that performance is important; not race or gender. She had given opportunity to everyone on the board and encouraged everyone to find his/her interest.
  - Mitch stated that although he was listed as a witness of the grievance, he has never witnessed any racial prejudice by the president.
  - Ted stated that he knew which incident was referred to in the grievance, but he believed that race was not an issue.

- Laura noted that since the unfair absenteeism report notification was given to Outreach, not the board, the grievance was based on false information.
- Joyce stated that before Laura was president, some board members were racist toward her, but she had not encountered that in the current board.
- Bonnie stated that before she joined the board, she attended several OPNC meetings and, with the previous board, she encountered racism. For example, when she became Vice President, she was unable to obtain certain passwords. She stated that she would like to see a very diverse board that represented OPNC's borders.
- Laura stated that all they can do is open the board up so everyone has a fair chance, and hope people come and participate.
- Lynn stated that the race issues have been going on a very long time, and she felt like she had to speak up for being Asian and the discrimination. She noted that this goes back to the previous board: the board would talk through what she said, and they were disrespectful and would say very racist things at the community members.
- Curtis stated that there has been racism forever and there will continue to be racism because people are biased. Prejudice is preference but racism is rooted in hatred. He noted that the current board is inclusive.
- Lynn stated that people are being spoken over during meetings. Laura responded that if you speak over your allotted time, you will be shut down, and it's not about race, it's about time limit.
- Ted stated that everyone should be allowed to disagree with someone, or not like what someone said. Every time they disagree or don't like how someone said something, it doesn't mean they are racist. They may just disagree with you, or not like you. We need to be free to disagree and say what we want to say without being afraid of being called a racist.
- Gerry stated that several people resigned due to being spoken over and disrespected. Laura responded that that they resigned for other reasons, and noted that accusations of racism should not be made without knowing all the facts.
- **Gerry Pass resigned 8:54 PM and left the meeting.**

- **Laura accepted his resignation.**

XVI. COMMUNITY/OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

*no announcements*

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

- Laura adjourned the meeting at 8:55pm.
- **Next OPNC Board Meeting will be on October 2, 2017 at UNION, 4067 W. Pico Bld.**