

Olympic Park Neighborhood Council  
Board of Directors Regular Meeting  
October 2, 2017 – 7pm  
Location: UNION 4067 Pico Boulevard, Los Angeles CA 90019

**I. Welcoming Remarks**

- a. President Laura-Diane Rudison called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.
- b. Secretary Mitch Edelson called roll:
  - i. Present: Laura, Bonnie, Mitch, Nina, John, Joyce, Hank, Ted, Adrienne, Joan
  - ii. Unexcused Absence: Curtis
  - iii. Excused Absent: Peter, Jerry
- c. 30 seconds moment of silence for the victims of the Las Vegas shooting

**II. City Officials/City, County, State, and Other Government Depts./Agencies**

- a. Miss. Lacy was present with updates from the City Council's office
  - i. She stated that there had been some conversation with Beth McNamara about the Pico/San Vicente project. Miss. Lacy's office could not find, through the Department of Transportation or the Department of Planning, a plan for the project. She had reached out to CIM to try to get some information and thus far had not been successful. She was told it was a "by right" project. She was pursuing the project with DoT due to community concerns about traffic and ingress/egress.
  - ii. Miss. Lacy stated that Beth also had questions about another project on 12<sup>th</sup> and La Brea, Firestone. Beth had asked why the Board had not been notified about the project from Miss. Lacy's office. Miss. Lacy informed the Board that the PLUM committee or President got notifications while City Council's office did. She reminded the Board that the City Planning Department is the office that notifies the Council office and the Board.
  - iii. Miss. Lacy stated that the City Council's office was investigating the Board's not being able to buy fire department gym equipment. Bonnie and Laura both attended the funding training and the City Clerk's office handles the funding. She informed the Board that it should have a conversation with the City Clerk's office. Laura wanted to know who came up with the idea that the City Clerk can block the Community Council from using funds, how did it become a rule, and how many councils were involved in the same situation. Laura suggested

the Board find out if the city clerk can block the council from using those funds.

- iv. Ted announced that the Board sent a letter regarding the CIM project to collectively work with various city offices and officials. He was hoping that the letter had been read.
    - 1. Miss. Lacy answered that the City Council's office was trying to find out more but the developer kept saying they were "by right," but the City Council and the developer needed to try and get together. The Department of Transportation had a Neighborhood Traffic Concerns Bureau, and the City Council's office was trying to find out who was running the Bureau and if it still existed, so they could help navigate through some of the issues.
  - v. Ted stated that when he went to the training about transportation, two Public Works Commissioners, Mike Davis and another person, said they could do the cement with the streets but they needed City Council consent. Ted informed the Board that the Public Works Commission had an initiative where they were painting the streets with a special coating to cool down the pavement and they were looking for an encapsulated neighborhood to do the cool down and plant some streetscape. Ted suggested that Country Club Park to Longwood area might be a good area for that type of project. The special coating was called "cool pavement."
- b. 7:30 LAPD Representatives Officer Rodriguez and Officer Cho were present with announcements
- i. Officer Rodriguez spoke as the Senior Officer of the territory from Venice Boulevard to Wilshire Boulevard and from Crenshaw Boulevard to Redondo Boulevard. He shared some crime statistics from September 3 to the day of the meeting.
    - 1. Thefts: Some were preventable, such as people leaving cell phones and purses unattended and leaving bikes unlocked.
    - 2. Burglaries: He saw a lot of activity where people were knocking on doors and identifying themselves as representatives from alarm companies asking if people had alarms. If the homeowners said they did not have alarms, the thieves would schedule appointments for a later date, then return and rob the residence. Officer Rodriguez suggested that area residents get an alarm system, something that would send an alert to their phone, with motion detectors and camera detectors. He suggested a motion detector that would show activity at the back door as well as front door, because most

burglaries happened after people knocked on the front door and then entered through the back door. If there were activity at back door and the resident called it in to the police, at least the resident would have a trespass. He stated that front door alerts were not criminal activity, because many people came to the front door for many reasons. Officer Rodriguez also suggested checking the perimeter of the residence to make sure windows had working locks.

3. Vehicle break-ins: The main reason for vehicle break-ins was people leaving items inside vehicles. Officer Rodriguez offered the solution of taking items out of the vehicle or removing them from plain site so a thief would not smash the windows.
4. Officer Rodriguez announced that there was a home invasion at the 800 block of Keniston. He said the female victim was in her bedroom sleeping at 11:15 PM. Her husband was in the guest home and the alarm was not activated. She was woken by three males in ski masks choking her. They had guns and demanded property, then threatened her life and put a pillow over her head. Officer Rodriguez stated that it was important for people to remember that they needed to lock and secure their homes, and make plans with their loved ones so they knew how to stay safe. He suggested that they prepare for the worst situation.
5. Officer Rodriguez stated that another incident was a robbery on Pico and Milan. The robbery was performed by a male Hispanic gang member from 18 Street with an air soft pistol that looked very realistic. He robbed the victim and the victim got on the bus, but the LAPD officers were called, observed the suspect and captured him walking down the street. They found the gun half a block away in a trashcan. They had a good witness that helped track him down. Officer Rodriguez stated that it came down to, make a better witness than a victim, and if you see something, call the police.
6. The LAPD Wilshire Division will have an open house Sunday, October 9 from 12PM to 4PM
7. Lynn, a resident, stated that a couple of weeks ago, a transient-type person was hanging over her side yard gate and when he noticed her he took off and went North toward Olympic. She informed Officer Rodriguez that the hippie bus had returned. She said that the hippie bus used to park in front of her house and was currently on Country Club on the Southeast corner of

- Wilshire. She said that the owner of the hippie bus got visitors. The hippie bus was an RV painted hippie-like.
8. Lynn asked Officer Rodriguez to explain the recent police activity around Queen Anne Park. Officer Rodriguez answered that at the area of Queen Anne and Pico, there was police activity on the perimeter because a motor officer did a traffic stop on a suspect on motorcycle. The officer noticed the ignition was punched out and called backup, then the suspect pushed the motorcycle against the officer and ran away. The officer pursued despite the injuries incurred by the motorcycle and the suspect was apprehended.
- ii. Officer Cho was present with announcements.
    1. Officer Cho informed the Board that there had been an increase in robberies of elderly females walking alone. The robbers snatched the women's purses. Elderly females and other residents should travel in groups to avoid being targeted.
    2. Officer Cho had the results of a recent LA crime statistics. The statistics were available online at [www.lapdonline.org](http://www.lapdonline.org). He shared that the city of LA was 468 square miles, and had 9,941 sworn police officers, and 3.9 million residents. Last year, LA had 125,430 Part 1 crimes and 92,282 Part 2 crimes. Last year, there were 937,024 calls for service in the city of LA.
- c. Mary Kim was present from the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment
    - i. Mary thanked Board members for coming to the training. For those who could not make it to the training, she offered to have a smaller session and to send out a follow up email with the content of the meeting and some proposed dates so all board members could have the same information.
    - ii. She informed the Board that the Health Education Neighborhood Council Committee moved NCL elections to 2019 with further online vetting going forward. She said that there was a worksheet to do if the Board wanted to do 2018 elections.
    - iii. Laura said that the decision does not mean that the Board cannot elect new officers in June 2018. She strongly recommended that the board elect new executive officers. Mitch clarified that the Board would be electing half of the new officers in 2018 and half in 2019 to ensure a smooth transition.

### **III. Public Comment from Speaker Cards**

- a. Bonnie announced that the LA High Centennial would be on October 21, 2017.
- b. Bonnie called a point of order about the Secretary report on the approval for last month's minutes.
  - i. Ted moved to approve the September minutes.**
  - ii. Joyce seconded this motion.**
- c. Mitch requested that anyone needing to update their information for the roster, send their updates to Nina. Adrienne updated her information with Nina.

#### **IV. Administrative Items**

- a. Laura asked for a motion to approve the September 2017 Board Minutes.
  - i. Joanne moved to approve the September 2017 Board Minutes.**
  - ii. Mitch seconded this motion.**
  - iii. Adrienne abstained.**
  - iv. The motion passed.**

#### **V. President's Report**

- a. Laura reminded the Board that it needed more members from the east side. Mitch stated that he was trying to reach more potential members. He suggested doing something jointly with the Country Club Association to attract members. Mitch and Ted offered to reach out to the Country Club Association.
- b. Laura shared her experience at the Neighborhood Council Congress. She stated that it was one of the better workshops and was quite eventful. As the OPNC representative, she had a chance to meet the Director and his hired consultants from ENRON. At her workshop, the Director and the consultants were skewed. Attendees had a camaraderie meeting after the session. It was a great day. She expressed her hope that other Board members come out to the next Congress. She suggested only staying until 1PM if they could not stay all day until 4PM. She said that they might find it entertaining.
  - i. Mary Kim offered interested Board members the option of being on the Planning Committee for the next Congress.
- c. Laura announced that Fire Department #68 needs gym equipment. She suggested that the Board take care of law enforcement in its neighborhood. She said it would be good to show an obligation to fire and police departments and allow them to use a portion of the Board's funds for their health and care while they were waiting at the station.

## VI. Secretary Report

- a. Adrienne updated her information for the roster with Nina.

## VII. Treasurer Report

- a. Nina passed out the July and August Monthly Expenditure Reports (MERs) and announced that the MERs were from a new city system.
  - i. **Mitch moved to approve the Monthly Report for July 2017.**
  - ii. **Ted seconded this motion.**
  - iii. **The motion passed unanimously.**
- b. The board examined the August MER. Nina stated that in August, the Board spent \$1,995. Most expenditures were AppleOne invoices from the 2016 fiscal year, public storage, and Constant Contact. Mitch asked about item 12 for \$150, whether the Board had already paid it in full. Nina replied that the Board had paid the Neighborhood News. Adrienne asked whether retreat payments were on the MER, and Nina answered that they would be on the September MER.
  - i. **Mitch moved to approve the Monthly Report for August 2017.**
  - ii. **Ted seconded this motion.**
  - iii. **The motion passed unanimously.**
- c. Nina requested a motion for reimbursements for Bonnie and Nina.
  - i. **Mitch moved to reimburse Bonnie \$2.59 for bottled water and Nina \$158.84 for pizza.**
  - ii. **Joyce seconded this motion.**
  - iii. **The motion passed unanimously.**
- d. Nina stated that the Board needed to discuss how and where to apply the Sanitation Clean Street Challenge reward of \$1000. Laura suggested tabling that discussion for the Outreach Committee.
- e. Bonnie informed the Board that they have had problems with the new funding system. Nina had expressed to Bonnie that the system was down and she had not been able to pay three bills from Wendy Moore from June, August, and September.
  - i. Laura asked how the city system was down.
  - ii. Nina replied that she called Martha the day of the Board meeting, and Martha said they were trying to work on it, so Nina had been checking all day. It appeared that they erased Nina's registration for her to get into the system. Nina stated that she would talk to them, but it had been acting up like that.
  - iii. Laura stated that the City Clerk's office wanted the Board to submit information within ten days. If the Board did not give them receipts within ten days, it would not get reimbursement. Laura stated that she would be amending the City Clerk's

thinking because as long as a board member had a receipt and the board approved the funds, they should be paid. She said that the City Clerk could not dictate to the Board how it used its funds and when it would be reimbursed. Laura wanted to make sure that the Board was aware that that was a concern to her. She stated that, in corporate America, when the system went down, it was repaired within hours, but with the city, they got to it when they got to it.

- iv. Bonnie stated that because of the system being down, the Board was incurring late charges from its vendors. Laura replied that the Board would have the city eat its late charges and have the vendor back off. If they were part of the delay, then they needed to eat its late charges. Bonnie and Nina stated that they would follow up on that.
  
- f. Joan informed the Board that she had received a couple of emails about funding denied, such as \$500 to Olympic. Nina replied that when she had input the funding the first time, she could not put all the documents together, so the City Clerk emailed back to her so she could send it back all in one. She sent it back but sent the wrong certification form so they denied it. She talked to them and she had to send the correct certification form. Laura stated that when you input documents into the system, it should be one PDF with multiple pages within the file.
  
- g. Mitch introduced the topic of the 2019 elections. Laura suggested moving the discussion to its own category on the Agenda, titled, "Elections." Mitch stated that the Board should form an election committee to decide on a budget. Laura suggested putting that on the Outreach Committee Agenda and adding, "Election Committee," to the OPNC Agenda.
  - i. Mitch stated that whoever gets assigned to the Election Committee needed to fill out the paperwork before the next meeting. He informed the Board that the Stipulation Form for 2018 elections was due by November 1. Laura suggested making the form available Thursday's Outreach Committee meeting. Mary Kim said that if the Board followed its bylaws, it did not need to fill out a stipulation sheet. Mary said she would confirm that statement and send out an email.

## **VIII. Outreach Committee**

- a. Bonnie stated that the NPG that the Board had been waiting for since June had been denied again this past week. Officer Cho had been asking and Bonnie hoped the Board could get it done right away. Laura said that she hoped that by the November meeting it would be over.

- b. Hank did a lot of filming for Congress. Adrienne had outreach ideas. Hank and Adrienne wanted to be able to capture what the concerns were in the community. They started filming at Congress and put videos on social media (Facebook and Twitter). Videos would show athletes that would be involved in OPNC and make stakeholders aware of what was going on. OPNC was not very active in social media, so Hank would start being more active and hopefully get people to come out.
  - i. Joyce asked Hank whether they would film the town hall meeting. Hank replied that they wanted to be part of that. He said that they had all the equipment and would be more than happy to film the meeting.
  - ii. Mitch informed the Board that he would not be speaking at the town hall meeting, but might briefly discuss the food drive.
  
- c. Bonnie stated that she and Hank decided in outreach to make business cards, and they came up with the idea of putting a bar code on the back. Bonnie discovered she could use another vendor that would cost the same amount as the city vendor. Hank clarified that the bar code on the back of the card was called a “QR” code. He said they would have one code for the website and one for Facebook. The iPhone camera could read the QR code without an app. A person would take a picture of the QR code, and the code would bring up either the website or the Facebook page on their phone. Bonnie asked who should get a new business card. Laura requested a motion to prepare business cards with QR codes for Board members.
  - i. Ted moved to prepare business cards with QR codes for Board members.**
  - ii. Bonnie seconded this motion.**
  - iii. The motion passed unanimously.**
  
- d. Bonnie stated that the Queen Anne Park partnership was still on for Halloween, October 31, from 4PM to 8PM. The flier was given to Wendy and was on the website. Queen Anne representatives were not present at the Board meeting.
  
- e. Mitch requested Board participation at Union on October 20 for the George Clinton performance. A few board members stated that they would be there.
  
- f. Joyce was coordinating the OPNC/Lana Town Hall on November 7, 2017. She stated that she hoped Mitch would put together the fliers so that people could pass them out. Herb Wesson would be speaking, as well as Lana. Joyce would introduce the new school principal, certified first response team and Hebel Rodriguez.

- i. Joyce stated that she needed help gathering food donations for food served from 6:30 PM to 7 PM. She needed people to pick up the food and bring it over to the Town Hall. She said that once the fliers were done, she could deliver them, distribute them from her home, or bring them to the meeting. She would like to get them out before Halloween and needed to get them out around October 20.
  - ii. Joyce said that she had enough speakers for the Town Hall, but if anyone thought of anyone else, to let her know. She asked if there could be a budget for food if enough food was not donated. Laura answered that the Board had already agreed to allocate up to \$500 as a backup plan in case Joyce could not get enough food donated.
  
- g. Bonnie suggested that the Board include a Christmas celebration with the December 4 Board meeting. Laura asked how much money the Board should spend on food. Bonnie suggested tabling the discussion for the Outreach meeting. Laura requested a motion to incorporate a Christmas celebration into the December 4 Board meeting.
  - i. Ted moved to incorporate a Christmas celebration into the December 4 Board meeting.**
  - ii. John seconded this motion.**
  - iii. The motion passed.**
  
- h. Bonnie informed the board that October 21 would be the LA High Centennial Celebration. She said to call to be put on the attendee list. Adrienne raised hand to attend LA High Centennial.
  
- i. Nina asked the board if it would like to have another Culture Festival the third week of June, since there was a Culture Festival last May. Laura requested to table the discussion for Outreach. Laura stated that she would like to see moving some events from Queen Anne park to LA High, and maybe that would get more of an attendance. She said that since the Board would be meeting the new Principal, having events at LA High would be an opportunity to showcase the Principal and OPNC to the community.
  
- j. Mitch informed the Board that Union would be hosting Thanksgiving dinner in the afternoon, and he was counting on OPNC support and volunteers. He said that Thanksgiving dinner had been very successful the last few years. His plan was to get more people to feed. It was nice to have OPNC's support.
  - i. Laura stated that the Union Thanksgiving food was delicious: Four- to five-star restaurant quality.

- k. The next Outreach Committee meeting and Joint Board Budget meeting would be Thursday, October 5, 2017 at 7PM at the Wilshire West Community Room, 4861 West Venice Boulevard.

#### **IX. PLUM Committee**

- a. Ted stated that at the last PLUM meeting, they brought up two places that were outside OPNC's jurisdiction but would affect the neighborhood.
  - i. In the greater Wilshire area, on Gramercy Drive, there was a Korean restaurant on the northern side. Developers were trying to build a seven-story building with a Korean restaurant on-site. The building would be an elder care and memory care facility with 157 units divided between elder and memory care. In addition to the Korean restaurants, there would be other stores and medical offices on the street level of the building.
    - 1. The greater Wilshire community had responded with questions about whether the building would have enough parking and ambulance access. They were requesting for the building to have outreach so community could use some of the rooms.
  - ii. Additionally, there was a vacant lot across from the Olympic Car Wash. A developer wanted to buy the house next to the vacant lot and build independent townhouses. The townhouses would be a community project where all the townhouse residents would have to pay into a fund. The project would consist of seven small, two- or three-story units.
- b. The PLUM committee will speak to the developers about issues with the 12<sup>th</sup> and La Brea proposal.
- c. The PLUM committee composed a letter regarding the CIM project on La Brea aka the Target project, requesting to work as community guidepost for developments in the area. Ted had sent the letter to multiple agencies with no response yet.
- d. Ted informed the Board that there were many projects coming into the area. He said that Congress was talking about reviving the community plans for each district, and creating a community plan for 2019. Ted said they were pushing the zoning plan first, without having a community plan. Small lot ordinance, changing commercial zones, and the Governor just signed fifteen new bills about buying property and equipment. They called it, "work force housing," instead of, "affordable housing/low-income housing". They talked about housing for nurses, police officers and firefighters.
  - i. Laura stated that the City of LA was trying to adopt something happening in Scandinavian countries, which was the concept

where they believe that if low-income housing were built next to elite housing, low-income people would feel peer pressure to raise their standing. However, in Scandinavia, they were socialists, not capitalists. They were trying to bring a socialist concept into capitalism. She said that our government had been trying to make Angelinos into Scandinavians for fifty years, but it did not work in capitalism.

- ii. Ted stated that it allowed for higher density due to the transportation corridor. If developers added affordable housing to luxury housing, they could increase their density by 30%.
  - iii. Ted said that at the last planning meeting, nobody had kids. The question was, what happened when people had children. They did not have an answer. Ted asked them, who was the last person to ride to the grocery store on a bicycle and back. They answered that nobody had.
- e. Regarding prostitution on Western, Gwendolyn had said that they called the police about prostitution on Western and 11<sup>th</sup>, at 2 AM. Police came, and the prostitutes hid unsuccessfully behind some cars. The police shooed them away instead of pursuing the matter. The question was, when do police get out of the car. Ted stated that the PLUM Committee was talking about an RFA for that issue, the homeless issue, and the post office incident.
  - f. Ted stated that at the training, they came up with a CIS. The CIS had to go with the Council agenda, but they could submit an official request for action. If anyone had issues they wanted to submit, Ted offered to craft something for the Outreach meeting. He requested that Board members email or text him with suggestions.
  - g. Bonnie offered to add an item to the Outreach agenda: follow up on the Senator de Leon meeting.
  - h. The next PLUM Meeting would be October 16, 2017 at 7:30PM at Union, 4067 W. Pico Boulevard.

## **X. OPNC Budget Advocates**

- a. *no discussion*

## **XI. Trade, Commerce, Technology, Public Works**

- a. Mitch stated that he heard back on the BID, and was working to gather support from the property owners of buildings. If he got 75% of business owners to agree, he would follow up April 2018.

## **XII. Transportation & Public Safety**

a. *no discussion*

### **XIII. Youth Pulse**

a. *no discussion*

### **XIV. Utility and Building Services**

a. *no discussion*

### **XV. OPNC “Ongoing” Business**

- a. Laura suggested that the Board table discussion for Grievance #107 until the November meeting. She needed to receive feedback from the city attorney as to whether the board could discuss the grievance, since it was a public document.
  
- b. Laura stated that the grievance was regarding an \$800 repayment for the Neighborhood News. She said that when agreeing to use the Neighborhood News, it was discussed that the news was supposed to have an additional 1000 copies circulated in Country Club Park. After six months and not using the year service, the \$800 was not part of the settlement payment. The question was whether the Board could send a demand letter to the Neighborhood News asking for the money back (in the July minutes, she admitted to not doing that part), or we could elect to chalk it off to experience and not use that vendor again.
  - i. Mitch stated that he thought that this issue was a bad proposal that was not going away, and the Board should let bygones be bygones, and not drag it on any longer.
  - ii. Joyce stated that she agreed with Mitch. She said it was very stressful in July, and sending a demand letter would not get any money. Laura responded that the city attorney would follow up, and the Board would get the money.
  - iii. Ted stated that she mentioned she had other contracts with the city that she could use as leverage. He could understand Mitch’s point of view, but he also understood the need to rectify what had been done to the Board and let vendors know that they could not take advantage of the Board. Laura said to keep in mind: that is the precedent the board would be setting. Ted said that he was supportive of sending the demand letter.
  - iv. Joan stated that she agreed with Ted.
  - v. Adrienne clarified whether the board or the city would get the money. She stated that she was in favor of sending the letter, since the money would go to the board and not back to the city.
  - vi. John stated that the vendor did acknowledge that she did not distribute. He did not think it would be big news that a vendor took advantage of the OPNC, and he thought there would be a bigger headache than it was worth.

- vii. Bonnie stated that they went to Congress and were surprised about how many people she had called around the city trashing the OPNC.
- viii. Nina stated that, from her personality, she thought the Board would go through a lot of stress.
- ix. Laura stated that she was willing to go through the stress. She said it was nonperformance plus insults, instead of nonperformance and reasonable excuse as to why it was not done. The vendor could not act out any more than she had already. That would also allow other neighborhood councils to avoid vendors that would take advantage of them. Laura reminded the Board that when the vendor stepped up, Laura had stated to the Board that they needed to do some background research because there were no other councils advertising with this paper. She said that if the Board went after the \$800, the vendor would know if this happened again, the Board would follow up.
- x. Lynn stated that the Board Paid Pips \$2,000, and he did not show up to the meeting to ask for it. There was a precedent set with that vendor. Laura replied that that was not done with the current Board, and Laura did not vote for that.
  1. **Ted moved to send a demand letter for the \$800 to the vendor, the Neighborhood News.**
  2. **Adrienne seconded this motion.**
  3. **2 opposed**
  4. **The motion passed.**

#### **XVI. OPNC New Business**

- a. *no discussion*

#### **XVII. Community/Other Announcements**

- a. The next board meeting: November 6, 2017 at Union, 4067 W. Pico Boulevard.
- b. OPNC/Lana Town Hall: November 7, 2017
- c. The next PLUM meeting: October 16, 2017 at Union, 4067 W. Pico Boulevard.
- d. Joan announced that there would be a community event, Del Ray Day, at Glen Alla Park on October 15, 2017 from 11AM to 3PM. There would be a jazz band, free food, a spelling bee and emergency preparedness lessons.

#### **XVIII. Adjournment**

- a. Laura adjourned the meeting at 9:03PM.