

Olympic Park Neighborhood Council
Board of Directors Regular Meeting
November 6, 2017 – 7:00PM
Location: UNION 4067 Pico Boulevard, Los Angeles CA 90019

1. WELCOMING REMARKS

- President Laura Rudison called the meeting to order at 7:02PM
- She addressed Agenda Item 2 before calling roll.
- 7:36PM Secretary Mitch Edelson called Roll
 - Present (10): Laura Rudison, Bonnie Strong, Mitch Edelson, Faalaniga (Nina) Smith, Joann Fleming, Peter Wilson, Gerry Pass, Joyce, Hank Williams, Adrienne Edwards.
 - Excused Absent (2): John, Theodore (Ted) Smith III
 - Unexcused Absent (1): Curtis

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

- Steven Chow, Field Deputy for Jimmy Gomez' office, was present to introduce himself to the board.
 - He announced that his office is taking High School student applications for US Military Academies. The deadline is November 27, 2017. Applicants can reach out to Jimmy Gomez' office.
- Officer Rodriguez was present from the LAPD Wilshire Division. (Venice to Wilshire, and Redondo to Crenshaw.) He had updates on area crime trends.
 - Burglaries increased in October, with ten burglaries spread out among the community, and no specific target area.
 - A lot of the burglaries did not have surveillance cameras where people could have been notified via their smart phones.
 - Officer Rodriguez advised residents to apply a monitoring system with a notification system, such as a motion detector that notifies the resident when someone enters their property through the rear.
 - Two aggravated assaults resulted in a stabbing.
 - One was a person dropped off at their home at night by a taxi. The resident was stabbed multiple times by a Hispanic male.
 - The second stabbing occurred at a construction site. The suspect stabbed his fellow worker in the back.
 - There were two robberies.
 - One was a tagging crew of juveniles that approached the victim at LA High at 10:00PM. The victim was a student at the high school who recognized and identified the suspects.

- The second robbery took place at the bus stop on Wilshire and Crenshaw at midnight. The victim was cut by the suspect.
 - A lot of thefts were preventable. Many thefts were results of people leaving property unattended. Officer Rodriguez cautioned residents to be aware of their surroundings.
 - The LAPD is still working on the homeless situation.
 - A resident asked Officer Rodriguez about a homeless encampment on San Vicente and Longwood. She said that they are gone, and she called 311 because they left a lot of debris, but 311 would not clear the debris. They were also writing on the wall and the writing is still there.
 - She said that there is a camper with six people sleeping inside, and the registration on the camper is not valid. Officer Rodriguez will check on them.
- Officer Harry Cho was present with updates.
 - “Knock knock” burglaries occur when people knock on a door and if there is no answer, they break into the house. If the resident does not have an alarm system, the thieves stay in the residence for hours and take everything.
 - There have been car break-ins throughout the city.
 - Cars are rarely seen stripped for parts. They are usually used for transportation from point A to point B.
 - Also, homeless people have been stealing cars to live in them.
 - Cars are broken into for valuables. Officer Cho cautioned not to leave valuables visible. Thieves do door checks to see if the car is unlocked. If it is unlocked, breaking in constitutes a misdemeanor; but if it is locked and they break in, it is a felony.
 - Operation Shoes from Santa is coming up on December 16, 2017 at 11AM.
 - Instead of giving toys to the kids of the neighborhood, the LAPD will reach out to the schools and identify the kids who are most in need. These kids will get a special invitation to the police station for the event. They will get a new pair of shoes, toys, and the station will be turned into winter wonderland with a snow machine that will fill the parking lot with snow.
 - In the past there has been a photo booth.
 - The LAPD typically passes out 1,500 pairs of shoes, and the line for shoes stretches from 11th Street to Pico. Shoes are given by invitation only.
 - Home Depot will come out and do a Santa’s Workshop, and La Brea Bakery will have snacks and hot chocolate.
 - Officer Cho will email OPNC the flyer so and the board can post it on its website. Anyone that wants to donate shoes can contact Officer Cho, email the police, or contact the station. Officer Cho offered to come pick up any donated shoes.

- The shoe sizes are nursery through High School. They usually need sizes 11, 12, 13, youth 1 and 2 the most.

7:20PM - FIVE (5) MINUTE BREAK

- 7:26 Mary Kim was present from the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment.
 - She complimented and encouraged the board's outreach and its many partnerships with the community.
 - She announced that many people were able to make the board retreat. She requested those who were not able to attend to get together with her and have a recap of what she went over at the retreat.
 - The deadline to sign up for Civic U 2.0 is December 15, 2017. Civic U 1.0 was about how City Hall works. Organizers are asking for one male and one female to attend. Mary would love for OPNC to be represented.
 - The citywide, Board of Neighborhood Commissioners is discussing funding equity, specifically, how much money neighborhood councils should have based on population size. The board is setting up working groups, and wants two representatives from each region. If anyone is interested in joining the working group, Mary can give them a link. The deadline to apply is in mid-December.
 - NC101 is going on citywide. If OPNC needs assistance with NC101, reach out to Mary. NC101 can help with outreach to share how the council works.
 - The OPNC needs to do and share its inventory. Bonnie Strong said it would be done next week.
 - Congress of Neighborhoods was September 9, 2017. Mary, on behalf of Neighborhood Congress Committee, distributed pins to those participants that pre-registered.
 - Joanne, Hank, Ted, Laura, Lynn, Nina, and Bonnie received pins.
 - Next year's Congress of Neighborhoods will be on Saturday, September 22, 2018.
 - Mary stated that she was excited to attend the town hall on November 7.
 - Mary notified OPNC that if the board would like to include its events in the EmpowerLA newsletter, submittal deadlines are on Wednesdays. The newsletter is distributed to 15,000 stakeholders. Mary will send out a follow up email about newsletter submissions.
 - Bonnie Strong asked about the form on the EmpowerLA website that allows councils to upload photos for their inventory. Mary replied that right now, that could be more efficient and quicker, but EmpowerLA could also have someone go out and do it for OPNC.
 - Laura Rudison stated that the board wants to do it the efficient way, so OPNC will upload the inventory.

Adrienne Edwards left the meeting between 7:30PM and 7:45PM

3. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Laura Rudison)

- No report

PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM SPEAKER CARDS

- Erin Goldstrom was present from the Westside Jewish Community Center.
 - The Westside Jewish Community Center is located on Olympic less than two miles away from UNION.
 - The Westside JCC will have its Second Annual "One Healthy Community" Run and Walk event on Sunday, December 10, 2017 from 8:00AM to 11:00AM.
 - The event will have a 5k run and walk at 8:00AM, and a kid's fun run at 9:30AM.
 - Supervisor Ridley Thomas, Rue, Wesson, and the PICO Neighborhood Council will be at the event.
 - Westside JCC has a preschool, day camp, aquatic center, teen and senior programs
 - One neighborhood council is starting a friendly competition and making teams by street to see who can sign up the most people for the event.
 - Parking will be available at the Olympia Medical Center parking garage.
 - San Vicente between Fairfax and La Brea will be closed down for the event.
- Leo Guerrero was present to thank OPNC for its support at the Clean Streets event.
 - He said they had a great cleanup event and turnout
 - Bonnie Strong read a thank you note from the West Normandy Heights Neighborhood Association
- Ms. Lacy was present from the Council office to answer questions.
 - Gerry Pass told Ms. Lacy that several months ago, he sent a letter regarding tree removal for rotted trees on Longwood and San Vicente. Recently, one of the rotted trees fell on a car and injured someone. He said the city had fair notice to remove the tree before it fell and one tree is still standing. Ms. Lacy said she forwarded Gerry's letter to Urban Forestry.
 - Lynn stated her hope that the community can get a midtown Crossing shopping center sign this Christmas, since they missed last Christmas. Ms. Lacy said she did not know about the sign and would try to find out.

- Gerry Pass asked if Ms. Lacy was aware of a traffic study on Longwood and Tremaine, just above San Vicente, that may have been a speed study. He said that someone yanked out the cable two or three hours after it was placed across the road. Ms. Lacy replied that usually that is done for stop signs.
 - Gerry said there are stop signs on every corner of the street, and the problem is people speeding. Ms. Lacy replied that usually it is for a stop sign, but if there are already signs, then she will find out.
 - Peter Wilson said they would like to know who ordered it and what the results were. Ms. Lacy replied that when the speed hump program came back into existence, OPNC could not ask for them; the neighbors had to. A lot of streets along Longwood were submitted for speed humps.
 - Laura Rudison suggested asking Daphne or Beth McNamara if they know anything about it.
 - Ms. Lacy said that they would be adding speed humps to two streets per district. She will check.
- Gerry Pass asked for updates on the parking permits on La Brea, Olympic, and San Vicente. Ms. Lacy replied that Longwood is doing a permit project. They had started and now there is a new person heading it up. Ms. Lacy said she would be at the Town Hall on November 7. She said to reach out to Daphne for information on the permits.
- Laura Rudison told Ms. Lacy that on Edgewood Place between Rampart and West Boulevard there is a street called Edgewood Place. Laura said that Public Works claims it is an alley. In the center of Edgewood Place, there is flooding every winter and Mr. Pak's yard is completely flooded. Supposedly if the Council office will support paving the street, then Public Works will submit the project.
 - Ms. Lacy stated that the water was running at LA High and it came down the street in front of a house. The Council office had Public Works and LADWP address it. One of the sprinkler head's timers was broken and was continuously running.
 - Laura replied that this flooding was last winter because of the rain. Faith from Queen Anne Elementary suggested looking at the street because the pavement was broken. Laura will send Ms. Lacy her photos of the street.

4. SECRETARY REPORT

- no update

5. TREASURER REPORT

- Laura Rudison tabled the report because Adrienne Edwards left the meeting and the board had broken quorum with any financial items.

6. OUTREACH COMMITTEE

- OPNC – Fire Station #68 Physical Exercise Gym Equipment
 - Laura Rudison reported that the LA Fire Station 68 had submitted a piece of gym equipment that satisfied multiple cardio and physical exercises and would be submitting a \$5,100 NPG for the piece of equipment. Laura will distribute web link for the equipment.
 - Mitch Edelson asked if the \$5,100 included tax and shipping. Laura replied that she is not sure but she thinks so.
 - Laura stated that when the service members have down time, the OPNC should make sure they have something to do, if not only to get in physical shape.
 - Gerry Pass asked if it would be more cost effective to buy twenty of them Planet Fitness memberships. Laura replied that they must remain at the station to be on-call for service.
 - Lynn asked if OPNC would be liable if it purchased the equipment and someone was injured from using it. She also wanted to know if the fire station had approached any other neighborhood councils so OPNC could share the cost of the equipment. She asked what the liability would be, since she has seen claims from the city. Laura replied that the liability would be on the city and would not come back to OPNC. She said that this would not be the first time OPNC had purchased equipment.
 - Lynn stated that they have come to OPNC before and split the bill amongst the other neighborhood councils. Laura replied that she is not concerned about splitting the bill – they can go to other councils if they need anything else. She said that OPNC said it would buy them equipment and they have identified the equipment. This is a piece of equipment that can be used for many years.
 - Officer Cho said that once the equipment is bought for the fire station, they would be covered by the city insurance when they work out at the facility. The only liability is if the manufacturer is a defect.
 - Peter Wilson stated that it seems like the benefit for the community is very small, and he would like to see the \$5,000 go to somewhere in the community.
 - Mitch Edelson noted that \$5,000 is a large percentage of the annual budget. Laura replied that they had the discussion at Outreach, and if anyone had an objection, perhaps they should have stated them at the Outreach Committee.
 - Mitch Edelson said that this item has not been approved yet. Laura replied that this was approved at the Outreach Committee. Please feel free to attend the meetings.
- 2018 Election Committee pursuant to OPNC By-Laws
 - Mary Kim said that since the neighborhood councils had been talking about elections, the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment had some suggestions about the current state of OPNC's bylaws.

- The current state is there is a selection or election each year for 50% of the board.
 - Mary stated that with the neighborhood council elections moving to 2019, it is harder because when OPNC does a selection or election each year, that is more money allocated toward elections.
 - Right now the City Clerk does elections every two years, and that comes out of the City Clerk's budget.
 - Option 1 - maintain OPNC's current bylaws
 - Option 2 - OPNC can hold elections or selections every two years, saving money for elections
- Mary also suggested that, since OPNC did not have quorum at this meeting, the board should have announcements for Outreach instead of discussion, because the board would have to discuss and move items again when it did have a quorum.
 - Laura Rudison replied that it is her understanding that unless it is about finance, the board can still hold discussions. Mary replied that once the board had quorum, it would have to have the discussion again.
- Mitch Edelson noted that someone in the Office of Neighborhood Empowerment took the liberty to give OPNC the options to change the bylaws. Mary stated that her office is looking at who will do selections and who will do elections. Selections are a town hall meeting and non-secret ballot, like a caucus. Election is city-council run and is a secret ballot
- Laura suggested that OPNC still hold the 50% election in 2019 as scheduled and get on the City Administration Budget. However, come May 2018, OPNC could vote to elect new officers and if it has open board seats, OPNC could select to fill its board seats and still continue to wait for the 50% election in 2019.
 - Laura recommended that OPNC make a commitment to select a new executive board, just the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, in May 2018, and that way in 2019, whoever the 50% is will or will not be turnover. She would like to give the opportunity to other folks to become a chair.
- Mitch stated that he feels like its undue influence by a department. Laura replied that she understands what they are trying to do is keep every neighborhood council on the 2019 election cycle.
 - In essence, OPNC can still do what it needs to do; it can simply be a small portion. The whole point of an election is to elect new people or elect board members to continue.
- Mitch stated that only one person has been on the board four years or more. To have an election every four years does not contribute to a healthy board. Laura replied that at any point a member could resign. A board member can resign and still be considered as a selection in the future if the member wanted to become a stakeholder

- Mitch stated that it does not foster the same amount of participation. Laura suggested that OPNC have a big town hall to say it is having a election for new members of the board.
- Mitch replied that that is a good idea to fill vacancies but he still objects to four-year terms. Laura reminded him that members could resign at any time within those four years.
- Mitch said that it fosters more participation for people who are not involved already because people hear about elections and it makes people want to be more involved.
- Laura suggested that, instead of calling it an election, OPNC could call it a town hall to fill empty seats. It is a cumbersome election that the city wants OPNC to participate in, when the board can have a town hall to fill the same purpose and call it something different, and give notification to the community about open seats.
 - Laura recommended a town hall before she officially leaves the board in 2018. She suggested going into a special committee if in 2018 all the seats are still filled. A special committee could line up potential members where people are showing interest.
- Gerry Pass stated that he finds it ironic that the city is having meetings about the budget and then proposing something that the city says will save OPNC money. He wondered if OPNC would we be getting a budget reduction and then have to save money.
- Jay's Motion re: Deleon negative comments/position re LA Neighborhood Councils
 - Bonnie Strong tabled this motion.
- CD#10 Annual Taste of Soul participation
 - Hank Williams visited Taste of Soul and interviewed some vendors and Herb Wesson's team. He has some of the interviews they recorded and will send links to OPNC's YouTube channel to the board.
- LA High Centennial participation
 - Bonnie Strong tabled this update
- Wilshire LAPD Open House
 - Bonnie Strong attended the open house and gave out OPNC swag. She said it was a great event.
- Queen Anne Halloween Event Partnership
 - Nina Smith stated that she spent \$268.54 on Halloween candies for the Queen Anne Halloween event. Hank Williams took pictures of various events at the park from 4:00PM to 8:00PM. They said it was a great program. David Laura was present with photo booth provided by OPNC.
- LANA Town Hall with OPNC participation
 - Joyce thanked people who handed out flyers for the town hall. She said it will be a very big event and many restaurants will be donating food.

- Speakers will include Herb Wesson, Ned from the Metro will be speaking on purple line, a speaker on earthquake preparedness, and a speaker about crime. OPNC will be speaking. Joyce will thank participants and Laura will speak on behalf of OPNC. Daphne will also speak.
 - The event will start on time and go until 8:30PM.
 - Mitch asked what time to come to help set up. Joyce replied that everything is going along very well. She suggested coming by at 5:30PM to 6:00PM to help.
 - The food will be delivered at 5:30PM. People with food deliveries can drive cars up to the drop off location.
- UNION, Thanksgiving Day Event, “Feeding the Community”
 - Mitch Edelson announced that the event would be postponed and he might do something around Christmas .
- OPNCs Holiday Celebration & Regular Board Meeting, Budget Update, Brownstones Catering for December 4th
 - Nina Smith distributed menus from Brownstone for the OPNC Holiday Celebration on December 4. The food will be catered from 7:30PM to 10:00PM. The cost will be \$1,733 and will include three servers. They will set it up at the bar.
 - Nina asked if there would be a 30-minute meeting. Laura replied that it would almost be a meet and greet.
 - Mitch Edelson asked when the board would address the items from the November meeting that they were not able to address do to quorum. Laura replied OPNC would have a joint meeting with the Outreach Committee on Thursday, November 9.
 - Mary Kim noted that the joint meeting would need to have quorum. Committees provide recommendations to the board and the board makes the decisions.
 - Laura announced that there would be a joint Outreach and board meeting on Thursday.
- OPNC Swag for Kids & More \$3,000
 - Bonnie Strong tabled this motion
- OPNC new technology, “Text-UP” to sign up Stakeholders at Regular Board Meeting
 - Bonnie announced that if community members text 22828, they will be signed up to the Constant Contact database. Hank posted this number to social media.
- OPNC Business Cards & The Brown Act Poster
 - 500 business cards were printed per board member
 - Bonnie Strong tabled the Brown Act Poster discussion to be done by
 - President Laura Rudison.
- Social Media & Town Hall
 - Mitch Edelson made flyers for the town hall

- Board members were asked to tell people about OPNC's social media and start using social media to encourage community participation.
- The next Outreach meeting will be Thursday, November 9 at 7:00PM in the Wilshire community room. This meeting will also be a Joint Board meeting.

7. PLUM COMMITTEE

- The next PLUM meeting will be on November 20, 2017 at UNION, 4067 W. Pico Boulevard.

8. OPNC BUDGET ADVOCATES

- no update

9. TRADE, COMMERCE, TECHNOLOGY, PUBLIC WORKS

- Mitch Edelson announced that he received information from the Councilman's office regarding next steps for the bid.
 - They require a survey for business owners and property owners in the proposed areas, with $\frac{3}{4}$ of property owner support by April 2018.

10. TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC SAFETY

- Gerry Pass announced there would be a CPAC Traffic Safety meeting on November 14. They would discuss traffic issues from the shopping center, and homelessness.
- Gerry read on Nextdoor that many residents' FedEx packages are being stolen.
- There was a robbery that took place during a craigslist sale at the victim's residence.

11. YOUTH PULSE

- no updates

12. UTILITY AND BUILDING & SERVICES

- no updates

13. 8:35 OPNC "ONGOING" BUSINESS

- Robbie Abdul announced her interested in sitting on the board.
 - Robbie stated that she had previously been part of the board. She is Gerry Pass's neighbor and wants to be part of the community and see what she can do to help the community.
 - Laura Rudison stated that currently, all of the Westside seats are filled
 - Joyce announced that next month would be her last meeting because she will be leaving in the beginning of January. She will have a going away celebration December 2.

- Laura stated that OPNC would have a candidate to fill the vacancy left by Joyce. The board will have a selection for the vacancy.
- OPNC Grievance #107 by Diane Lawrence, The Neighborhood News.
 - Laura stated that this was 25-page grievance fighting the grievance against OPNC, and more specifically the Chair and the Treasurer.
 - Mary Kim said according to the City Attorney's office, a dismissed grievance is not something that is discussed because it was filed against an individual. She cautioned the board members to be careful what they say because it is individual liability.
 - Laura said that it is board procedure to discuss a filed grievance in context of OPNC procedure with regard to the grievance.
 - Laura received the grievance and the board did not have the opportunity to go on record with a response. Whether or not it was dismissed is irrelevant. This will be in the OPNC file forever and the board did not have a fair representation of its process.
 - Joyce stated that the lady in question is extremely disrespectful. She was totally out of line. She disrespected all of the board members with what she said. It is a two way street. OPNC need to do a full investigation on that grievance.
 - Laura stated that there are ways to get information on the record, and the board will talk about procedure, because of the destructive behavior. She recommended reading the July 2017 minutes that accurately recorded the behavior that precipitated the grievance.
 - Mitch Edelson stated that this is an example of why OPNC should videotape the proceedings. The video speaks for itself.
 - Laura recounted that the individual was very disruptive to the meeting and there was an ongoing eruption and behavior that caused the meeting to basically disintegrate. She noted that in the future, if this ever happens again, OPNC ordered a poster to be displayed in each meeting in accordance to the Brown Act regarding destructive behavior. Laura read from the poster:
 - "Section 54957.9 disruption of meeting 54947.9 – If any meeting is willfully interrupted by a group or groups of persons to render the orderly conduct such meeting unfeasible and order cannot be restored by the removal of individuals who are willfully interrupting the meeting, the members of the legislative body conducting the meeting may order the meeting room cleared and continue in session. Only matters appearing on the agenda may be considered in such a session. Representatives of the press or other news media, except those participating in the disturbance, shall be allowed to attend any session held pursuant to this section. Nothing in this section shall prohibit the legislative body from establishing a procedure for readmitting an individual or individuals not

responsible for willfully disturbing the orderly conduct of the meeting.”

- Laura announced that if OPNC ever had this again, the board would read the Brown Act publicly and ask the person to stop the destructive behavior. If it does not stop, the board will dial 911 and request police assistance. She said that she hopes OPNC will not have this again, but wanted to establish the procedure.
 - The procedure is to announce, request behavior to stop, then call 911 and physically file a written complaint.
- Joann Fleming asked if Mary Kim was videotaping the meeting during the altercation. Mary replied that she was not recording but saw the whole thing.
- Bonnie Strong said that OPNC actually had the Brown Act next to the sign in sheet as instructed by Jay Handal. Officer Cho and Rodriguez know about the Brown Act. The president can request that they remove the person.
 - Laura replied that they were not present at the meeting, so in the future, the board would capture the behavior in a formal complaint and call 911.

14. OPNC NEW BUSINESS

- Laura Rudison tabled new business until there is a quorum

15. COMMUNITY/OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Bonnie Strong reminded everyone to attend the town hall November 7, 2017.
- Laura Rudison reminded board members about the joint board and Outreach meeting on November 9.

16. ADJOURNMENT

- President Laura Rudison adjourned the meeting at 8:52PM.