

OLYMPIC PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING

August 07, 2017 – 7:00 PM

LOCATION: UNION 4067 Pico Blvd. Los Angeles CA 90019

1. WELCOMING REMARKS

- 7:14PM President Laura Rudison called the meeting to order with the expectation that the board takes care of some general business until a quorum attendance is reached.

2. CITY OFFICIALS/CITY, COUNTY, STATE AND OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPTS/AGENCIES [5-10 Minutes]

- LAPD – OFFICER RODRIGUEZ
 - i. Officer Rodriguez was in attendance and presented on behalf of the Wilshire Division of the LAPD. His territory covers Venice Blvd to Wilshire Blvd and Redondo Blvd. to Crenshaw Blvd.
 - ii. Officer Rodriguez gave an update on summer crime in the area. The majority of crimes were break-ins, with about 20 occurring from July 1 to August 7. There were 9 burglaries occurring at stores such as Lowes that escalated into struggles due to LAPD officers attempting to stop the burglaries.
 - iii. The only violent incident for this year in this community was a recent home invasion that may or may not have been a result of the thieves stalking a homeowner and waiting until she drove away from her residence. Unfortunately, after they broke into the home through a side window, they encountered the homeowner's 24-year-old daughter. A struggle ensued and the daughter was held at gunpoint. The daughter heard the thieves communicating with a third suspect either by phone or walkie-talkie who gave them instruction from outside of the residence. The suspects are still outstanding and were driving a white sedan, possibly a mid-to early 2000's Toyota Tercel. The suspects are described to be Black males, about 5'9" to 5'11" tall, in their early to mid 20's. This incident occurred on July 16 at 11:15AM.
 - iv. Officer Rodriguez emphasized the importance of locking and securing all entry points and windows of your home, even when someone is inside.
 - v. Officer Rodriguez gave instructions to call 911 if you are witnessing a crime, rather than getting personally involved,

which could cause you to become a victim yourself. Calling 911 is the best way to be helpful.

- vi. Officer Rodriguez gave an example of a recent incident where residents were proactive and got involved by confronting the suspects of a car burglary in progress. Fortunately, this incident turned out well for the residents. After confronting the suspect, the suspect fled in a car. The residents took a photo of the suspect's license plate and the police were able to ID the suspect using this information.
- vii. A board member asked Officer Rodriguez about a recent hit-and-run. Was the man intoxicated at the time? Officer Rodriguez answered that, yes, he believes the man was intoxicated and fled, but was detected.
- viii. Officer Rodriguez made an announcement that the Queen Anne Recreation Center will be hosting Movies in the Park on August 18.
- ix. Officer Rodriguez announced that the National Night Out was very successful, had a large attendance, hot dogs and entertainment.

- CITY COUNCIL – SILVIA LACY

- i. Silvia Lacy was in attendance with a presentation on behalf of City Council.
- ii. Ms. Lacy distributed flyers about Movies in the Park
- iii. Mitch asked Ms. Lacy about a district proposal, and whether or not City Council is still looking into the possibility of doing it. Ms. Lacy answered that it is in the City Clerk's office, and they are looking into funding for consultants to do a street survey.
- iv. Jerry asked Ms. Lacy about the property build on La Brea. Jerry asked Ms. Lacy for information but never heard back. Ms. Lacy answered that the property builders came and met with the City Council office. She said that other community groups have contacted the builders regarding what they are doing and have not received a response. Ms. Lacy said to send her an email.
- v. Bonnie asked Ms. Lacy about Anderson Avenue. She noted that Anderson Avenue has become a freeway, with cars driving too fast down the avenue. Ms. Lacy answered that she received a response to the request for no left turns on Livingston and all of the requests were denied. The reasoning was that there was no official documented history of accidents caused by left turns onto Kennison and Germaine. Ms. Lacy asked the board if they applied for speed bumps when they reactivated that program. Speed bumps might deter some people that prefer driving down streets that don't have bumps. Bonnie stated that the application, Wayz, tells everyone about shortcuts and makes traffic worse. It was determined that speed bumps would not

be permitted because of the proximity of fire stations and other entities.

- vi. A board member stated that the board met in order to give the City Council a formal request for a traffic study on La Brea and Olympic due to excessive traffic in the area. Ms. Lacy answered that if the request is coming from CPAN, give Ms. Lacy a letter with the cross streets and she will send a letter and see what happens.
- vii. A board member informed Ms. Lacy that there is a sign on the corner of Olympic and Kenniston that is in a dangerous position and could cause serious injury if not removed. Ms. Lacy answered that if you want signs down, report it to her right away or call 311 and they should take care of it.
- viii. Curtis stated that in regards to the building project at San Vicente and La Brea, the builders need to tell the board something about it. Ms. Lacy answered that as far as she knows, they are building a two level structure with a restaurant. The builders are not required to obtain community approval for the build.
 - 1. Curtis answered that Ms. Lacy had a meeting at her office with her councilmen and the project is going ahead, but she is not telling the neighborhood council what is happening. People in the community are asking the board members what the entrances and exits to the building are because it affects the neighborhood.
 - 2. Ms. Lacy replied that the builders came and met with the City Council and showed them a study and she knows for certain that the entrance is on San Vicente.
 - 3. Curtis stated that the builders need to come and speak to the neighborhood council.
 - 4. Ms. Lacy stated that South Orange Drive and Longwood have both reached out to the builders and have received to response.
 - 5. Mitch stated that the PLUM committee needs to be in contact with the builders because the builders are causing conflict through their lack of transparency, and they will need to eventually contact the community council when they apply for a liquor license.
 - 6. Curtis told Ms. Lacy that if she gives the committee her point of contact, the committee can contact the builder directly.
 - 7. Mitch stated that the committee can find out their contact information through VICE because they would contact VICE to obtain a permit to sell alcohol.

8. A board member stated that the builder can do everything they want without permission before requesting an alcohol permit.
 9. Resident Beth McNamara made a presentation regarding the building project. Ms. McNamara lives on Longwood. She has lived in the neighborhood for 13 years. She has noticed that Target is coming in on the corner. One day, there was a huge accident on La Brea, and a flood of traffic came down Longwood. All of La Brea was blocked off. She realized that how the parking would be set up would cause drivers to exit from the parking lot onto Longwood. She called the builders and was put in touch with Doug Pitchner, who verified that there would be an entrance and exit on La Brea as well as an entrance and exit on San Vicente. He said they didn't need approval. Ms. McNamara informed Mr. Pitchner that the placement of these entrances and exits is a safety concern and the neighborhood is not aware of it. He replied that it has already been decided. Herb Wesson's office does not need to sign off either. Ms. McNamara suggested to Mr. Pitchner alternatives to cut down traffic. She spoke to Liz Carlan because it's a safety issue that needs to be discussed. Ms. McNamara emphasized that a meeting with the builders is imperative before they pour the concrete for the parking lot.
 10. Mitch noted that the concern is the median that creates an automatic left for Longwood and one for Tremaine. He gave an example of an alternative possibility, where at the exit to the parking lot, they cut the median and put a traffic light on Rampart off of Pico. He suggested the builders consider this as an alternative solution.
 11. President Rudison noted that this is a PLUM committee issue, and suggested that Ms. Lacy emails the committee about any updates she receives regarding the build.
- ix. Lynn stated that at the town crossing, they finally weed whacked the weeds which were very tall. However, the lights on the sign are still out and have been out since before Christmas of last year. The crossing has deteriorated so much that the store across the street has closed. If it continues to deteriorate, any progress will regress. To let the lights stay out for so long on Pico, it is a city issue and it is discouraging to business owners to stay on the street. Ms. Lacy answered that the medians are done under contract and contracts remain in effect from July 1 to June 30. The latest contractor walked off the job in February of 2017 and the LACC has been maintaining

the medians since then. A new contractor has been awarded but the contract has not yet taken effect due to transition requirements.

- 7:50PM At this time, quorum had been reached, so President Rudison returned to the Agenda to institute the Roll Call. Secretaries Ava Post and Faalaniga Smith called roll.
 - i. Present: Curtis, Adrienne, Hank, Joanne, Peter, Jerry, Joyce, Mitch, Bonnie, Laura. Gerry
 - ii. Absent (excused): John, Ted
 - iii. Absent (unexcused): Gracious, Eva, Ava Post

- DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT – MARY KIM
 - i. Mary Kim was in attendance with updates from the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DNE).
 - ii. Ms. Kim informed the community council that the first city council meeting is tomorrow, regarding committees for city council. There are health, education, and neighborhood councils. David Ryu is president and Vice Chair is Gilbert Cedillo. The 2018 elections are up-to-date and they are pushing for online elections for 2019. She then handed out information about council members, meeting times and dates, and contact information.
 - iii. Ms. Kim informed the community council that recently, a board member tried to file a Community Impact Statement with City Hall and they were rejected. As a department, they were confused as to why they were not entered into the system. DNE will now offer a concierge service that will escort you into City Hall and make sure you are able to speak.
 - iv. Ms. Kim updated the community council that President Rudison and Treasurer Faalaniga Smith have gone through a new funding training. President Rudison had to return to City Hall twice because the first time, they wouldn't let her in.
 - v. Board Members and stakeholders are invited to Planning 101 on August 15 from 6 to 9:30PM in East City Hall. Planning 101 gives participants a foundational understanding of city planning. Ms. Kim recommended highly that PLUM chairs attend. City Planning hosts the training. Faalaniga volunteered to send out an email about the event. The contact is Lizette Covarruvas. Her email is lizette.covarruvas@lacity.org.
 - vi. A couple of board members informed Ms. Kim that they were not receiving her email updates, so Ms. Kim offered to update her roster. She invited all board members to email her at

mary.kim@lacity.org in order to ensure that they receive her emails.

- vii. Ms. Kim proposed a board retreat and training. With the fiscal year starting, it is an ideal time for a board retreat.
- viii. Ms. Kim informed the board that from now on, she will video record all of the meetings. Mitch suggested that she also live stream the meetings to increase public participation. Curtis suggested voting on whether to record the meetings.
- ix. A board member asked Ms. Kim whether an officer must go before the board in order to submit a CIS. Ms. Kim answered that the individual who was turned away wanted to present the CIS specifically in regards to the Airbnb, but a CIS can also be recorded online. Only neighborhood councils may file a CIS.
- x. Curtis stated his opposition to video recording council meetings. Ms. Kim stated that since this is a public meetings, anyone has the right to video record them, even the news media.

- **QUEEN ANNE PARK AND RECREATION**

- i. David Estrada was in attendance to present the summer program at Queen Anne Park. The park was very busy this summer.
- ii. He stated that the summer camp had 45 children in attendance for a total of 9 weeks.
- iii. The park had 24 basketball teams with players aged 5 to 17.
- iv. The park had 9 softball teams
- v. August 18, Herb Wesson will host the Movies in the Park at Queen Anne
- vi. Fall season will offer soccer, tennis, and volleyball teams
- vii. October 31, the park will have a Halloween program from 4-8PM

3. **ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:** (President – Laura Rudison): (Discussion and possible Board action)

- **8:10PM Joanne moved to approve the July Board Minutes**
 - i. Peter seconded the motion**
 - ii. Motion passed unanimously**

FIVE MINUTE RECESS

4. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT – PRESIDENT LAURA RUDISON**

- President Rudison gave the board an update about the city. There is a move to create a LA City Public Bank. The move is statewide, involving San Francisco, Oakland, San Jose, Los Angeles, and San Diego. The model for a public bank is Montana. There is a move to take city money away from banks like Wells Fargo. Pros – public banks can give out loans to main street people, as corporate banks only give out loans to other banks. In the 80's only 7 African American businesses received loans from corporate banks.
- President Rudison recently attended a LANCC meeting – LANCC is a collection of neighborhood councils, which deal with valley issues, but they also deal with generic council issues. – Jeff Goanz is running for a City Council seat. The prior commissioner, Linz, was part of the meeting. OPNC is now a member of LANCC. Next time they have a meeting, OPNC will get an email so they can go to a LANCC meeting at least once.
- President Rudison also recently attended a meeting regarding the City of LA divestment into Wells Fargo. The meeting was about how to lobby your elected official into the divestment into Wells Fargo. President Rudison reminded the board about recent Wells Fargo scandals: The most notable was that they were caught opening new customer accounts where they received bonus money, using customer private information such as social security numbers and drivers licenses. The CEO had to give back his bonus money, but the manager was permitted to retire with all the money. President Rudison offered a personal story, wherein she gave Wells Fargo her driver's license to open an account. Two years later, she wanted to close the account and Wells Fargo claimed that her driver's license information on file was wrong. She withdrew her funds by pulling her money from several Wells Fargo bank locations. City money is predominantly based in Wells Fargo, which is why divestment is being supported.
- President Rudison stated that for future community council meetings, she would like to bring in speakers to discuss credit repair, tenant rights, and what to expect from financial institutions. She recently attended meetings with Bonnie about how to repair credit and protect financial data, and would like to pass this information onto the community.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM SPEAKER CARDS

- 8:18PM LA MAYORDOMIA – PATRICK E. PANZARELLO
 - i. Patrick Panzarello was in attendance to present a proposal for an alcohol license for La Mayordomia on Pico and Van Ness.
 - ii. Mr. Panzarello represented the owner of La Mayordomia, who is also the owner of several restaurants, bakeries and markets

in the area. The owner is applying for an alcohol license to import mescal and tequila and sell them for off-sale use at his bakery and market. Has met with several city officials and the LAPD. He has written a letter to the zoning office and will take many precautions to make sure it is not a liquor store. The hearing was the next morning (Tuesday, August 8) and the owner was looking for support from the OPNC.

iii. Mitch stated that Mr. Panzarello previously presented to the PLUM Committee and the committee had drafted a letter of support for the project.

iv. Mitch moved to offer a letter of support for the project to the zoning commission

v. Peter seconded

vi. In favor – 10, Gerry abstained

vii. Motion passed

• 8:25PM RED VOICE FOUNDATION – STEVE DUNWOODY

- i. Steve Dunwoody is the Director of the Red Voice Foundation. He was in attendance to speak on behalf of the foundation in favor of the LA Bank. The Red Voice Foundation uses veteran voices to speak out on issues.
- ii. Mr. Dunwoody stated that the LA Bank would provide an option for people to get loans that otherwise would not be able to. City finances would be held in good trust.
- iii. Mr. Dunwoody informed the board that the Red Voice Foundation will be discussing the 54th assembly district on the last Tuesday of every month at 7PM in the Culver City Senior Center.
- iv. President Rudison stated that the board is open to hearing more pros about why the LA Public Bank is important, but she stated her concern that if the structure is not done correctly, the city council will try to use the city bank as a cash cow like it did with the LADWP. She noted that the Minnesota public bank doesn't allow the city council to touch the bank. President Rudison invited Mr. Dunwoody to put his organization on the agenda so the community council can hear more about the pros of the city bank.

OPNC COMMITTEE REPORTS

5. 8:30PM SECRETARY REPORT – AVA POST/FAALANIGA SMITH

- Secretary Smith informed the board that she has not yet updated the roster

6. 8:31PM TREASURER REPORT – FAALINIGA SMITH

- Treasurer Smith noted that the board has a new finance transaction system. She went to the training and hired a bookkeeper to put expense and spending into a monthly expenditure report, which went into effect in July.
 - i. With the new system, the city prepares everything. Everything is now online in the city clerk funding system. Once the board uses the credit card or requests a payment, it automatically goes into the new system. Treasurer Smith will request the report one week prior to each meeting. She will upload the receipts within 10 days after each transaction.
 - ii. Treasurer Smith updated budget last Wednesday. After some back and forth with the city clerk and representative, she was able to get into the system today and pay the public storage facility. The board only had \$332 to spend. The board paid \$300 and Treasurer Smith put in her own \$50.05 to pay public storage.
 - iii. It will be easier for the city to upload the MERCS. We have a funding representative that covers all of Central Los Angeles. She will find out if we have \$2000 because we have no money. She has the credit card and she was able to create a pin number.
- President Rudison stated that she is not happy with the new system and the board is behind with the bills. She noted that the system was supposed to be completely done by June. Public Storage threatened to cut the locks since the board was two months behind. Training is fine but city bills still need to be paid.
- President Rudison requested that any bill received by OPNC be imputed into the city within the 10-day requirement. She would also like to have records of our funding to go only to empower LA. Not to every other person in the city. We have apparently been sending our records to people who are not a part of the funding. Treasurer Smith stated that right now, all transactions go to the city clerk. President Rudison responded that this was not the case before. All bills need to go to one spot, where they should be. Five people were getting our records. We need to ensure that this doesn't happen in the future. This only gives people at DONE a way to scrutinize our spending. There was an advisement to take them off the list but it still wasn't done.
 - i. Mary Kim informed the board that with the new system, records will be only online, so everything will be public. It won't be directed to one person, it will be in the system.

- ii. President Rudison asked why we were sending records to other people before. She wanted assurance that Treasurer Smith would not try to create a new cc system to tag onto the report.
- iii. President Rudison requested that for all emails from Martha Cabral, the President and Vice President are cc'd. She noted that the board doesn't get an accurate assessment of the budget if unpaid bills remain on the register.
- iv. President Rudison informed the board that the budget was locked out. She noted that the bills were supposed to be paid in a certain order, but they weren't paid in the way they were supposed to be paid. She suggested that the board have several people to make sure the bills are paid.
 - 1. Treasurer Smith (TS) stated that the cc wasn't working because they were trying to get the treasurer registered.
 - 2. President Rudison (PR) asked: When you have a new election, all prior transactions are nullified unless there is fraud. Why were you holding up our money based on an enquiry from 2015? Why is our money being held up when other city councils have their 42k? Treasurer Smith answered that everything is resolved as of today.
 - 3. President Rudison: That doesn't answer the question as to why. Why is the city office concerned about a form from 2015, if that was the old board?
 - 4. Mary Kim: Everyone has to go through their trainings and then you get the money. Trainings have happened since June. They are requesting the documents from all boards.
 - 5. President Rudison suggested the board make a list of unpaid bills: Neighborhood News Invoice, Constant Contact.
 - 6. Bonnie asked why they are asking for forms this year about forms from last year, if Treasurer Smith was treasurer in 2015 as well?
- v. President Rudison suggested retaining Janet Richmond as assistant to the treasurer to make sure that any reports and inputs are done within the 10-day requirement.
 - 1. Treasurer Smith stated that all transactions will be done online and the credit card automatically goes to the city. She only needs to upload receipts within 10 days.
 - 2. President Rudison noted that we have other obligations. Any personal obligations cannot interfere with the treasurer position. If there's not time to do a transaction, personal time and assistance is not an excuse. She suggested that we retain the consultant for

a couple months at least until we know that you can be timely.

3. Treasurer Smith noted that Janet Richmond would need training in the system

vi. At this time, the discussion was tabled for outreach

- Treasurer Smith distributed the June MERC for review, prepared by Cooper. She noted a positive cash flow at the end of the fiscal year.
 - i. Mitch asked a question about expenditure line items 8 and 9 and Treasurer Smith clarified the expenditures.

ii. Mitch moved to approve the June MERC.

iii. Joanne seconded the motion

iv. In favor – 10, Curtis abstained

v. Motion passed

Gerry Pass left the meeting at 9PM

- Mitch asked the board if the 2017-2018 budget had yet been approved. Treasurer Smith answered yes. Copies will be distributed.
- Treasurer Smith requested a motion to reallocate all CIP, NPG, and Election funds from last year to Outreach.
 - i. President Rudison stated that the NPG should stay in the category from which it was registered. Even if it was reallocated last year, it should stay in the category. CIP can be moved. Any money for which we did not receive a requisition can be moved.
 - ii. Bonnie moved to move all budgetary monies for which there was no requisition to the Outreach Committee. But not the category for NPG.**
 - iii. Mitch seconded the motion**
 - iv. In favor – 9, Opposed – 1**
 - v. Motion passed**

9:07PM President Laura Rudison suggested tabling ongoing business until the September meeting

7. OUTREACH COMMITTEE – BONNIE STRONG

- Vice President Strong invited the board to attend the Outreach Committee meeting on Thursday, August 10 to discuss Halloween.

- Mitch invited the board to UNION on October 20th for George Clinton & Parliament Funkadelic.

Ongoing business was tabled to the September meeting

8. 9:09PM ADJOURNMENT

- **Mitch moved to adjourn the meeting**
- **Hank seconded the motion**
- **Motion passed unanimously**

- Next OPNC Board Meeting SEPTEMBER 05, 2017 at UNION