

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA



Eric Garcetti
MAYOR



**OLYMPIC PARK NEIGHBORHOOD
COUNCIL OFFICERS**

PRESIDENT

Laura-Diane Rudison

VICE-PRESIDENT

Bonnie Strong

SECRETARY

Sung Park

TREASURER

Faalaniga Smith

OPNC COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Outreach & Rules & Elections – Bonnie Strong
Planning & Land Use Mgmt. – Vacant/ L. Rudison
Animal Welfare – Joann Fleming
Elections & Rules – Theodore Smith
Environmental & Health Services – Skye Kelly
OPNC Youth Pulse – Gracious Williams
Trade, Commerce & Public Works – (Laura Rudison)
Transportation & Public Safety – Gerry Pass
Utility and Building & Safety – Gerardo Pinedo

**OLYMPIC PARK NEIGHBORHOOD
COUNCIL (“OPNC”)**

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**OLYMPIC PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING
March 07, 2016- 7:00 PM**

LOCATION: Legal Aid Foundation, 1102 Crenshaw Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90019

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 7:07pm by President Laura Rudison.

2. Roll Call - Reminder: By-Laws excused and non-excused absences

Present: Joann Fleming, Skye Kelly, Mitch Edelson, Sung Park, Gerry Pass, Laura Rudison, Faalaniga “Nina” Smith, Theodore “Ted” Smith, Bonnie Strong, Gracious Williams, Joyce White, John Yi.

Absent: Robbie Abdul (Unexcused); Gerardo Pinedo (Excused), Curtis Clark (will be late).

Quorum reached.

3. Moment of Reflection – Reading of Commendation Letter for Estelle Roberts

Commended for her dedicated service in the community, and recognition for her outstanding service. She became a member of the Board in October 2015; and it is a pleasure to recognize her tireless work and service over the years – especially for sacrifices made to her personal time for the greater good of the community and Council. She worked on the LAPD Wilshire National Night Out and helped at Hollywood High School. An inspiration to us all.

Call for a moment of silence.

Board stand in silence.

4. Reports of City Officials/City Departments and Agencies [5 - min/ per]

a) Ms. Sylvia Lacy – District Director of Council President Herb Wesson – is asked questions by the board. Transportation & Public Safety Chair Gerry Pass notes that 6-8 bus terminal pads on Rimpau and Pico have been reported unsafe for at least 6 months. Sylvia asks Gerry to send an email to her on this issue. She's not sure whose responsibility and jurisdiction bus terminals in streets falls under. She will follow up the issue.

Elections and Rules Chair Ted Smith brings up two issues. First is addressed to the board – he notes the closing of an all-you-can-eat Korean restaurant at Gramercy and Olympic. A petition has been placed for a Trader Joe's to occupy that space in Koreatown. He would prefer a business - possibly a restaurant - that better reflects the neighborhood.

Second Issue – A DWP (Department of Water & Power) leak around 1159 Gramercy Drive has finally been fixed. Estimated to have leaked for 6 weeks – raises concerns about the amount of water leaked – amidst complaints about the leak, as well as rising water rates. This runs contrary to the Department's pledge of reclaiming and reusing water. Sylvia acknowledges that the Council office is aware of the issue and are watching closely.

Resident Stakeholder Lynn Kuwahara thanks Sylvia's office for cleaning up the Midtown Shopping Median. Especially the removal of palm trees a few months before. Sylvia added that the office is looking into putting other plants on Venice side – but not until after some rainfall.

b) **Patrick X**, representative from Sebastian Ridley-Thomas gives brief outline of forthcoming issues in the Assembly Member's bill passage. There are three election bills regarding the processes of: Public school health centers; green jobs; fostering youth; stopping consumer racial profiling.

Also mentions the Crenshaw Plaza job fair on the upcoming Saturday – Ms. Lacy will also be present. Focus on targeting employees made redundant by closure of local Walmart. Approximately 370 people laid off; about 100 people transferred to another store – however, this is not within 20 miles.

Board Member Joyce White asks about the consumer racial profiling. Patrick responds that the bill would prohibit such profiling, by changing departmental responsibility on the issue. This would allow individual's legal fees to be covered. As of now, one can't sue for reclaiming legal fees on profiling cases. This makes it difficult for attorneys to take the cases.

Patrick leaves information on desk. Mentions the Assemblyman's website: www.asmdc.org/Ridley-Thomas

c) SLO Cho from Olympic LAPD Station mentions problems in his area of responsibility – Western to Crenshaw; Pico to Wilshire. Briefly talks about an increase in property crime – including mail theft, cars stolen,

and most significantly house burglaries. Advises those with hybrid cars to purchase “catalytic cages” to prevent theft of converters. Also urges people to acquire robust home security equipment. Alarms and cameras at a minimum. Highlights the fact that because of their absence generally, 90% of those perpetrating burglaries are unknown suspects. He also added that when parking in underground off-street lots, people should make sure the door fully closes; and to exit immediately and call 911 if someone comes in under closing door.

d) Neighborhood Council Advocate Jasmine Elbarbary of DONE gives reminder for candidate filing and the elections at 11:30pm that night. She emphasizes that if there are no contested categories then an election will not take place. Director of Elections Jay Handal of DONE enters (at 7:39pm) and adds to Jasmine’s statement. The status of the OPNC board elections – 12 candidates total, for 19 seats to be filled – is a result of unsuccessful outreach to residents of area. He notes that every neighborhood council that hasn’t sent out a mailer for the elections has disappointing numbers for candidates.

5. Public Comments [2- min]: Stakeholders comments on Non- agenda items. All speakers will be allowed to speak.

Resident Stakeholder Stephen Cadia living on the 1200 block of Citrus Avenue is concerned about construction on his building. A bill of notice for changes has been served – not necessary in official legal fashion – for the addition of a 3rd story by his landlord. Building work would last for 4-8 months, which is disruptive, he said. Mr Cadia was concerned about the fact that relocation funds would only be given to him as a tenant if his unit was directly affected. He requested a letter to the Planning Commission, with hopes of a hearing to overturn the decision. Laura replied that the board cannot draft a letter, but referred Mr Cadia to a meeting with members of the Planning Commission at the Memorial Branch Library on Saturday 03/12.

Lynn Kuwahara requests a resolution from the board to oppose gas rates being raised for customers in light of the leak at Porter Ranch by SoCal Gas Company.

Laura replied to give any comments to Gerardo as Chair of Public Safety, and that an impact statement could potentially be drafted.

Resident Stakeholder Seung Kim wants sidewalk on the 1200 block of Wilton Place to be repaired by the City following a burst water pipe – as the cement is now uneven.

Ted replies that the City won’t put in cement, but can do asphalt – as shown by other streets in the area.

Laura responds that Mr Seung will be given Gerry’s card – as this is an issue that falls under his responsibility.

6. Approval of prior Month Minutes (Oct – Dec 015 & Feb 2016)

Treasurer Nina Smith fills in as Secretary given Secretary Sung Park’s absence in this meeting.

Laura suggests that the Council approve of the Minutes taken for prior Months’ Meetings separately – all subject to any later corrections.

Board Member Joann Fleming makes motion to approve of October 2015 Minutes.

Board Member Mitch Edelson seconds the motion.

Unanimous

Passed

*Board Member John Yi motions for December 2015 Minutes to be approved subject to any corrections.
Board Member Skye Kelly seconds the motion.*

**Unanimous
Passed**

*Skye motions for January 2016 Minutes to be approved.
Mitch seconds.*

**Unanimous
Passed**

*Gerry motions for February 2016 Minutes to be approved.
OPNC Youth Pulse Chair Gracious Williams seconds.*

**Unanimous
Passed**

- 7. Chairperson Comments – (Laura Rudison): Tentative Board Action:**
a. Miscellaneous Other item(s) not yet covered

Public Comments [2- min]: Stakeholders comments on Agenda items. All speakers will be allowed to speak, “prior to each Committee Report.

- 8. OPNC Committee Reports: [15- min per]**

Public Comments [2- min]: Stakeholders comments on Agenda items. All speakers will be allowed to speak, “prior to each Committee Report.

- **Secretary Report: - (Sung Jik Park): Tentative Board Action:**
a. Secretarial highlights and updates – OPNC Board Retreat
b. Miscellaneous Other item(s) not yet covered

Nina Smith brings up the issue of finding a location for the OPNC retreat. Asks about the possibility of finding a venue outside of OPNC boundary and then asking DONE for approval. Laura notes that the retreat must be held in an adjacent area.

Multiple Council members point out that the main focus of the OPNC currently is the election drive.

*Ted makes motion to move the retreat until after the elections.
Mitch seconds the motion.*

**Unanimous
Passed**

Nina reminds Council members to check that they are on the Board Contact Roster, and to update any pertinent information.

Laura emphasizes that Council members must have official contact information on file with DONE, and to have completed the requisite training online. If individuals do not do so, they cannot vote on matters. Strongly urges Council members to make a record of any submissions to the City – preferably ‘screenshotting’ on a computer.

- **Treasurer’s Report** - (Faalaniga Smith): **Tentative Board Action:**
 - c. Prior Monthly Report (Recap Summary)
 - d. Current Monthly Report (Recap Summary)
 - e. DONE Monthly Expenditure Report (“MERs”)
 - f. Board Member Reimbursement Expenditures – Bonnie, Laura, Nina
 - g. Miscellaneous Other item(s) not yet covered

Treasurer Nina Smith notes that the last 3 lines (in bold type) on February’s expenditure list were left off the previous Month’s report.

With these included the total for February comes to \$3166.72

There needs to be a motion for the Reimbursement of Laura, Bonnie, and herself for DONE expenditures taken on by themselves, she said. They have a receipt for the expenditures.

*Ted motions for the reimbursement of the Board expenditures.
Mitch Seconds*

1 Abstention – Gerry
None Opposed

Passed

- **Outreach & Rules - Elections Committee Report** (Bonnie Strong) - **Tentative Board Action:**
 - a. Committee highlights and updates
 - b. (Gracious Williams) Youth Pulse “outreach” update

Gracious – Polls had been organized – LA High is having an ‘open house’ for voting.

Board Member Curtis Clark (arrived 08.41pm) added that the school is setting up online voting in conjunction with the polling stations. An event will be held for all those who voted – with a separate are for those who voted online.

Furthermore, there will be a week in April encouraging students in all LAUSD schools to register to vote in the general election; as well as another week later in the year.

- c. OPNC Board “Administrative Supplies/Tools”
- d. New/larger Public Storage Unit needed for OPNC (increased cost)

Bonnie brought up the issue of finding a new larger storage unit for holding Council Materials – such as flags, banners, tents and potentially filing cabinets for other materials.

Currently renting a 5'x5' unit for \$134/month. The next sizes up are a 5'x10', then a 7'x7' unit (Progressively increasing in height and cost).

Joann makes initial motion to increase storage from 5'x5' to 7'x7'.

Joyce modifies the motion to increase storage space using a difference branch of Public Storage – and seconds.

Gerry Abstains

Laura Opposes

Passed

- e. Issue re USPS Renewal (P.O. Box) forwarded to City Attorney for handling
- f. Board Of Commissioners require Code-Of-Conduct Video Certification, eff 03/01/16

Bonnie urged that the Board Of Commissioners require all Board members to gain Code-Of-Conduct Video Certification – all members who do not have the certification must do so immediately and send confirmation to Bonnie, Nina and Sung.

- g. Miscellaneous Other item(s) not yet covered

➤ **Elections Committee Report** - (Theodore Smith) - **Tentative Board Action:**

- a. Committee highlights and updates - Voting on May 05, 2016
- b. Candidates MUST fill out "Candidates Form" by March 07,2016 – Empolwerla.org
- c. Miscellaneous Other item(s) not yet covered

Discussion of potential expenditures for the election. Ted mentions sending out 5,000-6,000 flyers to approximately 15,000 households. Found a quote for a 6"x9" mailer for \$5,000 plus and additional \$575 to expand the boundary reached.

Notes that the budget is \$12,000

Ted has spoken to Edward Kim, a manager at Midtown Crossing, about having an elections event at the venue later in March.

The council discusses gift bags and incentives for people coming to the event to vote. Promotional materials such as bags, stickers and pens.

Jay Handal emphasizes that anything given out to attendees of the event has to be available to every potential visitor. Cannot give out anything to a select group – e.g. the first certain number of people to arrive. That would be against the regulations regarding the use of tax payers' money.

Laura adds that a summary sheet that shows the total expenditures in a month, and the balance carrying over be written be drafted. This would make planning much easier.

- **Environmental & Health Services** – (Skye Kelly) - **Tentative Board Action**
 - a. Committee highlights and updates

Environmental & Health Services Chair Skye noted that she missed the last meeting. Prior to that, however, the homeless count took place from yoga studio. Food was donated – so no funds were used. This was successful, and she hopes that they find further funding for the needs of the homeless population.

Also, there were attempts to interact with the community in order to help individuals to find suitable housing options.

b. Miscellaneous Other item(s) not yet covered

➤ **PLUM** (Theodore Smith/ L. Rudison) – **Tentative Board Action:**

a. PLUM will be holding a “JOINT BOARD MEETING” with Outreach & Elections until further notice. Next Meeting March 10,2016, 7p.m. LAPD Community Room. 4861 Venice Blvd.

b. Miscellaneous Other item(s) not yet covered

Laura reported that meeting jointly with the Outreach & Elections Committee has been successful. This has allowed for the core committees to meet on a monthly basis, and to make presentations to developers more effectively.

➤ **Trade, Commerce, Technology & Public Works** (Laura Rudison) **Tentative Board Action:**

a. Committee highlights and updates

b. Miscellaneous Other item(s) not yet covered

➤ **Transportation & Public Safety** (Gerry Pass) - **Tentative Board Action:**

a. Committee highlights and updates

b. Miscellaneous Other item(s) not yet covered

➤ **Utility Services** (Gerardo Pinedo) - **Tentative Board Action:**

a. Committee highlights and updates

Laura mentioned (in Committee Chair Gerardo Pinedo’s absence) that other Neighborhood Councils should be contacted about going to gas companies en masse with concerns.

b. Miscellaneous Other item(s) not yet covered

ONGOING BUSINESS:

9. New Candidates for the OPNC Board: Tentative Board Action [5- Min]: Selection of new Board Members (Motions by the Board).

Current Board only stands for another month. New candidates are selected for the remaining duration of the Board.

Resident Stakeholders Seung Kim and John Snyder volunteer.

Laura asks for a Motion for the two individuals to be appointed as new Board Members of the OPNC.

Skye makes the Motion.
Joyce seconds the Motion.

Curtis Abstains
Passed

10. Miscellaneous Other Item(s) not yet covered

NEW BUSINESS:

11. New Item: Discussion & Tentative Board Action [5- Min]:

- a. (Theodore Smith) – Recommendation to send letter to Council Office seeking family friendly restaurant such as a Chili's or Olive Garden to add to the diversity of the community and build on the new housing and expansion of Midtown Crossing
- b. **Resignation(s) and Acceptance:** Rossana Cambron has resigned due to medical challenges she now faces with her family. OPNC accepts Ms. Cambron resignation and thank her for her services to OPNC.
- c. **Miscellaneous Other Item(s) not yet covered**

Ted suggests that the Board write **DONE** a letter requesting a long-lasting representative from the City for the upcoming year. This would minimize conflicting information coming from frequent changes of representative.

Wants to put this on the agenda for the next meeting of the OPNC.

Laura replies that this issue will be put on hold – this can be put up for discussion at the next meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ADJOURNMENT

12. Announcements & Introductions: [2- min] Stakeholders announcements on non-agenda items. All speakers will be allowed to speak

Laura adds that any private financial donations given to defray the medical costs of Estelle Roberts would be greatly appreciated.

a. Adjournment Motion & Time

Nina motions for the meeting to be adjourned.
Skye seconds the motion.

Unanimous
Passed

The Meeting adjourns at 09.11pm.

Required by the City: As covered under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services, and activities. Sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability of services, please make your request at least 3 business days (72 hours) prior to the meeting you wish to attend by contacting the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment. In compliance with government code section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to all or a majority of the Board members in advance of a meeting may be viewed at our website by clicking on the following link: "www.opnc.org", at a location given in the item number of the agenda or at the scheduled meeting. In addition if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the Agenda, please contact the Olympic Park Neighborhood Council via email info@theopnc.org.