

Olympic Park Neighborhood Council Board Meeting Minutes  
 October 1, 2018  
 4067 W. Pico Blvd  
 Los Angeles, 90019

Meeting Start: 7:26 P.M.

Meeting End: 8:32 P.M.

Attendance:

Here	Mitchell Edelson, Theodore Smith III, Milton Gaines, Hank Williams, Roberta Farwell, Gerry Pass, Oliver Baker, Connie, Julia Stein, Celia Tom
Unexcused Absence	Curtis Clark, Peter Wilson
Excused Absence	Nina (Attending Budget Advocates meeting)

**Note: OPNC Board heard reports from City/State Representatives before the meeting was officially called to order.**

- I. Call to Order
  - A. President Mitchell Edelson called the meeting to order with quorum at 7:26 P.M.
- II. Roll Call
  - A. Roll call was taken by Secretary Hank Williams.
- III. Special Presentations and Reports: City/State Reps Reports
  - A. LAPD Senior Lead Officer Harry Cho gave his report on recent crime in the area.
    - 1. He detailed a rash of recent crimes where older women have been pushed down and robbed in broad daylight, sometimes in the middle of a local strip mall. While they were able to capture one incident with the strip mall's cameras, the Prius carrying the thief had no license plates. Officer Cho urged people to be aware of their surroundings and walk in groups, and to let thieves have your purse in the event it gets snatched, noting that they were targeting expensive or expensive-looking purses.
    - 2. Officer Cho also talked about two thieves on bicycles who have been casing cars in the area, and use a small tool to shatter car windows without setting off their alarms to get bags/purses left in plain sight. He added that they have very good footage of the perpetrators which will hopefully be able to identify them, and that they will take the chance of smashing stakeholders' windows if the thieves think the newest gen iPod/iPad/iPhone is in their bag or in their car, and urged them to keep their valuables out of sight.
    - 3. He also announced that on December 13, 2018 the LAPD will be having the Shoes from Santa event, which collects shoes to donate to kids and families who are homeless or low-income. They also get a special invitation to visit their station, and Home Depot comes out to make a little Santa's Workshop. Past neighborhood councils have donated ice for shaved ice/snow. He added that for a lot of kids in the neighborhood, it may be the first and last time they see actual snow.
  - B. City Clerk's Office representative Renee introduced herself and explained that she would be the Olympic Park NC's election administrator for the 2019 election.

1. She explained that the City Clerk's Office has not been involved in a full-scale election since 2010. They have held several workshops to learn experiences and feedback from NC board members and stakeholders and to inform them as well. She explained some of the issues that they have faced in the past, and that the Office will be strengthening its training program to prevent election issues. Currently, they are working on reviewing bylaws for all NC's, making contact with councils, and partnering with DONE, to review any questions/issues.
  2. For OPNC, their candidate filing begins December 20, 2018, their filing period deadline is January 22<sup>nd</sup> 2019. From there, they will produce by February 1, 2019 a certified list of candidates, and their election will be April 4, 2019 from 4 PM to 10 PM. From her understanding, all polling has to be completed by 8 PM, so she may have to get back to the council regarding that. She will reach out to the polling place the council wants, LA High, to make sure they are available and aware of the polling place criteria.
    - a. Treasurer Milton Gaines asked her to make sure LA High is aware of the needs for the polling room to be ADA compliant. Renee acknowledged this, and their request for translation of the election forms into Spanish and Korean, as well as having translators in person on the day of election.
  3. She asked for clarification on seats that will be up for election after 12 months, and President Edelson clarified that it was the first they had heard of it from the city, and that their plan was to stagger seat elections so they could hold an election every other year. He also clarified that half of their seats would be up for election, as determined at the November meeting by random lottery.
- C. LAPD Officer Rodriguez introduced himself and explained that he had just come from dealing with a vacant property.
1. He explained that in the past month, they had a drop in burglaries and robberies. Thefts are up, but in part that is due to having department stores in this area.
  2. He did want to talk about a robbery at Wilshire and Granville where a man believed he had been followed by two suspects in a car, and was then rear-ended by them. One suspect was armed with a handgun and the two suspects robbed the man of a Rolex and \$2,500 in cash. Vehicle described as a Toyota Camry, four doors, and black. Suspects were male African-Americans in their early 20's. Officer Rodriguez was concerned because there had not been a robbery of that type in the area for a while. He urged stakeholders to be aware of their surroundings if rear-ended, and to get on the phone to police right away.
  3. Officer Rodriguez explained that he had been late to the meeting because he was responding to a vacant property at 946 S Victoria where squatters had broken in to sleep there and try to take over the property, and the owner had been dealing with litigation against a former business partner for three years. They had been getting complaints of narcotic activity and thefts in the area after squatter takeovers. He urged stakeholders to notify LAPD when they learn about vacant property on their block. When you know about vacant property on your block, notify police department.

***Note: At this time, the Chair Edelson officially called the meeting to order at 7:26 P.M.***

IV. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

- A. Stakeholder Yeong Kim introduced herself and explained that she been attending OPNC meetings since between September and October of last year. She and her family have

had a lot of problems with Gus’s Fried Chicken Restaurant, and last month had emailed Ted Smith about putting the item on the agenda, explaining that her family’s relationship with Gus’s Restaurant is not amiable anymore, and would like advice. President Edelson wrote down her email to follow up on putting it on the agenda. Mr. Smith explained that Gus’s had wanted to do the wall, they had voted for it, and OPNC’s previous president sent a letter to Herb Wesson’s office and heard nothing back. Ms. Kim would like to get a special clearance to put up a fence between her property and another property, which requires elbow grease from city.

V. Administrative

1. Report from the President

A. President Edelson implored stakeholders to consider running for a seat on OPNC, saying that with the newest resignation plus an email regarding potential resignation, they need as many people as possible.

2. Report from the Treasurer

B. Treasurer Gaines began reviewing the board members’ packets and their budget for the year, which was \$42,000 of which they have \$39,650 remaining for the rest of the year. He asked for the board to approve the budget for the year. **Mr. Smith moved to approve the budget, and President Edelson seconded.**

Yes (9)	Mitchell Edelson, Theodore Smith III, Milton Gaines, Hank Williams, Roberta Farwell, Oliver Baker, Connie, Julia Stein, Celia Tom
No (0)	
Abstain (0)	(Gerry Pass is not able to vote yet)

**The motion was approved.**

3. Report from the Secretary

4. Monthly Expenditure Reports from April through August: Mr. Gaines directed the board members to glance through the MER’s up for approval, which was money spent prior to the new board taking over in July, and moneys were spent to clean up the pieces. July was his first month as treasurer. **Mr. Smith moved to approve the MER’s,**

Yes (9)	Mitchell Edelson, Theodore Smith III, Milton Gaines, Hank Williams, Roberta Farwell, Oliver Baker, Connie, Julia Stein, Celia Tom
No (0)	
Abstain (0)	(Gerry Pass is not able to vote yet)

**The motion was approved.**

5. Approve Payment to Wendy Moore for Invoice # OPNC 2018 0801 for \$306.08 – (*Note: this item was addressed after items 7-9 and after item 6*) Mr. Gaines explained that it was an identical item to item 6. He moved to approve the invoice, and Mr. Williams seconded.

Yes (9)	Mitchell Edelson, Theodore Smith III, Milton Gaines, Hank Williams, Roberta Farwell, Oliver Baker, Connie, Julia Stein, Celia Tom
No (0)	
Abstain (0)	(Gerry Pass is not able to vote yet)

6. Approve Payment to Wendy Moore for Invoice # OPNC 2018 0703 for \$335.78 – (*Note: this item was addressed after items 7-9*) Mr. Gaines explained that the invoices through Wendy Moore were for website updating. Mr. Smith motioned to approve, Mr. Williams seconded.

Yes (9)	Mitchell Edelson, Theodore Smith III, Milton Gaines, Hank Williams, Roberta Farwell, Oliver Baker, Connie, Julia Stein, Celia Tom
No (0)	
Abstain (0)	(Gerry Pass is not able to vote yet)

7. Approve Payment to Apple One for June Invoice # S7205382 for \$77 - Mr. Gaines then explained three invoices they had received from AppleOne staffing. He said that he was not sent the August AppleOne invoice, and asked to agendaize it for next time. Chair Edelson asked that they approve the invoices one at a time to keep things organized and transparent. **Julia Stein motioned to approve the AppleOne invoice, and Mr. Baker seconded.**

Yes (9)	Mitchell Edelson, Theodore Smith III, Milton Gaines, Hank Williams, Roberta Farwell, Oliver Baker, Connie, Julia Stein, Celia Tom
No (0)	
Abstain (0)	(Gerry Pass is not able to vote yet)

8. Approve Payment to Apple One for June Invoice #S7251261 for \$121.28 – **Mr. Baker moved to approve, Ms. Stein seconded.**

Yes (9)	Mitchell Edelson, Theodore Smith III, Milton Gaines, Hank Williams, Roberta Farwell, Oliver Baker, Connie, Julia Stein, Celia Tom
No (0)	
Abstain (0)	(Gerry Pass is not able to vote yet)

9. Approve Payment to Apple One for July Invoice # S7294460 for \$63.53 – **Mr. Smith moved to approve, and Mr. Williams seconded.** \

A. Mr. Gaines summarized that upon his taking over treasurership in July, there were two outstanding invoices they needed to take care of from 2017. Constant Contact and Public Storage. He will fill out a missing receipt affidavit for Public Storage. He would like to know if the contract has been done so the name of the city and Olympic Park have been put on it, and he has a budget item for that. They need to make sure OPNC’s stuff is there and they have events coming up they will need outreach material for. He added that backtracking was done and that him keeping in contact with city funding has kept their funding from being frozen.

10. Approve Payment to Apple One for August Invoice # S7351260 for \$92.40 – Item is tabled until the invoice can be sent to Treasurer.

11. Approval of August Minutes

A. Ms. Stein moved to approve the minutes from the board meeting in August. Mr. Gaines seconded.

Yes (9)	Mitchell Edelson, Theodore Smith III, Milton Gaines, Hank Williams, Roberta Farwell, Oliver Baker, Connie, Julia Stein, Celia Tom
No (0)	

Abstain (0)	(Gerry Pass is not able to vote yet)
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- B. Julien Antelin introduced himself as a representative of the Department Of Neighborhood Empowerment. He works with NC’s, and gave details about ethics training for new board members or members whose ethics training has lapsed. He also reminded the board of a new episode of the EmpowerLA podcast. He thanked the people who came to the Congress of Neighborhoods. It was organized by other neighborhood councils, comprised by board members of NC’s. He congratulated everyone, and encourage them to become more involved with the decision-making process.
  - I. President Edelson asked if they could facilitate an election every year, mentioning that Renee said to talk to him about it. He explained that their bylaws were amended recently, and they would now like to have elections with one half of seats for election this year, another half next year. Mr. Antelin said he would talk to him about that, but that they could run reelection with the office of the City Clerk, and that they are in charge of respecting their own bylaws. The Chair explained their desired plan from the election.
  - II. Chair Edelson then asked what the best practices were about running a slate of candidates. Mr. Antelin said that they can as long as they give all required documentation and they document and file seperately.

VIII. New Business

- 1. Consideration of Robby O’Donnell for the Country Club Park-Oxford Square-Wilshire Park-Windsor Village HPOZ – *(Note: President Edelson noted that this item would be taken out of order immediately after Mr. Antelin’s presentation)* President Edelson explained what a Historic Preservation Overlay Zone (HPOZ) was, as a designation by City Planning. There is a vacancy on their HPOZ, and it has to be filled by the NC, and there were two candidates for the position. Both were allowed a brief window to introduce themselves.
- 2. Consideration of Scott Lander or the Country Club Park-Oxford Square-Wilshire Park-Windsor Village HPOZ – Scott Lander introduced himself as living in the Village HPOZ. He had met with them when he was renovating my home on 8<sup>th</sup> and Plymouth, and explained that he had been doing historic restoration for almost 20 years. **Mr. Gaines moved to appoint Scott Lander to the Village HPOZ, and Mr. Smith seconded.**

Yes (9)	Mitchell Edelson, Theodore Smith III, Milton Gaines, Hank Williams, Roberta Farwell, Oliver Baker, Connie, Julia Stein, Celia Tom
No (0)	
Abstain (0)	(Gerry Pass is not able to vote yet)

VII. Planning Land Use Management – *(Note: This item was called out of order by the President of OPNC after item VIII)*

- 1. Presentation on 1141-1145 Crenshaw Blvd – a speaker for the property introduced himself and gave a quick update with regards to the project and wanted to bring up Genessee Center. They had a meeting recently to get more feedback, and for stakeholders to hear about the services and service provider for the new building. Last he heard, it is being recommended for Prop HHH funding, and will be directed to set aside housing for survivors of domestic violence. They had a positive meeting with the general

manager of Housing Department who had concerns about how we could target this population and qualify for this source of funds. They will also meet with individual adjacent neighbors. The next step in funding for the development will be to apply to the county and hope to secure that funding, then they will get to apply for a last set of financing hopefully in the first quarter of 2019. Then they will move forward with construction, if everything continues to work well might hopefully begin construction by end of 2019.

2. He introduced a speaker for the Genessee Center, Yasmin Tarver, Director of Client Programming for Genessee Center, Domestic Violence Intervention Program, operate 24-hour hotline and protective center. The four services are Dom Violence, Mental Health Counseling, Legal Services, and Vocational/Technical Services, which will be provided by the proposed building. Everyone who comes through doors has a case management assessment, mental health assessment, etc. Clients for this project will be removed from immediate danger and don't have active contact with abuser. They'll also have in-house legal services and community clinics to assist clients, including with tenant-landlord solutions. They will also have a vocational/technical/entrepreneurship program to give clients opportunities to start their own business, learn a new trade, language, etc. Mr. Baker asked if it would all be at one location, and Yasmin confirmed this.
3. The previous speaker add that their budget for services for the year was close to \$500,000. Now the financing for the development allows for some of the services to be paid as an operating expense. They will be providing \$450 per unit per month to augment some of those services. He also shouted out to KYCC, which has the Head-Start Program that can augment services. Ms. Tarver added that their goal is to help people become a normal person in their community, even if they're temporarily joined by the common issue of domestic violence. Mr. Gaines added that he has worked with Genessee, and thinks they are an incredible organization.
4. The previous speaker introduced the project's principal at Esquire Architecture, Arturo, to talk about preliminary ideas for the building's design. They are focusing on privacy and safety, space with natural light, a subterranean garage, and plenty of space towards the rear of property for trees, landscaping, etc. In terms of security, they are looking at concepts for entrance, security and privacy are priorities for first level, and they are looking to balance that with a friendly, welcoming aesthetic and natural light. They are also looking at varied materials and color. Basically it will be a u-shaped building, so it will have a nice landscaped courtyard with a buffer of tall trees between the building and low-lying residential buildings. He explained that they wanted to get feedback and introduce the board and stakeholders to other projects we've done such as Seeley Lofts.
5. The previous speaker introduced the site plan and said that they met with one neighbor and will be meeting with Tae Kwon Do studio Thursday. Thought it might be an interesting idea to bring them in for a self-defense program.  
Mr. Smith asked what they were doing to address previous concerns by neighbors about the height of the building, and Arturo explained that they are working on minimizing the mass of the building and looking at heavily planting the area with tall trees. They already have a big setback due to power line adjacent to property.
6. President Edelson said he was excited for the architects to break ground and start, and asked them to bring it to the next PLUM meeting for a position. A stakeholder asked how many parking spaces the building would have, and the previous speaker said they currently are going for 25 spaces. Another stakeholder asked if they could put more interesting and visually pleasing colors into the project. President Edelson asked if there

was a sustainability element to the project, and the speaker said they will try to meet at least LEED Silver, but would hopefully be certified LEED Gold.

VI. Transportation and Public Safety (*Note: This item was addressed after items VII. and VIII*)

1. Gerry Pass gave an update that there is no news from the City Attorney about World on Wheels. On Saturday evenings, between moving the under 21 crowd and the 21 crowd, the under 21 crowd goes through waves of vandalizing and robbing local stores. The problem is that they walk as a group into 7-11 and rob the whole store. President Edelson pointed out that when you push a whole group of people out onto the street at one time, that creates a problem. Mr. Pass added that they are fearless of police, and it is being addressed by the City Attorney, who is aware of the situation.
2. As far as San Vicente/Fairfax and Olympic traffic signal, Mr. Pass said that it was a really difficult signal system, the city has addressed it, and it's as good as it's going to be right now.
3. President Edelson asked if Mr. Pass had a date for the next meeting. Chair: Scheduled date for next meeting? Mr. Pass said they did not. The Plum/Outreach election will be held at 7 PM at the West Traffic Bureau Police Station, and they will start planning on how to get more people on the board.
4. Mr. Gaines asked if they could revisit Pico and San Vicente for the traffic study. Mr. Pass explained that West Traffic has over 90 sites they watch as "problem sites", so he will ask if it's one of the problem areas they're watching already.

President Edelson asked if there were any announcements from board members, and Mr. Smith announced that they were having a Planning and Outreach committee meeting on the coming Thursday. He asked if President Edelson wanted to add Elections as well, but President Edelson said that he had a prior commitment.

IX. Adjournment

- A. **Mr. Gaines motioned to adjourn, and Mr. Williams seconded. The board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:32 PM.**