

Olympic Park Neighborhood Council  
Revised Board of Directors Meeting  
February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019

**Note: A board member was late, so the meeting started with Item 4 at 7pm before the quorum was officially reached at 7:37pm**

#### **4. LAPD Wilshire and Olympic SLO update**

**LAPD Officer Harry Cho, Senior Lead Officer Olympic Division:** The area he is responsible for is west of Normandie Ave, between Olympic and Pico, to Crenshaw Blvd. The crime in the area has been robberies in the western corridor and robberies along Olympic. There have been incidents with thieves robbing elderly women walking by themselves. Initially these robberies were occurring just at night, but now some have occurred in broad day light. The thieves will drive through strip malls, jump out of their cars, knock down elderly women walking alone, take their purses and drive off. That sort of robbery was initially occurring in the area just once a month, but lately it has been happening 3 or 4 times a month. The thieves will operate in the area and then drive to another area and do it again, such as on Wilshire. They are also starting to see more thefts of catalytic converters mostly from Toyota Sequoias, Tundras and other elevated cars. The thieves will cut outside the bolt, unhitch the converters and sell them – it is very easy to sell that type of part. They are also converter thefts from Priuses, Camrys and Hondas – and other weird vehicles that have never had their catalytic converters stolen before. It seems that as older cars' catalytic converters go bad the black-market demand for them goes up. Burglaries in the area have gone down – an average of 1 or 2 a month. This reduction is likely due to people starting to get alarms. He recommends more alarms and security cameras to members of the community.

**Citizen Comment:** There is a tree currently down at Country Club and Gramercy. **Cho:** He has heard about that and they are working on it. He will try to contact DOT to get them out there ASAP. **Another Citizen:** there were already cops there. **Cho:** Great. Years ago there was a tree down in that area and it took the city a while to get to it and someone's grandson came down with a chainsaw to chop it up. He jokes that if anyone has a grandson with a chainsaw, please call them.

**Citizen Comment:** On the Nextdoor App, it said Normandie and Ardmere, near a private school there was a report of a man exposing himself. **Cho:** Yes, they had heard that. An officer did go and check out the area but did not see anything. He wants to let the community know that the police cannot see what is posted on the Nextdoor App, so please email or otherwise contact him if you see or heard of anything suspicious that you would like the police to know about so they can check it out.

**LAPD Officer Hebel Rodriguez, Senior Lead Officer Wilshire Division:** For those unfamiliar, his Basic Car is 7A47, which goes from Venice Blvd to Wilshire Blvd, between Crenshaw Blvd and Redondo Blvd. For the previous two months there had been a decrease in robberies in the area, but this month it jumped back up to 7 robberies. Last month there was just one, but this month it was 7. The majority of the burglaries were in the Windsor Village/Brookside area.

Robberies also went up – 5 last month. Many of the robberies dealt with theft of property. Thieves will come up to distracted people on their cell phones, who are not paying attention to their surroundings – one thief came up with a knife to the back, another with a gun. He recommends that the community members pay more attention to their surroundings when walking through the neighborhood. Car break ins in the area also went up – a total of 13. This is not unusual, but is slightly higher than average. In these cases, victims had property stolen from their vehicles, such as cell phones. He recommends a flyer campaign to remind the public to take valuables out of their cars. Thefts are also up – 13 this month. Many were thefts from lockers at the Planet Fitness gym. Please keep your items in your vehicle at the gym – thieves will crack open the locks on lockers and steal personal property. A gym member's phone was also stolen while it was charging unattended, so please do not leave your phones unattended at the gym.

**Board Member Milton Gaines:** There is still an issue with Bird scooters on Longwood Ave – they have on video someone on a Bird scooter on Longwood Ave trying to open car doors. Is there anything that can be done about the Bird scooters? He's seen from his house at 3:30/4 in the morning a guy on a Bird going down the street trying car doors.

**Rodriguez:** that is suspicious behavior so that should definitely be called in to us.

**Milton:** This is not the first time – since November there have been at least 5 occurrences. **Rodriguez:** Our officers are aware of that behavior so when they are on patrol, they will be looking out for that. **Cho:** we cannot take it up with Bird itself, because thieves will do this on skateboards and bicycles as well. But the Birds are an issue, because people are not operating them the way they are supposed to – on the bike lanes, stuff like that. And some of them go quite fast – they seem to be faster than they said they're supposed to go.

### **3. Special Presentations and Reports: City/State Reps Reports**

#### **1. Presentation by LA City Planning regarding Purple Line Transit Neighborhood**

**Plan:** Renata Dragland from the Los Angeles Department of City Planning introduces two members of the team working on the Purple Line Transit Neighborhood Plan (PLTNP) – Project Lead Andrew Jorgensen and Senior Planner Patricia Diefenderfer. Diefenderfer oversees the PLTNP effort, as well as other projects. They have been working on the PLTNP since 2016. They had some outreach meetings in 2017. They had the scoping meeting for the environmental review for the project in July 2018. They are planning on having more outreach meetings. The PLTNP project involves working on long range land use planning along the Purple Line Extension Phase One – which includes three stops on Wilshire at La Brea, Fairfax and La Cienega. In the Olympic Park neighborhood, the areas that will be affected by the project will be the properties on eastern side of La Brea, south of Olympic and north of San Vicente. Rimpau Blvd is the border on the east side of the project but the western boundary of the project is the area that will affect the Olympic Park neighborhood. There will be two workshop meetings on the project in late February – the first is on Feb 33<sup>rd</sup>, 10am-1pm at the Pan Pacific Senior Activities Center and the second is on Feb 27<sup>th</sup>, 5-8pm at Temple Beth Am. They left some fliers for the events with the OPNC, which will also be mailed out in about a week to the property owners and occupants in the affected areas. You can also find more information at [latnp.org](http://latnp.org) where you can sign up to be on a list of interested parties, so you

can receive email updates. The meetings will be opened ended, will have a lot of information on the project and they will split into small focused groups to give the community a chance to speak to them directly.

**Milton Gaines:** First, at the meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, will there be any information on the creek that runs under burrows, that runs south through the area? There have been a lot of emails going back and forth about that the purple line could potentially reroute it or cut it off. Will that be addressed at that meeting? And second, the Wilshire plan has not been updated in many years. How does the new transit project plan negate or update the Wilshire plan? **Renata Dragland:** You're talking about the actual purple line itself, which is the Metro agency's project. Our project at the Department of City Planning has to do with the land use surrounding those future transit stations. If you have any information about the area that you want to share with them, she encourages the community to email or call the Dept of City Planning because as part of the PLTNP they are doing an environmental review – so please contact them as soon as possible. In regards to the Wilshire plan, the PLTNP project was initiated in 2016 and was made possible partially by a grant they received from Metro which was before they got direction to update the 35 community plans in 5 years. So they are working on the just the specific and target areas that are in close proximity to those future stations.

**Milton:** I and many people in the west area are specifically concerned about the R1 designations in the area being attacked by this transit program that is going on. There seem to be so many rumors going around, we don't know what to believe.

**Patricia Diefenderfer:** The Wilshire Plan was updated in 2001. We received a couple grants from Metro to do planning around many stations, along many lines. In particular for the purple line we are doing planning for a mix of land uses and the intensity of land use around stations to try to development patterns that enable people to take advantage of the transit. Nothing about our project will preclude community plan update from occurring from when it will be scheduled to occur. We have a mandate from our city council to update all of our community plans by 2024 and there's nothing about this project that will preclude that. We got the grant in 2014 actually, and because of staffing issues did not start the process in earnest until 2016. So, at that time we did not even know we would get his extra funding from city council to do plan updates. We wanted to at least plan around a major new infrastructure project that was being built. When it is time to update the community plan we will do that as well. Part of the reason we are doing these outreach meetings was because there was a lot of miscommunication about R1 neighborhood concerns. We want to bring more people to the table, we didn't have a lot of people following this process when we initially started. We have a lot more people interested now so we wanted to do this outreach so we can reach more people and clear up this miscommunication. We have never proposed changing any of the R1 zoning in the western area. So, we're here to invite people to get more involved in the process and clarify any misinformation.

**Mitchell Edelson:** asks them to email this information to the board so they can forward it to their email list. They say they will.

**2. Brennan Lindner:** he is with a company called Generic Events which produces fitness events that benefit non-profits. He announces a new event: The Herbalife 24 Triathlon. It will be on June 2<sup>nd</sup> starting at 6am at Venice Beach. It starts with a swim at Venice Beach, then cyclists will bike down Venice Blvd to La Brea, up La Brea to Olympic, right on Olympic and then they head downtown. They will be in the Olympic Park area between 6am-9am. They are starting outreach now with all the Neighborhood Councils and they would like to work with the communications board to start getting the word out. There will be detour routes set up and police and fire will be able to cross the race route if there is an emergency. He will likely be back before the race to remind the community. They are also asking NCs if they would like to set up any cheer stations along the route. He encourages the OPNC to contact him should they have any questions/concerns, etc.

### 1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 7:37pm.

### 2. Roll Call

*10 Present:* Mitch Edelson (East Rep, President), Milton Gaines (West Rep, Treasurer), Hank Williams (West Rep, Secretary), Gerry Pass (West Rep, Transportation & Public Safety), Julia Stein (East Rep), Oliver Baker (East Rep), Nina Smith (East Rep, Budget Advocate), Peter Wilson (West Rep), Michael ??? (??), Nathan ??? (??)

*2 Excused:* Ted Smith (East Rep, Vice President), Robbie Farwell (West Rep, Animal Welfare),

*2 Unexcused:* Curtis Clark (West Rep), Ky Trang Ho (East Rep)

### 3. Special Presentations and Reports: City/State Reps Reports (REVISITED)

**3. Sylvia Lacey, District Director for Los Angeles City Councilmember Herb Wesson, District 10:** First she encourages the OPNC to set up a water booth or a similar outreach effort at the Herbalife 24 Triathlon. She then asks the board if there is anything they would like her to check on.

**Gerry Pass:** asks if there any details about the contracts that have come up for big buildings in the area – at La Brea and San Vicente. There were some concerns that have come up over traffic in those areas. **Sylvia:** There is an apartment building being built on 12<sup>th</sup>, west of La Brea. **Gerry:** There is also a target. **Sylvia:** The Target is a “by right” project. They have met with our office. Have they been here? **Gerry:** Sprouts has, but not Target. **Mitch:** Sprouts did for their liquor license application, but as far the developers no. The ship has sailed, it’s “by right” and beyond us, it’s already being built. **Sylvia:** It’s supposed to be built by the end of summer.

**Milton:** Expresses his concern again about the Bird scooters in the area. There have been had five instances of people going up and down the street checking on car doors. **Sylvia:** The city is in the process of making some sort of ordinance but she is not sure if it is completed. From what she understands from LAPD, the riders must be over 18 and have helmets and the scooters cannot go faster than 15-10 mph. But the enforcement agency has not yet been resolved yet – there is still the question of enforcement, who will enforce it? There is often a gaggle of those scooters outside public schools and many students are under 18.

**Gerry:** Over the weekend 1,600 homes along Longwood went without electricity because a transformer went out. That transformer goes out every year. He spoke to LADWP about it and they said the infrastructure of the whole area needs to be upgraded and recommended that the OPNC contact their city councilmember's officer. **Sylvia:** DWP is its own entity – we don't do work for them, they do their own work. They are a quasi-judicial city entity with their own department. Their infrastructure, including transformers, is their responsibility. So, she will email their DWP liaison and communicate with them. **Mitch:** The transformer here, at 4067 W Pico Blvd, has gone out three times. His electrician says that DWP is so cheap that instead of putting a new more powerful transformer in, they keep replacing them with the same weaker one over and over again. **Sylvia:** And Gerry where are you with your transformer? **Gerry:** From Longwood to Rimpau and San Vicente to Olympiac. **Peter Wilson:** It was 15 hours without power, starting from noon, going to 3am. **Gerry:** On our side it was almost 28 hours. **Sylvia:** She will check on that with DWP.

**Community Member Comment:** Is there anything that can be done about getting traffic reduced for certain streets? On Country Club Drive it goes through Oxford Square – in the last couple years people instead of taking Olympiac to Crenshaw they will take Olympiac to Country Club and the traffic is very backed up. It is dangerous. What is the process to changing the traffic rules? **Gerry:** If you can give me an exact address and the street we can have a traffic study done in the area. **Community Member:** The traffic comes through Olympiac and goes down Country Club. **Officer Cho:** The Waze app directs people through that area. But if you mark on the app that a police officer on that corner, it may cause people to avoid that route. **Sylvia:** She will talk to DOT and West traffic. **Gerry:** He will also take the lead on getting a traffic study. **Mitch:** The captain of west traffic has also said that they work with Waze sometimes, maybe they can convince them not to have that route.

## 6. Administrative

### 1. Report from the President

#### i. Experience with the Council Office and LANA

**Mitch Edelson:** The OPNC was recently supposed to have their quarterly meeting with Councilmember Wesson and the Longwood Area Neighborhood Association (LANA) but when we arrived someone from LANA approached

Mitch in the parking lot and said “What are you doing here? This is our meeting, this is not your meeting,” and “basically threw a temper tantrum” and would not allow Mitch to meet with the councilmember on OPNC’s behalf. Mitch wants to make clear that this was not due to anyone in the councilmember’s office, they handled it civilly. But, while no one on this board has a problem with LANA, apparently, they have a problem with us.

**Milton:** He is a founding member of both LANA and OPNC and a past president of both organizations and he wants to make clear it is not LANA as a whole that has an issue with OPNC, there are a few individuals that live in the Longwood area that are causing this issue – they have started a separate group that is not a part of LANA but is representing itself as if it is an offshoot of LANA. He wants everyone to know that he is working to resolve this issue – but there are certain individuals who are not a part of LANA who are saying they are, misrepresenting themselves.

**Mitch:** The 12<sup>th</sup> and La Brea developers came and presented their project to us once and we were going to meet with them again but then they were told by LANA not to meet with us again and they never came back. **Milton:** Again, that was not LANA. The president of LANA had no idea that went on, and we’re working to fix that.

**Sylvia:** The first meeting went with the neighborhood organizations and the councilmember went fine. The second meeting, she thought that LANA would invite OPNC but when she walked into the room it was clear to her that OPNC didn’t know anything about it because they were not there. So, she called Mitch and explained what had happened. Those two meetings were on Saturdays, as those meetings normally are, but due to scheduling issues the third meeting was on a Thursday. So, she emailed Mitch and he came to the third meeting on OPNC’s behalf and that is when that incident occurred. It was a mess and she was truly hurt and embarrassed – it should not have happened. So, they we will now have quarterly meetings with just OPNC so the two groups will not be put together again.

**Mitch:** He has invited the CM Wesson to come address the OPNC on July 1<sup>st</sup> – he asks Sylvia if he will be able to come. **Sylvia:** It is on CM Wesson’s schedule, but she will double check to be sure. **Mitch:** it will be after the election, so the OPNC will be the full and proper board. They will see if they can get Country Club Park involved.

**Note: OPNC Board Member Nathan ??? left the meeting at 8pm.**

## **5. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items**

**Dante Charleston:** He is a Land Use/Real Estate Consultant representing a potential project located at 1144 S Western Ave – at 12<sup>th</sup> and Western – in the Sejong Plaza. It is currently an existing restaurant. They filed an application for a conditional use permit today for beer and wine in conjunction with food. The hours of operation will be 11am to 2 am. He requests to be put on the agenda for the PLUM committee so he can do an extensive presentation at that time.

**Mitch:** Does the current operation serve beer and wine? **Dante:** Yes, but this is a new tenant so we are submitting new applications. **Mitch:** Same operating characteristics as the last location? Same number of seats? **Dante:** Exactly. It's 80 seats. The previous tenant had a few more than 80 seats. There are also over 100 parking spaces on site. **Mitch:** What's the restaurant's name? **Dante:** Town Hof. **Mitch:** PLUM will meet this Thursday. He asks Dante to email him so he can make sure the project gets on that agenda.

**Cathy Roberts:** She is from the La Brea-Hancock neighborhood which is part of the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council. She expresses concerns about the Purple Line Transit Neighborhood Plan (PLTNP). The City Planning reps earlier mentioned that they started the process in 2016 but no neighborhood that Roberts is aware of was involved in that process until 2018. They are proposing substantial sub zoning along the whole route of the plan. Her neighborhood has come out against that because there is already sufficient zoning to provide housing community needs. Developers are seeking more give-aways to take advantage of. She does not believe it is beneficial to the community. They have said they will protect single-family zones and she will take them at their word regarding that. She encourages the community to go to the PLTNP workshop meetings with heavy skepticism. Many neighborhoods are opposed to it. A few months ago she went to the Pico Neighborhood Council meeting and they felt taken advantage of and were given information too late.

**Robert Eisele:** He is the Vice President of the La Brea-Hancock Homeowners Association and he agrees Cathy Robert's points about the PLTNP. The excuse that is often used for the up-zoning that is proposed is to get transit rights but they have destroyed affordable housing and rent-controlled units to build things such as a large expensive high-rise at Vermont and Wilshire whose residents would not be transit riders. There was an article in the LA Times today about how transit riding is going down and up-zoning and increasing gentrification in the area is not going to increase transit ridership, it just in essence exiles people from Los Angeles who can no longer afford to live in those areas. They say there will affordable units but the city has no investigatory arm to make sure the units stay affordable. He urges vigilance about this issue.

**Lynn ???:** She agrees with Cathy Roberts and Robert Eisele, she was at the LA Highschool meeting and she felt the neighborhood communities were not included in anything. The showpiece is an apartment building on La Brea and 12<sup>th</sup> that no one was happy with except the developer. She encourages the community to attend the workshop meetings.

**Public Comment (citizen did not give name):** She asks about the last 6 months of OPNC minutes. The most recent minutes on the OPNC website are from August 2018. **Mitch:** he will make sure the website gets updated with more recent minutes. **Public Comment:** She also contacted the board in December about a project at 1141-1145 S Crenshaw – a five story apartment complex that would be near several small single-family homes on Victoria. She has asked four times for a letter of support against the project. The NC has a responsibility to the homeowners of the area – developers are building a lot without checking if the plumbing system in the area can take it. Down on 50<sup>th</sup> the water main broke and she talked to the plumber who said the city is only doing repairs even though it needs a new infrastructure. Her family has lived in LA for over 100 years and she believes the OPNC and developers are avoiding the people and

what they want and it is not fair to the community. She urges them to consider aesthetics and population pressure in the area.

## **6. Administrative (REVISTED)**

### **2. Report from Treasurer:**

**Milton Gaines:** He distributes copies of the Treasury report. The OPNC gets \$42,000 per fiscal year to allocate to various projects. As of now they have spent \$6,397.45 of that money, most of which has gone toward meetings and the upcoming elections. The report packet has a spreadsheet of a snap shot of the bigger by month expenses – if anyone would like to go over that spreadsheet please contact him. The spreadsheet is current as of this past Sunday evening. There are also monthly expense reports for the months of November and December 2018 and four invoices for website updates in the packet. He reminds the board that receipts for OPNC spending must be itemized, because the City Clerk office takes that very seriously. As of today, there is \$35,602.55 left of their allotted funds for this fiscal year.

### **3. Report from Secretary**

No report.

### **4. Approval of Monthly Expenditure Reports for November 2018**

Oliver Baker moves to approve the November 2018 expense report. Julia Stein seconds. The board votes, and the motion is unanimously approved by the 9 present board members.

### **5. Approval of Monthly Expenditure Reports for December 2018**

Peter Wilson moves to approve the December 2018 expense report. Michael ??? seconds. The board votes, and the motion is unanimously approved by the 9 present board members.

### **6. Payment to Moore Business Results OPNC 2019 0201 for \$172**

### **7. Payment to Moore Business Results OPNC 2019 0201E for \$180.**

### **8. Payment to Moore Business Results Inv# OPNC 2019 0101 \$328.31**

### **9. Payment to Moore Business Results Inv# OPNC 2019 0101E \$197.76**

Milton Gaines moves to approve all four “Moore Business” invoices in one vote. Peter Wilson seconds. The board votes, and the motion is unanimously approved by the 9 present board members.

### **10. Approval of December minutes**

Milton Gaines moves to approve the minutes minus the a few minor corrections. Oliver Baker seconds. The board votes, and the motion is unanimously approved by the 9 present board members.

## **7. Elections and Outreach**



**Mitch:** There will be an election. The \$1,000 Facebook ad we ran was effective, it had 79,000 engagements and was only targeted toward people in our neighborhood's zip codes. So that was successful. We were going to do the banner, but there were issues with the banner company and that did not happen. The west side is competitive and the east side has just enough candidates to fill the board.

**Ramsey Boyle:** He is the candidate for the youth OPNC board position. He is in his junior year at Loyola High School, in between Venice and Pico. He has lived in this neighborhood all his life and he bikes to school so he has a chance to interact with the neighborhood every day. He is very interested in public transit and land usage in the neighborhood. His dad, Prem Boyle, was on the Country Club Park Neighborhood Association and he helped a lot with putting a pocket park at Wilton and Olympic and that inspired him to want to get involved in the neighborhood.

**Jacklyn Epstien:** She is another candidate in the upcoming elections. She was born and raised in the area, near the Koreatown galleria. She is a recent graduate and just moved back to LA and wants to get involved in the community. She is on the east side of Olympic Park area – near Olympic and 11<sup>th</sup>.

### **1. Candidate Forum of 1 hour on March 4<sup>th</sup>, to proceed our regular board meeting (limited to 1 hour)**

**Mitch:** the first hour of our next meeting on March 4<sup>th</sup>, will be a candidate forum. From 7-8pm. They will try to keep the agenda slim for that one.

### **2. Making election also serve as an outreach event**

**Mitch:** The election is April 4<sup>th</sup>, 4-8pm at LA High School. He proposes getting a food truck for the election. He will try to get it on the agenda for the next meeting. They have enough funds left for a food truck and a lot of SWAG in storage currently that they can give away. He likes the idea of finding a taco truck that operates within the neighborhood to come to the event. They will need volunteers to come help out. He has also talked with Ms. Lacey about getting city agencies there to help answer questions, she plans to start emailing them ASAP.

**Julien Antelin, from the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment:** That is a good idea, just please be sure to submit an event form to the city clerk office at least 30 days before the event.

### **3. Special Presentations and Reports: City/State Reps Reports (REVISTED)**

**Julien Antelin, from the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment:** A few updates: the Shake Alert App is now active. It can give you a 30 second warning before an earthquake hits. Please download it, it can save your life. The deadline to nominate a project for the Empower LA Awards is February 15<sup>th</sup> and the award ceremony will be March 28<sup>th</sup>. The ceremony will be at City Hall and is open to the public. The Neighborhood Commissioners will award 7 awards for the 7 different regions of the city.

The new City Council President Pro-Tem is Councilwoman Nury Martinez, she is first Latina woman to have this position. The City Council approved allowing \$10,000 to be rolled over into NC's budget's at the end of the fiscal year. The council approved a \$60,000 for transportation costs. The Neighborhood Council Homeless Resource Fair will be on March 2<sup>nd</sup> at Grand Park from 9am to 1pm. Poll worker jobs for upcoming elections are now available, so please encourage people in the community to apply. If you email him he will sent you the link for those applications. Empower LA now has a new podcast – it is a good way to learn about the neighborhood council system. He has sent the legislative report to the OPNC, which is a good way to track what is happening in City Council.

## **8. New Business**

**Mitch:** He is looking forward to having a full board after the elections and hearing new ideas from new members. He hopes to get some of the committees going again.

## **9. Adjournment**

Milton Gaines moves to adjourn. Peter Wilson seconds. The board votes, and the motion is unanimously approved by the 9 present board members. The meeting is adjourned at 8:38pm.