

OPNC Board Meeting Minutes

Date 7 Oct 2024 19:00
Location LAPD Wilshire Division Community Room
Type Regular Meeting ▾
Status Pending Board Approval ▾
Submitted By Max Hawkins

1. Call to order and roll call

The meeting was called to order by Ramsay Goyal at 7:00pm

Present (13) Samuel Bark, Geoff Birchfield, Jessica Celious, Robert Cresswell, Mitchell Edelson, Nathan Freeman, Natasha Fung, Michael Hagerty, Max Hawkins, Charles Jang, Bev Rowe, Guy Toley, Ramsay Goyal
Absent (6) Sheila Hill, Gerry Pass, Paul Rogoff, Clem Wright, Yimu Xue, Frank Larrazaleta

2. Presentations from Government Officials

Officer Harry Cho:

- The Olympic Division is hosting a carnival on October 25th-27th, with street closures around Vermont between Olympic and Pico, as well as 11th and 12th Streets.
- The annual "Shoes from Santa" event will occur on December 4th, providing shoes and toys to children in need, with a winter wonderland setup at the station. Donations of smaller shoe sizes (kids' 9 to youth 5) are particularly needed.
- Hyundai and Kia models are still frequently targeted for car thefts due to a known vulnerability
- Thieves are stealing license plates to use on stolen cars. Residents were encouraged to install safety bolts for license plates as a preventive measure.
- Incidents of handbags being stolen from shopping carts were reported. Residents were advised to keep handbags secured on their person while shopping.

Officer Hebel Rodridguez:

- Caution was advised when helping unhoused individuals, especially allowing them into private spaces like homes or backyards.
- Catalytic Converter Etching: October 23rd at Wilshire United Methodist Church, free service to deter theft.

- Station Open House: October 20th, with tours, family activities, and community engagement.
- Public commented on an increase in graffiti. Officer Rodriguez recommended reporting graffiti using MyLA311 app or 311, especially gang-related markings.

Chief Lance McCloskey, LAFD:

- No notable fire incidents in the Wilshire or Olympic areas recently.
- Firefighters returning from state wildfire duty; 45 members deployed to assist with Hurricane response in Orlando.
- Libraries remain open as cooling centers; residents encouraged to stay safe during heat waves.
- Keep children in groups for Halloween, use flashlights, avoid streets, and inspect all treats for safety.

Jungmin Lee, Council District 10:

- Addressed concerns about encampments, specifically one at Windsor and Wilshire, which falls under Council District 5. Redirected inquiries to the field deputy for that district.
- Member of the transportation committee asked for guidance on speed humps. The “window” for speed hump applications is currently closed, but assistance from council staff may help expedite priority locations.
- Terrance Gomes handles rapid response cleanup: terrance.gomes@lacity.org. Cleanup requests are addressed within 48 hours.

Octaviano Rios, Department of Neighborhood Empowerment:

- A virtual workshop on neighborhood purpose grants is on October 17th at 6 PM.
- Olympic Park’s election is on April 22, 2024; candidate filing is December 20 to February 3.
- Contact election administrator at 213-978-0444 for election inquiries.
- A virtual election info session is on October 12th at 9 AM, focusing on the vote-by-mail model.

3A. Comments on board conflicts of interest

- Michael Hagerty gave comments about conflict of interest concerns raised at the previous meeting.
- The City Attorney’s office will not provide blanket advice on conflicts; board members must seek individualized consultations. This recommendation is intended to ensure compliance and reduce potential risks for the board.
- Board members with a financial interest or who live within 1,000 feet of an agenda item are encouraged to contact the City Attorney’s office directly.

5A. Discussion and appointment of outreach committee members and chair

- Discussed the appointment of a new outreach committee chair, as the current chair seeks a replacement.
- No board members immediately volunteered; one expressed conditional interest pending a clear outline of responsibilities.

- The outreach committee has been inactive for a few months, depending on individual initiative.
- The agenda item was tabled due to no motions and pending further clarification of duties.

5B. Debrief of Congress of Neighborhoods and lessons learned

- Nathan was acknowledged for his efforts in setting up and managing their presence at the Congress of Neighborhoods. The team set up a table and participated in event activities.
- Max attended workshops and emphasized the value of the event for networking and learning about the neighborhood council system.
- Max suggested appointing a board representative to alliances like LANCC (LA Neighborhood Council Coalition) to enhance citywide collaboration and advocacy.

6A. Treasurer’s Report

- Payments for overdue items were processed, including payments to Wendy Moore (covering all but March). This will be addressed in the next agenda.
- The Neighborhood Purpose Grant for the LA Korean Festival was successfully issued.
- Significant bureaucracy delayed payments to vendors, requiring multiple special meetings to resolve. Payments dated back to May and included September.

7. Consent Calendar

- A question was raised about the approval of Moore Business Results’s fees, particularly related to late charges from delayed payment processing.
- It was clarified that the approval pertains to clearing past due amounts, not an ongoing commitment to the provider. The board retains the ability to halt services at any time.

Mover	Mitchell Edelson
Second	Nathan Freeman
Yes (14)	Jessica Celious, Robert Cresswell, Mitchell Edelson, Nathan Freeman, Natasha Fung, Michael Hagerty, Max Hawkins, Sheila Hill, Charles Jang, Paul Rogoff, Bev Rowe, Ramsay Goyal, Frank Larrazaleta
No (0)	—
Abstain (0)	—
Recused (0)	—
Ineligible (1)	Samuel Bark

The motion passes.

8. Board Member Business

- Board members were reminded to send updated headshots for the website to improve outreach.
- Some board members reported issues with email functionality, and there was discussion about setting up a Google Workspace for better email access.
- Discussion on securing a PO Box for official mail was raised, but logistical hurdles, including contract requirements with the city, were noted. A point person was sought to resolve this.
- Planning and Land Use Committee membership was revisited, with efforts to confirm current members and recruit new ones.

9. Adjournment

Michael Hagerty moved to adjourn the meeting, Sam Bark seconded.