

## OPNC Board Meeting Minutes

**Date** 12 Aug 2024 19:00  
**Location** Zoom  
**Type** Special Meeting ▾  
**Status** Approved by Board ▾  
**Submitted By** Max Hawkins

### 1. Call to order and roll call

Present (12) Bev Rowe, Clem Wright, Frank Larrazaleta, Geoff Birchfield, Guy Toley, Jessica Celious, Max Hawkins, Michael Hagerty, Natasha Fung, Paul Rogoff, Ramsay Goyal, Samuel Bark  
Absent (4) Gerry Pass, Nathan Freeman, Robert Cresswell, Sheila Hill  
Excused (3) Charles Jang, Mitchell Edelson, Yimu Xue

### 2. Presentations from government officials

No government officials present

### 3A. Appoint Ramsay Goyal to serve as President of OPNC

Mover Michael Hagerty  
Second Clem Wright  
Clem Wright, Frank Larrazaleta, Geoff Birchfield, Guy Toley, Jessica Celious, Max Hawkins, Michael Hagerty, Natasha Fung, Paul Rogoff,  
Yes (12) Ramsay Goyal, Samuel Bark  
No (0) —

### Board Discussion

- **Michael Hagerty:** Endorsed Ramsey, citing his experience, commitment, and knowledge of procedures.
- **Frank Larrazaleta:** Requested additional information on board president responsibilities, concerned about the speed of the vote.
- **Clem Wright:** Advocated for moving forward quickly to avoid delays, emphasizing the risk of not filling the position.
- **Jessica Celious:** Stated that Ramsey is qualified and willing, with no other candidates interested.

**Public Comments**

- **Karen Jones:** As a community member, expressed concern about the fast pace of the decision and requested clarity on the urgency.
- **Michael Hagerty:** Noted the upcoming election, explaining that this decision is temporary and allows time for newer members to learn the process.
- **Guy Toley:** Emphasized the importance of filling the position quickly to maintain board functionality and prevent further breakdowns.

Motion unanimously passed.

**3B. Appoint Michael Hagerty to serve as Vice President of OPNC**

Mover	Bev Rowe
Second	Guy Toley
Yes (12)	Clem Wright, Frank Larrazaleta, Geoff Birchfield, Guy Toley, Jessica Celious, Max Hawkins, Michael Hagerty, Natasha Fung, Paul Rogoff, Ramsay Goyal, Samuel Bark
No (0)	—

Motion passes unanimously.

**3C. Appoint Max Hawkins to serve as Secretary of OPNC**

Mover	Paul Rogoff
Second	Bev Rowe
Yes (12)	Clem Wright, Frank Larrazaleta, Geoff Birchfield, Guy Toley, Jessica Celious, Max Hawkins, Michael Hagerty, Natasha Fung, Paul Rogoff, Ramsay Goyal, Samuel Bark

No (0) —

Motion passes unanimously.

### **3D. Appoint Geoff Birchfield to serve as Treasurer of OPNC**

Mover Guy Toley

Second Max Hawkins

Clem Wright, Frank Larrazaleta, Geoff Birchfield, Guy Toley, Jessica Celious, Max Hawkins, Michael Hagerty, Natasha Fung, Paul Rogoff, Ramsay Goyal, Samuel Bark

Yes (12)

No (0) —

Motion passes unanimously.

### **4A. Treasurer's Report.**

- \$194 monthly fee was processed for Public Storage
- Payments were made to Wendy Moore for updating the website, including updates related to the movie in the park event and this meeting.
- No other significant expenses for the month.

### **4B: Discussion and possible approval of June 2024 MER**

Mover Ramsay Goyal

Second Geoff Birchfield

Clem Wright, Frank Larrazaleta, Geoff Birchfield, Guy Toley, Jessica Celious, Max Hawkins, Michael Hagerty, Natasha Fung, Paul Rogoff, Ramsay Goyal

Yes (12)

No (0) —

Abstain (0) —

Recused (0) —

Ineligible (1) Samuel Bark

Motion passes unanimously.

**4C: Discussion and possible approval of July 2024 MER**

Mover	Ramsay Goyal
Second	Samuel Bark
	Clem Wright, Frank Larrazaleta, Geoff Birchfield, Guy Toley, Jessica Celious, Max Hawkins, Michael Hagerty, Natasha Fung, Paul Rogoff, Ramsay Goyal
Yes (11)	Paul Rogoff, Ramsay Goyal
No (0)	—
Abstain (0)	—
Recused (0)	—
Ineligible (1)	Samuel Bark

Motion passes unanimously.

**4D: Discussion and possible approval of payment for Public Storage \$194.00**

Mover	Ramsay Goyal
Second	Clem Wright
	Clem Wright, Frank Larrazaleta, Geoff Birchfield, Guy Toley, Jessica Celious, Max Hawkins, Michael Hagerty, Natasha Fung, Paul Rogoff, Ramsay Goyal, Samuel Bark
Yes (12)	Paul Rogoff, Ramsay Goyal, Samuel Bark
No (0)	—
Abstain (0)	—
Recused (0)	—
Ineligible (1)	Samuel Bark

Motion passes unanimously.

**4E: Discussion and possible approval of Moore Business Invoices from March 2024 – August 2024.**

Mover	Ramsay Goyal
Second	Max Hawkins
	Clem Wright, Frank Larrazaleta, Geoff Birchfield, Guy Toley, Jessica Celious, Max Hawkins, Michael Hagerty, Natasha Fung, Paul Rogoff, Ramsay Goyal
Yes (11)	Paul Rogoff, Ramsay Goyal

No (0) —  
Abstain (1) Samuel Bark

### **Board Discussion**

- **Clem Wright:** Asked for clarification on what Moore Business Results does.
- **Max Hawkins:** Explained that Wendy Moore, the webmaster, is paid for sending emails and updating the website.
- **Guy Toley:** Noted that Moore continued to send emails and maintain engagement during a period when the board was inactive, incurring unpaid expenses.
- **Ramsay Goyal:** Acknowledged that Moore's prices have increased, but explained that there are limited city-approved contractors for this work.
- **Jessica Celious:** Questioned the frequency of payments given the low engagement, suggesting that some tasks, like sending emails, could be done for free by the board to save money.
- **Guy Toley:** Emphasized the importance of maintaining the website and communication channels for public engagement.
- **Jessica Celious:** Suggested reallocating funds to address more pressing neighborhood issues, such as graffiti and trash.
- **Ramsay Goyal:** Agreed to revisit the topic in a future meeting to explore if the board could take on more responsibilities to save money but emphasized the need to approve the current invoices for work already completed.

Motion passes unanimously.

### **4F. Discussion and possible approval of fiscal 24/25 Administrative Financial Packet.**

Motion passes unanimously.

### **5A. Review and possible approval of the Minutes from the JULY 2024 Special Board Meetings**

The motion was tabled.

### **6. Planning and Land Use Committee Report**

No updates.

### **7. Transportation and Public Safety Committee Report**

- **Venice Boulevard Streets for All Project:** subcommittee discussed sending a letter of support, which is on the agenda.

- **Traffic Control Measures:** Charles brought up traffic control measures to stop illegal turns, especially at Midtown Crossing. These items are being researched further before being presented to the board.
- **Speed Bumps:** Discussed speed bumps on Gramercy Place as part of the Venice Boulevard project support.
- **Crosswalk Proposal:** Research continues on a proposed crosswalk across Western, and a letter of support has been approved.

### Board Discussion

- Jessica raised concerns about bike lanes that reduced parking, which was referred to the Transportation and Public Safety Committee for future agenda items.
- Sam Bark also mentioned collecting signatures for a petition on speed bumps and coordinating with Guy to gather additional support.

### 8. General Public Comment

- **Sue McCullough:** Expressed concerns about the proposed K Line project. She urged the board to write a white paper to inform the community and stressed the importance of engaging before Metro stops accepting comments.

### 10A. Discuss and possible approval of a N.P.G. for OBA Foundation to support the L.A.P.D. National Night Out in an amount up to \$1000.00

Guy Toley presented a request for a \$1,000 Neighborhood Purpose Grant to support the LAPD Olympic Division's National Night Out event, originally submitted by Officer Harry Cho.

- **Geoff Birchfield:** Asked if the grant would be retroactive or for future use.
- **Guy Toley:** Clarified that since the event has already occurred, the funds would likely support future outreach activities.
- **Max Hawkins:** Pointed out that NPGs cannot be applied retroactively, meaning the grant cannot be approved for the past event.

The item was tabled.

### 10B. Discussion and possible approval to allocate funds and approve a N.P.G. for the LA Korean Festival Foundation in an amount up to \$3000.00.

Mover	Michael Hagerty
Second	Samuel Bark
Yes (11)	Clem Wright, Geoff Birchfield, Guy Toley, Jessica Celious, Max Hawkins, Michael Hagerty, Natasha Fung, Paul Rogoff, Ramsay

	Goyal, Ramsay Goyal
No (1)	Frank Larrazaleta
Abstain (1)	Samuel Bark

Angela Gilbert Presented a \$3,000 grant request for the 51st Anniversary Korean Festival, celebrating diversity with cultural booths, performances, and activities. The funds would go towards advertising, outreach, and event materials.

**Board Discussion**

- **Jessica Celious:** Sought clarification on how the funds would be spent, learning they would support cultural activities, supplies, and advertising.
- **Beverly Rowe:** Asked how outreach would target residents in the OPNC area.

**Public Comments**

- **Najmah Brown:** Raised concerns about funding activities outside the OPNC borders, questioning if the festival provides a direct benefit to OPNC residents.
- **Michael Hagerty:** Clarified that Koreatown is near the OPNC border and the event could benefit the local community.

The motion passed.

**10C. Discussion and possible approval to allocate funds and approve a N.P.G. for Heal One World in an amount up to \$5000.00.**

The motion was tabled.

**10D. Send a letter of support for the Streets for All Venice for all proposal.**

Mover	Michael Hagerty
Second	Clem Wright
Yes (6)	Clem Wright, Geoff Birchfield, Max Hawkins, Michael Hagerty, Natasha Fung, Paul Rogoff
No (4)	Frank Larrazaleta, Guy Toley, Jessica Celious, Samuel Bark
Abstain (2)	Bev Rowe, Ramsay Goyal

Michael Schneider from Streets for All presented the “Venice Boulevard for All” project, proposing bus lanes and traffic-calmed bike routes from Fairfax to downtown

LA, with the OPNC area impacted by traffic calming and bike-friendly streets. He requested OPNC's support for the project.

### **Board Discussion**

- **Beverly Rowe:** Asked for clarification about the parameters of the bike-friendly corridor and the types of traffic calming measures. Michael Schneider explained that measures like speed humps, roundabouts, and chicanes would be used, with flexibility in placement.
- **Jessica Celious:** Expressed concerns about the disruption caused by bike lanes, referencing issues on San Vicente. She questioned the necessity of placing bike lanes in the street, citing negative impacts on traffic. Michael clarified that the existing Venice bike lane would be adjusted for safety by placing cyclists at the curb with parking protection, without removing parking or travel lanes.

### **Public Comments**

- Several community members expressed concerns about the project's impact on traffic, safety, and the lack of outreach (Fatinah Brown, Najmah Brown, Elisha Hall, Pat Daniels).
- Some expressed support, citing improved safety for cyclists and pedestrians (Clem Wright, Michael Hagerty).
- Questions were raised regarding the cost, timeline, and potential for future bike lanes (Sue McCullough, Frank Larrazaleta, Samuel Bark).
- Michael Schneider responded to concerns, clarifying that outreach and adjustments would be made by LADOT and that no parking or travel lanes would be removed.

The motion passed.

### **10E: Livable Communities Initiative: Presentation by LCI representative on their current initiatives. Possible action on letter of support and/or partnership with LCI**

The motion was tabled.

### **12: Board Business**

Guy Toley Expressed concerns about Open Sidewalks LA, describing it as an organization that is targeting Country Club Park by creating a wedge issue over the gates in the neighborhood. He noted that Max Hawkins was involved with this group and that the board was previously unaware of his involvement.



Jessica Celious and community member Najmah Brown raised concerns about potential conflicts of interest. Jessica Celious suggested that members with personal stakes should not vote, suggesting both Max Hawkins and Michael Hagerty had a conflict. Max clarified that his role with Open Sidewalks LA was unrelated to the vote, and Michael denied any conflict.

Paul Rogoff moved to reconsider the motion, Jessica Celious seconded.

Mover	Paul Rogoff
Second	Bev Rowe
Yes (7)	Frank Larrazaleta, Guy Toley, Jessica Celious, Max Hawkins, Paul Rogoff, Samuel Bark
No (4)	Clem Wright, Geoff Birchfield, Michael Hagerty, Natasha Fung
Abstain (1)	Ramsay Goyal

- **Max Hawkins:** Clarified that his support for the current vote is unrelated to his involvement with Open Sidewalks LA. He said he supports the project based on personal experience with biking in Los Angeles but has no personal stake beyond that. He reiterated that a discussion on Open Sidewalks and the gates should happen in a future, Brown Act compliant agenda meeting.
- **Beverly Rowe:** Raised concerns about how emergency vehicles, such as fire trucks, would be affected by speed bumps and traffic calming measures. Expressed readiness to vote but emphasized the importance of considering impacts on emergency response times.
- **Clem Wright:** sought clarification, confirming that the proposal does not involve adding bike lanes or removing parking, but focuses on adding traffic calming measures like speed bumps, roundabouts, and chicanes.
- **Pat Daniels:** raised concerns about narrow streets like 4th Avenue and 11th Street
- **Clem Wright:** emphasized that this vote is just one step in a longer process and that specific traffic calming measures will be reviewed and adjusted as needed in future stages.

The motion to reconsider passed.

Geoff Birchfield voted to table the motion, Ramsay seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### 13. Adjournment

Max Hawkins moved to adjourn the meeting, Guy Toley seconded.