

DRAFT

Neighborhood Council of Westchester/Playa del Rey Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes – November 4, 2003

Present: Mike Arias, Gloria Blancett, Sibyl Buchanan, Dolores Canizales, Judith Ciancimino, David Coffin, Curt Curtiss, Robert Dalton, Andrea Davis, Kenneth Egan, James Ferro, Yael Kozar, Myra Kriwanek, Patricia Lyon, Efigenia Martinez, Sheila Mickelson, Harry Rose, Steve Santos, Denny Schneider, John-David Webster, Robert Weldon, William West, Val Velasco, David Voss, Gwen Vuchsas and Barbara Yamamoto.

Excused: Robert Acherman, Joe Callinan, Dorraine Gilbert.

Absent: David Gray.

Item 1: The meeting was called to order at 6:50PM by Gwen Vuchsas, President of the Board. The Roll was called.

Item 2: Mike Arias led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item 3: John-David Webster moved to approve the minutes of the October 7, Board Meeting as amended. Val Velasco seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Sheila Mickelson made a motion to table the approval of the Minutes of the October 21, Special Board Meeting, prepared by Dolores Canizales and Myra Kriwanek, to the next meeting. Mike Arias seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 4: *President's Report* – Gwen Vuchsas

- a.) **Board Meeting Rules and Process** – A handout was distributed that outlined Parliamentary Procedure from Robert's Rules of Order and "The Four-Way Test" from Rotary. Gwen pointed out that at the last Board Meeting, many Board Members were disrespectful to each other. This behavior is not acceptable and should not be tolerated.

Gwen also asked that Committee Chairs include all Board Members on any meeting notices. She also asked that all Committee Chairs submit their Committee Reports early enough for agenda purposes to allow enough time on the agenda for discussion and possible action.

- b.) **Arden Energy Challenge** – Mike Arias distributed flyers and registration forms. The “Race for Charity,” sponsored by Arden Realty will take place on December 7, 2003. They still need 120 local volunteers to pass out water, etc. The event starts at 7:30am with road closures beginning at 6:30am to 9:15 am, including freeway on and off ramps. There will be no overnight parking on the local streets along the route.

Sharon Sandow, CD11, said that the course has not yet been approved and local citizens could still express their concerns about the route.

- c.) **Streetscape Donation** – Denny Schneider stated that there is no answer from DONE on whether we can make this donation.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

Item 5: *Planning and Land Use Committee* – Playa Vista Village Phase II – Chair Val Velasco distributed the Minutes of the October 9, PLUC Meeting stating that “PLUC recommends support for The Village at Playa Vista project, and that the Neighborhood Council allow the community to come forward to the full Board with public comment allowed beyond the (two minutes) customary public comment period.”

Doug Moreland and Marc Huffman, representing Playa Vista made a Power Point presentation and distributed information on the project.

Item 6: *Public Comment*

- Patricia Dey – Westchester resident – submitted written comments concerning traffic and open space.
- Rachelle Figueroa – Representing the Morning Star Foundation expressed concerns over the protection of sacred sites, methane gas bubbling up in streams, and the native wildlife being chased out of their habitat.
- Bob Krauch – Westchester resident – stated that the Village will provide amenities for residents and possibly eliminate many “trips” a day. He sees the Village as a solution, not a problem.
- Ron Felicioni – Member of PLUC – pointed out that many intersections in the area are already at level E or F and before a vote is taken that he would like to know where the breaking point is for our infrastructure.
- Juliet Bobak – Westchester resident – Pointed out that Playa Vista is already occupied and the occupants will be using the shops and restaurants planned for the Village, which will alleviate some traffic.
- Anna Aguilera – Representing the Ballona Wetlands Land Trust – stated that there is not enough open space and we need open space for our health.
- Eric Barnard – Representing the Ballona Wetlands Land Trust – is a teacher at Paseo del Rey and considers the land a paradise. He brings his classes there to teach them about bird watching. He is displeased with the development.

- Cedric Sutherland – Vice President of the Westchester/LAX-Marina del Rey Chamber of Commerce – spoke in favor of the Village, stating that the Village will provide needed amenities for the residents of Playa Vista.
- Chris Bryant – Playa del Rey resident – stated that he does not feel that PV has done anything to ease the traffic and is building “prison-like” buildings.
- Sally Duchane – Playa del Rey resident – stated that the increase in development in the area has caused an increase in busses and traffic in Playa del Rey and the streets cannot handle any more.
- Janice Dobbs – Playa del Rey resident – stated that the increase in traffic in Playa del Rey has caused an increase in smog as well, from cars and buses.
- Janis Johnson – Playa Vista resident – asked that the NCWPDR think of the PV residents as members of the community and pointed out that without the Village, the residents will have to get into a car just to buy a cup of coffee.
- John Tommy Rosas – Vice Chairman of the Gabrielino/Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council – said he will sue the NC if the Board votes to support the Village. He said that PV is built on tribal land.
- Tom Francis – Representing Ballona Wetlands Land Trust – pointed out the people in the room who were holding signs opposing the Village asked the Board not to vote at this time. He encouraged the NCWPDR to hear a presentation on an alternative development.
- Michael Youssef – Playa Vista resident – pointed out that the land planned for the Village is an eyesore and will provide parks, bike paths and new wildlife habitat, as well as the much needed amenities.
- Leah Walton – Playa del Rey resident – is a videographer who videos the Blue Herron in the wetlands. She feels the development is a threat to the last remaining group of Blue Herron in the So. Cal Area.
- Nancy Hastings – Representing the Surfrider Foundation – asked that we postpone a vote until the final EIR has been submitted. She also suggested the experts of Surfrider be invited to speak to the Board.
- Tony Romano – Playa Vista resident – is a senior citizen who tries not to drive his car. The Village would provide many of the amenities he now has to drive to obtain.
- Lee Roozen – Westchester resident – feels that there is not enough open space in the area to absorb the pollution generated by the residents. He also asked that the builders include meeting rooms for use by the entire community.
- Leslie Purcell – Representing the Sierra Club, Ballona Ecosystem Project – believes that the project is too massive and does not address toxic issues. She questions the right of Sibyl Buchanan to vote because Sibyl works for Playa Vista as well as being a Playa del Rey resident.
- Frank Lagnese – Playa Vista resident – stated that the Village is important; it will connect the residential and the commercial areas. It will create parks, soccer fields and bike paths that will be open to the public, not just the PV residents.
- Christine Lieber – Venice resident – said that there are many new developments that are not fully occupied and questioned whether we really need more apartments and condominiums.

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- Gerard Griesbaum – Venice resident – pointed out that many people live in this area because it is beautiful. He asked that they NCWPDR postpone the vote.
- Jordan Reiss – Playa Vista resident – first-time homeowner pointed out that there is a big difference between available and affordable. He thinks of PV as a community and the only time he leaves it is to go to the grocery store. He asked for an affirmative vote.
- John Babinc – Playa Vista resident – formerly rented in Playa del Rey. He tried to find something affordable on the west side and PV was the only answer. He wants to start a new business in PV and walk to work.
- Virginia Dailey-Wilson – Playa del Rey resident – questioned the affordability of the project. She asked that the vote be postponed.
- Keben Har-Shalom – LMU Student/Westchester resident – stated that since there are already homes there, shops should be built but only those that are in the plan now.
- Lee Roozen – Westchester resident – speaking as a neighbor of Westchester Lutheran School said that 1,500 neighbors oppose the project on the basis of health and safety concerns.

After more discussion, Sheila Mickelson moved that, based upon the lack of information and massiveness of the project, that the Board wait until after the EIR is published to take a vote. Curt Curtiss seconded the motion. Val Velasco offered a friendly amendment that the project be sent back to PLUC for further investigation. Sheila and Curt accepted the amendment.

Val stated that it is not precedent-setting to send this project back to PLUC in order to hear from organizations that have studied the EIR.

Sheila made a motion to send the project back to PLUC for further analysis. Curt seconded the motion.

Gwen Vuchsas, Board President, stepped down as chair to participate in discussion and voting. Corresponding Secretary Dolores Canizales, became the Acting Chair.

The vote of the Board Members present was recorded as follows:

Denny Schneider, Gloria Blancett, Curt Curtiss, Robert Dalton, Andrea Davis, Yael Kozar, Sheila Mickelson, Harry Rose and Val Velasco voted Yea (9 votes).

Gwen Vuchsas, Judith Ciancimino, Sibyl Buchanan, David Coffin, Kenneth Egan, James Ferro, Patricia Lyon, Efigenia Martinez, Steven Santos, David Voss, John-David Webster, Robert Weldon and Barbara Yamamoto voted Nay (13 votes).

William West abstained.

The Motion failed.

David Voss moved that we support the Village at Playa Vista Phase II. Ken Egan seconded the motion.

Sheila Mickelson offered a friendly amendment that the vote be held until the community has had a presentation on both the PV development and the alternative developments being suggested. David did not accept the amendment.

The vote of the Board Members present was recorded as follows:

Gwen Vuchsas, Judith Ciancimino, Sibyl Buchanan, David Coffin, Kenneth Egan, James Ferro, Patricia Lyon, Efigenia Martinez, Steven Santos, David Voss, Robert Weldon, William West and Barbara Yamamoto voted Yea (13 votes).

Denny Schneider, Gloria Blancett, Curt Curtiss, Robert Dalton, Andrea Davis, Yael Kozar, Sheila Mickelson, Harry Rose, Val Velasco and John-David Webster voted Nay (10 votes).

The Motion passed.

Item 7: *Airport Relations Committee* - Robert Acherman was not available but a report was distributed.

- **Public Comment** - Roy Hefner – Westchester resident – commenting on the Committee’s last meeting, stated that he felt that there was no opportunity for public comment after the minority report and that opportunity for comment should be given after both the minority and majority report of any issue.

Item 8: *Neighborhood Congress* – Sheila Mickelson, Denny Schneider, Myra Kriwanek, Robert Dalton and Steve Santos attended. Reports were distributed.

Item 9: *Appointments*

a.) **Committee Members**

Government Affairs Committee – Robert Dalton, Mike Arias, Judith Ciancimino, John-David Webster and Jim Ferro were approved as members of the committee.

Planning and Land Use Committee – David Voss was approved as a member of the committee.

b.) **Committee Chairs** – no appointments were made.

Item 10: *Review Committee Size* – comments regarding the Planning and Land Use Committee indicate that it might be too large to be effective. Curt Curtiss made a Motion to limit the PLUC to 26 members. Sheila Mickelson seconded the Motion.

The vote of the Board Members present was recorded as follows:

Sibyl Buchanan, David Coffin, Yael Kozar, Sheila Mickelson, Harry Rose, Steven Santos, David Voss, John-David Webster and William West voted Yea (9 votes).

Gwen Vuchsas, Judith Ciancimino, Denny Schneider, Robert Dalton, Andrea Davis, James Ferro, Patricia Lyon, Val Velasco, Robert Weldon and Barbara Yamamoto voted Nay (10 votes).

Gloria Blancett and Efigenia Martinez abstained (2 votes).

The Motion failed.

Denny Schneider made a Motion that all committees consist of 26 or less members. Robert Weldon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – MAY BE SUBJECT TO MOTION

Item 11: *Budget and Finance* – Denny Schneider – a report was distributed. Denny stated that we had less than \$200 in our cash account.

Item 12: *By-Laws* – We are operating under the revised By-Laws

Item 13: *Public Safety* – Myra Kriwanek - a report was distributed. Myra asked that we allocate funds for 50 12x12 square aluminum Neighborhood Watch signs at \$9 each.

David Voss made a Motion that we approve the expense. Bill West seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

Item 14: *Outreach/Communications* – Ken Egan was no longer in attendance – no report was distributed.

Item 15: *Governmental Affairs* – Jim Ferro – at the meeting held prior to this Board meeting, the Newsrack Ordinance was discussed. Most newsracks are out of compliance with the ordinance. The Committee was asked by CLEAN Coalition to support the proposed Amendment to Citywide Newsrack Ordinance, LAMC § 42.00(f)

James Ferro made a motion to support CLEAN Coalition's position. Robert Dalton seconded the Motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Sheila Mickelson asked that the Board think about the placement of street furniture and Kiosks. The NCWPDR needs to give Viacom Decaux 21 locations soon. She also requested that the Board select a color. The vote was 13 Green to 7 Blue. Green it is.

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Item 16: Education Committee – Joe Callinan as absent. No report given. A written report was distributed.

Item 17: *Election Committee* – This committee will meet at 7:15PM on Wednesday, November 5 at Hawthorne Savings in Westchester.

Vale Velasco made a Motion to adjourn the meeting. Gloria Blancett seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned: 11:30PM

Next Meeting: December 2, 2003

Location: LMU – University Hall – Room 1762

Submitted by: Judith Ciancimino