

Neighborhood Council of Westchester/Playa del Rey Board of Directors' Meeting – August 5, 2003 Amended Minutes

Present: Robert Acherman, Mike Arias, Sibyl Buchanan, Joe Callinan, Dolores Canizales, Judith Ciancimino, David Coffin, Curt Curtiss, Robert Dalton, Kenneth Egan, James Ferro, Dorraine Gilbert, David Gray, Yael Kozar, Myra Kriwanek, Patricia Lyon, Efigenia Martinez, Harry Rose, Denny Schneider, John-David Webster, Robert Weldon, William West, David Voss and Gwen Vuchsas.

Excused: Gloria Blancett, Andrea Davis, Sheila Mickelson, Steve Santos, William Smith Val Velasc0 and Barbara Yamamoto.

Item 1: The meeting was called to order at 6:45 PM by Gwen Vuchsas, President of the Board. The Roll was called.

Item 2: John-David Webster led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item 3: Pat Lyon moved to approve the Minutes of the July 1, 2003 Board Meeting. David Grey seconded the motion. The motion passed 18 yeas, 4 abstain.

Pat Lyon moved to approve the Minutes of the July 14, 2003 Special Board Meeting as amended. John-David Webster seconded the motion. The motion passed 20 yeas, 2 abstains.

Viet Tran, representing Mayor Hahn, presented a Proclamation honoring the marriage of Robert and Corrine Weldon. Robert is a Board Member representing Residential District 4.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

Item 4: Presentation by Westchester Streetscape Improvement Association (WSIA) – Kent Strumpell made a video presentation of the current state of Sepulveda between Centinela and Lincoln and a selection of possible enhancement and beautification options.

WSIA is planning a series of public input sessions called Charrettes. The first one is planned for Saturday, August 16, 10:00am to 2:00pm, in the Community Room of the Westchester Municipal Building. Two more Charrettes are planned, time and place to be announced.

WSIA has received several Grants, however, they still need at least \$20,000 to complete the planning stage. (None of the original grant funds may be used to fund an agency outside the Department of Planning and Department of Transportation.) David Voss suggested that perhaps Neighborhood Council could find money in their budget to make a contribution to WSIA. This suggestion will be addressed at the next Budget and Finance Committee meeting.

Item 5: Community Plan Update Items – Kevin Jones and the staff of the Planning Department are being pressured to have a Staff Report ready for the City Planning Department hearing in October. There will be an Area Planning Department hearing on September 17. The public may attend and make comments.

Robert Acherman made a motion to request Councilwoman Miscikowski to introduce legislation stating that the property owners and their neighbors within 500 feet be notified if the Planning Department is going to change their zone designation. David Gray seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Pat Lyon made a motion that Planning and Land Use take over the responsibility of analyzing the Draft Community Plan Update and bring recommendations back to the Board. Dorraine Gilbert seconded the motion.

Discussion of the motion pointed out that P&L may have to schedule extra meetings to deal with the CPU issues because of the tight timeline and P&L has a full agenda for their August meeting.

Pat and Dorraine withdrew their motion.

Pat Lyon made a motion to form an ad hoc committee to deal exclusively with the Community Plan Update and bring recommendations to the Board. Robert Acherman seconded the motion. The motion passed 18 yeas, 4 nays.

Curt Curtiss, Dolores Canizales, Rob Weldon, David Gray, Denny Schneider, Harry Rose, Myra Kriwanek and Pat Lyon were among those who volunteered for the committee.

Rezoning Sub-area 260: The Gas Company property located on Gulana in Playa del Rey is being recommended for rezoning from its current R1 to A1. Sharon O'Rourke spoke on behalf of the Gas Company, asking that this zone change not be imposed.

The Gas Co. has no plans to move from its present location and considers the sports fields around their plant to be a noise buffer zone between the residential neighborhood and the activity at their location. There are no plans to close this plant, however, if the demand for natural gas should wane, they may want to sell this land and a designation of A1 would devalue the property. Sharon pointed out that the people who use natural gas are the de facto owners of this land and they would be the losers financially because any profits realized by such a sale would be returned to the users.

David Voss made a motion that we recommend to the Planning Department that Sub-area 260 remain R1, RS and RE9. Ken Egan seconded the motion. The motion passed 16 yeas, 5 nays, 1 abstain.

Rezoning Sub-area 660: There being no representative from the owners or the Planning Department, to inform the Board on this issue, it was tabled. The new ad hoc Community Plan Update Committee will hear this issue and bring recommendations to the Board.

Rezoning Sub-area 800: Removed from agenda prior to meeting.

Item 6: Public Comment

Judy May commented that several residents of the area near Sub-area 800 came to speak about the issue and voiced displeasure that it was not going to be heard.

Curt Curtiss informed the Board that he had had no success in obtaining a "matching funds" grant from the City to move the Veteran's Memorial from its present location on Lincoln and Manchester, where it is often the target of vandalism, to a spot between the Municipal Building and the new Library. He said that Bill West and Howard Drollinger were willing to match donations of up to \$5,000. This item will be agendized for the next Board meeting.

J. Dale Berry commented on the fact that Westchester bordering the 405 Freeway is full of graffiti. The mural that used to be under the overpass in that area is gone now because of graffiti removal. When he contacted the proper authorities about this problem and the mural, he was told that even though there is an ongoing contract to restore the mural, the artist is dead.

J. Dale Berry as a resident of Sepulveda Private commented on the draft plans for the WSIA to install a median on Sepulveda. The access from Sepulveda Boulevard to Sepulveda Private is very sharp for south-bound vehicles and a median would make turns from the north-bound lanes impossible.

Mary Lou Crockett indicated that she agreed with the decision on Sub-area 260 and thanked the Committee for their work on the CPU. The NC is doing the right thing in dealing with these issues as they arise. She volunteered to be on the ad hoc committee.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Item 7 – Budget and Finance - Denny Schneider – NCWPDR is the first NC in the City to receive second quarter funding. At this time, the NC has roughly \$5,000 to \$10,000 in discretionary funds.

The Committee has chosen a sound system to be used at meetings.

The Committee has 1.5 months to recommend five priority projects to the City in order to direct the spending of the City Budget in this area.

NCWPDR BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

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Item 8: Planning and Land Use – a report was distributed.

Item 9: Public Safety – Myra Kriwanek – the Committee meets every other month; there was not meeting in July. The Committee has assisted various neighborhoods in forming Neighborhood Watch groups and identifying Block Captains.

The Burglary Task Force is recommending acceptance of the current recommendation by the Mayor to require a verbal verification prior to response after two false alarms. Myra Kriwanek made a motion that the NC write a letter to the Police Commission and the City Council in support of the Mayor’s “2 strikes” response proposal and to request a response time of less than 30 minutes. Curt Curtiss seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Myra was asked to draft the letters and email to Gwen Vuchsas, President of the Board.

Item 10: Airport Relations – Robert Acherman - The Public Comment period for the LAX Master Plan has been extended from 45 days to 120 days. The next meetings are August 12, which will focus on Ground Transportation Issues and August 21, which will focus on Safety and Security. Times and locations are on the web site. A report was distributed.

Item 11: Outreach - David Coffin - WWW.NCWPDR.ORG - The logo contest received 27 submissions from 7 different artists. Janis Stummer, Deborah Turk, James koger, Robert Acherman, Catherine Pegram, Gunner Kullenberg and Al Quattrocchi. After a process of eliminations, three logos were presented to the Board for a vote. Gunner Kullenberg submitted the winning logo.

Item 12: Governmental Affairs – Jim Ferro – There was no meeting this month because no legislative affairs deputies were available to attend a meeting. The committee is attempting to meet by August 15; after that date, the City Council is inactive until after Labor Day.

Item 13: Education Committee – Joe Callinan - There has been no meeting of this committee because there is no committee, as yet. Yael Kozar asked to join the committee. Gwen appointed her to the committee.

Item 14: Election Committee – Pat Lyon – No meeting this month.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:30PM

Next Meeting: September 2, 2003 – 6:30PM

Location: LUM – University Hall, Room 1762

Submitted by: Judith Ciancimino August 7, 2003