

The Neighborhood Council of Westchester/Playa del Rey Board of Directors' Meeting – November 1, 2005

Present: Robert Acherman, Mike Arias, Sibyl Buchanan, Joe Callinan, Dolores Canizales, Judith Ciancimino, David Coffin, Robert Dalton, Pam DeArmas, Steve Donell, Doug Ehlers, James Ferro, David Gray, Patricia Lyon, Geoff Maleman, Paul Maynard, Sheila Mickelson, Harry Rose, John Ruhlen, Kathy Bartlow Santos, Denny Schneider, Gwen Vuchsas, William West and Barbara Yamamoto.

Excused: Lynne Allen, Cozette Vergari, David Voss and John-David Webster.

Absent: Don Doyle.

Item 1: Mike Arias, Vice-President of the Board, called the meeting to order at 6:35PM. The Roll was called.

Item 2: Dolores Canizales led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item 3: *Special Presentation* – Dolores Canizales, LMU Seat, is leaving the Neighborhood Council Board. She has accepted the position of District Director for Councilwoman Janice Hahn. She was presented a bouquet of flowers and thanked for all her service to this community and the Neighborhood Council.

She introduced Aram Nadjarian, Student Director, Community Relations Task Force. He will be attending NC meetings in the future.

Item 4: *Public Comment – non-Agenda Items (limited to 2 minutes per speaker)* Four speaker cards were received for Item 7.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

Item 5: *Report/ Kathryn Frengs, Field Deputy for Councilman Bill Rosendahl* – Kathryn was unavailable. She sent a message that Councilman Rosendahl is interested in our vote on Cabora issue. The Motion before City Council to allow us to accept and spend donated funds was passed.

Item 6: *Planning and Land Use Report* — The next meeting is scheduled for 11.15, 6PM at the Westchester Library. The committee will be hearing a presentation regarding the AM/PM mini-mart on LaTijera at the 405; they want to upgrade and enlarge.

Item 7: *Presentation – Cabora Drive Project* – Joe Czyzyk, Cabora Drive resident, spoke against the proposed Cabora Drive project along with several other neighbors.

Item 8: *Motion to Oppose proposed improvements to Cabora Drive w/request letter to Councilman Rosendahl's office as recommended by the NCWDPR Planning and Land Use Committee*

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Speaking against the project, Joe Czyzyk, resident of Cabora Drive, explained that Cabora is a sub-standard street 22' wide and there are at least 25 homeowners on Cabora or above Cabora that would be undermined by the development. 20 new homes would undermine the foundations of all of these homes, as well as, have a detrimental effect on the adjacent Ballona Wetlands. The Community Plan Update designates this area as open space.

James Ferro made the Motion as stated above. Denny Schneider seconded the Motion.

Joe Callinan made a friendly amendment that the word "improvement" in the Motion be changed to "Modification." The Friendly Amend was accepted. The Motion passed unanimously.

Item 9: *Public Comment – Agenda Items (limited to 2 minutes per speaker)*

- Marcia Hanscom – Wetlands Action Network, Sierra Club – The Gas Co. feels that this land is unstable and to build on it would be very difficult and dangerous. She approves the letter in opposition and asks the Council Office to work with the State to purchase these parcels with Prop. 12 funds because it is adjacent to Ballona Wetlands.
- Robert Roy van de Hoek – Resident of Playa del Rey – biologist working for City of LA, asked that Cabora Drive be designated as a "scenic walk/bicycle pathway."
- Mark Appell – Resident of Playa del Rey – believes this developer does not own this land, that he only has an option on it. Mr. Appell asked that the NCWPDR oppose this development.

Item 10: *Approval of Minutes of 10/4/05 Board Meeting* – Harry Rose made a Motion that we approve the Minutes of the 10.04.05 Board Meeting. Robert Acherman seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

Item 11: *Approval of Treasurer's Report* – Steve Donell – The City Council Motion authorizing us to accept and use donated funds has allowed us to pay all outstanding commitments, except Westchester Streetscape Improvement Association.

Steve reminded us that we cannot use a vendor who does not have a BTRC number or the invoice has to be paid by a Board Member who will then submit a W9 along with their request for reimbursement.

Denny Schneider made a Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Geoff Maleman seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

Item 12: *Motion to Approve Reimbursement to Board members for NCWPDR expenditures* – Steve made a Motion to reimburse Gwen Vuchsas \$500 for the DJ at the NC Picnic and Geoff Maleman \$811.94 for flyers for the Picnic. Kathy Santos seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

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Item 13: *Appointment of NCWPDR Committee Members* – Geoff Maleman made a Motion to accept the appointment of Paul Maynard to the Election Committee and John Ruhlen to the Airport Relations Committee. Robert Dalton seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

Item 14: *Appointment Board of Directors, Residential Seat No. 4* – tabled to next meeting, a candidate was approached and no response was received as of meeting time.

Item 15: *Picnic Report* – Pat Lyon - The caterer estimates that there were approximately 660 in attendance. The cost of the picnic has not been finalized. \$9,600 was allocated and \$3,000 in donations received and it is estimated that we will come in under budget.

Some suggestions for next year's picnic are:

- Hold the picnic earlier in September
- Have it on a Sunday so it doesn't conflict with sports

Pat thanked the committee, especially Joe Callinan for his set-up map, recap report and suggestions for next year, Sheila Mickelson for her work with the volunteers and the 23 Board Members who participated on the day of the picnic. Gwen Vuchsas thanked Pat for her leadership of the committee and congratulated her on a very successful event.

Item 16: *Governmental Affairs/City Services Report* – Robert Dalton – A report, including the committee's Mission Statement, was distributed. Flyers on the Sidewalk Reconstruction 50/50 Partnership program were also distributed.

Item 17: *Report re ad hoc Committee on DONE Assessment* – Geoff Maleman – the committee has identified several areas of concern in dealing with DONE. They will draft a report to submit to DONE and the City Council, listing the areas of concern along with possible remedies.

President's Report

Item 18: *Emergency Preparedness Meeting* – Gwen thanked Jeff Elder for his part in this joint LAFD/LAPD event. Approximately 100 community members attended it. It can currently be viewed on the internet at www.helloworld.com/sapphire then click on the "Hello Live" icon and click play next to Emergency Preparedness.

Jeff Elder did a great job of presenting the nuts and bolts of emergency preparedness. Jeff had an emergency preparedness kit for \$10 each, which he suggested we purchase for distribution to stakeholders. We could personalize them with our logo. Barbara Yamamoto will investigate LAWA's sponsorship of the kits for the NC to distribute.

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Item 19: *CowaNature Center Tree Planting* – To date, we have donated \$6,000 to the Nature Center. The Council is invited to a "Community Tree Planting Day" on Saturday, December 3, from 9AM to 2PM.

Item 20: *USC Neighborhood Partnership Project* – USC is conducting a survey of Neighborhood Councils in the city.

Item 21: *CD11 Neighborhood Summit* – Councilman Bill Rosendahl – Saturday, November 5, from 2PM to 4PM at 1645 Corinth, West Los Angeles. All NC's and CC's in CD 11 are encouraged to participate. Gwen Vuchsas, Sheila Mickelson, Mike Arias and Robert Dalton will attend.

Item 22: *Mayor's Budget Process* – Mayor's Community Budget Day survey was distributed. Board Members were instructed to complete and return at the next Board meeting.

Announcements:

- DWP Fall Budget Workshop – Saturday, November 19, 2005 at 1PM at 111 N. Hope St. Los Angeles.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:30PM

Next Meeting: December 6 – 6:30PM

Location: Westchester Community Room

Submitted by: Judith Ciancimino