

# The Neighborhood Council of Westchester/Playa del Rey Board of Directors' Meeting – September 4, 2007

**Present:** Mike Arias, William Ballerini, Stephen Bentley, Judith Ciancimino, Robert Dalton, Pam DeArmas, Steve Donell, Don Doyle, Doug Ehlers, James Ferro, Tom Flintoft, David Gray, Clarence Griffin, Terry Issac, Cyndi Hench, Terry Marcellus, Nancy Niles, John Ruhlen, Kathy Bartlow-Santos, Denny Schneider, Frances Stronks, Cozette Vergari, and John David Webster.

**Excused:** Patricia Lyon, Geoff Maleman, John F. Ramey and Mary Taylor.

**Absent:** Sibyl Buchanan, David Coffin, Richard W. Nelsen and David Voss.

**Item A:** The meeting was called to order at 6:48 PM by Mike Arias, President of the Board.

The Roll was called and self-introductions were made.

**Item B:** Cyndi Hench led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Item C:** Approval of Minutes of August 7, 2007 Board Meeting – John Ruhlen made a Motion to approve the Minutes of the August 7, Board Meeting as submitted. David Gray seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

**Item D:** Public Comment - non-agenda items (limited to 2 minutes per speaker)

**Raymond Yu** - 9.9.2007 is date of the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual LA Triathlon. It starts at Venice Beach and ends at the Staples Center. The 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Koreatown Parade is scheduled for 9.15.2007 on Olympic Boulevard in Koreatown.

**Bill Turner** – Costa Mesa – [www.eltorotoday.com](http://www.eltorotoday.com) – he is still fighting to save El Toro Airport. Politicians were the people who led the effort to close it so the Irvine Company could down-zone it to residential making approximately an extra \$1M per acre. He claims it was closed fraudulently and Christopher Cox helped to illegally close El Toro. He asked for help from the community of Westchester/Playa del Rey to fight LAX and to regionalize air traffic.

**Item E:** Representative Reports (limit to 3 minutes please):

1. Lisette Covarrubias, DONE Project Coordinator – Mayor's Budget Day is 10.13 everyone is invited [www.lacityneighborhoods.com](http://www.lacityneighborhoods.com); Congress of Neighborhoods is planned for 10.27 at the LA Convention Center; parking fees will be waived until 1PM; Westchester/Playa del Rey NC will be recognized for it's fifth anniversary on 9.10 at City Hall. Lisette was asked if a quorum is necessary at committee meetings. She will consult with DONE and/or the City Attorney and give a report at the next Board Meeting.

2. Isaac Lieberman, Field Deputy/Councilman Bill Rosendahl – An Emergency Preparedness Fair is scheduled for 10.29 at Westchester Park. The Library Commission has named the meeting room in the Westchester Library after Mary Lou Crockett. Councilmember Rosendahl presented an award to Westchester del Rey Little League team who represented the West in the World Little League. They went on to represent the country but lost to Puerto Rico.

3. Chad Molnar, LAX - Community Liaison – not available.

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4. Stephen Cheung, Area Field Representative/Mayor's Office – Budget Day as stated above. The Mayor's office has developed a website to educate citizens about how the budget is assembled; the Emergency preparedness Fair is still looking for corporate gifts to give away at the event; 9/12 Commission Neighborhood Council Review will be presented to City Council on 9.25. The Commission is still soliciting feedback from NC's; housing policy meeting Mayor will issue housing strategy for entire city on 9.19 of a Housing Policy meeting will be held in the west area, date and location TBA; Mayor's Day of Service will probably be held in May or June, 2008.

5. Sam Liou, Field Representative – Assemblymember Ted Liou – not Available.

6. Rebecca Bernal, Field Representative - Assemblymember Curren Price – not available.

7. Edgar Saenz, Field Representative/Congresswoman Maxine Waters – not available

8. Jessica Duboff, Field Representative/Congresswoman Jane Harman – not available

**Item F:** Motions/Action Items: (Public comment on agenda items limited to 2 minutes)

**Consent Calendar:** (*These items will be enacted with one vote unless a Board member or a stakeholder requests that an item be placed on the Discussion Calendar.*)

1. Motion to approve reimbursement of Board member expenditures (Donell) – no requests were received.

2. Matters transferred from the Discussion Calendar – no requests were received.

**Discussion Calendar:** (*These items will be discussed and acted upon separately unless a Board Member or stakeholder requests that an item be transferred to the Consent Calendar.*)

1. Motion to approve the proposed Community Improvement Application and guidelines (Donell) – a template was distributed for use by any entity requesting funding; it is also available on website. Steve Donnell made the Motion as stated. Nancy Niles seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

2. Motion to approve the Budget and Finance committee's Mission Statement as approved by the committee (Donell) – Steve Donnell made the Motion as stated above. Frances Stronks seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

3. Motion to approve funding for the Pacific Division of the LAPD break room for the purchase of tables and chairs in an amount not to exceed \$3,000.00 (Hench/Donell) – Community Improvement budget. Cindi Hench made the Motion as stated above. Denny Schneider seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

4. Motion to approve funding in an amount not to exceed \$5,000.00 for the purchase of ten Sidewalk Plaques, payable directly to DOT, in connection with the work of the Westchester Streetscape Improvement Association (Ruhlen/Donell) – NC logo would be included in the plaques. John Ruhlen made the Motion as stated above. David Gray seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

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5. Motion to approve funding in an amount not to exceed \$3,000.00 for the purchase of irrigation equipment to the low bid contractor for the first phase of the Trees to the Sea Imperial Highway project (Donell) – Steve Donell made the Motion as stated above. Cozette Vergari seconded the Motion. William Ballerini, Judith Ciancimino, Robert Dalton, Pam DeArmas, Steve Donell, Don Doyle, Doug Ehlers, James Ferro, David Gray, Clarence Griffin, Cyndi Hench, Terry Issac, Nancy Niles, John Ruhlen, Kathy Santos, Denny Schneider, Frances Stronks, Cozette Vergari and John-David Webster voted Yea. Stephen Bentley and Terry Marcellus voted Nay. With a vote of 22 Yeas and 2 Nays, the Motion passed.

6. Motion to oppose the DWP Rate Action (Webster) –  
- **Jack Humphreville** - Greater Wilshire – spoke on behalf of the Motion as a person who has investigated the issues extensively. The DWP operates at approximately twice what a private company would cost. Is working with a group of people who, after investigating the books, etc at DWP would like to see a “Rate Payers Advocate” put in place to interact but not be under the auspices of DWP/City Council/Mayor’s Office. Please send letters of opposition to the Greater Wilshire NC who are collecting the letters to distribute to the proper entities i.e. Board of Commissioners, E&E Commission of City Council, City Council, etc.

John-David Webster made the Motion as stated above. Terry Marcellus seconded the Motion. William Ballerini, Stephen Bentley, Judith Ciancimino, Pam DeArmas, Steve Donell, Don Doyle, Doug Ehlers, James Ferro, David Gray, Cyndi Hench, Terry Issac, Terry Marcellus, John Ruhlen, Kathy Santos, Denny Schneider, Frances Stronks, Cozette Vergari and John-David Webster voted Yea. Robert Dalton, Tom Flintoft, Clarence Griffin and Nancy Niles voted Nay. With a vote of 18 Yeas and 4 Nays, the Motion passed.

**Item H: Committee Reports:**

*Standing Committees*

1. **Airport Relations** - David Voss – Denny Schneider – a report was distributed. There groups in the region coordinating to oppose the move of the North Airfield 360' closer to Westchester/Playa del Rey. A meeting is scheduled for 9.16 the location is TBA.
2. **Budget & Finance** - Steve Donell (**Approval of Treasurer's Report**) – no report was given due to the Labor Day Holiday.
3. **Bylaws** - David Voss – Cozette – the Committee has gone through the list of issues which resulted in several recommended bylaw changes. The list will be sent out prior to the next Board meeting. Mike Arias suggested that we change the name of our NC of Neighborhood Council of Westchester/Playa to indicate the inclusion of Playa Vista in the NC.
4. **Communications** - David Coffin – not available; no report was given.
5. **Education** - Terry Marcellus – the Committee is still working on forming a coalition with LMU to enhance local schools. LAUSD has given this effort some small recognition.
6. **Elections** - Cozette Vergari – two handouts were distributed. One regarding a meeting on 8.10 with the del Rey Neighborhood Council regarding overlapping boundaries and a matrix of end of term dates for Board Members.

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7. **Governmental Affairs/City Services** - John Ramey – not available; no report given.
8. **Membership/Marketing** - Sibyl Buchanan – not available; no report given.
9. **Planning & Land Use** - James Ferro – met with a group from Sacramento who are dealing with underground gas storage and wanted to tour the Gas Co. The next meeting of the Committee will be Tuesday, 9.11.07.
10. **Public Safety** - Doug Ehlers – wants to set up community meetings twice a year with speakers to educate local citizens. Cert trainings are going very well; attendance is very high. There is still no resolution on the McConnell residents vs. LMU recycling plant issue.

*Ad Hoc Committees*

1. **Lincoln Streetscape** - Stephen Bentley – progress halted because of substrata issues there has been no work in the last two weeks as CalTrans considers what to do. CalTrans and the Committee are still dealing with Parking issues at the apartments on the east side of Lincoln between 83<sup>rd</sup> Street and LMU Drive.
2. **Sepulveda Streetscape** - John Ruhlen – the 8.18 meeting, regarding the construction schedule for Sepulveda, was well attended. The construction on Sepulveda for two blocks north and south of Manchester will be halted from 11.15.07 to 1.3.08. The "Welcome to Westchester" will be redesigned.
3. **Community Design Overlay** – the committee is still in planning stages.

*City/Neighborhood Council Committees*

1. **LANC Congress** - Robert Dalton/Judith Ciancimino (alt.) – no report was given.
2. **City Planning Task Force** - David Gray; James Ferro (alt.) – no report was given.
3. **NC Alliance** - \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
- **Robert Acherman** – Westchester Resident – encouraged us to designate someone to attend the meeting. It is a good meeting and meets only once every two months.
4. **Mayor's Budget Day** - Denny Schneider/Bill Ballerini (alt.) – scheduled for 10.13.07.
5. **City Attorney Legal Liaison** - David Voss – not available.
6. **LADWP MOU** - John-David Webster – see Item F-DC-6 above.
7. **NC 912 Commission** - Robert Dalton – consideration of final report is scheduled for 9.6.07. The NC needs to draft a position paper to submit prior to the final vote on the draft.

**Item I.** President's Discussion Items or Comments

1. **Policies and Procedures Handbook** status and input – still in planning stages.
2. **Community event** - open discussion – a community fair with all local organizations invited to participate was one suggestion. No decision yet.

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3. **Remaining committee missions/scope of work** – two committees have not submitted statements yet.

4. **Agenda posting locations** – two of our traditional posting locations are now unavailable to us; we need to find new locations. Several suggestions were made, including library at Playa Vista.

**Item J.** Other Items:

1. Conflict of Interest On-line Training: [www.lacityneighborhoods.com](http://www.lacityneighborhoods.com) and [www.done.ethicstraining@lacity.org](mailto:www.done.ethicstraining@lacity.org)
2. Neighborhood Empowerment Academy workshops: [www.lacityneighborhoods.com/empowerment\\_academy.htm](http://www.lacityneighborhoods.com/empowerment_academy.htm)

J. Announcements:

1. BONC meetings now held on the 1st Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. and every 3rd Thursday at 6:00 p.m. of the month
2. Next NCWPDR Board meeting: October 2, 2007 at 6:30 p.m.
3. Please attend NCRC Workshops if possible
4. Other announcements

K. Adjournment -9:05PM

Submitted by: Judith Ciancimino