

Neighborhood Council of Westchester/Playa del Rey Board of Directors' Meeting - September 2, 2003 Amended Minutes

Present: Robert Acherman, Mike Arias, Gloria Blancett, Sibyl Buchanan, Joe Callinan, Judith Ciancimino, David Coffin, Curt Curtiss, Robert Dalton, Andrea Davis, Kenneth Egan, Dorraine Gilbert, Myra Kriwanek, Sheila Mickelson, Harry Rose, Steve Santos, Denny Schneider, Robert Weldon, Bill West, Val Velasco and Barbara Yamamoto.

Excused: Dolores Canizales, Patricia Lyon, William Smith, David Voss and Gwen Vuchsas.

Absent: James Ferro, David Gray, Yael Kozar, Efigenia Martinez, John-David Webster.

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

Item 2: Denny Schneider led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item 3: Curt Curtiss moved to approve the Minutes of the August 5, 2003 Board Meeting, as amended. Robert Acherman seconded the motion. The motion passed 17 yea, 2 abstain.

Item 4: President's Report

- a. A box with a commemorative plaque was presented to former Councilperson Ruth Galanter, from NCWPdR thanking her for her many years of service to the Westchester/Playa del Rey community. This presentation, made at the August, Westchester/LAX-Marina del Rey Chamber of Commerce Mixer at LMU.
- b. Letterhead and Business cards for the Board are at the printers now. They will bear the City Seal and the new NCWPDR logo.
- c. A Cultural Affairs project of art at Fire Station #5 by an artist from Pennsylvania will be presented at a future NC meeting.
- d. An ad hoc committee has been formed to investigate community challenges to the Community Plan Update and make recommendations to the Board.
- e. Gloria Blancett will attend the Alliance of Neighborhood Councils, September 20, and report to the Board at the next Board meeting.
- f. NC President along with 4 other members were invited to attend a public safety meeting to be held at Westchester High School on Sept. 17, 2003.

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DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

Item 5: Department of Public Works Presentation - David Mays, Exec. Liaison Neighborhood Councils - The department is committed to the Neighborhood Council program and has reorganized to include them in the process. The department wants to work with NC's to ensure that NC priorities align with Public Works priorities.

Mr. Mays stated that the Dept. did not keep up with the maintenance of the City's infrastructure, which is larger than some countries and now faces the challenge of coming up with enough money to keep up with the growing population and demand.

Item 6: Arden Energy Challenge - Arden is planning a 5K/10K run for charity in Westchester on Sunday, December 7, 2003. The race will begin at Howard Hughes Center, south on Sepulveda through the Westport Heights area of Westchester and back to the Howard Hughes Center. Arden would like to work with the community including the Neighborhood Council.

Robert Acherman, Sheila Mickelson and Harry Rose volunteered to work with Arden. Any other volunteers should contact Gwen.

Item 7: Suggested topics for the September 23, General Membership Meeting were made:

- Public Safety - Recent rise in crime in the Westchester/Playa del Rey area.
- Westchester Streetscape Improvement Association - Results of the charette.
- Neighborhood Council Budget Priority Survey - Participate in establishing priorities for the 2004 - 2005 City budget.

Item 8: Veterans' Memorial Monument - Curt Curtis made a motion to email all NC stakeholders soliciting a donation of \$5 towards the relocation and repair of the monument at the corner of Lincoln and Manchester. Robert Dalton seconded the motion. A friendly amendment was made that we request approval from DONE before we send the email. The amendment was accepted. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 9: Westchester Streetscape Improvement Association Request for Funds - The charette process is proving to be very helpful to the planning process, however, WSAI does not currently have enough funds available to complete the process and is requesting \$5,000 from NC. Currently, WSAI has \$25,000 from Councilperson Galanter and \$30,000 from Councilwoman Miscikowski, however, NCWPDR BOARD OF DIRECTORS' September 2, 2003
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the entire process costs \$70,000 and, as a result of prior allocation of \$5,000, a shortfall of \$20,000 exists. No MTA grant funds may be used for this process so WSAI needs to raise funds.

Robert Acherman moved that the \$5,000 be allocated from the Neighborhood Council General Budget. Andrea Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed 18 yea, 3 abstain.

Item 10: Public Comments

Sharon O'Rourke, So. Cal Gas Co. - Within the next 2 weeks, ads will be appearing in the local newspapers regarding residential lots for sale in the Playa del Rey/Marina del Rey area along with a Notice of Preparation of EIR by PUC, requesting input from the community and including upcoming hearing dates. The lots for sale are being sold "as is" and have been in escrow for 4 to 5 years. This is just a "heads up" for the NC.

John - The carwash being proposed on LaTijera near the 405 is receiving many complaints from the local community.

Gil Alonzo - The developer building on the Tokai Bank site seems to be building much denser than the plan presented to the community.

The street trees on Gulana are not being trimmed.

Daniel Walker - for 3 years the Friends of the Green Line have advocated the Green Line alignment be completed to Westchester. Perhaps the WSAI will work with the Friends to help make it happen.

David Weissberg, a WSAI member passed away on Saturday night, August 30, 2003 from leukemia. He was active on the project to the end.

Item 11: Budget and Finance Committee - Denny Schneider distributed the Treasurer's Report. There is currently about \$5,000 in assets not properly allocated. Sibyl was able to obtain the sound system for about \$600, against a \$3500 allocation. We have not yet obtained the wireless microphones so the remainder of the funds will not be de-obligated yet.

Two NC representatives are requested to attend the meeting on the City Budget meetings. Denny made a motion that he and Steve Santos be approved to represent us at these meetings. Val Velasco seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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Item 12: Planning and Land Use Committee - Val Velasco stated that the Mission and Policy Statements are being worked on at this time.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for September 11, at the Library. The Furama and the La Tijera Car Wash will be presenting their projects. The Westchester Lutheran project was tabled at the last P&L meeting they will make a presentation after they have met with the Council office and the neighbors of the project.

A letter was sent to all Board members from the Concerned Homeowners of Riggs Place Bluffs, dated August 15, neighbors of Sub Area 800, which explained their objections to the rezoning.

Item 13: Public Safety Committee - Myra Kriwanek distributed committee report. There has been a rise in crime in the Westchester/Playa del Rey area and we need more patrol officers. A letter so stating was submitted by the committee to the Board for approval.

Curt Curtiss moved that we approve sending the letter. Andrea Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 14: Airport Relations Committee - Robert Acherman distributed a committee report. The committee has been meeting every Saturday at Panera Bread, from 8am to 10am with a goal to come up with a position paper and recommendations for the LAX Master Plan, Alternative D prior to the November deadline for comment.

Robert made a motion to approve Bill West as a committee member and remove Sabrina Vinkus because she is unable to attend the meetings. Denny seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The committee presented three letters to be sent from the Board:

Letter 7: To Kim Day, LAWA Director stating that the NC is opposed to the separation of center taxiway widening project from the EIR process. A suggestion was made to change the word "subvert" in the second paragraph, to "bypass." Robert Acherman moved to send the letter as amended. Bill West seconded the motion. The motion passed 19 yeas, 1 abstain.

Letter 8: To Jim Ritchie, Executive Director, Long Range Planning, requesting that "negative economic impacts be considered in the LAX Master Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement." A suggestion

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was made to add "In order for us to more fully evaluate Alternative D, we must have answers to the following questions." and "How will the construction be

phased?" Robert Acherman moved to send the letter as amended. Denny Schneider seconded the motion. The motion passed 19 yeas, 1 abstain.

Letter 9: Request to the Ethics Commission of the City of Los Angeles to investigate a possible violation of "conflict of interest" regarding Airport Commissioner Miguel Contreras. A suggestion was made to change the words in the first paragraph from "We feel that a" to "It appears that." Robert Acherman made a motion to send the letter as amended. Denny Schneider seconded the motion. The motion passed, 18 yeas, 2 abstains.

Item 15: Outreach Committee - David Coffin - the committee did not meet this month. David requested that any letter sent out by the Board be sent to him for posting on the website. He suggested that we purchase bulletin boards for placement in the community, which could be used for posting NC notices.

Item 16: Governmental Affairs - Jim Ferro was not present. No committee report was presented.

Item 17: Education Committee - Joe Callinan - A committee report was distributed. The committee will not need a budget this year.

Item 18: Election Committee - Pat Lyon was not present. No committee report was presented.

Dorraine Gilbert made a motion that we announce at the beginning of each meeting that a fine of \$5 will be imposed on anyone whose cell phone rings during a meeting. Val Velasco seconded the motion. The motion failed 9 yeas to 11 nays.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:40PM

Next Meeting: October 7, 2003

Location: LMU - University Hall, Room 1762

Submitted by: Judith Ciancimino