

The Neighborhood Council of Westchester/Playa del Rey Board of Directors' Meeting – April 3, 2007

Present: Mike Arias, William Ballerini, Stephen Bentley, Sibyl Buchanan, Judith Ciancimino, David Coffin, Robert Dalton, Pam DeArmas, Steve Donell, Don Doyle, Doug Ehlers, Clarence Griffin, David Gray, Lynn Kataoka, Geoff Maleman, Terry Marcellus, Nancy Niles, John Ramey, John Ruhlen, Kathy Bartlow-Santos, Denny Schneider, Frances Stronks, Mary Taylor, David Voss and John David Webster.

Excused: James Ferro, Tom Flintoft, Terry Issac, Patricia Lyon and Cozette Vergari.

Absent: Richard W. Nelsen.

Item A: The meeting was called to order at 6:35PM by Mike Arias, President of the Board. The Roll was called. Self introductions were made. Self introductions were made.

Item B: Clarence Griffin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item C: Introduction and comments by new DONE General Manager Carol Baker Tharp – Thanked Robert Dalton for serving on the interview panel. DONE is trying make our jobs easier to do. Their mission is “Partnership, shared leadership, shared vision.” DONE will consult NC’s before policy is set. “The door is open.” They are planning regional meetings of NC’s to get input on various topics. The meeting in our area will be 4.16.07. DONE is implementing a 3, 6, 9, 12 month action plan which should be in place by May, 2007. Elections and budgets are high on the priority list. Carol Tharp can be reached at 213.485.1360 or Carol.Tharp@lacity.org

Item D: Political Reform Program/New America Foundation presentation on Instant Runoff Voting – Lynne Serpe – introduced and explained the Instant Runoff process and how it could save the City thousands of dollars by not having to hold two elections in the case of a runoff election. Implementation of this method would probably require a Charter amendment so it is at least two years in the future. Some cities in the U.S. have used this method of voting since the 1940’s. Flyers were distributed.

Item E: Approval of Minutes of March 6, 2007 Board meeting – Robert Dalton made a Motion to approve the Minutes as distributed. Kathy Santos seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

Item F: Appointment of additional Committee members – Sibyl Buchanan made a motion to add Molly Bauer and Susan Bradner to the Membership/Marketing Committee. Mary Taylor seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

Doug Ehlers made a Motion that Mike Mitchell be added to the Public Safety Committee. Judith Ciancimino seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

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Denny Schneider made a Motion to add J.D. Webster to the Public Safety Committee. Robert Dalton seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

Item G: Public Comment - non-agenda items (limited to 2 minutes per Speaker)

- **Raymond Yu** – Holly Week Mass will be at 8 & 10 at Cathedral of Our Lady of Angles
 - La Fiesta Broadway is on 4.29
 - A Cinco de Mayo celebration will follow La Fiesta Broadway 4.29 at Olvera Street
- **De De Audet** – Venice NC Chairman - requested that we certify the new MOU w/Dept. Water and Power.
- **Pat Avilas** – Westchester Resident – the widening of Naylor between 79th and E. Sepulveda is taking her property away. She asked us for help.
- **June Durr** – Westchester Resident – McConnell Street residents object to the LMU recycling plant directly behind their properties. The noise from grinding of glass, aluminum, etc. very loud and constant and is very objectionable. The smell is overwhelming. Please help us convince LMU to relocate the site of the recycling plant away from their neighbors.
- **Deanna Robinson** – Westchester Resident – McConnell Street resident also asking for relief from noise and smell or recycling plant. This plant also attracts rodents.
- **Linda Kokelaar** - Westchester Resident – McConnell Street resident also asking for relief from noise and smell or recycling plant. This plant attracts ants, cockroaches and rodents.
- **Dan Horwood** - Westchester Resident – McConnell Street resident also asking for relief from noise and smell or recycling plant.

Mike Arias asked Public Safety and Public Policy Committees to work with these residents to solve the problem.

- **Nora Mac Lellan** – PdR Resident – re construction trailer on Manchester – no safety measures, no cones, no k-rail very hazardous. Please help make this situation more safe for the travelers on Manchester. A picture was distributed.

Item H: Representative Reports (limit to 3 minutes please):

1. **Lisette Covarrubias**, DONE Project Coordinator – Regional Meeting with Carol Tharp is set for 4.16.07 from 6:30 – 8PM. This will be an interactive discussion. A flyer was distributed.

- Mayor's Day of Service will be 4.29

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- 4.21 – Congress of Neighborhoods at the Bonaventure Hotel. To register or for further information, go to www.lacityneighborhoods.com. Volunteers are needed to staff registration and information tables from 6:30 – 11AM and from 11 – 3:30.

2. **Isaac Lieberman**, Field Deputy/Councilman Bill Rosendahl – was not available, no report given.
3. **Chad Molnar, LAX - Community Liaison** – the first phase of the Southern Runway improvement project has been completed. LAWA broke ground on the Bradley Terminal refurbishment project. Re LAX Modernization project, the study group continues to work with stakeholders to refine project.
4. **John Brady**, Area Field Representative/Mayor's Office - was not available, no report given.
5. **Sam Liu**, Field Representative - Assemblymember Ted Lieu - was not available, no report given.
6. **Rebecca Bernal**, Field Representative - Assemblymember Curren Price, Dist. 51 – the Assemblymember hosted several very successful Town Halls in the area.

- The "51 Sheroes" program almost finalized; it will be held on 5.12 at 4PM at LMU

- Citizen committees being formed for more information, go to the State Assembly web site and click on Curran Price for his website.

7. Edgar Saenz, Field Representative/Congresswoman Maxine Waters – was not available, no report given.

Item I. Motions/Actions 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) – David Voss made a Motion to reimburse Steve Donell \$159.95 which he paid to Network Solutions. Sibyl Buchanan seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously.
2. Motion to send letter to Congresswoman Waters supporting WSIA's effort to obtain eight million dollars in federal funds for sidewalk replacement on Sepulveda Blvd. (Ruhlen) - A letter was distributed – Geoff Maleman made the Motion as stated above. Francis Stronks seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion Calendar:

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1. Motion to increase membership on PLUC Committee from 9 Board and 5 Non-Board Members to 11 and 6. (Ferro) Steve Donell made the Motion as stated above. Geoff Maleman seconded the Motion. Robert Dalton made a Friendly Amendment that "PLUC Committee" be changed to "all Committees." The FA was accepted by the Maker and the Second. After much discussion, the role was called.

Sibyl Buchanan, Judith Ciancimino, Pam DeArmas, Clarence Griffin and Terry Marcellus voted Yea. Stephen Bentley, David Coffin, Robert Dalton, Steve Donell, Don Doyle, Doug Ehlers, David Gray, Lynn Kataoka, Geoff Maleman, Nancy Niles, John Ramey, John Ruhlen, Kathy Santos, Denny Schneider, Francis Stronks, Mary Taylor, David Voss and J.D. Webster voted Nay. By a vote of 4 Yeas to 19 Nays, the Motion failed.

2. Motion to send a letter to the WASC Visiting Committee regarding various issues and authorizing the president or other Board representative to present the letter to the Visiting Committee on April 22, 2007. (Marcellus) Terry Marcellus made the motion as stated above. Denny Schneider seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

3. Motion to approve the expenditure of approximately \$3,000 to Preseo Printing to print 20,500 newsletters and approval of approximately \$3,000 to Hernandez Distribution for delivery of the newsletters. (Buchanan) – Sibyl Buchanan made the Motion as stated above. Francis Stronks seconded the Motion. Steve Donell made a Friendly Amendment that a total of \$5,914.68 be allocated to this effort out of the Outreach budget. The FA was accepted by the Maker and the Second. The Motion passed unanimously.

- Public Comment – **Nora Maclellan** – this NC needs to take every opportunity to reach out to the community and not just focus on Election time.

4. Motion to approve the expenditure of approximately \$4,000 for general outreach efforts. (Buchanan) – Sibyl Buchanan made the Motion as stated above. J.D. Webster seconded the Motion. Steve Donell made a Friendly Amendment that the amount be reduced to \$3,293, the amount available in the Events budget. The FA was accepted by the Maker and Second. The Motion passed unanimously.

J. Committee Reports:

Standing Committees

1. **Airport Relations** - David Voss – Meets in the morning on the last Thursday of the month.

2. **Budget & Finance** - Steve Donell (Approval of Treasurer's Report) – Report distributed. Steve Donell made a Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as distributed. Nancy Niles seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

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3. **Bylaws** - David Voss – meeting date has to be changed, a new date has not yet been announced.
4. **Communications** - David Coffin – The missions of the Communications Committee and the Membership Marketing Committee overlap; they should work together. An event, Stakeholder 101, is being planned. It will be held at the Community Room. Committee members will staff booths and explain their committee's function to the stakeholders. David requested that all Committee Chairs attend the next meeting, which is will be held on the 2nd Tuesday in April at the Westchester Library.
5. **Education** - Terry Marcellus – See item I-4 Discussion Calendar.
6. **Elections** - Cozette Vergari – was not available, no report given.
7. **Governmental Affairs/City Services** - John-David Webster – dark in March. Next meeting April 19 at Westchester Christina Church.
8. **Membership/Marketing** - Sibyl Buchanan – all submission for the newsletter must be received by May 1; this includes messages/articles from all Committee Chairs and the President of the Board.
9. **Planning & Land Use** – James Ferro – was not available, no report given.
10. **Public Safety** - Doug Ehlers – 3.26 fourth Monday of Month @ Westchester Christian Church. Wrote Mission Statement. Dr. Lucy Jones 4.28 6 – 8PM @ LMU St. Roberts Hall “Dare to Prepare” for earthquakes.

Ad Hoc Committees

1. **Lincoln Streetscape** - Stephen Bentley – No meeting this month; will meet in April. Issues being addressed are schedule of work, coordination with Decron Apartment building, the safety issues on Lincoln NE of the corner of Lincoln and 83rd Street. Construction on the street widening is set to begin 4.23.07.
2. **Sepulveda Streetscape** - John Ruhlen – not enough committee members attended to hold a meeting. A clean-up project is planned for April 14, 2007. A flyer was distributed.

City/Neighborhood Council Committees

1. **LANC Congress** - Robert Dalton/Judith Ciancimino (alt.) – The purchase of the LA Times by a Chicago concern probably will not be good for LA. Currently, NC's do not have the ability to appeal a issuance of a zoning variance in their service area. The Congress would like NC's to change this rule.
2. **City Planning Task Force** - David Gray; James Ferro (alt.) – No report was given.

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3. **NC Alliance** - _____/_____
4. **Mayor's Budget Day** - Denny Schneider/Bill Ballerini (alt.) – a report distributed
5. **City Attorney Legal Liaison** - David Voss – was not available, no report was given.
6. **LADWP MOU** - John-David Webster – no report was given.
7. **NC 912 Commission** - Robert Dalton – no report was given.

K. Discussion Items:

1. Conflict of Interest On-line Training: www.lacityneighborhoods.com and www.done.ethicstraining@lacity.org – not all members have done this.
2. Neighborhood Empowerment Academy workshops: www.lacityneighborhoods.com/empowerment_academy.htm
3. President's comments:
 - a. Denial of funding to Westchester Babe Ruth – we disagree with the judgment. Mike Arias, Steve Donell and Denny Schneider (Budget & Finance Committee members) attended a meeting with City Attorney.
 - b. Form 700 is not required, as previously requested by DONE
 - c. Posting and use of standard agenda for all committees – all Committee Chairs should be posting agendas to the web site.
 - d. Executive Committee to meet on a regular basis – open to attendees – to plan on the future items to be considered. It meets the 3rd Monday of Month at 6:30PM.
 - e. Future Board retreat/training – in the planning stages.
 - f. Establishment of Policies and Procedures Handbook – submissions by Committee Chairs, etc. are requested.
 - g. Possible Community event – softball tournament (3 inning games) and booths for the distribution of Committee information.
 - h. Committee charts of work/goals, outreach, minutes, bylaw revisions – all Committees should be posting a summary of their meetings on website.

L. Announcements:

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1. BONC meetings now held on the 1st Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. and every 3rd Thursday at 6:00 p.m. of every month.

2. Meeting with new DONE General Manager Carol Baker Tharp and the Assistant GM Bong Hwan Kim - April 16, 2007, 6:30 to 8:00pm at 3376 Motor Avenue, Palms, CA 90034.

3. Next NCWPDR Board meeting: May 1, 2007 at 6:30 p.m.

4. Other announcements

M. Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned: 9:10 PM

Next Meeting: May 1 – 6:30PM

Location: Community Room

Submitted by: Judith Ciancimino