

**NCWP Board Meeting**  
**APPROVED MINUTES**

*Submitted by Sheryl L. Thomas-Perkins*

**Tuesday, September 3, 2013 - 6:30 p.m.**  
**Westchester Council Community Room**  
**7166 Manchester Avenue, Westchester, CA 90045**

**Present:** Sibyl Buchanan, Cheryl Burnett, Scott Carni, Craig Eggers, Kathryn Evans, Alex Eychis, Tom Flintoft, Clarence Griffin, Gregory Heffernan, Cyndi Hench, Andrew Kamm, Ted Kroeber, Pat Lyon, Matthew Parrish, Booker Pearson, Alan Quon, Paul Radke, Mark Redick, Denny Schneider, Sheryl Thomas-Perkins, Jack Topal, David Voss, Lance Williams, John David Webster

**Absent:** John Loizeaux, Matthew Parrish

**Excused:** Ted Kroeber, Nora MacLellan, Geoff Maleman

1. **Call to Order – President Cyndi Hench called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.**
  - a. President Hench announced that scheduled presenter Carmen Hawkins, Los Angeles City Attorney, would not be attending the meeting and that Amber Meshack of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) will be with us.
2. **Salute the Flag – President Hench** led the flag salute
3. **Introductions—Board of Directors** introduced themselves
4. **Announcements from Governmental Representatives:**
  - a. **Nate Kaplan**, District Director, CD 11/Council Member Mike Bonin's office, announced the September 8<sup>th</sup> Bike with Mike event; asked for recommendations for uses for abandoned City of Los Angeles owned properties within CD 11; their office is considering uses for old Fire Station 5; there is progress with the LMU parking issues and a letter would be released later this week to restrict access to the Loyola Boulevard gate; commended the work of a gentleman named Nick who has assisted/reached out to 19 clients/homeless people.
  - b. **Matt Stauffer**, Assembly Member Steven Bradford's Office spoke re: seven of Bradford's bills have moved forward, including AB 128 regarding the status of LAX Airport Police; the Affordable Care Act town hall meeting is set for October 12, at the Inglewood City Hall, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
5. **Recognition of Star of the Neighborhood**
  - a. **Outreach Committee Chair Sibyl Buchanan** was assisted by Outreach Committee Member JD Webster in presenting the 2013 Star of the Neighborhood winner and runner up, Ann Wexler and Marlene Francis Kaufman respectively. Both received certificates, made brief comments, and took pictures. Wexler was selected because of her tireless efforts on behalf of education in our community.
    - i. **Ann Wexler** said that it was really cool riding in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade and that, "Westchester is full of people who do so much for the community...We are very much inspired by this Neighborhood Council...Westchester is a Can-Do community."
    - ii. **Marlene Francis Kaufman** commented, "Stars don't shine unless they have a lot of support," and said that her parents were the first Star of the Neighborhood recipients.
6. **Public Comment**
  - a. **JD Barren** inquired about signs posted along Sepulveda Boulevard about plans to cut down trees to upgrade sidewalks which did not include dates or a schedule.
    - i. **President Hench** directed him to speak with John Ruhlen who stood up for identification, who would have the answers he sought.
7. **Recognition of Westchester Babe Ruth World Championship team and Westchester Babe Ruth Second Place team**
  - a. **Outreach Committee Chair Sibyl Buchanan** introduced Board Member Scott Carni who introduced Coach Chris Lynch who introduced the team members. Catcher Jonathan Phelps spoke on behalf of the team members and thanked their parents for

- support, and credited the coach for requiring five-hour practices and early morning beach runs for training which contributed to their success. The team took pictures.
- b. **JD Webster** said it is good to see young men wearing pants (up) where they belong which he said was a credit to the parents.
8. **Public Comment** - non-agenda items
- a. **Marcia Hanscom** thanked the Board for removing propaganda video from the NCWP website that would endanger wildlife at Ballona Wetlands; thanked Council Member Bonin for introducing a motion to change the name of the 90 Freeway to the Ballona Freeway; said that NCWP minutes do not reflect what takes place at meetings and that the previous month's minutes mostly recorded comments about the Annenberg issue, which is why she thinks it is better not to have Board members who are involved with other entities in the community.
  - b. **Sharon Stoltzman** submitted a Speaker Card but chose to hold her comments.
9. **Status of City required Finance Training**
- a. **President Hench** spoke about the numerous opportunities for board members to complete their training and announced that anyone who had not completed the required finance training could not vote during this meeting; she encouraged everyone who has not completed training to complete it by next month.
  - b. **David Voss** explained that he was among the first people to complete the finance training and he has still been unable to get training confirmation from the DONE.
10. **The DONE Representative Amber Meshack** answered several Board members' questions primarily about finances, the mural ordinance, as well as the Finance Training requirement which she said "is not an absolute" to ban members who have not completed it from voting (for this meeting only); private donations are not currently acceptable; Board members should always be aware of conflict of interest flags or ideas and contact the City Attorney whenever there are related concerns; the DONE is not an enforcement agency and Neighborhood Council members should voice their opinions now if they have concerns about the mural ordinance; lobbyists and all other stakeholders may sit on NC boards since the NCs are designed to bring together diverse members of the community; she will check on any changes within the DONE training manual and follow up with the Board; Board members will be notified of any changes; Board members are exempt from financial disclosure requirements of the Fair Political Practices Act, but are not exempt from all of its requirements; the Strategic Plan was intended to primarily address the budget; the Neighborhood Congress is set for September 28, and she encouraged everyone to participate because it will be a peer conference where members will have the opportunity to collect a lot of information to grow as a Board and as individual leaders, for an entire day, at LA City Hall.

#### **Board Comments**

**President Hench** inquired about the issue of cash received this month, and Amber replied that there will never be an exchange of cash or greenbacks but you will be able to add money to the account/card.

**Pat Lyon** asked about donations.

**Denny Schneider** and **Craig Eggers** asked about the mural ordinance and its enforcement.

**Cheryl Burnett** said that the NCWP needs to deal with its image, its brand and with community relations issues to properly address issues within the community; many in the community do not like the way the NCWP operates; and the Board needs to "look at ourselves authentically."

**David Voss** inquired about training: manual changes and; referenced citations from the DONE Neighborhood Council Training Manual for Legal Issues; and suggested that those who are dissatisfied with Board members elect new Board members (in reply to Cheryl Burnett's comments).

#### **Public Comment:**

**Marcia Hanscom**

Agreed with comments from Cheryl Burnett; some stakeholders did not vote because they were dissatisfied with candidates; lobbyists and public relations practitioners have conflict of interest when they serve on the Board.

**11. Motions/Actions Items and Related Public Comment**

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

Approval of Strategic Plan as submitted by Ad Hoc Committee  
Approved unanimously with amendments (“direction” changed to “recommendation” under BIG Vision)  
M/S Alex Eychis/Pat Lyon

**Craig Eggers** asked about implementation of the Strategic Plan and suggested that an ad hoc implementation committee be formed.

**President Hench** said there are a lot of “to dos” in the Plan and annual training sessions about the elements of the Plan would be among the first steps toward implementation.

**Amber** agreed that a Board retreat would be a good starting point and offered to assist with facilitating a retreat.

**Pat Lyon** suggested that the Ad Hoc Committee members who developed the Plan continue as the Implementation Committee.

**JD Webster** asked if the Strategic Plan will be part of the General Plan for the City of LA; Amber said that it is for our NC.

- 12. Daniel Tamm of Mayor Garcetti’s office** introduced himself as the new Westside representative; he is honored to represent the City of Los Angeles and Mayor Garcetti; during the first 100 days of his administration Mayor Garcetti is building a team and finding the best people for the various jobs; he will set up regular hours in Westchester to meet with community members so they will not have to travel to the Westside to meet with him, he said in response to **President Hench’s** request. [www.Daniel.Tamm@lacity.org](http://www.Daniel.Tamm@lacity.org)

**13. Treasurer’s Report, including board member reimbursements (if any)**

Approved unanimously  
M/S Alex Eychis/Denny Schneider

**14. Committee Reports**

**Mark Redick (Government Affairs):** Committee met on August 26; Neighborhood Blitz is scheduled for October 3; the committee has asked for notification of potholes and received tremendous response from the community; the deadline for notification is Sept. 9.

**Pat Lyon (Planning and Land Use Committee)** apologized for the cancellation of the August PLUC meeting which was necessary due to personal reasons. Pat also spoke re: the September meeting will include discussion of the LMU off campus parking, an update of the Airport/Manchester intersection location of the new McDonald’s, and Chick-fil-A representatives will discuss their community outreach plans; the Lagado project will be discussed regarding the J Spot; and the meeting will start at 6 p.m., September 17.

**15. Announcements**

**President Hench** announced there are open Board seats for Residential seats 4, 5, and LMU, and she asked for recommendations for individuals to fill these positions.

**JD Webster** said that it was good news that the Westchester Charter school was opening and that it was started by this year’s Star of the Neighborhood.

**Pat Lyon** announced that her family business Westchester Watch Works is moving to an El Segundo location. She passed out postcards with the new contact information.

**Sybil Buchanan** said that an Outreach Committee meeting would be scheduled within the next couple of weeks; Playa Vistas’s Fall Harvest will take place 11 a.m.-2 p.m., October 26.

**16. Adjournment – President Hench adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.**

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, October 1, 2013 - 6:30 p.m.