

NCWP Special Board Meeting
Approved MINUTES
Submitted by Geoff Maleman

Tuesday, March 8, 2022 – 6:30 p.m.
Via Zoom

Present: Gregg Aniolek, Carey Begbie Westerfield, Michele Cooley-Strickland, Thomas Flintoft, Paula Gerez, George Herrera, Jennifer Kingshott, Jana Koppula, Brian Lockwood, Matt Lipschutz, John Logsdon, Geoff Maleman, Chip Mallek, Greg Melton, Dennis Miller, Faneeza Mohamed, Fred Puza, Alexandra Reynolds, Julie Ross, Glenda Silva, Garrett Smith, Cord Thomas, Naomi Waka, Sylvia Wilson

Absent:

Excused: Al Hernandez, Alan Quon, Denny Schneider, Theresa Torrance, Heather Tuttle,

1. **Call to Order – President Gerez called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.**
2. **Salute the Flag – President Gerez led the flag salute**
3. **Introductions**
4. **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.)*
 - a. Approval of Minutes of February Board meeting.
 - b. Motion to receive, file and approve the NCWP Monthly Expenditure Report (MER) for the month of January 2022.
 - c. Motion to receive, file and approve the NCWP Monthly Treasurer's report for the month of February 2022.
 - d. Motion to Approve the expenditure of \$694.75 for outreach services provided by Moore Business Results in the month of February, 2022.
 - e. ~~Motion to Approve the neighborhood purpose grant (NPG) application from Nuestros Alimentos (also known as Nourish LA) in the amount of \$1,000.~~

Items struck out were removed from the agenda by President Gerez.

M/S Ross/Kingshott to approve the Consent Calendar. Motion passes unanimously. Puza and Silva abstaining.

5. Announcements from Government Representatives

- a. **Abby Austin** of Councilman Bonin's Office spoke re: Project Homekey at the recently purchased Extended Stay America Hotel at 6531 S Sepulveda Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90045-1508 and upcoming public forums regarding the site; and the moratorium that impacts the RVs parked along Jefferson Boulevard.
- b. **Geoff Thompson (LAX Liaison)** announced he is no longer in his position and thanked everyone on the NCWP for their work with him on airport-related issues. He added that his position will be filled sometime in the future.
- c. **Vishesh Anand** (Mayor Garcetti's Office) spoke re: Free Tax LA, reduction in speed limits via AB43, DWP clearing utility debt for those who have fallen behind on power and water bills, Housing is Key is on-going but will stop taking applications before the end of the month (www.housingiskey.com), statewide naturalization effort (www.lapl.org/newamericans), Red Cloud Wind Project in New Mexico will provide renewable energy for Los Angeles, and the climate emergency mobilization office.
- d. **Mario Hernandez** of DONE provided board members with the following written report via email:

Watch the recording of the political and legislative advocacy workshop!

On February 24th, the Department hosted a workshop dedicated to political and legislative advocacy and how to organize a candidate forum. The recording and the slides presented during this workshop are available on our website on the Training and Workshop page:

<https://empowerla.org/workshops-trainings/>

Community Impact Statement Virtual Town Hall - Thursday, March 31, 2022 from 6:00-9:00pm

The Budget Tribunes, a budget advocacy group for the Neighborhood Council system, and the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment are teaming up to host this first of its kind event; aimed at improving the quality and volume of Community Impact Statements (CIS) submitted on behalf of Angelenos. More registration information will be coming soon! We look forward to your continued attendance and participation.

Neighborhood Council Elections 2023: it starts now

To assist you with the 2023 elections outreach planning, I will be scheduling individualized one-on-one outreach sessions with your outreach chairs and committee. During these meetings, we will review election outreach efforts from 2019 and 2021; talk about the NC Awareness and Engagement Survey results for your neighborhood; and see how we can help you plan for a successful 2023 elections. These sessions will be scheduled between March and June of 2022. Please take board action to assemble your outreach committee and prepare recommendations to the Department.

NC Funding Training

March and April Training Dates:

1) NC Financial Officer Funding Training:

- Tuesday, March 22nd, 2022, 6pm - 8pm
- Tuesday, April 12th, 2022, 2pm-4pm
- Tuesday, April 26nd, 2022, 6pm - 8pm

2) NC Funding Program Workshops - Topic: Neighborhood Purpose Grants

- Thursday, March 17th, 2022, 6pm - 7:30pm
- Thursday, April 7th, 2022, 2pm - 3:30pm
- Thursday, April 21th, 2022, 6pm - 7:30pm

Please RSVP at our website [HERE](#)

The NC Funding Program training sessions are open to all Board members as well as stakeholders. These are the required training for board members serving as Financial Officers (Treasurer, 2nd Signer, Bank Cardholder, Alternate Signer). Other Board members may also complete the training online on Cornerstone. Feel free to reach out to me if you have trouble logging in Cornerstone

Bylaws Amendments

Last month to work on your bylaws amendments. Here is a list of quick tips:

- How to amend your bylaws: check Article XIII of your bylaws
- Due date for Bylaw Amendment Application: April 1st, 2022
- Bylaws amendment Application available [here](#).
- 2022 Bylaws template available [here](#).
- Don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions

6. Presentation

There were no presentations at today's meeting

7. Discussion Calendar and Related Public Comment

- a. Discussion about everything related to and about the news regarding the purchase of Extended Stay America Hotel at 6531 S Sepulveda Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90045-1508 and converting it into 179 homeless housing beds. To the best of my knowledge this was done without any community notice, feedback, notice or transparency as with all other projects in our area. NCWP will hold a special webinar with guests from our community and surrounding communities to discuss what we have learned to date, history and lessons learned from other communities and where we go from here.

Lisa Gaines of Union Rescue Mission spoke re: her concerns about the per-unit cost being spent by the City of LA for this project and called it ludicrous and expressed security concerns at the site

Alan Reed president of the Villa Allegra HOA on Sepulveda Boulevard spoke on behalf of his HOA re: lack of transparency and the density of the proposed project

Traci Park spoke re: Ramada homeless project in Venice and indicated that local residents should be concerned about safety, security and poor operation of the facility and exorbitant costs. She added that NCWP should seek a community benefit agreement with the city to protect local residents.

Kimberly Fox spoke in favor of the proposed project

Dana Gray spoke re: her concerns about the per-unit cost being spent by the City of LA for this project and the unfulfilled promises from Councilman Bonin at a similar project (Bridge Housing) in Venice

Dave Evans spoke re: concerns about the proposed project and stressed the need for more discussion about potential issues before he could support it.

Liz Kane of Westside Activists spoke in favor of the proposed project and said this project will help take people off the streets

Kraig Metzinger suggested that NCWP ask that all beds be used for chronically homeless and the people in RV encampments on Jefferson and Playa del Rey and Dockweiler beaches

Tracy Thrower Conyers asked NCWP to include a Community Benefit Agreement in place so the neighborhood has something to fall back on once the project is up and running

1530**387** said it is unacceptable that the community was not notified about this project and supported the idea of a Town Hall meeting to discuss the issue

Josef Siroky of Sen. Sydney Kamlager's Office expressed his willingness to help with outreach to HCD

M/S Maleman/Kingshott made motion to submit a community impact statement addressing the issues discussed tonight and to hold another special meeting to draft and approve the language for that statement at 8:30am on Saturday, March 12. The motion passes 16-2 (AYES: Aniolek, Cooley-Strickland, Flintoft, Herrera, Kingshott, Lockwood, Lipschutz, Logsdon, Maleman, Mallek, Melton, Miller, Reynolds, Ross, Smith, and Wilson NAYS: Waka, and Thomas. Koppula, Mohamed, Puza and Silva abstaining. Begbie Westerfield did not vote.

- b. Discussion and motion to create an Ad Hoc Committee for hosting Candidate Forums for the upcoming elections of all seats representing our stakeholders throughout the City, County and State.

M/S Maleman/Thomas to support the motion and name the following people to the committee: Thomas, Logsdon Reynolds, Wilson Puza, Kingshott, Ross and Gerez. The motion passes unanimously. Puza and Silva abstaining.

- c. Discussion and motion to appoint a Board Member to a WRAC Ad Hoc Election Committee.

No motion was made on this item

8. **Public Comment** (*non-agenda items*)

There was no public comment on non-agenda items

9. **Board Member Announcements and Committee Reports**

Puza (LMU) reported that LMU has a series of events for Women's History Month, campus remains closed, mask requirements on campus have been eased, LMU will install a second card reader to alleviate traffic back-ups at the Loyola Gate, LMU will host a number of summer sports camps.

Thomas (Budget & Finance) reported that the NCWP board gets \$42,000 for outreach and neighborhood purposes grant and that money has not been fully allocated. He urged organizations to submit grant applications, especially those focused on Westchester Park.

Logsdon (Public Safety) provided a crime update from LAPD SLOs, catalytic converter theft is way up, street racing task force, violent crime is down overall, LAPD Academy is only graduating 300 officers per year, while more than 500 officers will retire this year, La Cienega and 111th safe parking lot (near LAX), hoping to start another CERT class soon.

Aniolek (Government Affairs) reported that his committee plans to discuss the Ballona Interceptor Project

Silva (LAWA) gave the following report:

Spring Traffic Preview

The months after the November/December holiday time are typically when we experience a lull in passenger traffic. However, over the first four months of 2022, we have seen the airlines add quite a bit of capacity into their early spring schedules. During the first four months of this year, the airlines have increased their scheduled flights from LAX an average of 47 percent compared with the same time last year. This means 5,000 to 6,000 more flights per month through April, which is a strong sign that the airlines are anticipating a surge in travel demand even ahead of the summer.

Innovation & Technology

Our LAX Fast Lane pilot, which allows guests flying with United Airlines from Terminals 7 and 8 to reserve a spot in a dedicated TSA screening lane, has been extended again to June 30. The pilot, which began in mid-October of last year and was originally scheduled to end in January, was extended the program, thanks to the positive feedback from our guests, United and TSA. We also continue to lean into biometrics, which enhance security and efficiency in accessing boarding gates and are in wide use by CBP for international arrivals.

Masking Policy Update

As you know, these last few weeks, LA County, the city, the state and the CDC have announced the relaxing of rules for requiring people to wear masks indoors. Airports, aircraft and buses continue to fall under federal rules requiring the wearing of masks until at least March 18.

Wilson (Community Services) reported that committee meetings have been well-attended and added that the committee will discuss service providers and housing intervention options, including Safe Parking LA, at the next committee meeting.

10. **Adjourn –President Gerez adjourned the meeting at 8:41 p.m.**

Next Meeting: Saturday, March 12, 2022 – 8:30 a.m.