

**NCWP Board Meeting
MINUTES**
Submitted by Theresa Torrance

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

Present: Gregg Aniolek, Carey Begbie Westerfield, Michele Cooley-Strickland, Thomas Flintoft, Paula Gerez, Al Hernandez, George Herrera, Jennifer Kingshott, Jana Koppula, Brian Lockwood, Matt Lipschutz, John Logsdon, Chip Mallek, Greg Melton, Dennis Miller, Faneeza Mohamed, Fred Puza, Alan Quon, Alexandra Reynolds, Julie Ross, Denny Schneider, Max Reyes, Garrett Smith, Theresa Torrance, Heather Tuttle, Naomi Waka, Andrew Watkins, Sylvia Wilson

Excused: Cord Thomas and Geoff Maleman

1. **Call to Order – President Gerez called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.**
2. **Salute the Flag – President Gerez led the flag salute**
3. **Introductions**
4. **Presentation:** Alex Villanueva on crime and Homelessness:

Homeless: Homeless Outreach team put together an RV Policy of Protocol and submitted to the BOS. No response or approval yet. They have done a deep dive into the issue. People are buying RVs from tow yards-there is an underground economy with renting these out that needs further exploration.

Crime update: homicide has dropped 34% this year compared to last year; Robberies and burglaries are up 30% each. Their challenge has been resources. Hiring freeze hurts. Can't get enough deputies on the street.

Board questions and discussion: Jennifer asked about stolen license plates; Sylvia had questions about RV protocol and availability of county property for RVs -Sheriff open to using county lots. Working with Dist. 2 from Holly Mitchell's office; Julie asked about hiring freeze (per Sheriff its just with respect to Sheriff's Dept) and she asked about ballot harvesting; Gregg A. asked about efforts on educating the public on deterrents to reduce crime; Theresa asked for more info on the unregulated rentals of RVs; Dennis asked about towing of vehicles; Alex asked about Caltrans and LDOT properties for RVs-Sheriff advised that there are 1200 city owned properties (Caltrans is state); Michelle asked if there are any other things Sheriff would recommend to the community; Denny asked about the new MTA train to LAX and funding for Sheriffs Dept. for security on the train;

Jeff Dietrich of the Sheriff's Dept. gave update on RV protocol-Host team working with Sup. Mitchell's office protocol will be up for vote on 9/13-there is a request to add 6 deputies to assist with protocol; There are many regulations with respect to towing or RVs. Part of protocol is to identify why someone is suffering homelessness, and those being targeted for crime (like burning of RVs with renter inside if someone doesn't pay their rent).

Julie asked about the meeting on 9/13. Dietrich will send email from Lilly Sofiani of Mitchell's office; Paula will post link for meeting on NC website; Chip asked about intersection car race takeovers; Sylvia spoke on street takeovers and asked about county services being offered as part of the protocol-Srgt Dietrich will send list of all county services; Paula spoke about the Sheriff's successful effort to get the homeless in Westchester Park out of the park and into housing;

Public Comment: Susan Ward asked about the BOS meeting; Kraig Metzinger thanked the board for having the Sheriff on the meeting; Debra Huston commented on Westchester park; William Manahan commented on harvesting of ballots.

5. **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.)*

1. Approval of Minutes of July 2022 Board meeting

2. Motion to receive, file and approve the NCWP Monthly Expenditure Report (MER) for the month of May 2022.
3. Motion to receive, file and approve the NCWP Monthly Expenditure Report (MER) for the month of June 2022.
4. Motion to receive, file and approve the NCWP Monthly Expenditure Report (MER) for the month of July 2022.
5. Motion to receive, file and approve the NCWP Monthly Expenditure Report (MER) for the month of August 2022.
6. Motion to receive, file and approve the NCWP Monthly Treasurer's Report for the month of June 2022.
7. Motion to receive, file and approve the NCWP Monthly Treasurer's Report for the month of July 2022.
8. Motion to receive, file and approve the NCWP Monthly Treasurer's Report for the month of August 2022.
9. Motion to approve outstanding Moore Business Results invoices.
10. Motion to approve July NCWP newsletter provided by Hometown News for \$875 monthly.
11. Motion to approve August NCWP newsletter provided by Hometown News for \$875 monthly.
12. Motion to support sending a CIS for Los Angeles [City Council Motion 14-1635-S10](#) (Short Term Rentals) to create an enforcement action plan for Ordinance 185931 which was adopted by the Los Angeles City Council on December 7, 2018.
13. Motion to approve a letter of support with concerns for the "Interceptor" by The Ocean Cleanup to Los Angeles City Council Mike Bonin and Los Angeles County Board of Supervisor Holly Mitchell.
14. Motion to approve a letter of opposition to the cities proposed outdoor digital advertising in the neighborhoods of Westchester, Playa Del Rey and Playa Vista.
15. Motion to approve the hiring of a a part-time administrative assistant to aid the NCWP Executive Committee, and principally the NCWP President in completing tasks associated with the business of the NCWP in an amount not to exceed \$250 per month for the FY 2022-2023. Funds to come from Office/Operational, Training & Board Retreat (\$750) and Outreach, Event Expense Food/Refreshments (\$1500).
16. Motion to Approve the neighborhood purposes grant (NPG) application from Pacific Boosters in the amount of \$2,000.00 to be used for costs associated with purchasing fitness equipment for the Pacific Station. The Pacific Boosters previously approved NPG from May 2022 in the amount of \$2,000 was not processed and paid by the City because the funds wouldn't be used in the FY 21-22.

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

Highlighted items were called Special by Theresa and added to Discussion Calendar.

Public Comment on Consent Calendar: Stacy (on 16 but it was pulled)

**Alan Q /Michele motioned to approve item 15 in the Consent Calendar
Motion passed unanimously. Fred and Max abstained.**

6. **Announcements from Government Representatives** (limit to 3 minutes please)

- a. Abby Austin of Councilman Bonin's Office spoke about repaving of some streets and planting of 30 mature oak trees planted on Manchester between Pershing and Sepulveda; school to park program; introduced Jennifer Hul, Constitute Advocate; Jennifer introduced herself; Denny asked about watering for the oak trees-Abby will get him info; Dennis asked about paving of La Tijera-bike lanes?; Alex asked about beautification of Imperial highway-Abby said still pending; Chip asked about watering restrictions and watering of trees; Paula looking for update regarding requests for Safe Parking and requests from Councilman's office and proposals re: fencing of parking lot and asked about meeting to extend Safe Parking. Abby deferred to Noah Fleishman, Bonin's District Director and LAX Liaison

- b. Noah Fleishman, District Director, advised that the it's in best interest to have Municipal lot cleaned (between Sr. center, library and municipal bldg) , the Safe Parking lot is just south of the Westchester pool and the current Safe Parking -side of lot closest to Lincoln Blvd., currently is for 4 door vehicles and does not currently include RV parking. Program connects them with sanitation, security and case managers. It currently has 50 spots, 25 are being used for Safe Parking (each car has a free spot on either side for privacy). He said it is one of the highest utilized safe parking lots in the county and county has identified it as successful and is providing add'l funding. It's been operating at 90% occupancy at night. There is a security guard checking them in and they leave in the a.m. Safe Parking LA operates the program. With respect to the municipal lot, the councilman's office is working to clear the ADA spots in this lot-working towards voluntary compliance and will enforce if they don't move. He learned recently after speaking with LAPD that the signage currently displayed in municipal parking lot is not appropriate for LAPD to enforce & give tickets and tow vehicles. Noah has reached out to General Services Dept.(they own the lot) to try and update the signage or upgrading the parking lot so there are swing gates at entrances. He also consulted with the City Attorney's office to ensure new signs are accurate. He invited people to reach out to him via email @ noah.fleishman@lacity.org. with any questions.

Paula questioned the issue about the signs and is happy to hear that the Councilman's office is working to get accurate signs in place. Asked about the fencing around the building and other items-still waiting to hear back from Abby on more info. Wanted confirmation that current efforts for Safe Parking are in the current Safe Parking lot and Noah confirmed there will be no safe parking in municipal parking lot. Noah advised there are other city agencies in the municipal building and that due to attempted break-ins at the municipal building, GSD initiated the request for security (fencing/cameras/automated keypads) and Councilman was not aware of the barbed wire that was put up.

Paula asked about the extension of the Safe Parking contract. Does the *extension* include *expansion*? Noah said his understanding is that there is no effort to expand beyond 25 cars. Noah added that the councilmans office and the county has requested to expand to 24/7 Safe Parking (instead of night only) and exploring RV's might be able to park there as well much further down the line. Paula said she has spoken with Sup. Mitchells office and was advised there is some contradiction with respect to the county's involvement. Noah said they are looking at other lots on the westside for Safe Parking and RV parking.

Committee Questions/comments for Noah: AI frustrated that we are 1 park in our District with Safe Parking, which we had approved years back for 7 spaces and now pushing to 25; Noah confirmed Gregg A shared same sentiment as AI and has an issue with lack of enforcement of the program; Sylvia asked about accountability and the relationship between the councilman's office and the service provider (The People Concern - The Layover, which is going to be closing) and what happens when the Layover closes (project Room Key). Noah advised that the Project Room Key are being demobilized now, but LAHSA working on longer term vouchers than what the Project Room key. Abby said that the 24/7 pilot program was voted on by the BOS; Theresa asked for Noah to clarify on the sign issue in municipal lot and the comment about possibly moving RV dwellers to the Safe Parking lot. Michelle made comment about the NCs board about the vote to approve the 7 Safe Parking slots and it's now almost 4 x as many...this is what causes the board and the community to be resistant; Paula requested that we get information in advance of our meetings from councilman's office so we don't take up so much time; Chip asked about the LAWA lot-why is it not being used/explored now? Also asked about municipal parking lot and asked Noah to confirm the council offices is not looking to put Safe Parking in municipal lot; Noah asked Max to respond on the LAWA lot and Max advised that LAWA is working on last few "pieces" and hopes to have more info at next meeting (RVs would not be allowed); Sylvia asked can we get some guarantee that the people currently at the Layover not end up back at the park. Also, there seem to be more vehicles/vans with explicit language on their van (Boom Boom Room). What's the timeline on the signage? Noah advised that it's LAHSA's job to get people in temporary housing into more permanent housing; Heather thanks representatives from councilman's office and asked Noah let us know how the board can help collaborate with councilman's office to rebuild a partnership; Julie asked about ADA spaces but what about the other parking spaces? Noah said the focus is on the ADA spots but not limited to those spaces- installation of the gates and signs is to enforce no overnight parking. Alex commented that the park is utilized by people all over the city. Has concerns about the Safe Parking program and questions the data of it being 90% utilized (she has not seen more than 5 cars when going by late at night). LAHSA is agency that tracks the metrics of the Safe Parking LA Service Provider. He can provide an email with latest data to her. Paula advised that she had a conversation with Abby and Jennifer re: partnering with us for some community event but most important matter to build a partnership is for

council members office to respond to stakeholder inquiries as well as board inquiries.

- c. Jessalyn from Supervisor Mitchell's office (Coastal area) said she was confused by Noah's comments re: County funding of Safe parking because the County hasn't offered funding for Safe Parking because its City jurisdiction. Sup. Mitchell is digging into reports requested by her on the unregulated RV encampments. The county is working on Monkey Pox and Vaccines
- d. Kay Hartman from Budget Advocates: advocates-budgetadvocates.org for training sessions and more info. There is also more training at their meeting on the 17th. Registration is open for Congress of Neighborhoods

7. Discussion Calendar and Related Public Comment:

Public Comment on Item 1 and 2: No public comment

Board discussion on items 1-3. Theresa asked about attachment for items 7.1-missing. Paula confirmed and said that she will send it out to everyone.

1. On July 7, 2022 the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) approved the proposed License Agreement (Agreement), between the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) and Community Partners, a California non-profit corporation to formally approve a verbal substantially in the form attached hereto as Attachment No. 1, for the use of Westchester Recreation Center swimming pool parking lot located at 9100 Lincoln Blvd, Los Angeles, CA., as described in the Summary of this Report, for a term from October 4, 2021 to October 2, 2022. RAP voted to end the use of the lot on October 2, 2022. Currently RAP and the Mayor's office are in discussions at the request of Councilman Bonin's office to extend this SAFE Parking LA Program at Westchester Swimming Pool Parking Lot which the NCWP is apposed to. NCWP President Gerez has requested a meeting with Councilman Bonin, requested his attendance at our Board Meeting. At the time of creating this agenda there has been nothing proposed. President Gerez will continue to advocate for the removal of SAFE Parking from both the Swimming Pool Lot and the Municipal Lot.
2. The Municipal Lot is being used to bring in (tow) trailers and inoperable vehicles. Why is this being allowed? I ask the NCWP approve a letter asking that the Municipal Lot be vacated per the approved signage that the lot closes and the existing laws.
3. The NCWP President has received no support of updates on the Extended Stay Hotel as promised to the NCWP from Councilman Bonin's Office. How can the NCWP best support the stakeholders who have been left to fend for themselves with no representations from their Councilman and Constituent Advocate.

Paula advised she has no updates on Item 3 above. The updates were due Saturday. Will find out soon if funds were approved or not.

Discussion of Items 12-14 (pulled by Theresa for board discussion)

Michele/Julie motioned to discuss item 12

Theresa asked for more information on the reports. Julie clarified that the Action Plan is still pending for the Home Share Ordinance and wants to request a CIS.

Public Comment on Item 12 (None)

Chip/Dennis Motioned to approve Item 12

Motion passed unanimously. Fred, Max and Garrett abstained

Julie/Michele motioned to discuss Item 13

Theresa confused because she thought this was already approved by the board (possibly brought forth by the Community Services Committee). Gregg noted his committee wanted to express their concerns even though they are aware that things are moving forward with the Interceptor. Theresa

said she didn't see an "ask" in the letter to the councilman's office and Gregg said it was more a statement as opposed to asking for something at this point. He would like to see stats. Jessalyn of Sup. Mitchell's office advised that we can get data on the Interceptor from the Dept. of Public Works on their website (data on sound decibels, etc...). Looking at a launch date in October; Sylvia suggested she can connect anyone who has questions to Jeff Maleman who is involved with the Interceptor; Alex advised the Interceptor only works when it rains.

Julie/Jennifer motioned to approve Item 13
The motion passed unanimously
Puza, Alex, Al , Garrett and Max abstained

Discussion of item 14

Theresa had some questions for clarity on this item

Paula advised that if board members have question about agenda items on committee items ,they can contact the committee or sit in on meetings.
Michele advised that board members can reach out to committee chairs and can ask questions in advance about any agenda items in advance of board meetings, to avoid lengthy board meetings

Gregg and committee have an issue with digital advertising for money and these do not fit the character of Westchester/Playa. They are also distractions. Dennis referenced these signs in Inglewood and how much of an eye sore these are; Jennifer said she doesn't want to see these digital billboards in our community;

Public Comment: Stacy D spoke about how much of a distraction these billboards are; William Manahan against these digital billboards-brightness could be disruptive to residents; Julie asked Gregg if this proposal was one that came to board about a year or so ago. Gregg said it could be but can't recall; Paula seemed to recall a WRAC motion.

Tom/Dennis Motioned to approve Item 14
Item 14 Unaimoisly passed
Max, Garrett and Fred abstained

Paula said she appreciates community committee members but she gets texts over and over from non board members. Those folks should consider running for the board. There needs to be some boundaries to that end.

Chip said our Q&A section was up again tonight and seemed to confuse stakeholders but Paula had trouble disabling it; Julie understands Paula's position but is there a way that a community committee member could have more than 1 minute during public comment. Paula said it could be a revision to standing rules. Paula suggested sitting down with Julie and Jennifer to discuss.

8. Public Comment (non-agenda items) No Public Comment

9. Board Member Announcements and Committee Reports:

Heather - Education Committeespoke on school to park program expansion with Cowan, and on Oct. 8th working with LMU for Sat Oct 8th launch First Annual School showcase on Lotten Plaza.

Fred gave LMU update..letter sent to neighbors with calendar of events and information on how to report disturbances

Max (LAX) gave some updates on pedestrian bridge/people mover.

Jennifer-annual PV yard sale is on October 1st in Concert Park. There will be an e-waste truck and shredder truck from 9-12 . She also asked about possible candidate forums.

Julie-PLUC-several projects up on hill in coastal zone; Chik Filet wants to put a new location on Century corridor, there is a developer who wants to put a large 400 + apt. project at corner of La Tijera and Manchester with rooftop deck and retail on bottom level;

Al -Outreach Committee-National Night Out was successful. Hoping NC can meet live soon
Sylvia-Community Services Committee-WAM event on the 24th (sponsoring the YMCA);

presentation by Emerson Community Garden club program. Meeting this Thursday will focus on YMCA programs

Garrett-has to abstain on voting because he is missing some requirements

Denny-Airport Relations- train station in Westchester is to be dedicated Sat. 9/17 10-noon

Paula asked for volunteers to work the NC booth at WAM to contact her.

Theresa asked if John L was having difficulty getting in meeting. He was on but had to jump off

Paula asked board members to make sure they are up to date on training requirements so everyone can vote. She also suggested having a hard stop to meetings to avoid overly long meetings.

10. Adjourn –**Tom/Jennifer motioned to adjourn**

President Gerez adjourned the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 4, 2022 – 6:30 p.m.