

WINNETKA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT Jacque H. Lamishaw	VICE-PRESIDENT Ken Molock
SECRETARY J.J. Popowich	TREASURER Robert Basch
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS Wayne B. Schulte	
PARLIAMENTARIAN Robert Basch	



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From: J.J. Popowich, Secretary
Date: November 10, 2004
Subject: Regular Meeting Minutes for 11/09/04

Pledge of Allegiance

- 1. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM, with Ken Molock acting as chair.**
- 2. Roll Call:** The following Board members were in attendance.

Jacque Lamishaw	Ken Molock	JJ Popowich	Bob Basch
Armineh Chelebian	Chris Jurgenson	Richard Montaine	Cynthia Conover
Alan Wolfe	Wayne Schulte	James Valdez	
	Dwight Burgess: Excused	Marilyn Robinson: Excused	

- 3. Approval of the Minutes for our October 11th meeting.**
 - 3.1. Mr. Basch pointed out that Senator Alarcon's name was misspelled.
 - 3.2. Mr. Popowich apologized and said he would correct it.
- 4. State and local government representatives updates: Senator Alarcon's representative, Assemblyman Levine's representative, Mayor Hahn's representative, Councilman Smith's representative, Councilman Zine's representative, and other local or state government representatives that may wish to attend.**
 - 4.1. Mr. Manny Durazo, Project Coordinator for D.O.N.E., was in attendance. He announced that his work schedule has settled down and he plans on being more active and attend more meetings going forward.

5. Discussion and possible action on the following Committee reports & recommendations:

A. PLUM Committee report: Discussion and possible action to approve the PLUM Committee recommendations from their September meeting. (Popowich)

- 1) Mr. Popowich explained the items that were on the PLUM agenda. He described the public attendance and concern about the Keswick St. condominium project. He advised the WNC Board that the PLUM Committee decided to support the project on the grounds that it was zoned for R3 already, and this was the best possible compromise. He pointed out that the PLUM Committee tried to address the stakeholder's concerns as much as they could with a motion that included stipulations. He read the motion to the Board:
 - Ms. Chelebian stated the reason behind the stipulations were the 10 – 15 residents who attended the meeting. She explained this was a cul-de-sac street and they have pre-existing traffic and parking problems. She pointed out that the single family homes in the area are surrounded by multi unit projects already. She said it was already zoned, so this is a compromise because they could already do it.
 - Mr. Popowich agreed and said in addition to the attendees we had about 7 emails with the same concerns.
 - Mr. Schulte commented that the contractor was very professional and he thinks it seems like a good working relationship. He pointed out the contractor said he would work with the City to see if they water mains in the area could be repaired (Secretary's Note: The residents complained of low water pressure in the area). He also stated he requested an agenda item for the next PLUM meeting to address permit parking for that area. He finished by stating he appreciated they came to us.
- 2) Mr. Popowich also announced that he is working on behalf of the WNC to put together a Townhall Meeting on parking concerns which would hopefully include Council members, Parking Enforcement, and the DOT. He said he doesn't know when it will occur, but he will keep everyone up to date. He announced that Ms. Robinson would be assisting him.
- 3) Mr. Popowich asked the Board to approve the report as is. Mr. Schulte seconded the motion.
- 4) The Secretary called roll and the PLUM Committee report was approved 9 – 0 (Mr. Jurgenson was not yet present).

B. Rules, Elections, and By-Laws Committee Report: Possibly includes dates and rules for our next election.

- 1) Mr. Molock introduced the next item.

- 2) Mr. Basch said we have a committee which is supposed to set rules for upcoming elections. He explained that some Board members were elected for one year terms, and some for two year terms. Those elected for one year are almost done with their term and we will be holding elections to fill those seats. A meeting was held on Monday to work on the procedures for this election. He said that the Board must pass a motion to submit the revised election procedures to DONE for approval and that is the purpose for this item. Once DONE receives the proposal they will have 20 days to approve or request changes.

Mr. Basch announced that the committee chose 2/24/05 as the election date because it was the one year anniversary of our first elections. The election would be held in the afternoon hours. He said the tentative location is Canoga Park Bowl, which is the same location we held the elections at last year. He went on to explain this has not been confirmed with Canoga Park Bowl yet.

Mr. Basch announced that Mr. Burgess, Mr. Jurgenson, Mr. Popowich, and Mr. Schulte's seats will be up for election this year. He explained that anyone can run for these seats including the incumbent Board members, appointed Board members, and of course any stakeholder. He also said that the Board member's whose terms were up could elect, if they chose to, to not run and be appointed if the next Board approves them. He went on to explain that all the appointed Board members are up for re-appointment once a new Board has been established.

The committee decided that they would not allow absentee ballots for this election. Mr. Basch explained that the WNC does not have the ability to store and secure any absentee ballots.

He announced the committee established three Candidate Forums to give everyone a chance to speak to the stakeholders, and the stakeholders a chance to meet and learn about the Board members. He pointed out that one forum would be on a Saturday to make it easier for working stakeholders to attend. He went on to say the forums were scheduled as close as they could be to the election date so that everything remains fresh in the stakeholder's minds.

The committee, he said, decided to use last year's election procedures as the basis with only minor changes to dates and some titles. The reasoning, he said, was that DONE had already approved those election procedures and they didn't see the need to reinvent the wheel. The committee's goal was to create a document that could be used over and over with the minor revisions.

He stated that the committee voted to submit the procedures to the WNC for approval and then to DONE for final approval. He acknowledged the draft version was not sent out until this morning, but pointed out it was virtually the same as last years.

The next meeting was announced as 12/06/04 to follow up.

- 3) Ms. Conover announced that all applications and forms for the election will be posted on the web site, or they could contact the Secretary or herself for forms.
- 4) Mr. Basch said all of this (referring to the procedures) will be on the web site and available to the public once DONE approves it. He also took this time to say that the procedures do allow for write in candidates as long as they arrive before polls open (3 PM).
- 5) Mr. Molock opened the item up for discussion among the Board.
- 6) Mr. Schulte clarified that there were 4 people up for re-election. He asked if all appointees will also be up for reappointment.
 - Mr. Basch agreed that is the case. He said the By-Laws state that appointees must be up at the end of their term, as are the Officers of the Board.
- 7) Ms. Chelebian asked if Outreach was included in the procedures.
 - Mr. Basch confirmed that outreach is included and they have addressed it. He stated this year is different from our first election. He said this year we will have a newsletter so we can do a much better job of outreach. Plus he pointed out that DONE has committed in the past to helping out with elections.
- 8) Mr. Montaine asked if we have a lot of people on the ballot, will we randomize the order of appearance like the governor elections.
 - Mr. Basch confirmed that we would do that. He said last year we placed all names in a hat and had a non participating stakeholder choose the names to establish the order.
- 9) A stakeholder said that in the last election he didn't really know anyone. He asked how hard it would be to include a picture on the ballot.
 - Ms. Conover stated that we will have a bio on each candidate and we said maybe we can ask them to include a picture when they submit the bio.
 - Mr. Durazo said that we could possibly come up with a voter information book.
 - Mr. Popowich said that the Board Bio page would be up most likely this weekend with the few bios he's received. He said he could create an election page as well.
- 10) Mr. Basch pointed out that they just need a motion to submit this for D.O.N.E's approval.

- Mr. Popowich asked if they would have enough time to make the election date considering D.O.N.E's 20 day approval period.
- Mr. Durazo said that the department (DONE) has been re-organized. He also pointed out that there are upcoming city wide elections as well. It may be the full 20 days before approval is granted.
- A brief discussion from many fronts followed on whether we would make the deadline. Mr. Popowich was concerned about whether he could publish the info in the newsletter which is schedule this month. This triggered a conversation on whether we should delay the newsletter or meet our original date. Some were in favor of delaying, while others, including Mr. Popowich felt it was important to deliver on the promise. Since Mr. Durazo couldn't state for a fact we would either receive approval or whether we had enough time to meet the deadline it was decided by consensus that we would do the newsletter and just have an article about preparation and possible election dates.

11) Mr. Basch made a motion to approve the report as written and send off the procedures document to DONE for approval. Ms. Conover seconded the motion.

12) Mr. Popowich called roll and the motion was approved 8 – 1 (Mr. Jurgenson was not yet in attendance).

C. Communications & Outreach Committee Report: An update on the actions taken by the C & O Committee and the status of the WNC Magazine. (Jurgenson)

- 1) Mr. Jurgenson announced the flyer was done and in time for Oktoberfest. He thanked everyone for their efforts on the flyer. He said the web site is coming along and asked for a commitment on when we will have pictures.

6. At this point in the meeting we returned to the state and local government representatives' item on the agenda in order to allow late arriving representatives to speak.

6.1. Ms. Marisol Espinoza was in attendance. She announced that Councilmember Zine will be hosting a new POSSE training class on 11/15/04 at 6:30 PM, in his West Valley Municipal office building. She asked that anyone planning on attending RSVP.

She also passed out flyers for a community educational event Saturday, November 20th from 10 am – 2 pm, at Krage Auto in Canoga Park. The event is being held to educate people on what to do with the oil that is left over from oil changes in cars. Not only will they explain proper handling procedures and where and when to dispose of it, but they will provide a free oil filter for all who attend and bring a used oil filter.

She spoke a bit about Councilmember Zine's motion to place Safe Surrender stickers on dumpsters. These stickers will advise new mothers who may be attempting to abandon

or discard of new born children that they can turn them in to hospitals, police, or fire stations within a certain time frame of birth if they do not want to keep the child. She went on to state that this resulted from some tragic incidents where newborns have been found in dumpsters. The stickers are in the design phase at this time. The exact wording is still being worked on but they will be glow in the dark.

- 6.2. Mr. John Bwaire, South Valley Area Director for the Mayor's office, was in attendance. He said he didn't have a lot of new information, but he did want everyone to know that in the past month or so there has been an almost double increase in the number of new construction permits filed with the Planning Department. He said he believes the total for the Valley is about 106. Most of these he said are for new housing.

He went on to say that Mayor Hahn is working hard to increase the housing stock in the City. He pointed to a recently opened 36 unit facility in Van Nuys that provides permanent housing to the homeless. He said that the new structure cost \$1.4 million and was funded by the Housing Department. The units will mainly serve mentally disabled and gives them an option to get them off the streets. The location is between Calvert St. and Van Nuys Blvd, but he didn't have the exact address with him.

- 6.3. Ms. Alycia Seamans from Assemblyman Levine's office was in attendance. She said the Assemblyman is currently working on his agenda for the upcoming legislative session. She referred to a recent article in today's Daily News, but didn't provide any details.

She announced an upcoming Dollars & Cents Workshop sponsored in part by Assemblyman Levine and the California Association of CPA's. The workshop will educate people on how to manage their money covering everything from how to keep a check book to investment. The program will be free to the public and it will be held at the Van Nuys State Building this Saturday (November 13, 2004) from 10 am to 12 pm.

She said that there is no current agenda at this time but they will be coming up with some new bills shortly. She did say that the Assemblyman is likely to bring back a bill to temporarily lower worker's compensation insurance rates.

- 6.4. A stakeholder asked Mr. Bwaire what he could tell them about sidewalk repair and specifically a project located on Ingomar St. He referred to a program he heard about where an individual could pay something like \$2000.00 to fix a sidewalk instead of waiting 80 years for the city to get to it.

- 6.4.1. Ms. Espinoza said she could answer the question. She said that particular project was totally city funded.

- 6.4.2. The stakeholder asked how the sidewalks are picked for repair.

- 6.4.3. Ms. Espinoza said that it depends on how severe the damage is to the sidewalk.

- 6.4.4. The stakeholder stated that the sidewalk was pushed up and recently the tree in the parkway had fallen on a car. He asked if the City would be liable for that damage.

6.4.5. Mr. Bwaire responded that the city may be able to help in some cases if the damaged property owner felt it was caused by the City. He then went on to say that up until 3 years ago when Mayor Hahn was elected there was no money allocated for sidewalk repair. Since then Mayor Hahn has moved this up as a priority and started funding the repairs. He referred to the Mayor's recent Budget Survey results and last year's results and said that sidewalk and street repair were number one issues in this area. He asked the stakeholder to either let Councilmember's office, the WNC, or he know if he has a specific location that needs to be addressed.

6.5. Mr. Molock thanked the representatives and brought the meeting back to the Committee Reports items.

7. Committee Reports (continued):

D. Communications & Outreach Committee Report (Popowich)

- 1) Mr. Molock introduced the next item.
- 2) Mr. Popowich gave an update on the Ocktober Fest which was rained out. He said it was very successful considering the weather.
- 3) Mr. Popowich then gave an update on the news magazine. He explained the magazine is just about ready to be printed. The only hold up at this point was printing estimates. Three printers were contacted and it's been hard to get them to actually submit bids. He will be following up on this problem this week.
- 4) Mr. Durazo suggested that Mr. Popowich call him to discuss using the City's printer. Mr. Popowich agreed he would do so.
- 5) This was followed by a brief free for all discussion on whether we should hold off on printing the new magazine until we know about the election date, or even after the first of the year. The issue at hand was whether we will be able to announce the election date.
 - Mr. Popowich asked the Board for their approval to move forward with printing the newsmagazine
 - Ms. Conover said she thinks it would benefit the community if it were closer to the election date. This will help everyone.
 - Mr. Popowich asked how long we should hold up the newsletter which is already behind schedule.
 - Mr. Basch said it would be 20 days until we get approval.
 - Mr. Popowich said he thinks that we should get the news magazine out. He went on to say we haven't done anything really this year. We have 42,000 people who don't even know we are here. He doesn't want to wait another quarter to start getting the news magazine out.

- Mr. Schulte said yes, get it out.
- Ms. Chelebian said she is concerned about how we can get all the outreach done by the election date, including the 60 day period.
 - Mr. Durazo suggested we meet at the committee level to discuss that issue.
 - Ms. Conover went over all the various outreach efforts coming up including the mixer, news magazine, and the candidate’s forums.
- Mr. Popowich pointed out that we wouldn’t get the confirmation for the election date until 11/30/04. He is concerned about a comment made earlier about not making the election deadline. He pointed out that on 2/24/05, this Board won’t exist. He stated he feels we are being held hostage by the City in preventing us from getting the word out about the election date.
- Ms. Conover pointed out that there is enough money to cover both newsletters.
- Mr. Popowich said he is going to move forward with the newsletter. It’s budgeted and we’ve already missed a quarter. He said we’re not going to miss yet another quarter because of all of our issues.
- Ms. Chelebian asked if we would be using the City printer.
- Mr. Popowich said he would follow up with Mr. Durazo.
- Mr. Durazo said he is for the printing of the news magazine and just to call the date tentative.
- Mr. Popowich said he would do an article on it.

⊕ At this point we broke from the agenda to provide Ms. Elaine Pfefferman, Council member Smith’s Field Deputy a chance to speak.

- Ms. Pfefferman announced the Chatsworth Library opening on 11/15/04. It’s located on the corner of 21502 Devonshire St.
- She announced the cultural grant guidelines are out for 2005. She said this is something the NC’s should be interested in.
- She commented on our dilemma and said that we would all pull it together and get it done. “You’ll get your election done.”

E. Facilities Committee Report (Molock).

- 1) Mr. Molock introduced the next item and briefed the Board on the office search. He advised everyone that we are still looking for a location and that

office space under consideration is now no longer under consideration at all. He said he did visit the Day Care Center at the Winnetka Park which was brought up at the last meeting and no one was there when he stopped by.

- A stakeholder commented that they were under the impression that we had settled on an office space at the last meeting.
- Mr. Molock said the City would not allow the month by month arrangement.
- Mr. Basch said it requires a lease and neither side will budget. He went over the history of the lease negotiations.
- A stakeholder asked if we can look outside of Winnetka.
- Mr. Basch said we would have to say there is nothing within Winnetka and then approach D.O.N.E. for approval.
- A stakeholder said can you talk to the Councilman and see if the law can be changed.
- Mr. Basch said that they have talked with Council member Zine and he said he can't get it done.

F. Public Safety Committee Report (Popowich)

- 1) Mr. Molock asked for the Public Safety Report.
- 2) Mr. Popowich said the Committee discussed the Measure A campaign and heard from their representative. He announced the Committee did vote to support the measure, but that it was too late to bring it before the full Board for approval. Which didn't matter as it lost anyways. He said it was a difficult decision to choose between a regressive tax and a chance to address the #1 complaint the most stakeholders have about the lack of police.

He also announced the changes going on at the West Valley and Devonshire Police stations. He said that until things have settled down we will not be able to have the captains come before the Committee to answer questions.

He concluded by stating there was nothing to request approval for.

G. Public Works & Transportation Committee Report (Chelebian)

- 1) Mr. Molock introduced the next item.
- 2) Ms. Chelebian announced that the Committee had tasked Mr. Schulte to research how the Council goes about improving the median around the signs. She said that we didn't want to reinvent the wheel since others have done this. She said that once we have this information from Council member Zine's office we will discuss it at the next meeting and further develop the

plans, and then of course bring it before the Board. She said the money comes from Zine's \$20,000.00 so we have the funds.

She also said we discussed the DWP 11% increase. She announced we are going to work on having a representative from the DWP come to the Committee to present their side of the issue and why the increase needs to remain.

She also spoke about BFI and Sunshine Canyon Landfill. She pointed out that some of the Board members in that area had been paid by BFI to lobby their own councils. She went on to announce that Council member Smith has created an ordinance to prevent lobbyists from serving on NC Boards. She said we are an advisory Board, but we now have some power and companies are trying to exploit that.

- 3) A stakeholder said they heard that garbage rates are going up 600%.
 - Ms. Pfefferman said that she was not aware of that but that there were some sanitation charges which are being raised.
 - Mr. Popowich pointed out that the Public Works & Transportation Committee had heard from a representative of the Sanitation Department a few months back about a settlement of a lawsuit between a Santa Monica Bay environmental group, the EPA, and the Department of Public Works. He said the settlement for this lawsuit requires the Department of Public Works to increase their budget 60% over 10 years to finance rebuilding of the sewer system.
 - The stakeholders asked if we could get an update on that issue.
 - Mr. Basch referenced a meeting this week with Citywide LA that would be focused on water treatment and suggested that might be a place for some further information if anyone could attend.
- 4) A stakeholder asked about the signs and why we couldn't exercise what power we do have to follow through on it. He wanted to know why we have to go through the City.
 - Ms. Chelebian stated that it's City property and there are rules we have to follow. It's in our best interest to work with them from the start.
 - Mr. Schulte said he has given the information about the process to the Committee members and that he is continuing his research. He announced we can put it out to bid or maybe do it through the Adopt-A-Median program.
 - Mr. Popowich explained there is a process and laws we have to learn about. First we learn the rules, and then we create the plan, and then go through the process to do it. We can't just walk out and start doing it.

8. Public Comments

- 8.1. A stakeholder said the last time she was here there was a lot of references to the web site. She said there are some things she would like to see on the web site. She said there needs to be something showing the 2004 accomplishments for the Board and something that lists the goals and plans for 2005. She referenced the City web site (D.O.N.E.) and said we didn't have anything listed there.
 - 8.1.1. Mr. Popowich said he welcomed the ideas and would work on making the changes she requested.
 - 8.1.2. She also stated that we need to recruit people. She said that there are no references on how we would do that.
 - 8.1.3. Mr. Popowich said that he would welcome all the ideas and asked her to send him a list of suggestions.
- 8.2. A stakeholder brought up the issue of speed bumps and how he could get them installed. He said he lives on Bryant and there is a two block radius where there are a lot of speeders.
 - 8.2.1. Mr. Molock suggested he go through his neighborhood with a petition and once he had enough signatures he could request it. He pointed out there are assessment fees for them.
 - 8.2.2. Mr. Schulte provided a phone number for the stakeholder to call for more information.
 - 8.2.3. Ms. Chelebian said that if you try the process and don't get any response to bring it before the Public Works & Transportation Committee and we would see what could be done.
- 8.3. Mr. Molock introduced Mr. Bob Hertzberg who is running for Mayor and who stopped by to talk to the Council.
 - 8.3.1. Mr. Hertzberg said he didn't want to take up a lot of time, but just wanted to stop in and introduce himself as a candidate for Mayor. He went on to say that he's doing this because he enjoys the work. He mentioned the Bureau plan that he championed a few years ago and that the idea remains to devolve the power from downtown Los Angeles. He said he is happy to participate in any forums that come up. He also said he wanted to thank all of the Board members for their service to the City and that if he is elected he plans on making the NC's work even harder.
- 8.4. Mr. Jurgenson took this time to announce that all of our meeting times and dates are listed on Channel 34 & Channel 37 calendars.
- 8.5. Mr. Molock took this time to do the basket giveaways for the remaining baskets that were not picked up.

9. Meeting Adjourned