



WINNETKA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
 PO Box 3692, Winnetka, CA 91306
www.winnetkanc.com



President	Vice – President	Secretary	Treasurer	Sergeant at Arms
JJ Popowich	Art Sims	Mary Ann Smiley	Erick Lace	Jozef Essavi
Board Members				
Armineh Chelebian	Nina Essavi	Nalini Natarajan	Edesa Aghakhanmoshabad	Tess Reyes-Dunn
vacant	vacant	Greg Sullivan	vacant	Stephanie Aguirre

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA MINUTES

Tuesday, February 9, 2010 – 6:30 PM
 Valley Village
 Winnetka Ave. Winnetka, CA 91306

The Winnetka Neighborhood Council holds its regular meetings on the second Tuesday of every month and may also call any additional required special meetings in accordance with its Bylaws and the Brown Act. The agenda for the regular and special meetings is posted for public review at **Limerick Avenue Elementary School**, 8530 Limerick Ave., Winnetka, 91306; **Fulton Cleaners**, 20109 Roscoe Street, Winnetka, 91306; **Express Pack & Ship**, 7657 Winnetka Ave., Winnetka, 91306; **Canoga Park Bowl**, 20122 Vanowen St., Winnetka, 91306 (near Bar & ATM Machine); **Walgreen's Store**.

1. Call to Order & Board Member's Roll Call

Board Member	Present	Absent
JJ Popowich	X	
Art Sims	X	
Erick Lace	X	
Mary Ann Smiley	X	
Jozef Essavi	X	
Armineh Chelebian	X	
Nina Essavi		X
Nalini Natarajan		X
Edesa Aghakhanmoshabad	X	
Tess Reyes-Dunn		X
G. Sullivan	X	
Stephanie Aguirre	X	

Total		
	9	3

2. Explanation of Meeting Rules

3. Review minutes from last meeting and review September’s minutes as they were not approved due to Armeneh requesting modifications.

January minutes were approved with a few changes. Several members that are no longer on the board were on the minutes in the attendance column. It was requested that they be removed.

4. Public Comments: Comments from the public on non-agenda items within the Board’s subject matter jurisdiction.

The public is requested to fill out a “Speaker Card” to address the Board on any agenda item before the Board takes an action. The Speaker Card is requested so that the Speaker’s names are complete and correct in the meeting Minutes.

Several community members were at the meeting to discuss their issues and concerns about the “Cell Tower” that may be placed near their homes. The Cell Tower is not on the agenda and asked to postpone it until March 9th as the developer could not get any of the plans together. He will be here in March to address the issues and he will do the mailing that he promised. The community members were not happy as they were not notified this was not on the February agenda. Since not all of the board members will be present at the March meeting due to this being the last meeting for several of the board members, due to upcoming elections. The people in the audience are here and are requesting to allow them to speak in public comment. A question was asked if the ones who are running are for or against the cell phone towers. JJ indicated that members can stay after the meeting to respond to questions, if necessary.

Public comments---gentleman asked Greg if he was for it as he thought the month prior he was for it, but Greg indicated that he still has differences but he has a few questions. JJ reported to hold all opinions until the end of the meeting

As WNC would be in violation since it is not on the agenda and if they chose to speak during public comment they can report their own opinion. A woman spoke up and said that she was here to hear the item on the agenda and she believes the board should have contacted them to tell them to not show up. JJ apologized for that as we do not have a list of contacts but they will still be heard. Greg reported that the agendas are posted in the community and in the website to be certain that it is on the agenda for next time.

A woman spoke up -health wise-it is bad, looks horrible and she has three kids and cannot believe the church will agree to do that and have moved forward. She is annoyed and disappointed at the church for doing this and worried about the future of her children. Art- asked how will your children be harmed? Woman-studies have shown that people may get cancer after a few years of living near the cell tower. How many are placed in Beverly Hills or in other rich neighborhoods? Do they place them there? No questions per the board

A question was asked—Are the towers being placed in another location? How many do we really need and what is the distance as they are popping up every where. They live closest to the towers. What is the distance between the others that already exist?

Jeff Bornstein---He walked around with the Daily News article re: health reasons and it is a federal issue as well. Anther article regarding killings in some areas of the valley and not in other areas which he believes are due to single family homes vs. apartment living. He reported that the apartments bring in this type of killings/stabbings.

A male spoke up- lived in same house and was here last year. Health issue is a concern and years from now it will be too late and at this time we do not see the problem. Economics-house values will go done and plenty of studies show that. The front page of the Daily News 3 months ago and Toluca Lake area is doing what we are doing. He wants the opportunity to ask the board members what they believe and if any of us are for it, the community will not vote for us. Per gentleman, Zine is supporting their opposition.

A woman spoke up who has lived in her house for 40 years. It is ugly and she does not want them in her community she is retired. She will come in any way possible. If any of the board is for it she is against them.

A man spoke up -how did we get involved with this matter? JJ indicating that, last month it was on the agenda as Team Mobile developer contacted us prior, but it was too close to our date. And then he contacted us and we added the item to the January agenda. The man reported that other NCs are collecting money for supporting these cell phone towers. JJ and other WNC board members reiterated that the NCs should not be collecting any money to support or to not support his issue would be criminal. The gentleman indicated that he does not want this to be a Christian thing to do.

The Pastor of the church spoke up –he does not want to comment on the Christian thing to do. In terms of the cell tower itself and if it happens at their church either way he is fine. He is not committed to and will not try to convince people. He does not want to offend a bunch of his neighbors. He was approached and he thought it made sense and will help the 911 delay. He read and explored the health concerns and does not want his church to expose any one to harm. Positive- they will put them somewhere and will get the coverage with or without the support from Hope Chapel. The money the church will get is not worth damaging the relationships to the neighbors. He is a team player and will be here long term and is for the public.

Jeff—bring the alternative and ask the developer to bring to the March agenda. JJ wants to suspend the meeting and have them wuestion the board. Josef and Arminah would like to say something. Josef said that after the meeting we can discuss and go to the agenda and follow the agenda. The agenda will be

5. State and local governments representatives' updates (10 minutes)

Jose Martinez –year in review from Councilmen Zine's office- great that retirees will be here and involved. A safety march on 04/10 to reach out to the community and be proactive and how to approach the issues in the community and get agencies involved. Also, to educate the community. Last week a probation compliance check was completed with LAPD. What the probationers cannot have and house is going house to house. Went to house and a resident had a knife and a former gang members but still claims which is against probation conditions. Prevention is good for the community. At the schools will do safety meeting with the parents and tell them what the role is and today discuss the prevention piece to the community. Meghan-Councilman Smith's office---Updated the stakeholders---Smith introduced a motion to ban smoking on outdoor patios where they serve food and it passed and will be a law- which includes Starbucks. .Passed a Medical Marijuana Ordinance. Cannot have a dispensary near or around sensitive areas-such as schools. It caps 70 Marijuana dispensaries in the whole city of Los Angeles. More reduction to these Medical marijuana dispensaries. Budget problem in the city

of Los Angeles and please do not believe everything you read is true. JJ motioned to take out of city clerk and give them back to NCs. There will be restructuring and more people will lose their jobs- you have to cut in the public system too- it is difficult to cut and find out what should be cut and what should be saved. The annual NC budget will most likely be reduced. May reduce to \$22,500 and give the election back to the NCs there will not be any NC as there will be no money for the NC to do anything. Josef said that he heard about the reduction in the NCs and the NCs are becoming stronger and have a voice and that members care about the community and the neighborhood. Cut their salary in half and staff are on furloughs so should the council members annual pay be cut. Arminah inquired if she could stay around to discuss the Odessey agenda item. She will take these issues to Smith.

Woman-would like to know if it is voluntary and why is it funded. Meghan explained that we do not get money and assist the community. All 90 get \$45,000.00 at this time will be cut to \$22,500.00. Some NC argued and do not agree where to spend their money. Art reported that it was not that the money was not spent is because we are prudent to the spending and limited to funding certain projects as it take time.

The candidates running for March 2nd Election at Canoga Park Bowl briefly presented to the stakeholders:

JJ Popowich-He has been a member since 2004 he believes he accomplished quite a bit. Some are a success stories. He managed to clean up the local parks, work out issues between stake holders, paved a portion of Mason, and closed down a marijuana dispensary in the Winnetka area. He is running again because the city is facing a mess and they need people to fix and to repair what is broken. He is community leader and will address lack of services and issues with beautification projects that are in jeopardy. He is asking for your support. A question was asked regarding the density---a couple of projects he worked on and due to some apartment developers wanting to build he was able to stop the building as it would have created a mess and more traffic. He has worked with developers and stake holders alike.

Erick (unknown last name)—this is his calling to serve and to volunteer. He is more involved in the community and will do his best to serve others and continue to make Winnetka a better place in life. He is passionate about what he does. He and his wife walk in Winnetka as physical therapy and some areas are clean and some are forgotten and overgrowth of plants and trees. Schools are not properly attended to and he would like to assist in this way of improving the life in Winnetka . A question was raised regarding: density and growth—he was raised in Thousand Oaks and he has experienced the growth and he saw it while he was growing up.

Greg Sullivan ---appointed member since the summer but has been coming to the various meetings for a year and a half. He is a homeowner and works in the West Valley. His wife is a teacher in a local Elementary School. He is a landscape architect. While on the board he had helped beautify a local school and has assisted with the current funding situation with DONE. Areas to focus on-limit what we have attempted to complete, find a cheaper location, reduce seats of the quorum to half of what we have. The question regarding density was raised—He believes in more community members utilize the transit.

Erick Lace---Is a “write in” candidate-He began with council since it initially started and he wanted his community to have its own stand alone committee in the Winnetka area. Also, to have it represent the best part of the community members in the Winnetka area. He is the Neighborhood block captain and is very involved with the schools. He lobbies downtown with the LAUSD District. His passion is with the youth. His wife is a teacher and she and he may have differences, but they agree when it comes to supporting the schools. The question was raised regarding density-there are some inappropriate projects that needed to be stripped and were not approved and he worked with the developers. He believes in utilizing public transportation and is asking for another term.

The other 3 candidates were not present at the meeting therefore, they were not available to speak to the stake holders.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEE REPORTS

7. Finance Committee Report (Including Treasurer's Report, Lace): (5 minutes)

Discussion and possible action on how to handle Done not having accurate numbers as far as our "roll over" money is concerned.

Erick-current financial status. **Discussion of monthly report.** We are saving as we want to beautify certain areas and sometimes it cost more and we save up for these projects. We have projects pending as it is gone due to them taking the money to spend on these projects. And creditors were invited as well. We owe 33,000.00 as it was taken. JJ explained the process of the budget and procedures we must follow and have quarterly reports the Treasure reports. DONE is the one who is incompetent. As they never were tracking our spending and/or roll over money owed to us. They do not have the accurate information. Two individuals that we committed funds to are on the agenda to voice their thoughts about the concern of not being paid. Letters were sent out and no one has responded. City attorney is not going to do any thing. JJ's next step is to send letters to Daily News and LA Times will run a story to explain what has happened. Board members till remain will help track down tax advocacy to protect tax payer funds. Someone needs to sue to city. Letters were passed out to stakeholders. JJ needs a response from the councilmember. Jose had done research on DONE and a review to all of the NCs. He needs facts about the response from NCs. Jose cannot write something unless he has more to say. Arminah as tax payers want o go back 3 years and see what the concern is. The letters were received and acknowledged and will look into by Jose and Meghan.

Male spoke up that NCs have concerns as others may not have the same issues. Others are able to pay the bills on time and how is WNC not able too? JJ indicated that Winnetka is small and very few stakeholders are threatened due to some issue they are against. Other NCs have a very active community and community members are very involved. Problems with committee meetings as there are or were not at a meeting due to lack of participant. Man suggested to contact another NC to see how the others have paid some of their pending bills. Art agrees with the gentleman and suggest the send an email to the council members as far as the funds are concerned. Another gentleman suggested to place this issue in all of the newspapers and take legal action. Have 3 creditors and draw the attention of these council members. Get a lawyer and pursue the assistance with the creditors have sued the WNC and may harm the future for these agencies. Ed believed the solution is to confront DONE as he had confronted them. Ed spoke to Bong Kim and asked him how he could get paid. Bong Kiem assumed that WNC overspent. Ed has contacted all of the appropriate people and they keep changing the contacts. And they are aware that they are in the wrong. They will find any excuse to come up with a problem. Ed will go by himself and go down to Wendy Gruel. She agreed the bills had to be paid. Erick continues to contact the office and no response. Arminah reports that she is hearing that what is happening with DONE and frozen accounts with all of the NCs. She is also hearing that the documents are not there. JJ indicated that the documents will be sent certified mail as we in December attempted to walk in with the documents. She suggested that the other NC get together and unite as to go to DONE together and face them with the common issues of the frozen funds. There are many NCs that are going through the same issue. JJ reported the next step is to find a pro bono advocacy money to sue. Ed will personally show up and represent his own case to Jackie Mendez or Trena. Please call the council members or email Zine and Smith re: these issues. Ed suggests to not write the letter about NOT getting paid as it will anger them and it will take longer to resolve the issue.

Possible discussion with creditors Ed Crowe, and the representative for Women's Advocacy(Odyessey) group regarding unpaid bills. Mr. Crowe spoke up and indicated that he would go to the office with his documents and request payment as he believes this is the way to approach DONE. He still has yet to be paid for months of articles in his monthly newspaper.

8. Interfaith Committee Report (Chelebian): (5 minutes)

9. Events Committee Report (Martens): (5 minutes)

10. Youth Committee Report: Discussion and possible action on who will volunteer for the Chair of Youth Committee.

Table until next month.

11. Planning & Land Use Committee (PLUM) (Popowich): (5 minutes)

12. Public Works & Transportation Committee (Chelebian): (5 minutes)

12a. Discussion and possible action to discuss the Mayor's Day of Service coming up in March. A recommendation by the President to send a letter to the Mayor advising him that because of his actions and the failure of DONE to address financial issues we will not be able to participate.

JJ will submit a letter as all the board approved a letter to be sent to the mayor indicating that we will not participate in the meetings.

12b. Discussion and possible action regarding looking into complaints by residents regarding traffic congestion near the Winnetka Post Office.

Table until next month

13. Public Safety Committee (Smiley): (5 minutes):

14. Emergency Preparedness Committee: No meeting

15. Rules, Election & By-Laws Committee (Popowich): (5 minutes)

16. Election Committee: (5 minutes)

17. Future Agenda Items & Calendar of events:

- Youth Committee: TBD
- Public Safety Committee: January 19
- Events Committee: TBD
- Public Works & Transportation Committee: TBD
- Interfaith Committee: TBD
- Emergency Preparedness: TBD
- Finance: TBD

18. Adjournment

The public is requested to fill out a **"Speaker Card"** to address the Board on any agenda item before the Board takes an action. Public comment is limited to 3 minutes per speaker, but the Board has the discretion to modify the amount of time for any speaker. Before a vote on each item any member of the public who has not filled out a **"Speaker Card"** will be accorded 1 minute to make a statement. This period will not last longer than 5 minutes total.

The public may comment on a specific item listed on this agenda when the Board considers that item. When the Board considers the agenda item entitled "Public Comments," the public has the right to comment on any matter that is within the Board's jurisdiction. In addition, the members of the public may request and receive copies without undue delay of any documents that are distributed to the Board, unless there is a specific exemption under the Public Records Act that prevents the disclosure of the record. (Govt. Code § 54957.5)

The Winnetka Neighborhood Council complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and does not discriminate on the basis of any disability. Upon request, the Winnetka Neighborhood Council will provide reasonable accommodations to ensure equal access to its programs, services, and activities. Sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure the availability of services, please make your request at least 3 business days (72 hours) prior to the meeting you wish to attend by contacting the Neighborhood Council Secretary at (818) 648-6219, or please send an e-mail that states the accommodations that you are requesting to jedi.yoda@msn.com.

SI REQUIERE SERVICIOS DE TRADUCCION, FAVOR DE NOTIFICAR A LA OFICINA 3 Dias de trabajo (72 horas) ANTES DEL EVENTO. SI NECESITA AYUDA CON ESTA AGENDA, POR FAVOR LLAME A NUESTRA OFICINA AL (818) 648-6219.

PROCESS FOR RECONSIDERATION

The Board may reconsider and amend its action on items listed on the agenda if that reconsideration takes place immediately following the original action or at the next regular meeting. The Board, on either of these two days, shall: (1) Make a Motion for Reconsideration and, if approved, (2) hear the matter and Take an Action.

If the motion to reconsider an action is to be scheduled at the meeting following the original action, then two items shall be placed on the agenda for that meeting: (1) A Motion for Reconsideration on the described matter and (2) a {Proposed} Action should the motion to reconsider be approved. A Board member who has previously voted on the prevailing side of the original action taken can only make a motion for reconsideration.

If a motion for reconsideration is not made on the date the action was taken, then a Board member on the prevailing side of the action must submit a memorandum to the Secretary identifying the matter to be reconsidered and a brief description of the reason(s) for requesting reconsideration at the next regular meeting. The aforesaid shall all be in compliance with the Brown Act.

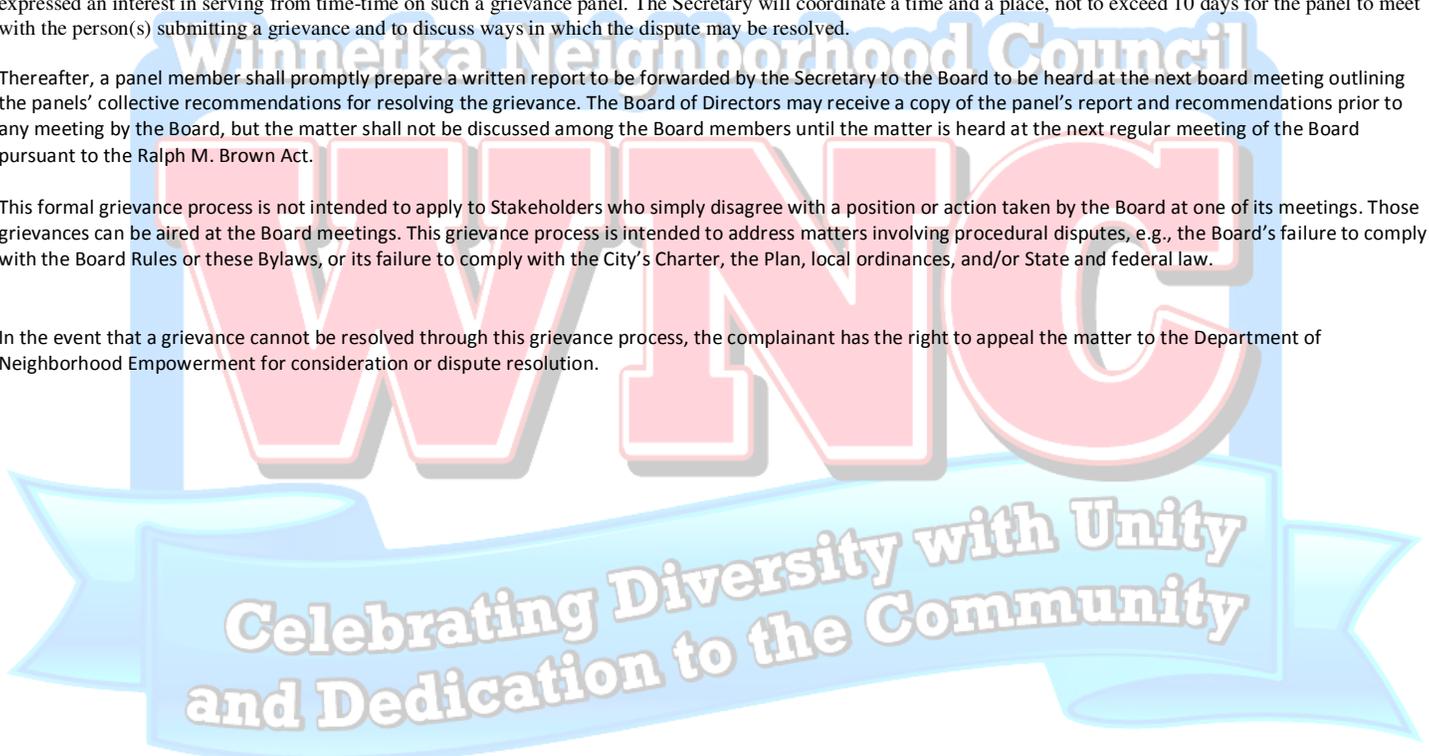
PROCESS FOR FILING A GRIEVANCE

Any grievance by a Stakeholder must be submitted in writing to the Secretary of the Board of Directors. The Secretary shall then within no more than 30 days refer the matter to an ad hoc grievance panel comprised of 3 Stakeholders who are randomly selected by the Council secretary from a list of Stakeholders who have previously expressed an interest in serving from time-time on such a grievance panel. The Secretary will coordinate a time and a place, not to exceed 10 days for the panel to meet with the person(s) submitting a grievance and to discuss ways in which the dispute may be resolved.

Thereafter, a panel member shall promptly prepare a written report to be forwarded by the Secretary to the Board to be heard at the next board meeting outlining the panels' collective recommendations for resolving the grievance. The Board of Directors may receive a copy of the panel's report and recommendations prior to any meeting by the Board, but the matter shall not be discussed among the Board members until the matter is heard at the next regular meeting of the Board pursuant to the Ralph M. Brown Act.

This formal grievance process is not intended to apply to Stakeholders who simply disagree with a position or action taken by the Board at one of its meetings. Those grievances can be aired at the Board meetings. This grievance process is intended to address matters involving procedural disputes, e.g., the Board's failure to comply with the Board Rules or these Bylaws, or its failure to comply with the City's Charter, the Plan, local ordinances, and/or State and federal law.

In the event that a grievance cannot be resolved through this grievance process, the complainant has the right to appeal the matter to the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment for consideration or dispute resolution.



Winnerka Neighborhood Council

WINING

Celebrating Diversity with Unity
and Dedication to the Community