

WINNETKA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA

**Public Works &
Transportation Committee**

Chair **Vice Chair**
Armineh Wayne Schulte
Chelebian

Members
JJ Popowich
Marilyn Robinson
Wayne Schulte
Dwight Burgess



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**WINNETKA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
PUBLIC WORKS & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING**

From: J.J. Popowich, Secretary
Date: August 16, 2004
Subject: Journal Meeting Notes for 08/16/04 Public Works &
Transportation Committee

Pledge of Allegiance

- 1. The meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM, with JJ Popowich acting as chair.**
- 2. Roll Call:** The following Board members were in attendance.

Ms. Armineh Chelebian	Mr. Wayne Schulte	Ms. Marilyn Robinson	Mr. Dwight Burgess
Mr. JJ Popowich			

- 3. Public Discussion and possible action on a presentation by Ms. Debbie Pham, from the LA City Bureau of Sanitation on the recent settlement agreement filed in the U.S. Central District Court in Los Angeles, which requires the City to expand its program to renew and upgrade its aging sewer system, enhance sewer cleaning, and control. The Bureau of Sanitation will be seeking to increase their wastewater fee over the next 5 years to ensure compliance with the settlement agreement, prevent costly penalties and continue efforts to improve the City's aging infrastructure.**

This was an information presentation only. No action was taken.

The City has spent the last decade in a legal battle with the Santa Monica Bay Keepers, EPA, and the state of California over the condition of the city's sewers and the runoff. The suit called for \$550,000.00 dollars in penalties and \$6 billion dollars in upgrades.

The City was able to settle for much less in penalties and the agreement to upgrade and build new sewer systems.

In an effort to fund the settlement's new construction the City will be imposing a sewer rate increase of about 69% over 10 years. All funds from this increase will be directed to sewers only (per state and federal law), and not the General Fund. He went on to point out that Los Angeles is in the middle of the pack of large cities in its expenditures even under the new proposal. The agreement still must pass the City Council, and the Sanitation Department is required to come back each year to provide an update to the Council on its progress.

Mr. Hagekhalil said the Sanitation Department is working with the Bureau of Street Services (BOSS) to coordinate their efforts in an effort to avoid digging up as many streets as possible. But sometimes it will happen.

Mr. Hagekhalil asked if Mr. Popowich could email him an example of what he has seen from other Councils in regards to advance notification. He would also try to send Mr. Popowich an annual list of projects. They are also working on maps.

Mr. Hagekhalil said that he does want our feedback. He is looking at setting up a meeting every month to two months with the Board of Commissioners to improve the communication between the NC's and the City.

Mr. Hagekhalil responded that he is looking towards a larger gathering of NC's to send a representative to and to discuss the issues for specific larger areas. He will be working on a way for the NC's to work more closely with his office. He sees the public works committees as an extension of his department.

4. Discussion and possible action on a request by the Department of Public Works to provide comments on a Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the Integrated Resources Plan which has been prepared for review and comments. They are requesting written comments by August 31, 2004. All comments will be incorporated in the draft environmental impact report and a public hearing is tentatively scheduled for summer of 2005.

4.1. Ms. Chelebian introduced the next item on the agenda as she assumed the Chair.

4.2. Mr. Hagekhalil advised that he was also managing the IRP process. He offered to stay and say a few words about this as well. He said this plan provides for future development on how we can manage our water resources for the next 20 years. He said this process actively involves the community in planning and designing the projects.

The plans do not call for any new plants to be built in the City. The goal is to expand existing plants. They have heard a lot of feedback from the community that this is what they would like.

The IRP is in keeping with the desire to conserve as much water as possible. They want to work together with communities and water suppliers to make sure that resources are used smartly. Previously everyone worked on their own. This plan also calls for reusing water for irrigation.

4.3. Mr. Popowich made a motion that the WNC create a liaison to become a subject matter expert on the IRP and who will be required to attend the various meetings and report back to the committee on what they learn and what issues need to be addressed.

4.3.1. Ms. Robinson seconded the motion.

4.3.2. Ms. Chelebian called for the vote and the motion passed 5 – 0.

5. Public Comments – Comments from the public on non-agenda items within the Committee’s subject matter jurisdiction.

5.1. There was some discussion about Mr. Hagekhalil arranging a tour of the Japanese Gardens at this point and other possible areas of interest.

5.2. Ms. Chelebian agreed. She also said that we should provide information to the stakeholders on one of the ways Mr. Hagekhalil had pointed out sewer rates could be reduced through separate gauges for water used on lawns.

5.2.1. Mr. Schulte said he could get the cost of these through a supplier and he would share it with the group.

6. Committee Business –

A. Nomination and election of Chair and Vice Chair by Committee members.

i. A brief discussion was held on the responsibilities of the Chair of the Committee. Ms. Robinson nominated Ms. Chelebian for Chair. Mr. Burgess seconded the motion.

1. Mr. Popowich called for a vote and the motion passed 5 – 0.

ii. This was followed by a brief discussion on who would be Vice Chair. Mr. Burgess nominated Mr. Schulte. Ms. Robinson seconded the nomination.

1. Mr. Popowich called for a vote and the motion passed 5 – 0.

B. Discussion & possible action on structure (size) of committee, adding alternates, etc.

i. A discussion was held about the size of the committees and whether we should have alternates. Generally it was decided committees should be expanded and no alternates would be advised.

ii. Mr. Schulte made a motion to expand to 7 members. Ms. Robinson seconded the motion.

iii. Ms. Chelebian called for a vote and the motion was passed 5 – 0.

iv. Ms. Chelebian then opened the discussion in regards to who would serve as the recommended additional members.

1. Mr. Popowich nominated Mr. Montaine. Ms. Chelebian seconded the motion.

a. Ms. Chelebian called for a vote and the motion was passed 5 – 0.

2. Mr. Burgess nominated Mr. Tritt, and the nomination was seconded by Ms. Robinson.

a. Ms. Chelebian called for a vote and the motion was passed 5 – 0.

- C. Comments on Committee Member’s own activities/ Brief announcements.**
- D. Brief response to statements made or questions posed by persons exercising their general public comment rights.**
- E. Introduction of any new issues for consideration by the Committee at its next meeting/request that the item be placed on the next meeting’s agenda.**
- F. Requests for Committee Members to research issues and report back to the Committee at a future time.**

6. Meeting adjourned.