

**WINNETKA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**  
**CITY OF LOS ANGELES**  
**CALIFORNIA**

**Public Works &  
Transportation Committee**

**Chair**                      **Vice Chair**  
Armineh                      Wayne Schulte  
Chelebian

**Members**  
JJ Popowich  
Marilyn Robinson  
Dwight Burgess  
Richard Montaine



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

**From:                      J.J. Popowich, Secretary**

**Date:                      January 26, 2004**

**Subject:                  Meeting Minutes for 01/31/05**

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**1. Call to Order and Committee Members Roll Call.**

Armineh Chelebian	Marilyn Robinson	Dwight Burgess	Richard Montaine
JJ Popowich			Wayne Schulte: Absent

**2. Approval of minutes.**

2.1. Ms. Chelebian noted some typos, but minutes were approved as is.

**3. Discussion and possible action on a report from Mr. Wayne Schulte on his research regarding the steps necessary to create plans and implement steps to beautify the area around the “Welcome to Winnetka” signs. The goal is to determine what we want to do, who will be contacting the City to determine the process, how we will select vendors (if not supplied by the City), and other matters pertaining to this issue.**

3.1. This was initially postponed into later into the meeting because Mr. Schulte was not present. However, it was discussed.

3.2. Ms. Chelebian introduced the item and apologized for the delay as we were expecting Mr. Schulte to provide a report. She said that we have two signs which are very dull looking. As an NC we decided we would make it livelier and put some lights and flowers around it. She went on to say that the WNC has the funds to do this with Councilmember Zine’s contribution of \$20,000.00 which was to be used for things like this.

Because it’s a City property we have to go back to Councilmember Zine for explanation of the process to begin work on the area. She said that we have been provided with a contract for Adopt-a-Median and said this is the method we would have to employ if we move forward. She commented that it is now a very technical project and suggested that it be assigned to a small committee to address.

3.3. A stakeholder commented that it took an engineer to design and build the median in 1973 and they included water. He said there were flowers there before by they died due to lack of water when the city cut back during the drought. He asked why it was so hard to get this done again. He commented the city is responsible for the water and it’s there, but he understands that lights may be another problem.

3.3.1. Mr. Popowich explained the problem and the process and that we just couldn’t go out and work on it. He used Reseda as an example of a project that was done by the community but now looks bad because no one kept it up. He said he is aware of a proposed project in Woodland Hills where the city is requiring the NC to find funds to pay for the water for their project. He suggested that the Committee look at something with river rock that would be easy to maintain and clean.

3.3.2. Ms. Chelebian commented that we now have a process and we need to follow it. We have a means to an end, but it won’t happen overnight. She said we need an ad-hoc committee to address this.

3.3.3. Art Sims, a stakeholder agreed to serve on the ad-hoc committee.

3.3.4. Another stakeholder commented that Mr. Schulte should be on the committee because he was assigned to research the issue. He also commented that maybe there was a conflict of interest since Mr. Schulte was a contractor.

3.3.5. Another brief discussion about why this had to be done in a committee and why it just couldn't be done right away. Issues of liability were raised as one answer.

3.3.6. Ms. Chelebian introduced a motion:

*“WNC-PWT-012605-3: The Public Works & Transportation Committee will form an ad-hoc committee of stakeholders and committee members to coordinate the design and implementation of the Winnetka Sign Beautification project. The committee will meet and report on their findings and recommendations to the PWT every 30 days until completion.”*

3.3.7. The motion was seconded by Mr. Burgess.

3.3.8. Mr. Popowich called roll and the motion was passed 5-0.

3.3.9. A discussion about who would serve (Mr. Popowich, Mr. Burgess, Ms. Robinson, and Art Sims) and a meeting date (February 10<sup>th</sup>).

#### **4. Discussion and possible action on investigating possible projects that we could propose for the Neighborhood Matching program offered by the City.**

4.1. Ms. Chelebian advised everyone that she heard about this program on the Neighborhood Café radio show. She said the program allows for a \$10,000.00 matching grant for community projects. She provided a booklet for everyone to look over during the meeting. She read a basic description of the program and commented that the Neighborhood Council is considered a community organization. She used an example of a school that would like to paint murals or other things to illustrate what she was talking about.

4.2. Mr. Popowich commented that he had served as a reviewer for the last round of projects. Although he couldn't comment on specific projects because they have not been approved yet, he did say that it is a great program. He spoke about the Winnetka Elementary mural program and what he has tried to do so far for this project.

4.3. A stakeholder asked if these funds could be used to set up a program where we can help people to fix up and keep up their property.

4.3.1. Ms. Chelebian read the restrictions on the usage of the funds which prohibit the use for private property.

4.3.2. Mr. Popowich said that awhile back the WNC had passed a motion of his to look into setting up a Make Winnetka Sparkle program to address issues like this. Unfortunately he said he has never been able to get anyone to volunteer to work with him on this project and until he does he can't move forward. He went on to discuss the barriers with being able to do things on private property and even the dangers in approaching people about their property. He did advise anyone with a specific problem to start by calling the Building and Safety Department.

4.3.3. Ms. Chelebian announced a program called Clean Sweep that works to clean up communities. She passed around a brochure on that program.

#### **5. Discussion and possible action to select a liaison to the MTA. This person will be responsible for contacting the MTA and attending their meetings in order to bring back information on MTA projects in our area like the Orange Line and the new parking structures that will be built in Canoga Park / Woodland Hills.**

5.1. Ms. Chelebian said she had spoken to Mr. John Bwarie from the Mayor's office and she will get someone to come to a future meeting to talk about the MTA's plans.

5.1.1. Mr. Montaine said he would be interested in doing this.

5.1.2. Mr. Popowich briefly discussed the Orange Line and the plans for major parking lots just outside of Winnetka.

#### **6. Discussion and possible action on selecting a representative to work with Councilmember Zine's office on traffic related issues that may arise from the Orange Line and the new parking structures.**

6.1. Mr. Popowich explained that Councilmember Zine recently held a traffic meeting to discuss the effects of the Orange Line and the proposed expansion of the Westfield Shopping mall. He said that unfortunately the Board members were unable to attend because that night was our regular Board meeting.

6.2. Ms. Chelebian said that she would like to be involved in this but not as the main contact. She would like to see someone else from the community step up to take on this role.

6.3. Mr. Montaine said he would see if he could do it. No decision was made at this meeting.

7. **Discussion and possible action on how potholes, sidewalks, tree issues, and other public works issues can be reported to the City and the WNC's role in the process. This includes information on how Councilmember Zine's office coordinates pothole repair.**

7.1. Mr. Popowich explained the issues regarding the Mason Ave problems since most of the folks here were from Mason Ave. He said that he had spoken to Marisol Espinoza at Councilmember Zine's office and she advised that the best way to approach this would be to have the WNC write a letter to the Councilmember saying this is a problem and they would like it looked into. She said that a letter from the NC would have more weight downtown than just individual complaints. He also said that the streets that are not posted for weight limits do not have any and that they were no longer doing this. He went on to say that he would like to make a motion:

*“WNC-PWT-012605-1: The WNC will write two letters to Councilmember Zine to request action on the Mason Ave street problem as well as a problem on Jumilla St. and request the streets be repaired.”*

7.1.1. Ms. Chelebian commented that she believes that the Committee can take action on the Mason Ave issues since the stakeholders were present, but she felt that the Jumilla St issue should be looked into and asked Mr. Popowich to ask the stakeholder to bring the issue before the Board.

7.1.2. The motion died without a second.

7.2. A stakeholder commented that he had also spoken to Marisol Espinoza and she had referred him to the DOT who would evaluate the street and provide them for a petition to add a weight limit sign. He then went on to say that the DOT representative stated that the state removed their ability to post these signs.

The stakeholder went on to say that he was aware that there may be a haul route which could be addressed. The problem he said is bigger than just potholes. The street he feels is not able to handle the increased traffic, especially the trucks. He said that he has had cracks in his foundation and has experienced broken pipes and plumbing issues. He concluded by stating the residents just can't take this pounding any more.

7.3. Ms. Chelebian asked if anyone else has contacted the Councilmember's office.

7.4. A stakeholder commented that he was a project manager in a similar industry, and what they need is an engineer to evaluate the street. He has spoken to several people in the area and they all have major concerns for the investments (homes). He said he is aware of the haul routes as well.

7.5. A stakeholder commented that in addition to this problem she has noticed an increase in speeding along this area. She commented that she lived here for 35 years and it's just terrible now and she sees no police presence.

7.5.1. Mr. Popowich confirmed that he saw a motorcycle officer in that area about 2-3 weeks ago in the morning. He then asked the stakeholders for major intersections where this occurs.

7.5.2. Several stakeholders replied and the problem was narrowed down to be between Saticoy and Roscoe.

7.6. Ms. Chelebian asked if we could do individual letters regarding this problem.

7.7. Mr. Popowich agreed we could.

7.8. A stakeholder asked about a petition.

7.8.1. Ms. Chelebian said that would be a good idea but that we have to show the city the human side of the problem. She said we need to make sure that Councilmember Smith is aware of the problem as well since he is the one who opened up the other end of Mason Ave to make it a thru street.

7.9. A stakeholder commented the street just wasn't designed for this usage.

7.10. Ms. Chelebian said that she felt once Smith is aware of the problem he will also get involved and do something.

7.11. A stakeholder asked if we could get the haul route addressed. He said that needs to be done quickly as it might help in the short term. He said he's even seen trucks at 3 AM.

7.12. Ms. Chelebian said maybe we can add that to the letter as well.

7.13. A stakeholder said complained that the city contradicted itself when one said that the street could be evaluated for weight signs and then another department says it can't be done.

7.14. Mr. Popowich amended the motion to require two letters:

*“WNC-PWT-012605-2: The WNC will write two letters: 1) a letter to the appropriate department (most likely the DOT) to have someone review and evaluate the street for damage and structural problems that might cause damage to the*

*households. 2) A letter to the appropriate department (most likely the Department of Street Services) to review any haul routes using Mason Ave and move them to another street until the issues on Mason can be resolved. In addition the letters will include any personal descriptions of the problem submitted to Mr. Popowich by February 4, 2004”*

7.15. The motion was seconded by Ms. Chelebian.

7.16. Mr. Popowich called roll and the motion passed 5 – 0 (Mr. Schulte was absent).

7.17. A brief discussion on how the process would work ensued. Mr. Popowich also offered to put together some type of petition for the residents to sign if needed.

**8. Discussion regarding the Department of Sanitation’s settlement of the recent lawsuit and the resulting increases in rates.**

8.1. Ms. Chelebian read an article from the January 2<sup>nd</sup>, edition of the Daily News about the lawsuit, settlement, and rate hike. The gist of the issue is a \$1.75 per month average rate hike over the next 5 years to cover the cost of upgrading the sewage system throughout Los Angeles.

8.1.1. Mr. Popowich commented that we had a presentation on this last year when the case was settled.

8.1.2. Ms. Chelebian confirmed it was in August.

8.1.3. Mr. Popowich said he would reference the minutes on the web site when he updates it. He also briefly discussed the Integrated Resource Plan which is a 20 year outlook on water issues for the city.

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

9.1. Mr. Montaine asked about a program for trees in residential areas.

9.2. Mr. Popowich said that the WNC had asked about this when EAD provided trees for main thoroughfares and was advised that there was no program.

9.3. A stakeholder commented that he spoke to them recently and they do have a program and he has had several trees planted in his area.

9.4. Mr. Popowich asked who he was dealing with.

9.5. The stakeholder commented that it was Elyissa from the EAD.

9.6. Mr. Popowich said he would look into getting her to come back before the committee to let us know about the new program.

**10. Committee Business –**

A. Comments on Committee Member’s own activities/ Brief announcements.

a) NA

B. Brief response to statements made or questions posed by persons exercising their general public comment rights.

a) N/A

C. 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.

a) N/A

D. Requests for Committee Members to research issues and report back to the Committee at a future time.

a) NA.

**6. Adjournment**