



**WINNETKA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

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**PUBLIC WORKS & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

Chair	Vice Chair	Secretary	
<b>Armineh Chelebian</b>	<b>Wayne Schulte</b>		
	Members		
<b>Dwight Burgess</b>	<b>Richard Montaine</b>	<b>JJ Popowich</b>	<b>Marilyn Robinson</b> <b>Open Seat</b>



**WINNETKA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

**PUBLIC WORKS & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**From: JJ Popowich, Secretary**

**Date: June 22, 2005**

**Subject: Meeting Minutes**

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

Armineh Chelebian	Marilyn Robinson	Dwight Burgess	JJ Popowich
Wayne Schulte			Richard Montaine – Excused

**2. Approval of minutes.**

2.1. Approved.

**3. Discussion and possible action on street issues. Includes updates on Mason Ave and Lubao Ave streets.**

- 3.1. Mr. Popowich explained what is happening and read his report. (click here for copy of report)
- 3.2. Ms. Chelebian said that it sounds like the city is not saying they aren't working on it, but that they are doing what they can. She said that we should stick with this process as they are trying their best to get it done. She continued to say that going to Councilman Zine and letting him know how important this is and that we would like his help to continue this and make sure it happens.
- 3.3. Steve said that he spoke to a city maintenance person had someone review the patch and one said it was OK, and another said it wasn't and that they would have someone look at it again. He said that the efforts to look at the whole street is good but far out in time, he feels that focusing on the patch is the better way for now. He continued to explain the issues that this poor patch happens.
  - 3.3.1. Mr. Popowich said that is part of the resurfacing. They can either do a short grind, or they can grind it all the way down. It's part of the resurfacing.
  - 3.3.2. Ms. Chelebian asked if we can't just focus on the specific area in front of their house.
  - 3.3.3. Mr. Popowich said that the report breaks it down into sections along the way and we would have to see which section.
  - 3.3.4. Ms. Chelebian said that if we can get them to focus on just that part then we can improve their quality of life.
  - 3.3.5. Mr. Steve stated how bad it is again and how bad the shaking is.
  - 3.3.6. Ms. Chelebian said it is obvious affecting their quality of life.
  - 3.3.7. Steve commented that we've already seen the costs of repairs for the residents and he's waiting to see how bad it will get.
- 3.4. Mr. Popowich said that we have three possible courses of action. If someone has other ideas let's get it on the table.
- 3.5. Mr. Schulte said they are doing the streets as he bid on it in the past.

3.6. Steve said that if we can just stop the trucks.

3.6.1. Mr. Popowich said that we have discussed this in the past. He said that he spoke to Michael Besem in Councilmember Zine's office and he said the City is just not doing that anymore. We just can't get it done. We need to focus on what we can get done.

3.6.2. Ms. Chelebian said that we need to focus on how to get the city to move along faster or make sure this issue gets done. She suggested that Mr. Popowich's second option is the a good approach so that and maybe we can get them to focus on this issue

3.7. Mr. Steve said that maybe we can get the area in front of two houses.

3.7.1. Mr. Popowich said the city wouldn't do that. He pointed out that they are not going to truck in several large pieces of equipments and grind an area less than this room. It's just not economical to do this.

3.8. Mr. Popowich made the following motion:

*“WNC-062205-2: The residents of Mason Ave, between Saticoy and Roscoe have filed detailed reports and letters regarding the negative impact the condition of this street is having on their community including excessive vibration, excessive noise, and have linked this to damage to property in their community. Therefore the WNC resolves to send a letter to the Bureau of Street Services and Councilmember Zine to stress that this project is considered a priority by the Winnetka Neighborhood Council and that we would like to ensure that this project is included in the currently scheduled year of 06/07 so that the quality of life of this community can be restored. Furthermore if at all possible the WNC would like to recommend the City review this project for possible inclusion in an earlier schedule.” (Popowich)*

3.8.1. Ms. Robinson seconded.

3.8.2. Motion passed 5 – 0.

#### **4. Update, discussion and possible action on the MTA Orange Line Town Hall project.**

4.1. Mr. Popowich said step one has been completed. Daily News, LA Times. He went on to say that it was sent to the metro desk for the Daily News as well as to Rick Orlov and the the reporter covering the story. He said he has not seen nor heard any information or inquires since then.

4.1.1. Mr. Schulte asked if he can forward it on.

4.1.2. Mr. Popowich said he can post it on the web site.

4.2. Ms. Chelebian said that step two was location.

4.2.1. Ms. Robinson said that she is working on it and that the Armenian school will get back to her by the end of this month. Ms. Robinson asked if there is an alternate if they say no.

4.2.2. There was discussion about what we would do if they say no. It was generally decided that we would work around their schedule.

4.2.3. Ms. Chelebian said that once the date is confirmed then we will write the letter and send it to the MTA and cc the public officials. She wondered if August is a good time because its vacation time and people may not be here.

4.2.4. There was some discussion about other dates for the event. It was generally decided that they would stick to the planned date if they could, and if not then we would adjust the plan.

4.3. Mr. Popowich asked if Ms. Chelebian could start to think about what the letter should say.

4.3.1. She would do it. If we can pull it off then it will be a big accomplishment for us.

#### **5. Update, discussion and possible action on the following Committee reports & recommendations:**

**5.1. Ad Hoc Winnetka Sign Beautification Committee (Sims). We may have a presentation by a possible solar lighting vendor.**

5.1.1. Ms. Chelebian opened the discussion on this.

5.1.2. Mr. Sims said that the vendor brought out some examples for him to see and they weren't shooting out only about 5 watts and it just wasn't a enough light. He said that they would try again with wattage light and they will bring it out again. He said hat he felt that the lights would work for the decoration along the median but it's not enough for the signs. There was no need to invite him to tonight's meeting at this point.

As far as the landscaping part of the project he feels we need to send another letter to get a status of where this stands.

5.1.2.1. Mr. Popowich said that he will send the letter out this week. We no longer need Board approval for that step as it's an approved motion.

5.1.3. Mr. Sims asked if we sent the letter regarding the lights and power.

5.1.3.1. Mr. Popowich said that he has not sent the letter because at this point he wasn't sure who to send it too. Maybe it was a miscommunication, but wasn't sure where...power, street, etc. will write once known.

5.1.4. Mr. Sims said his concern is whether the solar panels are durable enough. It will be in the open and subject to abuse from elements and people and even graffiti. He feels we should go back to the DWP.

5.1.4.1. Mr. Popowich agrees with that opinion and should focus on the DWP. He asked if he went to the Department of Engineering and they will tell us who owns it.

5.1.4.2. Mr. Sims said that would review the request and will forward it to the correct person.

5.1.5. Mr. Popowich said he will write the letter to Zine's office tonight and get it to them so it's here when they get back. He hasn't heard anything and by now they should have told us where it is at in the process.

## 5.2. Ad Hoc Street Grading & Evaluation Committee report (Montaine)

5.2.1. Ms. Chelebian said that she called Bill Robertson's office and advised them there are errors in the book. She has not heard from him on the status. She will send an email to Mr. Robertson himself. Once we have a new Board she will invite him to a meeting and address the group.

5.2.2. Ms. Robinson said that the committee is not meeting currently because she needs to report her area.

5.2.3. Mr. Popowich said that this is critical. The second part of their mandate is to define the areas of importance. The grid process is not going away. They need to study the issue, figure it out and figure out what a grid is how to define it, how we will prioritize, and how we'll make this work. We can't let this go.

5.2.4. Ms. Chelebian said this committee needs to be up and running. There is so much to be done now. The learning, the studying and evaluation. It seems that just because the book is incorrect it'd dead. It needs to be worked on, discussed, and then reported back to us. That's how we do it.

5.2.5. There was discussion about what the committee should be doing, how it should operate, and what the process should be.

5.2.6. Ms. Chelebian said she will speak with Mr. Montaine to see if she can't get the ball rolling again.

## 6. Discussion and possible action on a presentation by a solar power activist.

6.1. Ms. Chelebian moved the item up for discussion.

6.2. Mr. Alex Pugh, representing Global Green USA, is presenting tonight. He said that they have been working with LA City DWP and the City Council recently passed a law saying that 20% of all renewable energy be from green power. His group would like to see LA invest in the city rather than send out funds to other cities or entities that provide. He provided a brief packet and outlined some of the benefits which include environmental quality issues as well as costs over the long term.

He said that they have been visiting a lot of NCs asking for them to pass a motion recommending that 1% of all the power used by city agencies use solar power. He said that the current Mayor and the incoming Mayor have both stated they support it. In fact, Villaraigosa supports a more aggressive approach to getting on the band wagon. He commented that Mayor-elect Villaraigosa would like to see it by 2010.

He pointed out that San Diego is working on a similar plan. He feels that LA can do this first and then invest in itself and realize the economic benefit.

6.3. Mr. Schulte said that he has always had a fascination with green fuels. He wonders what the hold up is that prevents us from doing this. He commented that we have to stop using Middle Eastern sources. He would like to know why only 1% of the power usage in 15 years?

6.3.1. Mr. Pugh commented that he agrees, and would like to see more than 1%.

6.3.2. Mr. Schulte asked why not 10%.

6.3.3. Mr. Pugh said that's a lot. There is a lot of bureaucracy which you have to go through. He feels the DWP is against this and moves slowly. The funds are there to do it, as there are funds from the state and federal which can be used. He pointed out that all public power agencies collect funds under the public goods charges and could use it.

6.4. Ms. Chelebian asked about vendors and whether there are enough of them to supply us?

6.4.1. Mr. Pugh said that there are enough vendors. The issue is if they go down to San Diego they will get the bulk of them set up there and the extra jobs and funds they create for a community will stay in San Diego for the most part.

6.5. Ms. Chelebian asked what else is being done.

6.5.1. Mr. Pugh said that SB 1 is on the table and that is the "Million Solar Roofs" bill which will require all new houses to have some solar panels on. There are other bills that are in the works that will set up funds for loans to fund this.

6.5.2. Ms. Chelebian asked about new construction.

6.5.3. Mr. Pugh said SB 1 requires every other house.

6.5.4. Ms. Chelebian asked why only 1%.

6.5.5. Mr. Pugh said it's an attainable number. We can achieve that with only the city owned structures. Anything beyond that would have to reach out to private. They are targeting the DWP because they are the largest in the country and they also get 1/2 the resources of coal.

6.6. Mr. Said, a stakeholder, asked what he cost is for a residential house.

6.6.1. Mr. Pugh said that for a normal house 1/2 of the electric usage can be powered for about \$11,000.00.

6.7. Mr. Siad asked if there were any other government programs.

6.7.1. Mr. Pugh said there is a California incentive which the residents in LA are not eligible. The City also has one but it's not funded enough.

6.8. Mr. Said asked where the current plants in the valley are.

6.8.1. Mr. Pugh and a few board members provided the answer.

6.9. Mr. Said asked if this is power that is sellable.

6.9.1. Mr. Pugh said that in most cases the power is fed back into the grid itself through your meter and that is how savings are recognized and power is shared.

6.10. Mr. Said asked if there are efforts to require the city to require developers to include solar energy for large tract developments.

6.10.1. Mr. Pugh said that efforts are under way.

6.11. Mr. Schulte asked what he is looking for from the WNC

6.11.1. Mr. Pugh said that they have a sample motion and letter they would like to pass and send out. He provided the motion.

6.12. Mr. Popowich asked for more info on SB 1.

6.12.1. Mr. Pugh said that it's already passed the Senate and it's going through the rest of the legislature.

6.13. Mr. Schulte said that as a contractor he feels that in the next 10 years LA is not going to be able to support itself. He said we need to start doing this stuff now or in 10 years it won't be enough.

6.14. Ms. Chelebian commented that for future purposes all the politicians that are running should make this part of the platform.

6.15. Mr. Schulte said they won't, it's too controversial.

6.16. Ms. Chelebian asked if we wanted to discuss the proposed motion now or wait. It was generally decided that we would discuss it tonight. She asked Mr. Pugh to read the motion he has presented.

6.16.1. Ms. Chelebian said that it's just start.

6.16.2. Mr. Pugh said you could ask for more, Silver Lake suggested 2%.

6.16.3. Mr. Burgess said that Mr. Schulte said that it's a good idea to increase it and he agrees.

6.17. Mr. Popowich asked if we are limiting ourselves by being so specific about this type of solar power where there are other types of energy.

6.17.1. Mr. Pugh said that this is specific because it generates power and other forms don't do that.

6.18. Ms. Chelebian clarified that this is only to the existing city buildings. She said that the sense she gets from the committee is that we are in favor of a broader focus. She said that if that is what he would like us to support that's fine or we can expand it on our own.

6.18.1. Mr. Pugh commented that what would work best for their purposes would be similar language to this motion. You can add some other types of language such as 'at least' 1% and suggest other resources as an addendum if you want to.

6.18.2. Mr. Sims commented that we should allow this organization to use us as a reference if we feel it's important. This would allow the process to move faster.

6.18.3. Mr. Pugh said that it would help us. This way we can use it when we are talking to other committees.

6.19. Mr. Popowich said that he agrees but that he also feels that other types of resources need to be pursued. He pointed out that he feels that he wants this to make sure we don't ignore other forms of energy. Wind, water, wave action and so on. He would rather see us say we support this, but we also want them to reduce reliance on oil and coal by x %.

6.19.1. Ms. Chelebian said that we shouldn't lose sight of that and that the new DWP MOU should encourage this type of discussion. But for now this type of approach is something that can be done now.

6.19.2. Mr. Popowich said that if we want to do that then do we stick with 1%, at least, more than...

6.19.3. Ms. Chelebian said that we could say a minimum of 1% and if that is what they are focusing their efforts.

6.19.4. Mr. Popowich suggested that we add a line on to this to say that we would like to see at least 5%.

6.19.5. Ms. Chelebian agreed, but she said she would like to see it expanded to all municipal (state and county, etc.).

6.19.5.1. Mr. Pugh said that this was directed at the City and they don't have the authority to install on other locations.

6.19.6. There was a discussion on where it was manufactured and it was determined most are made in China.

6.20. The Committee worked together to craft the following motion:

*“WNC-PWT-062205-1: Whereas we feel the City of Los Angeles needs to do more to introduce environmentally safe and renewable forms of energy we hereby resolve that the Winnetka Neighborhood Council recommends the Los Angeles Department of Water Power reach a goal of 1% of all energy used by the City of Los Angeles be generated by solar energy generated by photovoltaic (PV) by the year 2017. We would like to make it known that we would like to see the DWP increase the use of solar generated power to 5% in that same time frame.” (Schulte).*

6.21. Mr. Burgess seconded the motion.

6.21.1. Motion passed 5 – 0

6.21.2. Mr. Popowich asked that we review and discuss SB 1 and see if we would like to discuss it at a future meeting.

## 7. Discussion and possible action on plans to recruit a candidate for the DWP liaisons.

7.1. Opened up the discussion on this. She said that there were some issues raised on how we would go about recruiting. We need to get on this and publicize it.

7.2. Mr. Popowich pointed out that we need to get on this now, because we have only 90 days from the date the letter was signed so that we interview and determine the best candidate rather than just select the first person that steps up.

7.3. Mr. Schulte expressed his opinion that we need to make the city work with us. We need to slap them around and make them work with us.

7.4. Mr. Popowich said that he we need to come up with a process and get this out there.

7.5. Ms. Chelebian asked about the Quarterly.

7.6. Mr. Popowich said it's proofing now and will go out, but it's full.

7.7. Ms. Chelebian asked about posting it on the web site.

7.8. A general discussion occurred about the newsletter and what we can do to get the word out. Having flyers printed at meetings. It was decided that we would post it on the web site and we would have a flyer that we can hand out at events.

7.9. Mr. Schulte stated his opinion that he felt that no one could possibly serve as the position and meet the criteria. He feels it's discriminatory and that no one could possibly meet these criteria, and can't see how there could be any possibility of a conflict of interest.

7.9.1. Mr. Popowich read the process for reconsideration. He also stated how a conflict may arise and as an example he as a person could do it if he had time and wanted to do it but he has other items on his plate.

**8. Discussion and possible action on bus benches similar to those in Chatsworth. (Montaine).**

8.1. Ms. Chelebian tabled this discussion until the next meet.

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

**10. Committee Business –**

- A. Comments on Committee Member's own activities/ Brief announcements.**
- B. Brief response to statements made or questions posed by persons exercising their general public comment rights.**
- 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.**
- D. Requests for Committee Members to research issues and report back to the Committee at a future time.**

**11. Adjournment**