



# WINNETKA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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## PUBLIC WORKS & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

|                |                   |                 |             |                 |
|----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|
|                | Chair             | Vice Chair      | Secretary   |                 |
|                | Armineh Chelebian | Art Sims        |             |                 |
| Members        |                   |                 |             |                 |
| Dwight Burgess | Marilyn Robinson  | Jozef T. Essavi | Annie Palai | Tess Reyes-Dunn |

From: JJ Popowich  
 To: WNC Board Members, Public  
 Re: WNC Public Works & Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes for 9/21/06

### 1. Call to order and Committee member roll call

| <i>PS Committee Member</i> | <i>Present</i> | <i>Absent</i> | <i>Excused</i> |
|----------------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Armineh Chelebian          | X              |               |                |
| Art Sims                   | X              |               |                |
| Dwight Burgess             | X              |               |                |
| Marilyn Robinson           | X              |               |                |
| Jozef Essavi               | X              |               |                |
| Annie Palai                | X              |               |                |
| Tess Reyes-Dunn            | X              |               |                |
| <b>Totals</b>              | <b>7</b>       | <b>0</b>      | <b>0</b>       |

### 2. Approval of minutes

### 3. Update, discussion and possible action on the status of already approved motions both by WNC-PWT and WNC Board in regards with putting parking restriction signs on 7200 block of Quartz, a joint discussion between parties involved and effected by the issue on hand: St Joseph the Worker Church –Mr. Mike Stafford and Father Kevin Rettig , the Department of Transportation, Parking Department, Councilmember Zine’s office- Octaviano Rios, Jr, the stakeholders and the PWT-committee members.

- 3.1. Ms. Chelebian introduced the concerns and welcomed the various groups that are here which include Octaviano Rios, Field Deputy for Councilmember Zine’s office, District Engineer for the San Fernando Valley Ken Firoozmand from the Dept of Transportation, LAPD, CHP, Parking Enforcement, stakeholders / residents who signed the petition, and Mr. Michael Stafford from St. Joseph’s The Worker Church, and various others.
- 3.2. Mr. Sims clarified the issues with the parking and vagrants in the area. He reviewed some of the things that he’s been able to accomplish including the petition from the residents and the various businesses. He addressed the latest issue of getting the parking restrictions, which is the requirement by the City to have St. Joseph’s the Worker Church to agree with the residents proposed solutions.
- 3.3. Ms. Chelebian introduced Mr. Mike Stafford, from St. Joseph’s the Worker.
- 3.4. Mr. Stafford expressed his pleasure to attend the meeting and work with the WNC. He said that he would like to solve the problem that is in the area. He said the church feels that just looking at the parking issue will not solve the problem and will actually force the problem to another immediate area. He feels that the motor homes and the vagrants are a growing problem in Winnetka.

- 3.5. Office Tang said that he has been involved because of the school and their program to address safe schools. He said that they have towed various motor homes (3) as well as taken other actions in that area. He said that he has a wide area to deal with from Woodland Hills to Pacoima. He has been watching this problem. He commented that in the past he has spoken to local businesses and has even had conversations with the local businesses. He pointed out that the problem is not the body shop but the other smaller auto repair shops. He said that a lot of these are what are causing the problem.

He pointed out that the problem is they will push the cars elsewhere. He's seen this in Reseda. His major concern is that they will see it move into the interior streets. He pointed out that there are only 1500 officers for the entire Valley, including the LAPD, CHP, and parking.

He suggested we create an effort to do a "good neighbor" pamphlet that can be given to the businesses to encourage them to work with the neighbors. He said that if this type of thing can't work then they can proceed to other levels like involving the neighborhood prosecutors.

Officer Tang also discussed the recent court cases that stopped enforcement of the 72 hour rule. He reviewed how this impacted the enforcement and now they are trying to get caught up. He said as a result of this and the volume of calls is now 3 weeks behind.

- 3.6. A stakeholder pointed out that they had petitioned to get overnight parking signs on Cantlay and this solved the problem.
- 3.7. Officer Tang said that in his opinion, it will move the parking of these cars into the interior.
- 3.8. There was a brief discussion on the benefits and impacts of this type of parking restrictions and how it has not really worked in other areas.
- 3.9. A stakeholder addressed St. Joseph's the Worker. He said since the Church is opposed to the restrictions could they clean up the streets surrounding the church. He pointed out glass, TVs, and burnt mattresses.
- 3.10. Mr. Stafford pointed out that is one of the reasons we're here to find a way to work with everyone because the responsibility lies with all the various groups including home owners.
- 3.11. The stakeholder pointed out that after the Church's Carnival no one cleans up.
- 3.12. Mr. Sims pointed out that the WNC would like to see the whole City cleaned up and that these things and problems not be pushed to other neighborhoods. However, Winnetka is our responsibility.
- 3.13. Officer Tang pointed out that the restricted parking will benefit the church the most. However, he feels they are looking at the bigger picture of how it will impact the larger community.
- 3.14. Mr. Firoozmand, District Engineer for the San Fernando Valley introduced himself. He commented that the Department's parking?? is to ask for a petition and then accommodate the community's desire if they can. However, they have generally not banned parking because it causes other problems including speeding and other problems. Typically they restrict it to two hour limitations. He said that their responsibility is for traffic and they have ceded this responsibility to the Councilmember's office. All they have to do is pass a resolution and they will do it. They make their decisions based on the traffic flow. These Council motions are generally from 2 AM to 6 AM.

In cases where the LAPD asks for the restrictions with the signature of a Captain and one officer above, along with the detail, they will then consider posting signs temporally. These requests will be honored for whatever time period they recommend.

- 3.15. Mr. Popowich commented that the problem is that Winnetka is waking up. We have a small community that has been sleepy and quiet, but today we are squeezed by the big communities. Woodland Hills has cleaned up their area and because they have the clout and money they don't have this type of problem. Canoga Park has cleaned up their neighborhood and moved the homeless and gangs out and they are coming to Winnetka. He said that we are tired of this problem and not going to take it anymore. He pointed out that the problem is that Winnetka needs to push back and address it. He said that we need to address this and get the parking restrictions as well as enforcement. He said that we can't tolerate this anymore. He asked Officer Leland to look at using the funds and camera's the WNC purchased to do a targeted enforcement effort to push them out because if they do then they will lose business and change they will go out of business.

3.16. Mr. Firoozmand commented that all the complaints that come into his office are logged in. He pointed out that the stakeholder reports of problems carry the same weight as the Mayor's requests. He said that they look at all of them and address them one at a time.

Mr. Firoozmand said that he's a former proud resident of Winnetka. He went on to say that funds are the not the funds issue. He said that if there is a valid problem they will spend the funds. He mentioned speed signs (showing how fast) and if it's warranted then they will do it. He said if the WNC sends a request they will evaluate it...and pointed out that you may not get everything you want, but he will look at it.

3.17. Mr. Sims pointed out that there were six crimes home burglaries in that area and that the very stakeholders that would be impacted have agreed to the limitations.

3.18. Mr. Firoozmand said that there the crime issues need to come from the LAPD. He reiterated we need to work together.

3.19. Mr. Essavi asked if we can grandfather the petitions since we have the church's agreement.

3.20. Mr. Firoozmand said that the City has a policy that once a policy has changed anything in the pipeline is usually set back to start one.

3.21. There was a discussion about an alley behind Norm's Autobody and commercial vehicles. Ms. Diaz said that school children are often in danger due to the cars in this alley and the trucks.

3.22. Councilmember's Zine's representative Octaviano

3.23. Traffic Enforcement Lieutenant Richard Ellis said that he is willing and would like to do a sweep through Winnetka. He did caution that the laws have changed and that they can no longer go by mileage, they go by movement. If it moves, then they have to cite and start over.

3.24. Senior Lead Officer Rachel Raigoza said they have to abide by the same rules as the other agencies. She said that when it was first reported she assumed it was Norm's Autobody. She has addressed it with them. She said that she can impound cars for expired tags and after three days without movement. She said that she will approach the business owners and managers of those facilities and encourage them to respond to her request. If they do not, then she can work with the City Attorney and have him come out and get involved. The City Attorney will visit and then if no response send official letters, and ultimately they can close them down.

She addressed the motor home problems and has tried to enforce it. She said the problem is that she can only do what the law allows. She said the LAPD will do what is necessary and she will do whatever she needs to do to get this addressed. She did point out that she wasn't aware that the other businesses were part of the problem.

3.25. Mr. Sims made the following motion:

*"WNC-PWT 092196-01: The WNC PWT agrees that they will take the following steps:*

1. *Obtain LAPD crime stats on this area and if excessive formally request the LAPD to restrict parking.*
2. *Obtain the draft resolution from Mr. Firoozmand and formally request Councilmember Zine to pass a resolution restricting parking.*
3. *Draft letters and send letters to each of the businesses in the area and express our concerns. In addition, a WNC representative, accompanied by the LAPD will approach each business individually to meet with them and ask them to address the problem.*
4. *The WNC will work with the LAPD, CHP, DOT, Traffic Enforcement, and Councilmember Zine's office to ensure that the rules in the area are enforced as much possible.*
5. *The WNC will request the CHP to use the parking cameras we purchased to do a targeted enforcement around the School.*
6. *The WNC is happy to accept Traffic Enforcement's offer of a sweep in the area. (Sims-Essavi)"*

| <i>Committee Member</i> | <i>Yes</i> | <i>No</i> | <i>Abstain</i> | <i>Notes</i> |
|-------------------------|------------|-----------|----------------|--------------|
| Armineh Chelebian       | X          |           |                |              |

|                  |          |          |          |
|------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Art Sims         | X        |          |          |
| Dwight Burgess   | X        |          |          |
| Marilyn Robinson | X        |          |          |
| Jozef Essavi     | X        |          |          |
| Annie Palai      | X        |          |          |
| Tess Reyes-Dunn  | X        |          |          |
| <b>Totals</b>    | <b>7</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> |

Motion passed: 7-0

4. **Update and presentation by 50/50 side walk Program Coordinator Mr. Mark Simon about the program. Additional Discussion and possible action in regards with proposal passed by PWT and WNC full board in July 2006 in regards with the following and take any additional possible actions needed:**

**WNC will plan to allocate funds to identify and repair broken sidewalks. The proposal is to set aside \$4,000.00 a year/\$1,000.00 a quarter to work with the Bureau of Street Services to fix sidewalks under the 50/50 plan. The WNC would pick up 25% of the cost for a section of side walk and the homeowner would pick up the other 25% (The standard cost as provided by Bureau of Street Services is around \$5.00 per square foot). Sidewalks would be picked based on stakeholder submission and WNC Board member observations and guidelines .Sidewalks would be prioritized on the following scale:**

1. Handicap residents
2. High foot traffic and high usage by children
3. Height or severity of lift on sidewalk

4.1. Ms. Chelebian introduced Mr. Mark Simon who is coordinates the 50/50 sidewalk program.

4.2. Mr. Simmons said that he likes to start off with a bit of history. He said the City has 10750 miles of sidewalk, of which about 5000 miles of damaged sidewalk. A law passed in 1911 said that the areas from the parkway to the property are the owner's responsibility. In 1936, the City amended the law to say that if it was damaged caused by a tree in the parkway, the City would repair it. However, the Federal funds for that project dried up quickly. In the 90's a lawsuit forced the cities to install the handicap ramps and a clause in that agreement requires the City to make sure that any sidewalk between any two ramps must also be repaired. Since then the City has intermittently funded sidewalk repair at about 26 miles a year since 2006 with a few years of no funding after 9/11/.

The City looked at the ways in which other Cities. They were repair by the City, citing the property owners, and then the 50/50 program. The closest City around that did the 50/50 was Santa Barbara and that is all that they do. In 2004-2005 they ran a small pilot program in the eastern part of the City. About 77% of the community responded and bought into the program.

Each year there is a five month open enrollment program. If they sign up at that time then the City guarantees that they will fix it within that fiscal year. Last year it was expanded city wide and of 850 estimates about 500 plus were funded and put in place.

A property owner can call in and set the property owner up with an evaluator and they will evaluate the sidewalk. They are governed by the City Engineer who determines how it's built, the ADA reviews it for slopes, angles, and width, and then the City Attorney evaluates what we can and can not do from a liability factor. This is for residential properties and apartment buildings in some cases. The City Attorney requires that the entire area fronting the property must be addressed at the time of repair regardless of the severity in order to limit liability.

The cost of repair is \$12.00 a sq foot (\$6.00 per each party). This includes all the labor and materials to get it fixed including any tree issues. They have four arborists that work on their staff who evaluate and address the trees that cause the problem. If a tree needs to be removed, then they will remove it at no cost and replace it. On average the property share was about \$1300.00.

4.3. Mr. Popowich outlined the program and asked if he foresaw any problem.

4.4. Mr. Simmons said that a year ago it wouldn't have worked. This year, as of July, DONE has worked out a way for this to work. He said the issue is going to very tight coordination:

1. When the process is started each owner needs to identify themselves as part of our program.

2. DONE will require the approval to be a full Council motion with the particular address listed specifically in the motion.
- 3.

The easy way it could work is for the homeowner to call in and get an estimate and then have them come in and present the estimate to the WNC for consideration.

- 4.5. Ms. Chelebian asked about the time period. Which is July to November?
- 4.6. Mr. Simmons agreed yes. So the time frame for this year is short.
- 4.7. Mr. Popowich pointed out that is ok. We now know what we need. We need to write the rules and we can complete that by the first of the year and then do one or two advertising campaigns in order to get a list for July.
- 4.8. Mr. Simmons provided some other examples and ideas on how people have funded. He did point out it's a cash and carry program.
- 4.9. Ms. Chelebian asked if Mr. Simmons could send some suggestions out to us so that as we create the rules the steps.
- 4.10. Mr. Simmons suggested that we structure our program as follows:
  - Call the City's 50/50 Sidewalk program first and identify them as A Winnetka Stakeholder.
  - The City's 50/50 Sidewalk program will provide a full cost estimate
  - The Stakeholder would then bring the estimate to WNC.
  - The WNC would evaluate the estimate and take a full Board vote to approve.
  - The WNC and Stakeholder would then work with 50/50 Sidewalk program to coordinate the payment and work.
- 4.11. Mr. Burgess asked about rubberized sidewalk.
- 4.12. Mr. Simmons said that this is a pilot program but it's not recognized by the City Engineer. At this point the City Engineer hasn't found a suitable material that lasts more than three years and that will stand up to the traffic. There are additional problems with the product and how it has to be maintained and worked out.

**5. Update, discussion and possible action on a joint project between Winnetka Neighborhood Council, Winnetka Chamber of Commerce and Community Redevelopment Agency of LA in order to establish upgrade and beautify a business district, specifically the area around Winnetka Ave and Saticoy, as well as other areas such as intersections along Sherman Way between Corbin Ave and Desoto, and along Winnetka Ave between Vanowen Ave and Nordhoff St. (This discussion is the continuation of a proposed business district beautification plan, brought forward by Mr. Popowich in May 2006)**

- 5.1. Ms. Chelebian introduced the issue. She said that the idea started with a suggestion to beautify the business area with plants and other items. She introduced Vicky Gilkey from CRA/LA.
- 5.2. She introduced herself and said that she is happy to be here to work with us. She said that she has had the opportunity to do some research. She said their area is sort of patch worked. She said that Canoga Park and Reseda are the larger 'clumps' while Winnetka is one area that isn't covered. She said that Canoga Park started this with a special tax assessment in their business district.

AB1290 funds are a discretionary fund that can be used with Council approval to make improvements in areas outside of the targeted areas. She said this is something that if we can get the various organizations together we can get something started. She mentioned that CRA/LA could provide a consultant to work on the plans and that they would likely cover the cost. She said that Canoga Park was successful because it was business based and they got together to do the self assessment. Reseda didn't really get off the ground because it was more property based.

- 5.3. Ms. Chelebian asked if the AB1290 could be used to focus on one section and then if it's successful could it be extended to other areas.
- 5.4. Ms. Gilkey said it's usually one targeted area. However, you can create a wide area where it could be done. She said that these BID are usually 10 years in length. She suggested that we draft a letter to Councilmember Zine and to CRA Leslie Lambert to let them know our interest in the process.

5.5. Ms. Chelebian asked if the WNC can work with the CRA if Councilmember Zine doesn't respond.

5.6. Ms. Gilkey said this would have to be approved by Zine.

5.7. Mr. Popowich asked about a recommended process.

5.8. This led to a discussion:

- 5.8.1. Zine & CRA
- 5.8.2. Property Owners
- 5.8.3. Business owners

5.9. Mr. Seflin asked about what ability we have to remove businesses (i.e. Eminent domain).

5.10. Mr. Popowich stressed that the goal is to work with business to make them look better not remove them. To add planters, benches, and landscaping. It's a partnership.

5.11. Mr. Essavi commended Ms. Chelebian for a well run meeting.

**6. Update, discussion and possible action in regards with purchase of a PM 275 Pole-Mounted Radar Speed Display by WNC and sharing the cost of \$2500.00 with Councilmember Greig Smith's office in order to address the issue brought forward to the Public Safety and Public Works committees back in May 2006 by stakeholders who were concerned about the speeding along Mason Ave and Roscoe Blvd and the possible dangerous consequences.**

**(This is a continuation of discussion and proposal brought forward from May 2006 by Mr. Popowich, in regards with holding a joint Public Safety and Public Works Transportation Committee town hall meeting addressing the concerns of the stakeholders as mentioned above )**

6.1. Ms. Chelebian brought up the issue which had been addressed previously. She said at the time we had planned to have a town hall. She attended a Service Cabinet meeting with Councilmember Smith. He has a program where he will split the cost of a radar speed sign which displays speed and encourages traffic to slow down. She said that Councilmember Smith will split the cost, \$2500.00 for each party, to buy and place the sign.

6.2. Mr. Sims asked if this was like the traffic enforcement along De Soto.

6.3. Ms. Chelebian outlined what it was.

6.4. A stakeholder brought up the issue of traffic concerns along Mason and the safety of children from Sunnybrae. He pointed out two recent accidents.

6.5. Ms. Chelebian asked if he felt if this would help with the problem.

6.6. The stakeholder said the problem is more what is there now. He blames the problem on the street and the lack of repair.

6.7. Mr. Essavi made the following motion:

*WNC-PWT-092106-02: The WNC agrees to allocate \$2500.00 for the purchase of a Kustom Signal Pole-Mounted Radar Speed Display to be placed on Mason Ave north of Roscoe Blvd in conjunction Councilmember Smith CD-12 program in order to control excessive speeding traffic for public safety. (Essavi-Robinson-Dunn)*

| <i>Committee Member</i> | <i>Yes</i> | <i>No</i> | <i>Abstain</i> | <i>Notes</i> |
|-------------------------|------------|-----------|----------------|--------------|
| Armineh Chelebian       | X          |           |                |              |
| Art Sims                | X          |           |                |              |
| Dwight Burgess          | X          |           |                |              |
| Marilyn Robinson        | X          |           |                |              |
| Jozef Essavi            | X          |           |                |              |
| Annie Palai             | X          |           |                |              |
| Tess Reyes-Dunn         | X          |           |                |              |

|        |   |   |   |
|--------|---|---|---|
| Totals | 7 | 0 | 0 |
|--------|---|---|---|

6.8. Motion passed 7-0.

**7. Update, discussion and possible action on the second phase of welcome to Winnetka Sign Median beautification- the lights. ( Sims)**

- 7.1. Mr. Sims said that he presented the Winnetka Sign Beautification proposal for solar lights to Mr. Horowitz from the City. He was directed to several agencies within the City. Ms. Morganna Sheets from adopt the Median program with the Office of Community Beautification who is very happy to work with us to get this process moved forward. She provided an application from us she will work with us. She has received our package and will work with us in reviewing it, and if we move forward with it they will assist us with the permits.
- 7.2. Mr. Sims and Ms. Chelebian will work together to complete the application.
- 7.3. Ms. Chelebian also mentioned that they have grants available.
- 7.4. Mr. Sims said that they are willing to match \$10,000.00 of the funds to help us with the overall project which includes the landscaping and river rock.
- 7.5. Ms. Chelebian pointed out that she believes we are the first ones to try solar lighting as a neighborhood council for beatification of a median.
- 7.6. Mr. Sims agreed and said that Ms. Sheets believes that if this catches on this could be something that may expand City wide.

**8. Update, discussion and possible action on DAW program and Animal Welfare AD-HOC Committee, Ms. Lisa Janes and Ms. Lisa Haberman Below are some thoughts by Ms. Lisa Janes to be discussed by the committee:**

8.1. Tabled due to lack of attendance of liaisons.

**9. Update on DWP MOU oversight committee and CD 12 Service Cabinet Meeting.**

**10. Discussion, update and possible action taken for resurfacing and repair needs of streets in Winnetka and recommendations to Department of Public Works Bureau of Street Services. Including updates on those streets that stakeholders have already brought forward to the PWT committee and WNC. ( 7400-7500 block of Irondale, between Covello and Valerio, and the 6900 Lubao street, The neighborhood around Hart St. on the other side of Winnetka has been re-paved recently, the 20100-20200 block of Leadwell St. between Winnetka Ave and Oso Ave ) <http://www.lacity.org/BOSS/index.htm>**

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

**12. Adjournment**