

BOARD OF THE WEST ADAMS
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
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West Adams Neighborhood Council
Meets Every Third Monday of the Month @
Vineyard Recreation Center, 2942 Vineyard Ave,
Los Angeles, CA, 90016



Steven Meeks - President
Yolanda Davis-Overstreet - Vice President
Jace Dawson - At Large Representative
Kristyn Yancy - At Large
Sean Curley - Parliamentarian
Dorsay Dujon - At Large Representative
Connye Thomas - At Large Representative
Clint Simmons - Homeowner Representative
Vacant - Youth Representative
Vacant - Community Interest Stakeholder
Richard Williams - Business Representative
Vacant - Business Representative
John Ma - At Large Representative
Abel Sun - At Large Representative
Brian Piatek - Homeowner Representative

DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD
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West Adams Neighborhood Council

General Board Monthly Meeting
Zoom Meeting online or by telephone
Monday, January 25, 2021, 6:30 PM

MINUTES

Approved by the Board on April 19, 2021

1. Welcome, Call to order and Roll Call

A meeting of the West Adams Neighborhood Council (WANC) was held on January 25, 2021 over Zoom, Webinar 959 3661 2418.

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. by Steven Meeks (President), who made welcoming remarks.

Sean Curley (Parliamentarian) called the roll. There were seven (7) board members present at roll call (Mr. Meeks, Jace Dawson, Kristyn Yancy, Sean Curley, Clint Simmons, John Ma, Abel Sun). Quorum is eight (8) and was not met.

Yolanda Davis-Overstreet, Connye Thomas, Richard Williams, and Brian Piatek joined later.

Dorsay Dujon was absent.

2. Government Representatives

Brian Piatek arrived at 6:35 p.m. There were now eight (8) board members present. Quorum was met.

There were none.

Yolanda Davis Overstreet (Vice President) had arrived by this time (6:36 p.m.). There were now nine (9) board members present.

3. General Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

Mike Schlitt (213-300-3368, mikeschlitt@hotmail.com) said he was a journalist with KCRW working on a story about a past effort to rename Crenshaw Boulevard after former Mayor Tom Bradley. He invited input from members of the WANC community.

4. Administrative items:

This was a section header.

5. Secretary's Report: Discussion and possible action on January, December minutes

Mr. Meeks explained that some minutes were outstanding. The Board agreed to postpone consideration of the minutes to a future meeting.

6. Monthly Expenditure Report: Discussion on any outstanding items

Mr. Meeks explained that the City was assisting with outstanding Monthly Expenditure Reports (MER).

Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate, Karen Hernandez (Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE)), explained that receipts were being processed. She hoped for progress by the following week. Mr. Meeks provided details on several invoices. He noted a special meeting might be called.

7. Presentation

There was none.

8. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment: Karen Hernandez

Ms. Hernandez provided updates on upcoming Data Liaison trainings. She encouraged the appointment of up to 3 Data Liaisons.

Hernandez said she was reassigned. Her colleague, Jasmine, would be providing support to WANC starting in February, by which time it should be “out of exhaustive efforts.”

The Candidate Registration Portal for the NC Election was open. Information on the election was available at the City Clerk’s office.

Mr. Sun thanked Ms. Hernandez for her past service. He inquired about election outreach matters. Ms. Hernandez referred him to the Election Administrator.

Coach Williams asked about receipts. Ms. Hernandez provided information about missing receipt forms.

9. Old Business

A. Discussion and possible action on selection of additional signer

Mr. Meeks explained the role of additional signer. He explained that he and Ms. Thomas were the current signers, and Mr. Piatek had volunteered to be the additional “third signer.” Mr. Piatek self-nominated.

Mr. Piatek moved to have Brian Piatek be an additional signer. Mr. Simmons seconded.

There was no discussion. Mr. Piatek called a roll-call vote.

The motion carried with 10 in favor (Curley, Davis-Overstreet, Dawson, Ma, Meeks, Piatek, Simmons, Sun, Thomas, and Yancy); **and 1 opposed** (Williams); **1 was absent** (Dujon).

B. Discussion and possible action selection of card holder

Mr. Simmons moved that the Treasurer be the card holder. Ms. Curley noted there was no Treasurer currently and there was no motion on the agenda regarding selection of a Board Treasurer.

Ms. Thomas advised that a future Treasurer might not agree to be card holder and recommended appointment of a Treasurer before selecting the Treasurer as card holder.

Mr. Simmons withdrew the motion.

Mr. Piatek advocated for the Treasurer being the card holder as a “check and a balance.” Ms. Curley suggested the matter be taken up by the Finance Committee.

Mr. Meeks stated that a motion to select the Treasurer as card holder was out of order on the basis it was not worded as such on the agenda.

No additional motion was made or vote taken.

C. Discussion and possible action on reimbursement to Steven Meeks \$75 USPS PO Box fee

Mr. Meeks noted that Items 9.C., D., E., F., and G. could be taken up as a [Consent Calendar] motion “per Shauna.”

Coach Williams moved to reimburse Steven Meeks \$75 for USPS PO Box fee. Ms. Davis-Overstreet seconded. There was no discussion.

Dr. Dawson stated that “it was agreed on last year...that the Council would be informed ahead of time...” if a member were to use personal funds to assist the Council. He requested an understanding that any future use of personal funds would be preapproved by the Board. Coach Williams provided historical context.

The motion carried with all 11 board members present in favor (Curley, Davis-Overstreet, Dawson, Ma, Meeks, Piatek, Simmons, Sun, Thomas, Williams, and Yancy); **1 was absent** (Dujon).

D. Discussion and possible action on reimbursement to Steven Meeks \$50 Facebook Ad Staying Healthy presentation

Ms. Curley moved to reimburse Mr. Meeks for the amount of \$50 for Facebook ad Staying Healthy presentation, for \$76.94 for Holman UMC custodial svc, for \$75 for Nancy Hayata graphic design, and for \$521.76 for Signs.com production. Ms. Davis-Overstreet seconded.

In discussion, Coach Williams stated that he disapproved of [Item G.] because it was not authorized and the expense was not needed. Williams noted a Torrance, CA-based vendor was used in place of an area vendor.

Ms. Curley advised that Coach Williams’ comments regarding past actions were not germane to the motion.

Mr. Meeks said at least three Council members were aware that he said he would had offered to pay for signs for the elections and for the [US] Census. He referred to the need. A local printer had not been responsive with requests for a quotation. The purchases were a “line item” in the budget.

Ms. Davis-Overstreet thanked Mr. Meeks for “stepping up” and advocated to develop a listing of local businesses for future use.

The motion carried with 10 in favor (Curley, Davis-Overstreet, Dawson, Ma, Meeks, Piatek, Simmons, Sun, Thomas, and Yancy); and **1 opposed** (Williams); **1 was absent** (Dujon).

E. Discussion and possible action on reimbursement to Steven Meeks \$76.94 - Holman UMC custodial svc - County Supervisor Candidates Forum

This item was taken up as above.

F. Discussion and possible action on reimbursement to Steven Meeks \$75 - Nancy Hayata graphic design - Staying Healthy and VOTE yard signs

This item was taken up as above.

G. Discussion and possible action reimbursement to Steven Meeks \$521.76 – Signs.com production VOTE yard signs

This item was taken up as above.

10. New Business

A. Discussion and possible action on sponsoring West Adams Disaster Preparedness 6 session webinar classes on Disaster Preparedness led by LAFD CERT

Mr. Meeks noted a promotional budget had already been approved and this item was a formality.

Mr. Ma moved to sponsor the West Adams Disaster Preparedness 6 session webinar series on Disaster Preparedness to be led by LAFD CERT. Ms. Davis-Overstreet seconded.

In public comment, stakeholder “Tracy” spoke in favor.

Mr. Ma said the first session was tentatively scheduled for February 13th. Meetings would be monthly at 90 minutes each. Posts would be made on social media, through the Constant Contact newsletter, on the website, and on flyers.

Mr. Ma encouraged a group be formed to discuss the plan and outreach.

The motion carried with all 11 board members present in favor (Curley, Davis-Overstreet, Dawson, Ma, Meeks, Piatek, Simmons, Sun, Thomas, Williams, and Yancy); 1 was absent (Dujon).

B. Discussion and possible action on selection of Board Member to represent WANC at monthly BSS stakeholder meetings

Mr. Simmons moved to select a Board Member to represent WANC at monthly BSS stakeholder meetings. Mr. Ma seconded.

Mr. Ma explained the representative would attend meetings. It was about keeping the streets clean and pedestrian safety. Ms. Davis-Overstreet explained that the topic was discussed in greater detail in committee and briefly explained the origin of the motion.

After some discussion about street vendors, Ms. Thomas asked for a future discussion about BSS and what was under their purview. Mr. Ma proposed to [lay on the table] until after the Public Safety Committee report. Ms. Davis-Overstreet said more information was available on a committee meeting recording.

The motion was restated by Mr. Simmons to appoint Mr. Ma to represent WANC at monthly BSS stakeholder meetings. Mr. Dawson seconded.

The motion carried with all 11 board members present in favor (Curley, Davis-Overstreet, Dawson, Ma, Meeks, Piatek, Simmons, Sun, Thomas, Williams, and Yancy); 1 was absent (Dujon).

C. Discussion and possible action on sponsoring discussion/symposium on history of red lining, urban renewal, displacement for expenses such as but not limited to speaker fees, PR, not to exceed \$750

Mr. Meeks read the above.

Mr. Simmons moved to sponsor a discussion/symposium, not to exceed \$750, on the history of red lining, urban renewal, displacement. Coach Williams seconded.

There was no discussion.

The motion carried with all 11 board members present in favor (Curley, Davis-Overstreet, Dawson, Ma, Meeks, Piatek, Simmons, Sun, Thomas, Williams, and Yancy); **1 was absent** (Dujon).

D. Discussion and possible action on selection of Secretary

There was no motion or vote taken.

11. Standing Committee and City Liaison Reports Announcements

Mr. Ma reported on the 1-8-21 Public Safety Committee Special Meeting. He requested Executive Board approval for him to access the Canva account. Ms. Davis-Overstreet advised that the Outreach Committee would be involved in the discussion of graphic design.

Mr. Ma explained that street and sidewalk upkeep had been discussed with Mr. Sun taking the lead. He described the Sidewalk & Transit Amenities Program (STAP) and proposed bus shelters. WANC had an opportunity to provide recommendations regarding how future advertisement revenue could be directed to street upkeep instead of a citywide “slush fund.” He anticipated bringing a CIS draft to the board at a later date.

Ms. Davis-Overstreet voiced concerns over “excessive technology” and “over advertising.”

Ms. Thomas was concerned about advertising content. Mr. Ma noted that the ads would be “static” and not “motion ads.”

Mr. Meeks cautioned against having discussions that were not explicitly listed in the agenda. Ms. Hernandez was supportive of greater detail on the contents of future reports.

Mr. Sun described documentation of sidewalk repair needs, broken bus stops, and other items that had been reported to 3-1-1. They had learned from StreetsLA maps that portions of the WANC area were not being swept on a recurring basis.

Ms. Davis-Overstreet described efforts to address inequities in law enforcement and the experience of harassment by “Black and Brown communities.”

The committee was using the “help map” on Nextdoor to identify seniors or others needing assistance; and was posting on Facebook and the WANC website.

She referred to “unsafe barriers” along the West Adams corridor and the dangers from developments. The committee was working with StreetsLA and LA Sanitation (LASAN) on a feedback survey.

Finally, Ms. Davis-Overstreet mentioned a community effort to improve the tree canopy in partnership with LASAN.

Mr. Piatek requested the committee to find out why “Super Vaccination Sites” were more than 5 miles from West Adams.

Ms. Thomas suggested registering at vaccinatelacounty.org. Ms. Davis-Overstreet requested to hold a “workshop.”

Tracy said LAPD Senior Lead Officer (SLO) Mejia was handling another area now and that Ofc. Crystal Garcia would be the SLO for the area until February 13th and had given the crime report and had done a good job.

Mr. Sun reported on the Outreach Committee. He had registered the WANC Nextdoor account and had access to post; later, they would discuss ways for other board members to post. He provided updates on outreach for the NC Election. They would discuss the Draft Digital Media Policy.

Mr. Meeks encouraged suggestions for community events that WANC could produce. A community shower was available near Adams and La Brea.

He said Dorsay had offered to work on matters of the logo design. There was further conversation.

Mr. Piatek gave the Finance Committee report. The Committee expected to propose standing rules at a later time. They had discussed Neighborhood Purposes Grants (NPG). He encouraged board members to review the sections on “committee duties” from the meeting notes of January 19th and 23rd.

There were approximately \$4,300 in encumbered funds and \$1,250 in a “clean streets fund.” They would look into ways to benefit stakeholders with the funds.

Piatek said that between February 1st, and May 17th they needed to find ways to spend the “rest of our budget” given the June 15th deadline for funding requests. He mentioned Dynasty. local food banks, and Showers of Hope as possible recipients of WANC funds for the community.

Ms. Hernandez confirmed nonprofit food banks could receive NC funding, with the occasional exception of houses of worship, depending on the details. She encouraged checking with Shauna.

Ms. Curley offered to be a liaison to help with identifying community needs.

She reported on the Education Committee, which had met previously that month. They were looking to empower students to make connections between different student grade levels to “know they have the power to make a difference in their community.” She invited suggestions of individuals interested in the work.

They had discussed a “westside Neighborhood Council retreat.” She was waiting for a response from Ms. Hernandez regarding emailed requests for resources.

Mr. Meeks said several presenters had become before the Board for Conditional Use Permits, on which WANC took no action because there was not a quorum at the meetings. He proposed a special meeting at a later date. Crenshaw Crossing Development wished to present on multi-family housing; and multifamily residential units were “taking over some of our residential neighborhoods.” A 20-story such building was going up behind Target on Jefferson and Obama.

Mr. Simmons said Transit Oriented Communities (TOC) projects did not require approvals if near transit, and in some cases, two lots would be “[taken] out” and 16 units would be erected in their place.

In the case of 4230-4242 S. Crenshaw Blvd., there would be 124 units [at market rate] with 14 “low income” units, which was not a “good deal.” He encouraged greater scrutiny of projects in the future. Parking requirements were lower for TOC projects.

Target was pursuing 7am-12am alcohol sales “for offsite use,” for which there were still hearings.

Ms. Davis-Overstreet discussed creating a model for “community benefits” to request of developers, including jobs, discounts, and more. She expressed concern that developers were not proactive in requesting community input on such benefits.

Mr. Meeks encouraged the committees to continue meeting and encouraged “someone to do research” on Land Use. He spoke to the importance of approving meeting minutes.

12. Discussion and possible action on selection of Community Interest, Youth and Business Representative vacancies

This item was not addressed.

13. Discussion on agenda setting February and future Monthly and Special Meeting(s)

Mr. Simmons requested discussion and possible action to appoint a Treasurer.

14. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:39 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Conrad Starr. Minutes were drafted from the Zoom recording.