

BOARD MEMBERS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS

Steven Meeks - President
Yolanda Davis-Overstreet - Vice President
Brian Piatek – _Treasurer
Dorsay Dujon – _Secretary
Sean Curley – _Parliamentarian

BOARD

Jace Dawson - At Large Representative
John Ma - At Large Representative
Thomas Murray – _At Large Representative
Kristyn Yancy - At Large Representative
Clint Simmons - Homeowner Representative
Kevin Wiley - Youth Representative
Connie Thomas - Community Interest Representative
Richard Williams - Business Representative
Vacant - Business Representative



West Adams Neighborhood Council

**BOARD OF THE WEST ADAMS
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**
P.O. BOX 78474
323-451-9262
westadamsnc.org | westadamsnc@gmail.com

West Adams Neighborhood Council
Meets Every Third Monday of the Month @
Vineyard Recreation Center, 2942 Vineyard
Ave, Los Angeles, CA, 90016

**DEPARTMENT OF
NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT**
City Hall
200 N. SPRING ST. 20TH Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90012 TELEPHONE: (213)
978-1551
TOLL FREE: 311
FAX: (213) 978-1751
E-MAIL: empowera@lacity.org | empow-

MINUTES – Approved by the Board on 8-16-2021 General Board Monthly Meeting Zoom Meeting online or by telephone July 19, 2021, 6:30 PM

1. Call to order and Roll Call

A meeting of the West Adams Neighborhood Council (WANC) was held on July 19, 2021 over Zoom, Webinar 959 3661 2418.

The meeting was called to order at 6:38 p.m. by Steven Meeks (President), who made welcoming remarks.

Sean Curley (Parliamentarian) called the roll. There were ten (10) board members present at roll call (Mr. Meeks, Yolanda Davis-Overstreet (Vice-President), Brian Piatek (Treasurer), Kristyn Yancy, Ms. Curley, Dorsay Dujon, John Ma, Thomas Murray, Connie Thomas, and Jace Dawson). Quorum is eight (8) and was met. Clint Simmons, Philip Wiley, and Richard Williams were absent at roll call and joined later.

2. Government Representatives

Kimani Black from the Office of Councilmember Mark Ridley-Thomas (CD10) referred to emails from board members regarding planned homeless service and a clean-up scheduled for the following Wednesday. He said some of the homeless population was service-resistant.

Mr. Ma said he had offered to send a member of the Homeless Committee to assist with continuity of service; Mr. Black said Hopics (Homeless Outreach Program Integrated Care System, <https://hopics.org>) did not invite volunteer groups to their outreach activities. He agreed to put Mr. Ma in contact with the appropriate party.

Ms. Davis-Overstreet asked for a better understanding of the City Council motion to make it illegal for homeless populations to sit, sleep, store, or “be present” in the community. Mr. Black said it had become a public health issue to keep “our spaces” clean. He referred to locations next to Restaurant Depot and on Hillcrest where encampments were an issue. He said the City Council was looking for “teeth” to go through and clean up encampments, while still offering services. An amendment to the Council Motion provided for a street outreach team to help the affected groups better understand the services being offered. A “sensitive uses” clause created additional proscriptions against encampments at parks, schools, and other areas where system-resistant populations might remain entrenched. Service providers said people were more willing to accept services when they knew crews were coming to perform cleanups.

Mr. Black said crystal meth was ravaging the homeless community.

Mr. Piatek asked how the police budget shortfall would affect the WANC community. Mr. Black said the cuts were to equipment, not to personnel. To another question, Black recommended attending Community-Police Advisory Board meetings and speaking with SLOs regarding street takeovers in the area, which, he said, were a citywide problem that would require a dedicated taskforce.

Mr. Ma sought clarification regarding 14-day notice before moving the belongings of individuals living in encampments. He added that the new rules did not guarantee housing prior to a person's being moved. Mr. Black noted the need for enforcement in the context of an overwhelming number of stakeholder complaints about illegal activities around the encampments.

At this time (6:58 p.m.), Item 5 was taken up.

3. General Public Comment: non agenda items

Section 3 was taken up after 6:30 p.m. and before 6:38 p.m. when the meeting was called to order. At the time, a quorum of members was not yet present.

Dr. Rasheeda Hawk (seedsofcarver@gmail.com) said she was cofounder and executive director at Seeds of Carver, a small collective urban garden under the LA Community Garden Council, started in 2012. She invited stakeholders to visit and introduce themselves. She described programs and collaborations, including childrens' gardens, adolescent programming, and bioremediation of "toxic hotspots" in South LA.

Natalie Matos described an upcoming "clean up" event.

4. Administrative items:

This was a section header.

5. Introduction of and seating of newly elected Board members

Octaviano Rios (octaviano.rios@lacity.org) led board members in the Oath of Office.

He invited board members to state what was important to them in the offices.

By this time (7:13 p.m.), Richard Williams had joined the meeting, making 11 board members present.

Ms. Curley stated that the Rules Committee was taking steps to increase the clarity and specificity of the roles of President and Vice President.

At this time (7:16 p.m.), Philip Wiley announced he was present and was promoted to panelist. Clint Simmons was also present. Now, all 13 board members were in attendance.

6. Secretary's report: Discussion and possible action approval of May and June minutes

Mr. Piatek moved to approve the May minutes. Ms. Curley seconded. There was no discussion. The motion carried by a unanimous vote of all 13 members.

Mr. Piatek moved to approve the June minutes. Ms. Curley seconded. There was no discussion. The motion carried by a unanimous vote of all 13 members.

7. Monthly Expenditure Report/Year End Report: Discussion and possible action June MER

Mr. Piatek explained that \$8,600 had been spent in June. A \$5,000 check for one Neighborhood Purposes Grant (NPG) had not yet been cashed. There was a \$444.50 discrepancy from one year prior for Every Table due to an incorrect street address having been provided.

Mr. Piatek said the account balance was \$16,203.00 at the start of the month and \$10,758.74 at the end of the Fiscal Year, so a \$10,000 rollover could be expected.

There was discussion regarding the outstanding NPG and a misunderstanding with the City Attorney.

At this time (8:04 p.m.), Item 11.B was taken up. At 8:16 p.m., following disposal of 11.B., this item was taken up again.

Mr. Piatek shared the MER on his screen

Mr. Ma moved to approve the June MER. Mr. Williams seconded. The motion carried with all 11 members present and eligible voting in favor (Curley, Davis-Overstreet, Dujon, Ma, Meeks, Piatek, Simmons, Murray, Thomas, Williams, Yancy). Mr. Wiley was ineligible. Dr. Dawson was absent from the vote.

8. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment: Octaviano Rios

Mr. Rios announced that DONE would be working with the City Clerk on ways to collect feedback on the NC elections. An “onboarding” session for new board members would be held on July 28th at 6:30 p.m. A training for financial officers training was on July 27th at 6:00 p.m. and there would be an Administrative Packet training on a different day.

Mr. Rios said it was not too late to submit a CIS on Council File 21-0407.

NCs were required to continue meeting virtually. Feedback on this could be shared with the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (BONC) at commission@empowerla.org.

Bylaws amendments could be submitted until April 15th, 2022. An application was available.

At this time (8:25 p.m.), Item 11.I was taken up.

9. Standing Committee and City Liaison Reports

There were no reports.

10. Presentation: none

11. New business:

A. Discussion and possible action selection of Executive Committee Officers: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Parliamentarian, Secretary

This item was taken up at 7:16 p.m. after Section 5.

Mr. Rios opened the floor for nominations.

Ms. Davis-Overstreet nominated Steven Meeks for President. Ms. Curley spoke in favor of the nomination. Mr. Meeks accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations.

Mr. Rios called the vote. Mr. Meeks was elected President of the West Adams Neighborhood Council by a vote of 11 yes (Meeks, Piatek, Dawson, Ma, Simmons,

Dujon, Yancy, Murray, Curley, Davis-Overstreet, Wiley) and 1 no (Thomas). Mr. Williams was absent from the vote.

Yolanda Davis-Overstreet nominated herself to be Vice President. Ms. Dujon offered a second to the nomination. There were no other nominations. Mr. Piatek called the vote. Ms. Davis-Overstreet was elected Vice President of the West Adams Neighborhood Council with all 12 members present voting in favor. Mr. Williams was absent from the vote.

Ms. Davis-Overstreet nominated Brian Piatek to be Treasurer. Mr. Simmons offered a second. Mr. Piatek accepted. There were no other nominations.

Mr. Piatek was elected Treasurer of the West Adams Neighborhood Council with all 12 members present voting in favor. Mr. Williams was absent from the vote.

Mr. Rios congratulated Mr. Piatek and called for nominations for Secretary. There were none.

Mr. Rios called for nominations for Parliamentarian. Dr. Dawson nominated Sean Curley, who seconded and accepted her nomination. There were no other nominations.

Ms. Curley was elected Parliamentarian of the West Adams Neighborhood Council with all 12 members present voting in favor. Mr. Williams was absent from the vote.

Mr. Simmons nominated Connye Thomas to be Secretary. Ms. Thomas declined.

Mr. Simmons nominated Dorsay Dujon to be Secretary. Dr. Dawson seconded. Ms. Dujon accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations.

By this time, Mr. Williams had returned to the meeting.

Ms. Dujon was elected Secretary of the West Adams Neighborhood Council by a unanimous vote of all 13 members.

At this time, Section 6 was taken up.

B. Discussion and possible action re-approval 2021/2022 Administrative Budget Packet

This item was taken up at 8:04 p.m., midway through Item 7.

Mr. Piatek shared his screen. He explained that signatories would be changing, therefore the Administrative Packet needed to be resubmitted. He provided further explanation, then moved to approve the Administrative Packet for 2021/22. Mr. Ma seconded. The motion carried with all 12 eligible members voting yes (Curley, Davis-Overstreet, Dujon, Dawson, Ma, Meeks, Piatek, Simmons, Murray, Thomas, Williams, Yancy). Mr. Wiley was ineligible.

At this time, (8:14 p.m) Item 7 was taken up again.

C. Discussion and possible action selection representatives to serve on NC Alliances, SLAANC, NCSA, NCBA, EPA, PLANCHECKNC, LANCC

This item was not taken up.

D. Discussion and possible action selection of CIS filers

This item was taken up at 9:25 p.m. after 11.H.

Mr. Simmons moved to approve Mr. Meeks, Ms. Davis-Overstreet, and Ms. Thomas as CIS filers. Mr. Piatek seconded. The motion carried with all 12 eligible members voting yes (Curley, Davis-Overstreet, Dujon, Dawson, Ma, Meeks, Piatek, Simmons, Murray, Thomas, Williams, Yancy). Mr. Wiley was ineligible.

E. Discussion and possible action of NC Liaisons: Aging, Homeless, Animal Services,

This item was not taken up.

F. Discussion and possible action on selection of second card holder

This Item was taken up at 11:02 p.m. after 11.I.

Mr. Simmons moved that Richard Williams be 2nd Cardholder. Mr. Piatek seconded. The motion carried with eight (8) in favor (Dawson, Ma, Meeks, Piatek, Simmons, Murray, Thomas, Williams) and 4 opposed (Curley, Davis-Overstreet, Dujon, Yancy). Mr. Wiley was ineligible.

G. Discussion and possible action on selection on signer, second and alternate signers

Ms. Curley nominated Steven Meeks to be a Signer. Ms. Davis-Overstreet seconded. The motion carried with all 12 eligible members voting yes (Curley, Davis-Overstreet, Dujon, Dawson, Ma, Meeks, Piatek, Simmons, Murray, Thomas, Williams, Yancy). Mr. Wiley was ineligible.

Ms. Thomas self-nominated to be 2nd signer. Mr. Simmons seconded. The motion carried with all 12 eligible members voting yes (Curley, Davis-Overstreet, Dujon, Dawson, Ma, Meeks, Piatek, Simmons, Murray, Thomas, Williams, Yancy). Mr. Wiley was ineligible.

Mr. Murray nominated Mr. Piatek to be Alternate Signer. Ms. Davis-Overstreet seconded. The motion carried with all 12 eligible members voting yes (Curley, Davis-Overstreet, Dujon, Dawson, Ma, Meeks, Piatek, Simmons, Murray, Thomas, Williams, Yancy). Mr. Wiley was ineligible.

H. Discussion and possible action formation of Arts/Culture Ad Hoc Committee

Ms. Dujon expressed an interest in starting the committee right away. She announced that a concert had been held Jun 21st at Vineyard Recreation Center. There she had met community members who agreed that it was fun and they wanted to continue with other formal programming like concerts and other projects that relate to arts and culture of the West Adams community.

Mr. Piatek moved to approve the creation of an Ad Hoc Arts & Culture committee. Ms. Davis-Overstreet seconded.

In board discussion, Mr. Meeks stated that a similar committee had been approved months before but there were no meetings. Ms. Dujon spoke to the matter.

The motion carried with all 12 eligible members voting yes (Curley, Davis-Overstreet, Dujon, Dawson, Ma, Meeks, Piatek, Simmons, Murray, Thomas, Williams, Yancy). Mr. Wiley was ineligible.

At this time (9:23 p.m.), Item 11.D was taken up.

I. Discussion and possible action filing CIS on Council File 20-1376 (ordinance 41.18D related to the use of City of LA public spaces

This item was taken up at 8:28 p.m. after Section 8.

Mr. Ma described the issue and the legal challenges. He argued that individuals were being housed in small numbers, but that the ordinance restricted the ability of individuals experiencing homelessness to be visible in public. He spoke in favor of maintaining the delicate procedures already underway to provide consistent services to the homeless population. He said he was strongly opposed.

Ms. Caitlin Gray said she was a resident and renter in West Adams. She spoke in opposition to the City Council's motion to amend ordinance 41.18, which, she said, was passed without an opportunity for public comment. Because no alternative models were in place, it put services in the hands of armed police. She spoke to challenges in staying connected to people with whom she had attempted to share food and water; and the difficulty for affected handicapped individuals to safeguard personal property and shelter; and the difficulty in maintaining outreach opportunities.

Kai from All Power Books on West Adams Blvd. spoke in support of Mr. Ma's motion to oppose the City Council motion. She spoke to "quite good relationships" forged with unhoused populations. She said increased policing served to displace unhoused neighbors.

Cat said she was also with All Power Books. She spoke to the increased criminalization of unhoused people who oftentimes don't have anywhere else to go and called it "oftentimes violent and inhumane." Those monetary resources could be used to help people. She was supportive of a CIS.

Ms. Davis-Overstreet spoke in opposition to the Council File listed. It was "not a solution." She said the Council District should bring a collaborative of services and collaboratively work together with NCs brought to the table. To go straight to the old way of criminalizing black and brown lives, she says "no."

Dr. Dawson was opposed to the CF because they had not sought community input before bringing it to City Council. He spoke to the immediate need of mental health services. Planning was poor and not accurately discussed. Nonprofits doing the work had not been properly contacted.

Mr. Murray was supportive of a CIS.

Ms. Dujon was in agreement. She spoke of the need for safe spaces such as parks for people experiencing homelessness to get “solace.” It was in WANC’s best interest to come together with elected officials in having discussions around humane solutions.

Mr. Simmons said City council was working under a judge’s order. He spoke to the Skid Row situation: LA Mission and the Rescue Mission had plenty of space , but many people who were homeless were “into drugs” and did not “abide by the laws.” He said there were 25,000 housing spots going unfilled.

Ms. Davis-Overstreet said care work, humanity work, and homework were all required. While the community wanted sidewalks to be clean, they shouldn’t treat homeless people “like trash.” More mental health professionals were needed.

Mr. Meeks said lawmakers in the City of LA had done “almost nothing” in the last 10-15 years [to address] the humanitarian crisis. People should not be criminalized but preservation of neighborhoods was important. Lawsuits and decrees against city were result of its own inaction.

After additional discussion, Mr. Ma moved to approve a CIS on CF 20-1376 (ordinance 41.18D) related to the use of City of LA public spaces. Mr. Murray seconded. The motion passed with 9 voting in favor (Curley, Davis-Overstreet, Dujon, Dawson, Ma, Meeks, Piatek, Murray, Yancy) and 2 opposed (Simmons, Williams). Mr. Wiley was ineligible, and Ms. Thomas did not vote.

At this time (9:02 p.m.), Item 11.F was taken up.

J. Discussion and possible action on allotting \$2500 for logo design ideas from more than one graphic designer

This item was not taken up.

12. Discussion and possible action on selection of Business Representative vacancy

This item was not taken up.

13. Discussion on agenda setting future monthly and Special meetings

This item was not taken up.

14. Adjourn

This item was taken up after Item 11.D.

Ms. Curley moved to adjourn. Mr. Simmons seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 9:27 p.m. without objection.

Respectfully Submitted by Conrad Starr.