

BOARD MEMBERS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS

Steven Meeks/President
Yolanda Davis-Overstreet/Vice President
Brian Piatek/Treasurer
Dorsay Dujon/Secretary



BOARD OF THE WEST ADAMS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

P.O. BOX 78474 Los Angeles, CA 90016
Tel: 323-451-9262
Email: contact@westadamsnc.org
Website: westadamsnc.org
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
Tel: (213) 978-1551 | Toll Free: 311
Fax: (213) 978-1751
Email: empowerla@lacity.org
Website: empowerla.org

**West Adams Neighborhood Council
Monthly Board Meeting Agenda/Yearly Retreat
Monday, January 23, 2023 6:30 - 9:30 PM
MINUTES**

1. Call to order and Roll Call:

President Stephen Meeks called the virtual Zoom meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Brian Piatek called the roll as follows:

Steven Meeks	PRESENT
Yolanda Davis-Overstreet	ABSENT
Brian Piatek	PRESENT
Dorsay Dujon	PRESENT
Jace Dawson	ABSENT
John Ma	PRESENT
Thomas Murray	PRESENT
Kristyn Yancy	ABSENT
Clint Simmons (late arrival)	PRESENT
Phillip Wiley (late arrival)	PRESENT
Connye Thomas	PRESENT
Richard Williams	PRESENT
Marcia Jones (late arrival)	PRESENT
QUORUM 10	

2. Government Representatives:

Brenda Thompson, Southwest Representative for Mayor Bass' Office updated the Council on the following:

- The Mayor’s office is in transition and staffing her administration. If you know of anyone interested in a position, the portal for staffing is job.lamayor.org;
- The Mayor has called a state of emergency for the homeless crisis. The homeless count is next week on Thursday and Friday and volunteers are needed and announce this information.

Jonathan Mitchell, Field Deputy, CD 10 Councilwoman Heather Hutt’s Office updated the Council on the following:

- No action can be taken on inquiries regarding homeless encampments until after the homeless count is completed;
- Communication with the City Attorney and LAPD is underway regarding the RV situation to find a legal route with oversized vehicles Tires are being marked as a signal to move or tow and there is a shortage of storage for these vehicles and the challenge continues to discourage RV vehicles to remain in the neighborhood;
- Tree trimming is continuing throughout the entire city. CD 10 has their own tree trimming crew and priority is being given to big palm trees and bushes south of the 10 freeway. All trees will be trimmed by the end of the year;
- February 23rd from 9:00 – 1:00 p.m. real ID services will be available for seniors 62 years and above at Rancho Cienega at 5001 Obama Blvd. at the Michelle Obama Center.

3. General Public Comment: non agenda items (two minutes per person)

Caller #2 was recognized to speak and expressed concerns with DONE and the integrity of individuals possibly running for NC seats. President Steven Meeks referred the caller to work with Octaviano Rios regarding his concern and stated that the WANC Council meeting was not a forum for his accusations.

4. Secretary’s report: Discussion and possible action, minutes – November and December

Richard Williams
No Action Taken.

5. Monthly Expenditure Report: Discussion and possible action - December

Treasurer Brian Piatek stated that the MER was distributed by email to Council members prior to the meeting and screen shared the updated DEC MERs from the City Clerk’s portal for approval:

Beginning Balance	\$50,867.62
Expense-to-Date	\$4,898.50
Total Outstanding	\$3,458.15
Net Available	\$42,510.97

A discussion took place on code of conduct training, ethics, funding, antibias training, and voting eligibility. Octaviano Rios, DONE Representative updated the Council on the Bylaws and the necessary thresholds for voting. Funding training is a requirement to be eligible to vote.

Treasurer Brian Piatek called the vote as follows:

MOTION: Richard Williams		
SECOND: Thomas Murray		
QUORUM	YES/NO	ABSENT/INELIGIBLE
Steven Meeks	YES	
Yolanda Davis-Overstreet		ABSENT
Brian Piatek	YES	
Dorsay Dujon		FUNDING INELIGIBLE
Jace Dawson		ABSENT
John Ma		ABSENT (at the time the vote was called)
Thomas Murray	YES	
Kristyn Yancy		ABSENT
Clint Simmons (late arrival)		ABSENT
Phillip Wiley (late arrival)		FUNDING INELIGIBLE
Connye Thomas		FUNDING INELIGIBLE
Richard Williams	YES	
Marcia Jones (late arrival)	YES	
VOTE RESULTS: 5 YES, 5 ABSENT, 3 FUNDING INELIGIBLE		
ACTION: MOTION PASSED		

6. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment: Octaviano Rios

Octaviano Rios, DONE Representative stated that preparation for in-person meetings is underway to begin March 1st. Meeting locations are being inspected and identified and the City Clerk will be working on the final determination for all areas for compliance. Elections are approaching for West Adams and February 6th is the closing period to file. Vote by mail period will open February 21st and close April 3rd. April 22nd is the election date. Mr. Rios encouraged everyone to work with the City Clerk throughout the process of outreach and election engagement strategies and increase awareness of WANC. Please visit empowerla.org. and city.clerkla.org. Mr. Rios stated his availability for support and to contact him with any questions. 213/978-550 or Octaviano.Ross @lacity.org.

Dorsay Dujon, Connye Thomas, President Steven Meeks, and Brian Piatek stated their availability to work on the Election Committee.

7. Standing and Ad-Hoc Committees, City Liaison and NC Alliance Reports:

Dorsay Dujon updated the Council on the following:

- Arts Culture and Outreach had a joint meeting on January 1st to focus on Black History Month, and the 20th anniversary of West Anniversary NC;
- SLANC met on January Jan 19th and Brenda Thomas was in attendance and addressed homelessness and the Mayor’s concerns.

Brian Piatek updated the Council on the following:

- The Finance Committee met and discussed the budget;
- Land Use Committee met last week and there are no new developments. Costco is opening in a couple of years on the other side of Ralphs on Obama Blvd;

- Concerns were discussed with the number of permits in the West Adams area and coordinating with the Planning Department. New liquor, beer, and wine licensing for restaurants still need to be approved by NCs and we are not getting notified.
- The topic of TOCs (Transit Orientated Communities) were discussed.

Connye Thomas updated the Council on the following:

- The Rules Committee will be meeting;
- The Election Committee is distributing information on the website and Next Door;
- Confirmation has been received that the election polling location will be the Vineyard on April 22nd in the morning;
- The License Committee discussed the proposal for an apartment building on the south side of Obama Boulevard on a corner that will create congestion on the east, north and south side. Homeowner organizations and CVS are discussing a problem with the property line and CVS has removed shrubs. We will coordinate with the Land Use Committee.

President Steven Meeks updated the Council on the following:

- The Homeless Ad Hoc Committee has not formalized a meeting; however, met with Reverend Phillips and McKenzie at New Live Church with Brenda Thompson to discuss the topic of conducting more community outreach to maximize services in the area. A formal meeting is being planned in the next two weeks.

8. **Presentation:** NONE

9. **New Business:**

- A. **Discussion and possible action:** pay December invoice Ume Works for web site updates, maintenance, graphics work in the amount of \$406.26.

Treasurer Piatek called the vote as follows:

MOTION: Brian Piatek		
SECOND: Richard Williams		
QUORUM	YES/NO	ABSENT/INELIGIBLE
Steven Meeks	YES	
Yolanda Davis-Overstreet		ABSENT
Brian Piatek	YES	
Dorsay Dujon		FUNDING INELIGIBLE
Jace Dawson		ABSENT
John Ma	YES	
Thomas Murray	YES	
Kristyn Yancy		ABSENT
Clint Simmons (late arrival)		ABSENT
Phillip Wiley (late arrival)		FUNDING INELIGIBLE
Connye Thomas		FUNDING INELIGIBLE
Richard Williams	YES	
Marcia Jones (late arrival)	YES	
VOTE RESULTS: 6 YES, 4 ABSENT, 3 FUNDING INELIGIBLE		

ACTION: MOTION PASSED

- B. **Discussion and possible action:** pay Ume Works for January 2022 for 931.15 (to be paid after reimbursement from Ume Works for overpayment of \$552 to them)

Treasurer Piatek called the vote as follows:

MOTION: Brian Piatek		
SECOND: Thomas Murray		
QUORUM	YES/NO	ABSENT/INELIGIBLE
Steven Meeks	YES	
Yolanda Davis-Overstreet		ABSENT
Brian Piatek	YES	
Dorsay Dujon		FUNDING INELIGIBLE
Jace Dawson		ABSENT
John Ma	YES	
Thomas Murray	YES	
Kristyn Yancy		ABSENT
Clint Simmons (late arrival)		ABSENT
Phillip Wiley (late arrival)		FUNDING INELIGIBLE
Connye Thomas		FUNDING INELIGIBLE
Richard Williams	YES	
Marcia Jones (late arrival)	YES	
VOTE RESULTS: 6 YES, 4 ABSENT, 3 FUNDING INELIGIBLE		
ACTION: MOTION PASSED		

- C. **Discussion and possible action:** budget amendment increase for current FY of \$18,867.62 brought forward from FY 2021-2022 for a total budget of \$50,867.62

Treasurer Piatek called the vote as follows:

MOTION: Brian Piatek		
SECOND: inaudible		
QUORUM	YES/NO	ABSENT/INELIGIBLE
Steven Meeks	YES	
Yolanda Davis-Overstreet		ABSENT
Brian Piatek	YES	
Dorsay Dujon		FUNDING INELIGIBLE
Jace Dawson		ABSENT
John Ma	YES	
Thomas Murray	YES	
Kristyn Yancy		ABSENT
Clint Simmons (late arrival)		ABSENT
Phillip Wiley (late arrival)		FUNDING INELIGIBLE
Connye Thomas		FUNDING INELIGIBLE
Richard Williams	YES	
Marcia Jones (late arrival)	YES	
VOTE RESULTS: 6 YES, 4 ABSENT, 3 FUNDING INELIGIBLE		

ACTION: MOTION PASSED

- D. **Discussion and possible action:** refreshments for in person meetings not to exceed \$225 per meeting

Treasurer Piatek called the vote as follows:

MOTION: Marcia Jones		
SECOND: inaudible		
QUORUM	YES/NO	ABSENT/INELIGIBLE
Steven Meeks	YES	
Yolanda Davis-Overstreet		ABSENT
Brian Piatek	YES	
Dorsay Dujon		FUNDING INELIGIBLE
Jace Dawson		ABSENT
John Ma	YES	
Thomas Murray	YES	
Kristyn Yancy		ABSENT
Clint Simmons (late arrival)		ABSENT
Phillip Wiley (late arrival)		FUNDING INELIGIBLE
Connye Thomas		FUNDING INELIGIBLE
Richard Williams	YES	
Marcia Jones (late arrival)	YES	
VOTE RESULTS: 6 YES, 4 ABSENT, 3 FUNDING INELIGIBLE		
ACTION: MOTION PASSED		

- E. **Discussion and possible action:** option/need to hold certain or all meetings at an ADA compliant location such as Obama Rec Center

Treasurer Piatek called the vote as follows:

MOTION: Clint Simmons		
SECOND: Richard Williams		
QUORUM	YES/NO	ABSENT/INELIGIBLE
Steven Meeks	YES	
Yolanda Davis-Overstreet		ABSENT
Brian Piatek	YES	
Dorsay Dujon	YES	FUNDING INELIGIBLE
Jace Dawson		ABSENT
John Ma	YES	
Thomas Murray	YES	
Kristyn Yancy		ABSENT
Clint Simmons (late arrival)	YES	
Phillip Wiley (late arrival)	YES	FUNDING INELIGIBLE
Connye Thomas	YES	FUNDING INELIGIBLE
Richard Williams	YES	
Marcia Jones (late arrival)	YES	
VOTE RESULTS: 10 YES, 3 ABSENT		

ACTION: MOTION PASSED NON FUNDING ITEM

Octaviano Rios, DONE Representative conducted a discussion on ADA compliance of the Obama Center and the Vineyard. Per the Bylaws a meeting can be held at alternate locations; however, ADA compliance is the determining factor. The size and amenities of the Obama center cannot be the determining factor. Approving additional locations can be beneficial for committee meetings and board meetings. Any deviation of location, date and time, will require the agenda to be marked as a special meeting.

Philip Wiley stated that Monday is a light usage day at the center.

- F. **Discussion and possible action:** design, production, installation street utility pole banners not to exceed \$9000

Treasurer Piatek called the vote as follows:

MOTION: Brian Piatek		
SECOND: John Ma		
QUORUM	YES/NO	ABSENT/INELIGIBLE
Steven Meeks	YES	
Yolanda Davis-Overstreet		ABSENT
Brian Piatek	YES	
Dorsay Dujon		FUNDING INELIGIBLE
Jace Dawson		ABSENT
John Ma	YES	
Thomas Murray	YES	
Kristyn Yancy		ABSENT
Clint Simmons (late arrival)		ABSENT (at the time the vote was called)
Phillip Wiley (late arrival)		FUNDING INELIGIBLE
Connye Thomas		FUNDING INELIGIBLE
Richard Williams		ABSENT (at the time the vote was called)
Marcia Jones (late arrival)	YES	
VOTE RESULTS: 5 YES, 5 ABSENT, 3 FUNDING INELIGIBLE		
ACTION: MOTION PASSED		

- G. **Discussion and possible action:** 20th Year WANC Anniversary Celebration – a gallery, jazz and food experience event for items such as but not limited to, food and drink refreshments, entertainment, venue rental, insurance not to exceed \$10,000

Treasurer Piatek called the vote as follows:

MOTION: Brian Piatek		
SECOND: John Ma		
QUORUM	YES/NO	ABSENT/INELIGIBLE
Steven Meeks	YES	
Yolanda Davis-Overstreet		ABSENT
Brian Piatek	YES	
Dorsay Dujon		FUNDING INELIGIBLE

Jace Dawson		ABSENT
John Ma	YES	
Thomas Murray	YES	
Kristyn Yancy		ABSENT
Clint Simmons (late arrival)		ABSENT
Phillip Wiley (late arrival)		FUNDING INELIGIBLE
Connye Thomas		FUNDING INELIGIBLE
Richard Williams	YES	
Marcia Jones (late arrival)	YES	
VOTE RESULTS: 6 YES, 4 ABSENT, 3 FUNDING INELIGIBLE		
ACTION: MOTION PASSED		

Brian Piatek, John Ma, Dorsay Dujon and Connye Thomas stated they would work on this event. Tracey Wisner, stakeholder volunteered her services.

- H. **Discussion:** Public outing event – Academy Museum of Motion Pictures-Regeneration Summit: Celebration of Black Cinema, Sunday February 5th.

President Steven Meeks stated that the summit is free on Sunday and encouraged all to attend. Dujon Dorsey stated that the summit begins on Friday, Feb 3rd and there are programs that require a paid ticket.

10. Old Business:

- A. **Discussion update:** 2023 NC Elections

Connye Thomas updated the council on the NC Elections:

- April 22nd is the election date;
- Yard signs are underway;
- Spanish translation services are being provided;
- The committee will proceed with approve funds;
- Information will be distributed by bulk mail;
- Postcards will be sent by email;
- Social media will be utilized along with yard signs;
- Communicating with the Election Clerk and verifying the polling place to be ADA compliant;
- Working with the City Clerk for available materials and resources;
- Working with Denise from Ume for additional design work;
- Working with Angie for speaker and communication services.

President Steven Meeks requested translation for the Ethiopian community.

Item D was moved up in the agenda to follow 10A

- B. **Discussion:** Report from Richard Williams on minutes

Richard Williams updated the Board and stated that the minute taker has a scheduling conflict and will contact the agency to have the minutes reassigned and will update the

council on the availability of another notetaker to complete the assignment of the past due minutes.

C. Discussion and possible action: Outreach Budget amendment increase \$2,867.62

Treasurer Piatek called the vote as follows:

MOTION: Brian Piatek		
SECOND: Richard Williams		
QUORUM	YES/NO	ABSENT/INELIGIBLE
Steven Meeks	YES	
Yolanda Davis-Overstreet		ABSENT
Brian Piatek	YES	
Dorsay Dujon		FUNDING INELIGIBLE
Jace Dawson		ABSENT
John Ma	YES	
Thomas Murray	YES	
Kristyn Yancy		ABSENT
Clint Simmons (late arrival)		ABSENT (at the time the vote was called)
Phillip Wiley (late arrival)		FUNDING INELIGIBLE
Connye Thomas		FUNDING INELIGIBLE
Richard Williams	YES	
Marcia Jones (late arrival)	YES	
VOTE RESULTS: 6 YES, 4 ABSENT, 3 FUNDING INELIGIBLE		
ACTION: MOTION PASSED		

D. Discussion and possible action: NC Elections budget amendment increase \$6000

Treasurer Piatek called the vote as follows:

MOTION: Connye Thomas		
SECOND: Richard Williams		
QUORUM	YES/NO	ABSENT/INELIGIBLE
Steven Meeks	YES	
Yolanda Davis-Overstreet		ABSENT
Brian Piatek	YES	
Dorsay Dujon		FUNDING INELIGIBLE
Jace Dawson		ABSENT
John Ma	YES	
Thomas Murray	YES	
Kristyn Yancy		ABSENT
Clint Simmons (late arrival)		ABSENT (at the time the vote was called)
Phillip Wiley (late arrival)		FUNDING INELIGIBLE
Connye Thomas		FUNDING INELIGIBLE
Richard Williams	YES	
Marcia Jones (late arrival)	YES	
VOTE RESULTS: 6 YES, 4 ABSENT, 3 FUNDING INELIGIBLE		
ACTION: MOTION PASSED		

- E. Discussion and possible action:** publish online, (e.g. website and or social media) photos of chronically derelict/neglected properties that continue to be an eyesore because of issues such as graffiti, trash, dilapidation

This Item was tabled.

- F. Agenda setting future Monthly or Special Meetings**

John Ma agendaized for discussion a topic from a previous meeting that addressed the municipal lobbying ordinance with a concern for presenters to identify themselves at meetings and not appear as stakeholders. Are changes to the Ethics Commission charter in need of review? Is this a concern to address to the City Attorney?

President Steven Meeks hand polled the Council for the need of a special meeting to address this concern and 5 Board members expressed interest and availability.

After discussion it was determined that a special meeting will be called on Wednesday, January 25 at 6:00 – 6:45 p.m. John Ma will compose the special agenda for President Steven Meeks approval and post appropriately for a special meeting.

- 11. Adjourn:** President Steven Meeks adjourned the monthly Board meeting at 8:45 p.m. and called to reconvened as a body for the Special Retreat Meeting.



The meeting of the Special Retreat was tabled due to the length of the previous meeting and not called to order.

BOARD RETREAT

1. **Ground rules:** One speaker at a time - no interruptions
2. **Discussion:** Code of Conduct/Ethics - Relationships and Communication Between Board Members