

# WEST ADAMS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, March 20, 2023

1. **Call to order at 6:40 p.m. by Board President Steven Meeks. Roll Call by Treasurer Brian Piatek: Quorum established with 8 board members. Board members attending:** Brian Piatek, Steven Meeks, Marcia Jones, Dorsay Dujon, Jace Dawson, John Ma, Thomas Murray and Connye Thomas.
  - o Client Simmons arrived at 6:50 p.m.
  - o Yolanda David Overstreet after 7 p.m. and left the meeting at 8:45.
  - o Richard Williams arrived after 7 p.m.
  - o Phillip Wiley joined the meeting at 8 p.m.
  - o Kristyn Yancy was absent.

### 2. Government Representatives:

**Jonathan Mitchell, rep for CD 10**, gave an update:

- o Street Services are working on making the corners on Hillcrest and 28<sup>th</sup> ADA compliant.
- o Street Services are going down the Crenshaw corridor now to make all corners ADA compliant.
- o With the rain, there have been power outages. DWP needs access to trees that are hanging over power lines.
- Steven asked CD10 to provide info about rebates from federal and state governments so they can share what funds are available for people to refurbish homes, for energy efficiency and other improvements.
- Brian asked Jonathan is he is aware of how dim the street lights are along Washington from downtown to 10<sup>th</sup> Street. He suggested LED street lights be used for better lighting. He also asked about pothole repair. Jonathan said they are currently applying for funds for fixing potholes.
- Dorsay talked about street lighting being a serious problem.
- Connye sent a request to Kimberly at the Council Office on an issue and was waiting for a response.
- Richard Williams asked if LAPD is providing security at the Michelle Obama Sports Center or if it is a private concern.
- Clint Simmons said the police were probably dealing with the homeless encampment. Jonathan explained that this is one of their most problematic areas. Their goal is not just to move the homeless but to get them housed.

**Paul Pham, L.A. County Fire Battalion Chief**, warned board members about the heavy rain expected the next day. He gave cautionary messages about avoiding downed power lines, downed trees, chain link fences and areas prone to street flooding. He also recommended everyone put together a plan for surviving a long-term power outage including knowing which neighbors have power generators.

**3. General Public Comment on non-agenda items:** Stakeholder Tracy Weisert asked if the people running for board seats were showing up at board meetings to see how business is conducted.

**4. Secretary's report: Discussion and possible action on February Monthly Meeting Minutes. (Simmons/Williams) moved to approve the February board meeting minutes as amended. The motion carried unanimously: 10-0-0. (Thomas and Yancy absent).**

**5. Monthly Expenditure Report: (Piatek/Dujon) moved to approve the January MER. Brian reviewed the MER for January 2023. The motion carried: 9-0-0 (Thomas, Yancy and Willey absent/Simmons ineligible).**

**(Williams/Dujon) moved to approve the February MER. 10-0-0 (Yancy and Willey absent/Simmons ineligible).**

**6. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment:** Octaviano Rios spoke about a training on filing CIS's and to learn about a new CIS portal to improve NCs and decision makers at City Hall. Training takes place on Zoom on March 23<sup>rd</sup> from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. Board members are encouraged to open an Angeleno account. Virtual meetings are extended until March 29<sup>th</sup>. In April, in-person meetings will resume. If there are any challenges with this process, contact Octaviano. Zoom accounts will now be at cost for NCs at \$200.00 per year. Future virtual events will have to be reviewed by the City Attorney to be Brown Act - compliant.

Brian said WANC is happy to pay for a Zoom account, which is due in April, but he hasn't been sent an invoice for it. Octaviano said an invoice would be sent by the Department after the item is approved.

**7. Standing and Ad-Hoc Committees, City Liaison and NC Alliance Reports:** No report.

**8. Presentation: All Power/People's Ensemble Project.** Artem Fominyx, spokesman for this project, is working on this with Dorsay. He started this project through his fellowship as a musician. All Power is the name of the bookstore on W. Adams where he has been volunteering for a year. It's an Arts and Music Program that provides free courses for kids. He will be teaching to two groups of people: ages 11 – 17 and 17 and up. This program is open to anyone who wants to join. At it ends, they will put on a concert at the Wallis on June 3, 2023 and may also take the students to Cuba and Mexico. Artem is also offering free violin lessons to area residents and encouraged anyone will an interest in music to join him.

- Dorsay added that music is the key to learning. With music not being taught in the schools anymore, this is a great opportunity.
- Tracy Weisert concurred with what Dorsay said. She asked for more information about the classes which meet at 5 p.m. and 6:30 on Mondays and Thursdays.
- John Ma suggested that the Wallis might be helpful. He offered to help him get the word out.

## **9. New Business:**

**A. Discussion and possible action: (Dujon/Thomas) moved that WANC represent a table at the Community Empowerment Fair at 3015 Crenshaw Ave. sponsored by A New Life 4 You on Saturday, March 25, 2023 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

Tonia Knightner spoke about the Fair which her non-profit, A New Life 4 You, is participating in. The table is free for WANC to showcase the election and outreach. The Fair will offer info on civic engagement, home ownership, free dental screenings, legal representation, and free tax

work. John Ma said he could cover 10 a.m. – noon. Marcia said she could cover 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. Steven Meeks said he could also cover two hours on Saturday.

- B. The motion that WANC represent a table at the Community Empowerment Fair at 3015 Crenshaw Ave. sponsored by A New Life 4 You on Saturday, March 25, 2023 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. carried: 11-1-0 (Piatek opposed) (Yancy absent).**
- C. Discussion and possible action: NPG Funding Request from L.A. Green Grounds:** Brian suggested declining an NPG funding request from LA Green Grounds, not to exceed \$5000. Steven Meeks recused himself. After much discussion, this item was tabled for more information.
- D. Discussion and possible action: Legacy Ladies: (Williams/Dejon) moved that WANC approve an NPG funding request from Legacy Ladies not to exceed \$5000.” Williams amended the motion to approve funding for \$5,000 for Legacy Ladies.**

Brian explained the purpose of Legacy Ladies is to teach young ladies from Dorsey High the process of governance. Jacqueline Castillo gave more information about her program which reaches out after school to students in STEM, college readiness and financial literacy.

When asked to provide an accounting of the current budget for WANC, Brian noted that the current funding was over budget at present.

**(Williams) then amended the motion to say that “WANC approve an NPG funding request from Legacy Ladies for \$5,000 for Legacy Ladies.”**

**The amended motion carried unanimously: 9-0-0 (Jones and Yancy absent), Simmons ineligible to vote on funding issues).**

- E. Discussion and possible action: Joint Public/Private Development Crenshaw Crossing.** Steven noted that the board needs to be updated on this development which could cause rates to skyrocket for local businesses currently housed in that area. After much discussion, it was decided that Land Use needed to look into this and get more information.

## **10. Old Business:**

**A. Discussion update: 2023 NC Elections Progress Report:** Connye reported that the Elections Committee is working on making sure the election is a success. A Candidate Forum will take place April 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> at Mattel and the Barack Obama Complex. There are 16 candidates running for the new board. John asked if the bylaws could be updated to include a student that is interested in running for the board. This would need to be agendaized to be discussed.

**B. Discussion and possible action, Board Retreat: (Dejon/Williams) moved to schedule a tentative date of Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023 for the Annual Board Retreat as an in-person event, with or without facilitator Natoma Keir.**

**The motion carried: 11-0-0 (Davis - Overstreet and Yancy absent).**

**C. Board Retreat Budget: (Thomas/Williams) moved to amend the prior Board Retreat Budget to include refreshments, not to exceed \$500.”**

**The motion carried: 8-1-0 (Piatek opposed) (Simmons and Willey ineligible to vote, Davis - Overstreet and Yancy absent).**

**D. Discussion: Resumption of in-person Monthly and Committee Meetings:**

Steven reminded everyone that as of April, the in-person board and committee meetings will resume. Brian suggested as locations the Library, the Rec Center or the kitchen area on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Obama Center. Brian said he would need to set up two sub groups of board members to schedule committee meetings and to set up the first board meeting and to decide the venue. After Connye volunteered, Brian and Steven said they would work on setting up the location.

E. Agenda setting future Monthly or Special Meetings: None.

**11. Meeting Adjourned at 9:45 p.m.**

**-Minutes by Pat Kramer, Apple One-**