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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
Phillip 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

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West Adams Neighborhood Council
Meets Every Third Monday of the Month @
Vineyard Recreation Center, 2942 Vineyard
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DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT

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MINUTES – Approved by the Board 10/18/21 General Board Monthly Meeting Zoom Meeting online or by telephone August 16, 2021, 6:30 PM

1. Call to order and Roll Call

A meeting of the West Adams Neighborhood Council (WANC) was held on August 16, 2021 over Zoom, Webinar 959 3661 2418.

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Steven Meeks (President), who made welcoming remarks.

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

2. Government Representatives

This item was taken up at 6:44 p.m. following a portion of Section 3.

Kimani Black from the Office of Councilmember Mark Ridley-Thomas (CD10) reported. They had met with the operator of Ybarra Village, the Cesar Chavez Foundation, regarding safety issues such as prostitution and drug sales. Mr. Black said he walked the building and saw firsthand what the residents were dealing with. The Foundation planned to seek a variance to allow for a taller fence to prevent individuals from gaining illegal access. Lighting improvements and video surveillance of the alley were planned. Senior Lead Officer (SLO) Garcia would perform an additional walkthrough.

Mr. Black agreed to remind Roger Estrada to send Mr. Ma an email by the end of the business week.

Dorsay Dujon had arrived by 6:47 p.m. There were now 9 board members present.

Ms. Dujon described the situation at Ybarra Village as a “nightmare” and said residents did not understand why there was not a taller fence in place.

Mr. Piatek said the Land Use Committee was interested in working with CD10 and neighboring Councils about some of the problems in the area. Black offered to set up a meeting between the

Committee and Hakeem Parke-Davis. Piatek mentioned a boarded-up fourplex property on Chesapeake with grass four feet tall that the owners refused to maintain. A Transit Oriented Community (TOC) development was planned at the location.

Tracy Weisert thanked Mr. Black for his service to the community.

Marie Blue said a park at W. Adams Blvd. and West Blvd. was overgrown with weeds and that homeless encampments were there. She asked that it be made safe to use for the community. Black said individuals living there had “migrated” from Leimert Park, that they had been offered housing, but some had been kicked out of supportive housing and had set up camp at the park. A City Council motion in September would prohibit individuals from camping out in front of sensitive uses, including parks. Council Member Ridley-Thomas believed in outreach performed by organizations such as Hopics, who would continuously offer housing and services in an attempt to get individuals off the streets and away from the park. Services had been offered to individuals at the location since June 1st and they would make additional attempts through early September.

Richard Williams joined by 6:54 p.m. There were now ten (10) board members present.

Mr. Williams described a traffic safety issue at the parking lot. Mr. Black offered to send an email to LADOT and to the park director.

At 6:56 p.m., Section 3 was reopened. Section 2 was then reopened at 7:03 p.m. for the following report:

Daniel Park (DPark@bos.lacounty.gov, (213) 974-2222, Mitchell.LACounty.gov) reported. He asked WANC to let his office know of potential sites for vaccination pop-up events, citing a “tremendous rise in cases” over the previous month, including a 300% increase in the infection rate among pregnant women. The vaccination was safe for pregnant mothers and fetuses, he said. A third “booster” vaccine dose was now available for immunocompromised individuals. Information was available at <https://vaccinatelacounty.com>. Supervisor Mitchell’s office was partnering with board chair Hilda Solis to utilizing funds from the American Rescue Plan for a block-by-block analysis on the “digital divide,” which impacted students and families.

3. General Public Comment: non agenda items

This item was taken up at 6:37 p.m. after Item 1.

“Teresa” said she and was from the Hurt Help Group. Her colleague, Tavackus Dawson, spoke about providing services and reentry for youth and adults, and noted a “crisis” in the neighborhood and violence “epidemics”. Teresa said the group was looking to host workshops in the area and suggested an item might be placed onto the September agenda to “go into depth.”

Kara Poole inquired about a payment she was owed for video editing performed for WANC for the Black History 365 town hall. Mr. Piatek said the May 2021 invoice should have been paid in June but was delayed, and that she should receive payment in the following few days.

General Public Comment was reopened at 6:56 after Section 2.

Ian McMillan wanted to present at a future meeting. Ms. Curley advised him to email the Executive Board.

Rob Wilcox said he was running for City Controller. He was born and raised in Los Angeles and was a parishioner at St. John’s Episcopal Church in West Adams. He was a former deputy

to Laura Chick. For the previous eight years, he served as Director of Community Engagement for City Attorney Mike Feuer. As Controller, he would build on the work of Ron Galperin. His website was <http://robforcontroller.com>.

At this time (7:03 p.m.), Section 2 was reopened briefly.

Following the report (Section 2) from Daniel Park, Paul Seymour made General Public Comment regarding Link Scooters, which he represented.

4. Secretary's report: Discussion and possible action approval of July minutes

Mr. Piatek moved to accept the July minutes. Ms. Curley seconded. There was no discussion. The motion carried with all 10 members present voting in favor. Three were absent (Davis-Overstreet, Wiley, Yancy).

5. Monthly Expenditure Report/Year End Report: Discussion and possible action July MER

Mr. Piatek showed the MER on his screen. Outreach items made up the bulk of expenditures. An old "Every Table" invoice would finally be paid. The net available funds came to \$26,260. The City had yet to reconcile any rollover funds.

A \$5,000 "commitment," which was an NPG for a garden, would be on the September MER.

Mr. Ma moved to approve the July MER. Mr. Williams seconded. The motion carried with all 10 members present voting in favor. Three were absent (Davis-Overstreet, Wiley, Yancy).

At this time (7:18 p.m.), Item 9.A was taken up.

6. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment: Octaviano Rios

This item was taken up at 7:40 p.m. after 9.A.

Octaviano Rios (octaviano.rios@lacity.org) reported. Civic University was a training opportunity for board members and was produced by the Pat Brown Institute for Public Affairs. It featured three 90-minute sessions on the power structure at City Hall, the guts of City government, and mobilizing for influence. Because of Brown Act restrictions on the majority of a quorum of an NC board attending, a maximum of four WANC board members could participate. The Planning 101 training for PLUM committee members was due on October 1st. Rios would notify the board when it was available on Cornerstone. An important policy amendment to the 2016 Code of Conduct was under review by the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (BONC), and NC feedback was being sought. Bylaw amendments could be submitted up to the April 15, 2022* deadline (*Minutes writer's note: it was later discovered that the April 15th deadline appearing in some materials was incorrect, and the actual deadline was April 1st, 2022.).

At this time (7:45 p.m.), Item 8.A was taken up.

7. Standing Committee and City Liaison Reports

This item was taken up at 8:16 p.m. after Item 9.D.

Mr. Simmons reported on the Land Use Committee. It met the previous Tuesday. Residents on Chesapeake had given comments regarding a planned five-story building; they had concerns it would bring more traffic and obstruct their views. Neighbors wanted the development to "frost" the east-facing windows to prevent people from looking at the neighbors below. Units

that were currently available were largely unoccupied. The Department of Building and Safety (DBS) was not carrying out their duties and making sure empty properties were free of homeless [squatters], were not ensuring the upkeep of properties and yards, which had led to “deterioration” in the community. The developer of 4401 Jefferson Blvd. wanted to present to the committee in September.

Mr. Meeks reported on the Outreach Committee. A meeting would be scheduled for the following week. They would discuss ideas previously discussed, such as community events.

Mr. Ma reported on the Public Safety Committee. He encouraged everyone to attend a neighborhood disaster drill the following Saturday, where the staging kit WANC had funded through a Neighborhood Purposes Grant would be revealed and explained. The drill included an “amazing roster” of attendees from LAFD, the Emergency Management Department, and others. The Adams Boulevard Safety Project could be found on the LADOT website. Work was planned on Adams Blvd. from August 23 to 25, requiring a street closure from La Brea Blvd. to Crenshaw Blvd.

Ma reported on the Ad Hoc Homelessness Committee. Three case workers from Hopics would be at the Wednesday “Shower of Hope,” around lunchtime. Ma encouraged the board to inform individuals experiencing homelessness about the opportunity.

There was discussion of the need for a new WANC logo. Mr. Meeks encouraged “everyone on this committee” to help find someone to design a logo, noting he had already reached out to two or three people.

Ms. Dujon reported on the Arts & Culture Committee. It had not yet met; meetings would be on the second Wednesday of the month. A meeting was tentatively planned for the following week. She proposed that the committee assemble packages of art materials to distribute at the Shower of Hope and to sponsor an acoustic guitarist to play music there.

Ms. Thomas reported on the Rules Committee. Only two members had attended the August 9th meeting, so they were unable to proceed [due to the quorum not being met]. She had invited other stakeholders to join to address the quorum issue.

At this time (8:34 p.m.), Section 10 was taken up.

8. Old business:

A. Discussion and possible action selection of Board Retreat date

This item was taken up at 7:45 p.m. after Item 6.

September 11th and 18th were discussed. The board agreed to postpone the item and to check with the facilitator regarding availability.

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

Following board discussion, Mr. Piatek moved to approve the following representatives: Yolanda Davis-Overstreet for SLAANC, Connye Thomas for LANCC, Brian Piatek for NCBC and PlanCheck, and Steven Meeks for NCSA. Mr. Simmons seconded. The motion carried with all 10 members present voting in favor. Three were absent (Davis-Overstreet, Wiley, Yancy).

C. Discussion and possible action on NC Liaison's such as: Aging, Homeless, Animal Services

The item was postponed without objection.

D. Discussion on WANC letter sent in regards to LAPD's lack of response/service

Ms. Curley noted Ms. Yancy had written the original letter. Mr. Meeks said that to date they had not received crime reports, had not had a representative from the LAPD at board meetings, and that the area still saw "a great lack of response" from the LAPD according to several people in the neighborhood.

Ms. Dujon referred to meetings with police that [WANC members] did not attend and stated it was "hard to ask folks to do something when you don't attend their meetings." She offered to make phone calls to "try to build a relationship and get a response."

Dr. Dawson said he would have loved to attend such meetings and to provide a report to the board. He suggested discussing the item at the next general board meeting.

Mr. Meeks told Ms. Thomas he expected Ms. Yancy to advise as to the status. Ms. Curley suggested that Dr. Dawson, Ms. Dujon, and Ms. Thomas follow up.

In public comment, Ms. Weisert said SLO Garcia had been unable to attend due to a training. Mr. Piatek said the crime mapping had been helpful to visualize crimes in the area. "Mika" had reached out to Ofc. Garcia to attend the next meeting.

At this time (8:10 p.m.), Item 9.B was taken up.

9. New business:

A. Discussion on new website design

Abel Sun presented to the board. Over 6-8 weeks, he and Denise Shiozawa (Ume Works) had redesigned the WANC website. Ms. Shiozawa presented the staging site through screen sharing. She invited the board to spend time on the staging site and provide feedback, including any bad links or inaccurate listings. More photographs were needed for the "slideshow."

Ms. Thomas requested that locations be identified in their photographs.

Shiozawa said a button on the homepage would allow the site to be translated using Google Translate. The Board needed to supply a privacy policy. A new email address had been created: contact@westadamsnc.org.

She described additional features of the staging site.

Shiozawa recommended holding a "best practice for posting blog posts" training once the site was live.

Committee pages could include "want to get involved?" links to outside organizations such as Shower of Hope.

In public comment, Tracy Weisert said she found the staging site to be “cumbersome.” She recommended including photos of projects WANC had funded. She said she had sent photographs to Mr. Sun, who responded he would need a photographic release from individuals appearing in the photos. Ms. Shiozawa invited Ms. Weisert to elaborate later on what she felt was cumbersome about the site.

Mr. Sun told Mr. Simmons the site would be constantly updated to reflect meetings. The “resources” page would be updated as needed. A maintenance schedule of every 2-3 months was recommended to ensure information on the site was current and that links were working. He recommended the board appoint a website administrator who would work with Ms. Shiozawa, and a second appointee to review content. Ms. Shiozawa said someone was needed to manage comments. Mr. Sun stated that City policy required comments to be monitored.

Mr. Meeks announced at 7:38 p.m. that he had briefly disconnected from the meeting but had rejoined by phone.

Ms. Dujon said as Secretary she would help to ensure the sure was “looked at and kept up.” Mr. Sun said her name would be added to the Executive Board listing.

At this time (7:40 p.m.), Section 6 was taken up.

B. Discussion and possible action reimbursement to Steven Meeks in the amount of \$704 (re-approval)

This item was taken up at 8:10 p.m. after Section 8.

Mr. Piatek said the June 1 deadline for checks to be cut had prevented payments for items B, C, and D from being processed; therefore, they needed to be reapproved by the board, which had already approved them in the previous fiscal year.

Mr. Williams moved to approve \$704 for Steven Meeks for reimbursements. Ms. Dorsay seconded. The motion carried with all 10 members present voting in favor. Three were absent (Davis-Overstreet, Wiley, Yancy).

C. Discussion and possible action reimbursement to Steven Meeks in the amount of \$145 (re-approval)

Mr. Simmons moved to reapprove as above for \$145. Mr. Williams seconded. The motion carried with all 10 members present voting in favor. Three were absent (Davis-Overstreet, Wiley, Yancy).

D. Discussion and possible action reimbursement to John Ma in the amount of \$140 (re-approval)

Mr. Williams moved to approve the reimbursement to John Ma for \$140. Ms. Dujon seconded. The motion carried with all 10 members present voting in favor. Three were absent (Davis-Overstreet, Wiley, Yancy).

At this time (8:16 p.m.), Section 7 was taken up.

10. Agenda setting: Future monthly and or Special meetings

This section was taken up at 8:34 p.m. after Section 7.

Mr. Meeks said the board should approve a retreat date “as a formality.”

Ms. Curley moved that September 11th be the retreat date for the WANC; and in the event that date doesn't work, we will select a date that does. Ms. Dujon seconded.

Dr. Dawson was absent from the following vote. Nine board members remained.

The motion carried with six (6) in favor (Curley, Dujon, Ma, Meeks, Simmons, Williams) and three (3) opposed (Piatek, Murray, Thomas). Four were absent (Davis-Overstreet, Dawson, Wiley, Yancy).

Mr. Piatek requested that "a couple expenditures" be added to any special meeting agenda for approval.

11. Adjourn

Ms. Curley moved to adjourn. Mr. Simmons seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m. without objection.

Respectfully Submitted by Conrad Starr.