

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  
Brian Piatek - Treasurer  
Kristyn Yancy - At Large Representative  
Sean Curley - Parliamentarian  
Dorsay Dujon - At Large Representative  
Connye Thomas - At Large Representative  
Clint Simmons - Homeowner Representative  
Vacant - Youth Representative  
Vacant - Community Interest Representative  
Richard Williams - Business Representative  
Vacant - Business Representative  
Abel Sun - At Large Representative  
John Ma - At Large Representative  
Jace Dawson - At Large Representative

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## West Adams Neighborhood Council

### MINUTES – Adopted by the Board on May 17, 2021 General Board Monthly Meeting Zoom Meeting online or by telephone February 22, 2021, 6:30 PM

#### 1. Call to order and Roll Call

A meeting of the West Adams Neighborhood Council (WANC) was held on February 22, 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 ten (10) board members present at roll call (Mr. Meeks, Kristyn Yancy, Ms. Curley, Dorsay Dujon, Connye Thomas, Clint Simmons, John Ma, Abel Sun, Brian Piatek, Jace Dawson). Quorum is eight (8) and was met. Richard Williams was absent. Yolanda Davis-Overstreet (Vice-President) was an excused absence.

#### 2. Government Representatives

Kimani Black represented the Office of Councilmember Mark Ridley-Thomas, Tenth Council District (CD10). He invited questions.

Mr. Ma said he had confirmed interest among unhoused residents at Chesapeake and Jefferson in biweekly sweeps by LA Sanitation (LASAN). Mr. Black said that typically when LASAN visited a site to remove trash, it would need to be posted. In special circumstances, the service provider for the area would visit the location and offer services; while there, the provider would request a cleanup from LASAN to lessen the exposure to litigation.

Mr. Ma requested to be introduced to the Hopics team (<https://www.hopics.org/>). Mr. Black suggested WANC appoint a [Homelessness Liaison] with whom CD10 could work on such issues.

Ms. Curley said the intersection of Obama and Ridgeley was a “catastrophe” with numerous collisions; she asked how to get a flashing pedestrian crossing or student crossing signal installed to require east- and westbound traffic. Mr. Black would request LADOT conduct a study and report back to the NC, but due to the proximity to another signal, it was unlikely to be approved.

Ms. Dujon said homeless people were trespassing and sleeping in laundry and trash areas of her apartment building; management was taking no action. Mr. Black would call the Cesar Chavez Foundation for their guidance and provide an update to Ms. Dujon.

Mr. Black advised WANC to join CD10 newsletter lists and follow CD10 on social media, and to review materials from the Empowerment Congress.

**3. General Public Comment: non agenda items**

There was no general public comment.

**4. Administrative items:**

*This was a section header.*

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

Mr. Meeks asked the minute taker to list board members as present or absent in the minutes.

In reviewing the December 21, 2020 minutes, Mr. Meeks said that under Item F, "stating he opposed creating a new card holder" should be struck; and Item G should show that Ms. Dawson supported Mr. Williams and not Mr. Simmons.

Mr. Piatek said the vote count he recorded for 9.G. was 5 against and 4-4; he noted members had been "coming in and out of the meeting." He requested that the minutes reflect a vote of 4 in favor, 5 opposed.

Mr. Piatek moved to accept the December minutes, with the Item 9.G. vote count being 4-5-0; and that in Item F., Mr. Meeks did not oppose creating a new card holder; and in Item G, Mr. Sun supported Mr. Simmons and Ms. Dawson supported Mr. Williams. Ms. Thomas seconded.

*Mr. Williams had arrived by this time.*

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

For the January 25, 2021 draft minutes, Mr. Meeks said, under Item 9.D., a comment was incorrectly attributed to him "that funds could not be spent locally;" he had noted that local printers were expensive and WANC needed to be "cognizant when... using City funds."

The item was laid on the table without objection.

**6. Monthly Expenditure Report:** Discussion and possible action December, November, October, September, August

Mr. Meeks said receipts had been submitted but not yet uploaded; paperwork was still needed by the Department [of Neighborhood Empowerment] (DONE) or the City Clerk's Office.

Mr. Piatek said they were "exactly three receipts off from having everything in proper order."

Mr. Dawson said he was in possession of the \$15 receipt for a replacement key from Public Storage. A \$70 receipt from Constant Contact needed to be located. Mr. Piatek recommended resubmitting to the City Clerk a \$57.70 receipt for Lloyd Staffing.

He said 3 of the MERs were "ready to go" and could be generated by the Treasurer or the DONE representative, after which a special meeting could be held to approve them.

There was no motion or vote on this item.

**7. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment:** Jasmine Elbarbary ([jasmine.elbarbary@lacity.org](mailto:jasmine.elbarbary@lacity.org))

Ms. Elbarbary was the “newly assigned DONE representative.” She acknowledged the “hard work” put in by WANC board members and said the “release letter” would soon be issued.

## 8. Old Business

### A. Discussion and possible action on amendment of current year budget NPG category to \$16,500

Mr. Piatek stated that the current allocation for NPGs was \$10,000. Mr. Williams moved as above. Mr. Simmons seconded.

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

### B. Discussion and possible action on amendment of current year budget CIP category to \$2200

Mr. Piatek said the current Community Improvement Project (CIP) budget was \$2,200, but no such projects were under consideration. He suggested lowering the CIP budget to \$0.

Ms. Thomas requested a motion to reallocate the \$2,200 be added to the next meeting. Mr. Meeks suggested it could be taken up at the special meeting.

### C. Discussion and possible action on approval of funds for Election expenses for promo items such as but not limited to yard signs, flyers, banners, paid ads not to exceed \$8000

Mr. Meeks noted that \$13,000 had been budgeted for elections. He said WANC had been advised to categorize planned expenditures, hence the agenda item. The remaining \$5,000 would need to be agendized at a later time.

Mr. Simmons noted a problem with the section numbering in the agenda.

Ms. Thomas moved “that at this time we consider in Item C spending funds not to exceed \$8,000 on election materials.” Mr. Williams seconded.

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

### D. Discussion and possible action on support of co-naming Crenshaw Blvd to Malcolm X

Ms. Dujon moved that WANC support the co-naming Crenshaw Blvd. to Malcom X Blvd. Mr. Williams seconded.

Mr. Parvenue [?] stated that the 5-mile corridor under consideration had its northern boundary at the 10 Freeway and its southern boundary at 79<sup>th</sup> Street, which was the border with Inglewood. The planned date for the official renaming was to be May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021, the birthday of Malcolm X. Ms. Dujon knew Malcolm X personally.

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

**E. Discussion and possible action on selection of card holder**

Mr. Piatek stated that the City Clerk recommended the Treasurer be the card holder. It was agreed to take up item F before continuing with E.

*This item was taken up again after Old Business Item 8.F.*

Ms. Curley moved that Brian Piatek be selected as a card holder. Mr. Simmons seconded.

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

**F. Discussion and possible action on selection of Treasurer**

Mr. Simmons nominated Richard Williams, who later declined. Mr. Dawson nominated Brian Piatek who did not decline. Mr. Williams seconded.

Stakeholder Tracy Weisert thanked Mr. Williams for his past work as Treasurer.

Ms. Thomas spoke to the importance of having more than one candidate.

Mr. Dawson encouraged the Treasurer to be transparent and ask for needed help.

Mr. Piatek stated the motion as “for Brian Piatek to be Treasurer.”

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

*At this time (7:47 p.m.), Old Business Item 8.E. was taken up where it left off.*

**10. New business:**

**A. Discussion and possible action on NPG funding request from Dynasty’s United Youth Association not to exceed \$5000**

Mr. Piatek shared the NPG via screen share.

As the applicant, Dynasty said it would be the fourth year working with WANC and second year as a virtual summer camp. In 2020, Baldwin Hills, Virginia Road, and Cienega Schools participated. 120 students were anticipated. The program would provide weekly individual tutoring services, arts & crafts workshops, STEM workshops, and social-emotional counseling. They planned to recruit additional tutors.

Mr. Simmons had spoken with past participants and was supportive.

Ms. Thomas asked about safety precautions and meals for the children. Dynasty said that if the program were to be in-person, it would be subject to the reopening plans and safety protocols of Vineyard Recreation Center. DUYA had created its own safety plan for the virtual platform. She would share it with WANC.

Ms. Weisert praised DUYA for diligent work and good past reporting on NPGs..

Dynasty confirmed that the current plan was not to be in-person.

Mr. Simmons moved to approve the \$5,000 as requested. Ms. Yancy seconded.

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

**B. Discussion and possible action on NPG funding request from Shower of Hope not to exceed \$5000**

Mel Tillekeratne spoke on the application. The program, hosted at West Adams Church of Christ, provided showers and lunches 10-15 people per week for the previous ten Wednesdays and sought funds for meals, hygiene, and clean underwear for the clients. Mr. Simmons recommended a different amount [*unclear to minutes writer*].

Mr. Piatek said in the past they had not been able to fund clothing through NPGs.

Mr. Meeks believed there would not be an issue.

Mr. Simmons moved to approve an NPG funding request from Shower of Hope not to exceed \$2,500. Mr. Dawson seconded.

Mr. Meeks did not support the lower amount, reflecting on the numbers of people experiencing homelessness and the importance of hygiene to a personal sense of decency.

Ms. Dujon spoke of a “state of emergency”... “getting worse every day.” She encouraged “whatever we can do to help...”

Mr. Williams stated that property owners were already contributing \$300 per year to [help] the homeless.

**The motion failed with two (2) in favor** (Simmons, Williams); and **nine (9) opposed** (Curley, Dujon, Dawson, Ma, Meeks, Piatek, Sun, Thomas, Yancy); **Ms. Davis-Overstreet was absent.**

Ms. Curley moved approve the NPG funding request from Shower of Hope not to exceed \$5,000. Ms. Yancy seconded.

**The motion carried with nine (9) in favor** (Curley, Dujon, Dawson, Ma, Meeks, Piatek, Sun, Thomas, Yancy); and **two (2) opposed** (Simmons, Williams); **Ms. Davis-Overstreet was absent.**

**C. Discussion and possible action on funding request from Rancho Cienega Sports Complex not to exceed \$4950**

Mr. Piatek stated that he did not go back to Rancho Cienega Sports Complex after receiving advice from the City Clerk’s office that NCs could only fund NPGs, CIPs, and schools; but they could not fund the Police Department, the Fire Department, or the Recreation Department directly. Funding would need to go through a 501(c)(3), such as “friends of the Fire Department,” etc.

No motion was made or vote taken.

**D. Discussion and possible action on selection of Secretary**

There were no nominations. No motion was made or vote taken.

**E. Discussion and possible action on recommendation on CUB - full line sales of alcoholic beverages at Target**

Mr. Meeks explained that the Target was located at La Cienega and Obama Blvd.

Mr. Williams stated that the City had already issued a Letter of Determination.

Mr. Simmons moved to grant Target the Conditional Use Beverage Permit. Mr. Piatek seconded.

**The motion carried with nine (9) in favor** (Curley, Dawson, Ma, Meeks, Piatek, Simmons, Sun, Williams, Yancy); and **two (2) opposed** (Dujon, Thomas); **Ms. Davis-Overstreet was absent.**

**F. Discussion and possible action on recommendation on CUB - full line sales of alcoholic beverages and sq ft expansion at Delicious Pizza**

Mr. Meeks shared the proposal the applicant had provided previously. The application, which had already been approved, was for expanded indoor and outdoor operations, in addition to the alcohol.

Mr. Williams moved to recommend approval of the CUB for a full line of alcoholic beverages and square footages expansion at Delicious Pizza. Ms. Dujon seconded.

*Mr. Dawson was not present during the roll call vote to follow.*

**The motion carried with eight (8) in favor** (Dujon, Ma, Meeks, Piatek, Simmons, Sun, Williams, Yancy); and **two (2) opposed** (Curley, Thomas); **Two (2) were absent** (Davis-Overstreet, Dawson).

**9. Standing Committee and City Liaison Reports Announcements**

Mr. Ma gave the Safety Committee Report. On December 20<sup>th</sup>, the committee held the first of six monthly classes over Zoom, with 59 in attendance. It was in the process of setting up a community organization partnership with the Los Angeles Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). He described planned follow-up efforts. The next training would be held March 20<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Piatek said it was a “really good session”: well organized by Mr. Ma, and well presented by LAFD Battalion 18. Ms. Dujon agreed.

Mr. Sun gave the Outreach Committee Report. Election outreach was “in full swing.” 100 yard signs, 1,000 flyers, and two banners would soon be ready for pickup. He provided additional details on outreach and on the Election. Nextdoor and Instagram accounts had been set up.

Mr. Piatek emphasized the importance of WANC presenting itself as the West Adams Neighborhood Council with the existing logo. Mr. Sun said the name was being used; however, the logo was not suitable for large-scale printing needs like banners due to pixilation. Mr. Meeks requested to add a logo discussion to the next Outreach Committee meeting.

Mr. Sun stated that budget cuts and resource constraints affecting DONE led to the cancelation of a two-part candidate information session specifically for West Adams. He would upload a past presentation to the website.

Mr. Sun announced that DONE was circulating a Draft Digital Media Policy, and WANC board members should review it so the board could provide feedback. Mr. Meeks agreed.

Mr. Piatek gave the Finance Committee Report. He said some budget remained, and future MERs would help determine the exact number.

Mr. Simmons gave the Land Use Committee Report. He and another member visited the site of apartment buildings being built on Potomac near Dorsey High. He referred to Transit Oriented Communities (TOC) projects that allowed developers to proceed without NC input as long as they created units for homeless people; but that TOC had the opposite effect because they were tearing down 3-6 unit apartment buildings. He encouraged maintaining some degree of single family dwellings within the City.

Mr. Meeks clarified that the restricted units in TOC buildings were for low-income individuals, but not necessarily homeless individuals; however, the percentage they had to provide by law was very low. Such developments were “by right” and disproportionately affected Black and brown communities because developers would realize a greater return on their investment.

Mr. Piatek noted the low-income unit covenants would expire after 55 years.

Ms. Dujon encouraged advocating for rent control protections and having a discussion with Councilmember Ridley-Thomas.

Mr. Williams asked if the Outreach Committee had used West Adams printers for the recent print jobs. Mr. Meeks said Compubase was the printing company. Mr. Sun said he had requested [quotations] from six or seven local printers and none had returned his phone calls or emails by the one-week mark.

Ms. Weisert praised the emergency preparedness presentation. She was impressed with Capt. Jamie Moore, who was the Assistant Chief Fire Department, who spoke fluent Spanish. She praised Mr. Sun for soliciting the opinions of Outreach Committee members on various designs.

Ms. Dujon inquired about starting an Arts and Culture Committee. Mr. Meeks agreed to follow up by telephone about putting it on an upcoming agenda.

Mr. Meeks agreed to circulate a contact list.

**10. Discussion and possible action on the selection of Community Interest, Youth and Business Representative vacancies**

*This item was not taken up.*

**11. Discussion on agenda setting March and future Monthly and Special Meeting(s)**

*This item was not taken up.*

**12. Adjourn**

Mr. Meeks announced the meeting would adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

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