

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

DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD
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West Adams Neighborhood Council

MINUTES – Adopted by the Board on May 17, 2021 Special General Board Meeting Zoom Meeting online or by telephone March 18, 2021, 6:00 PM

1. Call to order and Roll Call

A special meeting of the West Adams Neighborhood Council (WANC) was held on March 18, 2021 via Zoom, Webinar # 959 3661 2418.

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m. by Steven Meeks (President), who made welcoming remarks.

Sean Curley (Parliamentarian) called the roll. There were seven (7) board members present at roll call (Mr. Meeks, Yolanda Davis-Overstreet (Vice-President), Brian Piatek (Treasurer), Ms. Curley, Dorsay Dujon, Clint Simmons, Abel Sun, and John Ma). Quorum is eight (8) and was not met. Yolanda Davis-Overstreet, Connye Thomas, Richard Williams, and Jace Dawson were absent. Ms. Yancy joined later. Ms. Thomas and Ms. Davis-Overstreet were excused absences. Ms. Curley announced that public comment would be open pending a quorum.

Tanida Larios spoke on item 9.B. She said she was a resident of Baldwin Hills and was a “product of targeted youth programming from the Bradley era,” which lifted her out of poverty. Larios explained that the Youth Task Force would support youth with programming and funding in a “more solid and cohesive manner.” A standalone department would consolidate and integrate youth services across the County and nonprofits to achieve a “strategic effort devoted to youth training, engagement, empowerment, [and] programming...,” and would consolidate 30 programs from various departments under the new department. She gave examples of how targeted programming for youth had helped her personally to bring “generational change.” Community support would help the move motion past the Budget Committee.

At this time (6:15 p.m.), Kristyn Yancy joined the meeting, making eight (8) board members present, and achieving a quorum.

2. Government Representatives

This item was not taken up.

3. General Public Comment: non agenda items

This item was not taken up.

4. Administrative items:

This was a section header.

- 5. Secretary's report:** Discussion and possible action approval of February and any past minutes
There was no report.

- 6. Monthly Expenditure Report:** Discussion and possible action on outstanding MER's
Mr. Piatek advised that there was no report.

- 7. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment:** Octaviano Rios

This item was not taken up.

8. Old Business

- A. Discussion and possible action on writing a letter to LAPD on WANC stationery in regards to lack of presence and lack of or poor response to stakeholders concerns and calls**

Ms. Yancy said LAPD was not responding to calls or emails from board members or stakeholders. There was graffiti and violence in West Adams. There had been a shooting at Hauser and Smiley, and police were slow to respond. She argued for a greater police presence and better communication with Senior Lead Officers (SLOs).

Ms. Yancy agreed to draft a letter for the board's review and approval. There was agreement that the letter should list general issues, such as lack of response, street takeovers, and racing.

Ms. Dujon suggested inviting a captain and SLO to a meeting meeting.

Ms. Yancy moved to write a letter on WANC stationery in regards to a lack of presence and lack of response to stakeholder concerns and calls to the LAPD. Mr. Ma seconded.

In board discussion, Mr. Meeks noted the letter could include an invitation to a meeting and said the LAPD response to the neighborhood had been bad.

The motion carried, with all eight (8) present in favor (Curley, Dujon, Ma, Meeks, Piatek, Simmons, Sun, and Yancy); **four (4) were absent** (Davis-Overstreet, Dawson, Thomas, Williams).

- B. Discussion and possible action on writing a letter on WANC stationery in thanks of DUYA's work in our community**

Mr. Meeks said WANC had funded Dynasty's United Youth Association (DUYA) 3-4 times, and WANC could write a letter of thanks, but not a recommendation.

Mr. Simmons moved that WANC send a letter thanking DUYA for the work that they're doing in uplifting "kids in our community." Ms. Curley seconded.

In board discussion, Ms. Dujon recommended that the WANC request that the Councilman's Office [deliver] a type of [proclamation.] *There were audio issues.*

The motion carried, with all eight (8) present in favor (Curley, Dujon, Ma, Meeks, Piatek, Simmons, Sun, and Yancy); **four (4) were absent** (Davis-Overstreet, Dawson, Thomas, Williams).

C. Discussion and possible action on an outreach event/film screening series and discussion on homelessness for expenses such as but not limited to, film license, technical assistance, PR not to exceed \$700

Mr. Meeks shared an event proposal from one year prior. He said the three films under consideration were excellent. Partners could include National Alliance for Mental Illness and/or Everyone In. There would be no paid speakers. He recommended to follow up with a conversation about what various entities were actually doing, e.g. LAHSA, LAPD, LAFD, etc. He said the Land Use and Safety Committees should be involved.

Ms. Larios recommended working with the Empowerment Congress' Homelessness Committee.

Mr. Piatek requested that the WANC ad hoc Homelessness Committee participate in the planning and bring in adjacent Neighborhood Councils for a 3-hour program in the middle of the Month of May.

Mr. Piatek moved to refer the item to the Homelessness Committee for further consideration and refinement. Mr. Ma seconded. There was no objection.

D. Discussion and possible action on an outreach event on the celebration of Black History Month for expenses such as but not limited to video editing, technical, professional speakers, PR, not to exceed \$750

Ms. Curley read the above. Mr. Meeks explained the need for education around the origins and history of Black History Month and some of the issues surrounding its continued celebration.

Mr. Piatek moved to fund an outreach event on the celebration of Black History for expenses such as but not limited to video editing, technical, professional speakers, PR, not to exceed \$750. Mr. Simmons seconded.

The motion carried, with all eight (8) present in favor (Curley, Dujon, Ma, Meeks, Piatek, Simmons, Sun, and Yancy); **four (4) were absent** (Davis-Overstreet, Dawson, Thomas, Williams).

At this time (6:51 p.m.), Item 9.A. was taken up without objection.

E. Discussion and possible action on writing a CIS on DONE's Digital Media Policy

This item was taken up at 7:13 p.m. after Item 8.G.

Mr. Ma reported. A wide range of social media platforms and accounts were covered under the draft policy, created by the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE or "The Department").

Ma said the policy sought to address issues with neighborhood council boards lacking the credentials needed to access their social media accounts; as well as instances

of social media being used by individuals to attempt to get NC board members fired for votes they had cast.

Guidelines were needed for the promoting of events outside of official NC board action.

Ma said [the policy] “gets murky” when addressing what board members can and cannot do on personal social media accounts, and what would constitute “crossing the line” to limited public forums.

A recent amendment to the Brown Act (AB-992) would also affect the final policy. The current draft addressed items like account roles, account creation, content and public comment rules, and personal social media guidelines.

So far, comments had shown there were concerns that the draft policy “severely restricts” what board members can and cannot do, and the extent to which private accounts might become official public record. The Department had requested constructive feedback on what NCs liked and did not like about the draft policy.

Ms. Dujon suggested the policy articulated that board members, as public officers, should “think before [they] speak.”

Mr. Sun said the policy would address comments, conduct (such as deleting a post with which a board member disagreed), and repercussions for violations. The Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (BONC) would vote on the policy; then, DONE would create rules, processes, and trainings, to “bring this policy to light.” WANC bylaws would likely need to be amended to reflect the policy and the new roles.

Mr. Ma referred to section 9.4.: “Neighborhood Council board members and committee members shall refrain from discussing or commenting on any matter that is pending before or may come before the neighborhood council...” He asked if the draft policy would restrict a board member from making any post or commentary related to a political matter.

Mr. Sun said many neighborhood councils had expressed concern with the section Mr. Ma had cited. There were parts of the policy that made sense, such as a procedure for safeguarding account credentials and the creation of new roles such as moderator. Sun encouraged board members to review Sections 8 and 9.

Ms. Curley described it as a “paradigm shift” which would change the Bylaws. Mr. Sun clarified that the policy had not yet been adopted by BONC; however, some neighborhood councils had started to amend their own bylaws with elements of the policy; he also noted that current law was already in force.

Mr. Piatek described the policy as “keeping our public and private lives separate.”

Mr. Sun said City Council Members would often “blur the lines” in commenting on matters before them, yet NC members would be held to a stricter set of rules, which was a “double standard.” He said DONE was catching up to technology.

Mr. Sun moved to write a CIS on EmpowerLA’s Digital Media Policy. Mr. Ma seconded.

The motion failed with four (4) in favor (Curley, Ma, Meeks, and Sun); and **four (4) opposed** (Dujon, Piatek, Simmons, Yancy); **four (4) were absent** (Davis-Overstreet, Dawson, Thomas, Williams).

At this time (7:44 p.m.), Item 9.C. was taken up.

F. Discussion and possible action on CUB permit for full alcohol consumption at proposed food establishments - 4301 Jefferson

This item was not taken up.

G. Discussion and possible action on writing a CIS on Council File-19-0604 vehicle idling

Mr. Meeks screen-shared the Council File motion. There was general board discussion. There was no motion.

At this time (7:12 p.m.), Item 8.E. was taken up.

9. New business:

A. Discussion and possible action reimbursement of John Ma for Constant Contact payment in the amount of \$140

This item was taken up at 6:51 p.m. after Item 8.C.

Mr. Simmons moved to reimburse Mr. Ma as above. Ms. Dujon seconded.

The motion carried, with all eight (8) present in favor (Curley, Dujon, Ma, Meeks, Piatek, Simmons, Sun, and Yancy); **four (4) were absent** (Davis-Overstreet, Dawson, Thomas, Williams).

Mr. Piatek noted that in FY 19-20, WANC came close to exceeding the \$1,000 limit for reimbursements to a single board member.

B. Discussion and possible action writing/filing a CIS on Council File 21-0223/the needs of youth

Tanida Larios said she was reaching out to several South Los Angeles Neighborhood Councils for support (*see Section 1*). She noted that youth had additional challenges during the era of virtual learning. Similar programs had helped her as a youth, and she highlighted her 29 years' service in the City of Los Angeles and that her family demonstrated a generational "return on investment" with their own success and giving-back to the community. Passing the CIS would encourage the City Council Budget Committee to bring the motion back to Council for a vote.

Mr. Simmons explained that past youth programs had expired. Ms. Larios said the current effort was to develop a cohesive strategy.

Ms. Dujon spoke in support of the effort.

Mr. Simmons moved to accept the filing a CIS...*[Minutes writer did not understand.]* for the youth program. Ms. Dujon seconded.

The motion carried, with all eight (8) present in favor (Curley, Dujon, Ma, Meeks, Piatek, Simmons, Sun, and Yancy); **four (4) were absent** (Davis-Overstreet, Dawson, Thomas, Williams).

At this time (7:07 p.m.), Item 8.G. was taken up.

C. Discussion and possible action on distribution of PO Box and storage unit keys

This item was taken up at 7:44 p.m. after 8.E.

Mr. Meeks explained that in the past, he would have a key to the storage and the P.O. Box, Ms. Thomas would have a key to the storage, and Ms. Davis-Overstreet would have a key to the P.O. Box.

Currently, Mr. Meeks and Ms. Curley had all three storage keys.

No motion was made or vote taken.

10. Standing Committee and City Liaison Reports

Mr. Sun said that Kumani Black of the Tenth Council District (CD10) had provided WANC with 50 “slots” for COVID vaccinations at Leimert Park Plaza on Tuesday, March 23rd, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:10 a.m. CD10 needed a list of 50 eligible individuals. The deadline was March 19th at 5 p.m. Mr. Ma and Mr. Sun provided further information and instructions.

Mr. Piatek requested that the future WANC Secretary keep a master calendar of area events so as to minimize conflicts for stakeholders who might wish to attend both.

In public comment, “Tracy” announced that she attended the LAPD Southwest Area Town Hall meeting with Police Commissioners Bonner and Briggs, Capt. Paul Espinosa, and others. A recording was available.

11. Discussion and possible action on selection of Community Interest, Youth and Business Representative vacancies

This item was not taken up.

12. Discussion on agenda setting future Monthly and Special Meetings

The board agreed to have a Board Retreat on April 24th from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

13. Adjourn

At 8:00 p.m., Ms. Curley stated that quorum was lost, and Mr. Meeks adjourned the meeting.

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