

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



## West Adams Neighborhood Council

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### General Board Monthly Meeting Zoom Meeting online or by telephone

June 21, 2021, 6:30 PM

#### MINUTES

*Approved by the Board on July 19, 2021*

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

Steven Meeks (President) called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. and 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, Connye Thomas, Clint Simmons, and Jace Dawson). Quorum is eight (8) and was not met at roll call. There were three (3) excused absences (Kristyn Yancy, Dorsay Dujon, and Abel Sun).

John Ma and Richard Williams joined by 6:38 p.m. There were now 9 members and there was a quorum.

#### 2. Government Representatives

This item was taken up at 7:01 p.m. following Item 7.

Daniel Park ([dpark@bos.lacounty.gov](mailto:dpark@bos.lacounty.gov), (213) 974-2222, [Mitchell.LACounty.gov](http://Mitchell.LACounty.gov)) said he was Deputy for Constituent Engagement for Holly Mitchell's office. A Town Hall on insurance and economic recovery resources would be held on Thursday, June 24th, at 1:30 p.m. California Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara, the Employment Development Department (EDD), the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS), the LA County Development Authority, and the CEO's Office would be providing updates on the state of the County and on resources available for constituents.

Park announced that summer classes and family camps were opening up again at Kenneth Hahn Recreation Center.

*At this time, Item 4 was taken up.*

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

*This item was taken up after Section 1.*

Tracy Weisert announced a blood drive on Wednesday 23 June at 4409 W. Adams Blvd. Anyone interested in donating could schedule via the American Red Cross website.

Mr. Meeks announced that Items 10.A. and 10.B. were placed on the agenda in error and would be taken up at the July meeting.

*At this time (6:41 p.m.), Item 7 was taken up.*

**4. Administrative items:**

*This was a section header.*

**5. Secretary's report:** Discussion and possible action approval of May minutes

Mr. Meeks noted that he had not distributed the May minutes to the board. It was agreed to postpone the approval of the May minutes to the next meeting.

**6. Monthly Expenditure Report:** Discussion and possible action May MER

Mr. Piatek stated that \$8,600 were still available as of the end of May. Constant Contact did not allow prepayments. The Community Disaster Preparedness Foundation and YAECS both cashed their checks. Two invoices for Interpreters Unlimited were listed as outstanding. Mr. Rios confirmed those expenses would likely be reimbursed. Fiscal year (FY) 2021/22 would have the same policy and fund for reimbursements of translation and interpretation.

Ms. Thomas asked how an NC could recoup any prepaid funds for any services that were not received. Mr. Piatek said it would be reported to DONE and the City Attorney could get involved. Constant Contact and Public Storage were paid one month in advance. Other services such as the website were paid farther in advance.

Mr. Williams moved to approve the MER for May 2021. Mr. Simmons seconded. **The motion carried with all nine (9) members present voting in favor** (Curley, Davis-Overstreet, Dawson, Ma, Meeks, Piatek, Simmons, Thomas, Williams). **Three were absent** (Yancy, Dujon, Sun).

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

*This item was taken up at 6:41 p.m. following Section 3.*

Mr. Rios thanked the West Adams community for a successful election. A financial officers' training would be held virtually on June 22 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. A \$333 monthly spending limit would be in force if the Council were unable to submit its FY 2021/22 Administrative Packet in July.

Council File (CF) 21-0407, "Neighborhood Council Standardized Election Rules Stakeholder Participation," sought to receive a report and to establish standards for the structure of NCs and rules regarding their elections. Mr. Rios encouraged WANC to file a Community Impact Statement (CIS) in support or opposition.

The Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (BONC) had discussed a proposal to extend an NC's ability to hold virtual meetings until December 2021. Comments could be submitted to [commission@empowerla.org](mailto:commission@empowerla.org), which would be forwarded to the Commissioners and to DONE staff.

A third session of the onboarding training for new board members was being discussed.

Mr. Rios provided for board members to seek recusal in cases of a potential conflict of interest.

Ms. Thomas stated that stakeholders who testified at the BONC meeting had been overwhelmingly supportive of allowing "hybrid" [in-person and virtual] meetings with NCs being allowed to decide on the most appropriate format. WANC members were not always available to attend Planning Commission meetings where decisions were made affecting West Adams. At a recent

meeting, money for parks was divided among three Neighborhood Council areas in Council District Five. Mr. Rios encouraged the board to engage around issues of developer fees.

Mr. Simmons asked whether town hall events and any other in-person meetings would be prohibited under the BONC rules. Mr. Rios said the City wasn't "ready to allow Neighborhood Councils to meet physically" at this time. Any official meeting, including those that included the expenditure of funds, would be restricted, however exceptions could be discussed.

Mr. Rios explained that board members were required to have Ethics and Funding trainings and [to complete] the Code of Conduct, all of which were accessible through Cornerstone. Every board member had been previously provided a link. Mr. Meeks suggested board members visit [EmpowerLA.org/WANC](https://EmpowerLA.org/WANC) to review their training status.

*At this time (7:01 p.m.), Section 4 was taken up.*

## **8. Standing Committee and City Liaison Reports**

Mr. Simmons gave the Land Use Committee report. The Adams Hotel had converted to residential use, but was being resubmitted by new owners for use a hotel. A June 24<sup>th</sup> 10 a.m. meeting of the Planning Committee would include discussion of the application. He said 70 to 80 nuisance calls had been received when it was last a hotel. Simmons had met with "Miss Jackson" on Chesapeake Ave. to discuss the new apartment buildings being erected close to "the railhead." An adjacent property had been demolished and Miss Jackson was concerned she would no longer have access to her garage. Simmons said projects on Smiley Dr., Jefferson Bl., and Obama Bl. had been missing from Planning reports. Also, the lack of in-person meetings limited stakeholder participation in the planning process.

Mr. Williams stated that the owners of the Adams Hotel should be able to change the property back to a hotel, noting the "special security" and lighting and a lack of recent complaints.

Mr. Piatek said the applicant, Mr. Altman, had stated verbally that they wanted to keep it as "residence apartments," and that the agenda language was "left over" from a petition from 1 ½ to 2 years prior for which there was never a hearing.

Ms. Thomas said it sounded like something the board should take action on. She asked if it were possible to see Land Use Committee information in advance regarding location, date, time, and status so she could take informed action.

Mr. Meeks said he had emailed the board instructions on looking up planning cases online. He stated that a discussion on the matter was improper since it was not on the agenda.

Ms. Davis-Overstreet gave the Public Safety Committee report. On Saturday, June 26<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., the "Walk the Boulevard" safety project would be held on W. Adams Bl. between Fairfax and Crenshaw, with 11 tables provided by LADOT and CD10 spaced along the route with community and school representatives present to provide information and answer questions about safety, "lives taken by speeding," and the disenfranchisement of area residents due to the lack of crosswalks. She agreed to send flyers to Ms. Thomas.

Ms. Thomas reported that the Rules Committee had scheduled a meeting for June but was unable to meet, despite having posted the agenda, due to restrictions against holding two meetings of the same NC simultaneously.

## **9. Presentation:**

There was none.

## 10. New business:

### A. Introduction and seating of newly elected Board Members

Mr. Meeks previously stated that the item had been placed on the agenda in error and would be taken up in July.

### B. Discussion and possible action selection of Executive Committee Officers

Mr. Meeks previously stated that the item had been placed on the agenda in error and would be taken up in July.

### C. Discussion and possible action approval of 2021/2022 Administrative Budget Package

Mr. Piatek shared the FY 2020/21 Administrative Budget Packet on his screen. He explained that rollover and [encumbered] funds brought the base annual budget of \$32,000 to \$46,390. He reviewed FY 2020/21 expenses as realized, highlighting \$21,500 spent on Neighborhood Purposes Grants (NPGs).

The packet would require the signature of the Treasurer, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Signer (Ms. Thomas), the Alternate Signer (Mr. Meeks), and the Primary Cardholder (Ms. Davis-Overstreet).

He said the City Clerk's NC Funding program would announce the amount being rolled over in August, but it would be significantly less than \$10,000, given the board's recent expenditures.

The line-item budget categories were "placeholders," and board action would still be required. \$5,000 was budgeted for NPGs and \$2,500 for Community Improvement Projects (CIPs).

Mr. Piatek said if approved, the Administrative Packet could be submitted on July 1<sup>st</sup> to prevent any restrictions on the use of funds by WANC. Currently the board was in good standing with the City Clerk's Office.

Ms. Curley said the work Mr. Piatek had done as Treasurer was commendable.

Ms. Thomas received clarification on proposed allocations to the Congress of Neighborhoods and to the Budget Advocates.

Ms. Thomas moved to accept the 2021/22 Administrative Package. Mr. Simmons seconded. **The motion carried with all eight (8) present voting in favor** (Curley, Davis, Dawson, Ma, Meeks, Piatek, Simmons, Thomas). **Four (4) were absent** (Yancy, Dujon, Sun; and Mr. Williams was absent for the vote at 7:58 p.m.)

### D. Discussion and possible action formation of Homeless Ad Hoc Committee

Mr. Ma noted the committee was scheduled to expire June 30<sup>th</sup>. Ma moved to extend the term of the Homelessness Ad Hoc Committee by an additional six months. Ms. Davis-Overstreet seconded. After some discussion, Mr. Ma restated his motion, without objection, as to extend the term of the Homelessness Ad Hoc Committee by one year, to expire June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Ms. Thomas seconded the revised motion.

**The motion carried with all nine (9) present voting in favor** (Curley, Davis, Dawson, Ma, Meeks, Piatek, Simmons, Thomas, Williams (who had returned by 8:03 p.m.)). **Three (3) were absent** (Yancy, Dujon, Sun).

Ms. Weisert expressed appreciation for Mr. Piatek's use of visual elements and to the minutes writer for the note taking.

**E. Discussion and possible action formation of Arts/Culture Ad Hoc Committee**

Mr. Ma moved to continue the Arts/Culture Ad Hoc Committee for one year to expire June 30th, 2022. Ms. Thomas seconded.

Mr. Simmons spoke in support, noting that developers had to make contributions to arts.

Dr. Dawson suggested to postpone consideration for a meeting when Ms. Dujon was present.

Ms. Davis-Overstreet said there had been a lack of presentations from the current committee, and it would be "jumping the gun" to approve its extension without the person leading the effort to first provide clarity on who would form the team and who would be the community constituents.

Mr. Meeks said no meetings had taken place had taken place since the current committee's formation in January. He noted that the board could take a position on the use of developer fees without committee action.

Meeks moved to postpone the item to the next regular board meeting in July. Mr. Williams seconded. **The motion to postpone carried with seven (7) in favor** (Curley, Davis-Overstreet, Dawson, Ma, Meeks, Piatek, Williams) **and two (2) opposed** (Simmons, Thomas). **Three (3) were absent** (Yancy, Dujon, Sun).

Mr. Piatek noted that the motion would be placed on the July agenda.

Ms. Weisert later requested that Ms. Dujon be alerted that her presence at the meeting would be important.

**F. Discussion and possible action Board Retreat not to exceed \$500**

Mr. Williams moved to approve up to \$500 for the retreat in July 2021. Ms. Davis-Overstreet seconded.

There was discussion as to whether \$500 was needed given restrictions on in-person meetings. Mr. Meeks said printed materials might be needed and that any unspent funds could be used elsewhere.

**The motion carried with all nine (9) present voting in favor** (Curley, Davis, Dawson, Ma, Meeks, Piatek, Simmons, Thomas, Williams). **Three (3) were absent** (Yancy, Dujon, Sun).

**11. Agenda setting future meeting(s)**

Mr. Simmons requested the board be CC'd on the agenda being emailed to NC Support for distribution via the Early Notification System (ENS). Mr. Meeks agreed. He encouraged board members to step up and take greater responsibility. He said all members should enroll in the ENS, and he noted agendas were also posted on the website. He said would be fiscal items to approve individually at the next meeting.

Mr. Ma requested a discussion of the appointment of a social media intern to take over once Mr. Sun was no longer available. Mr. Meeks stated that a previous social media intern "fell off the

radar.” Meeks was interested in finding a PR person who was qualified in social media and had knowledge of community newspapers, church bulletins, and other local opportunities.

Ms. Weisert spoke in favor of a paid PR position.

Mr. Williams noted that further agenda suggestions could be emailed to the executive committee.

Mr. Meeks said the filmed event on “people living on the streets” and another on “redlining and displacement” had not taken place.

Ms. Davis-Overstreet proposed to present those events in July. She requested consideration of an ad hoc committee for business enterprises, to “collectively bring all the businesses together... to determine the best way to share information with the community...”

There was consensus to hold the board retreat on July 31<sup>st</sup> from 9 a.m. to 12 noon or from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Dr. Dawson suggested another meeting in July for planning.

## **12. Adjourn**

Mr. Meeks declared the meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

*Respectfully Submitted by Conrad Starr.*