

BOARD MEMBERS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS

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
Connye 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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DRAFT MINUTES

General Board Monthly Meeting

Zoom Meeting online or by telephone

December 20, 2021, 6:30 PM

1. Call to order and Roll Call

A meeting of the West Adams Neighborhood Council (WANC) was held on December 20, 2021 over Zoom, Webinar 959 3661 2418.

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m. by Steven Meeks (President), who made welcoming remarks.

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

2. Government Representatives

There were none.

3. General Public Comment: non agenda items

Corinna Espino said she was chief empathy officer at Empathy in Action, , a consulting practice that helped organizations with trauma informed practices, social-emotional learning, youth development, conflict resolution, and equity.

Krishna Patel said she was the marketing strategist for Empathy in Action and had consulted for Abramson Architects in West Adams.

Elaine Astorga said she was a project consultant for Empathy in Action. She could provide outreach training and other services.

Karen Varholick said she was an architect and the outreach coordinator for the [diversity, equity, and inclusion] initiative at Abramson Architects. She said Abramson was working with Ms. Dujon and with Krishna Patel on the [WANC] logo.

By this time (6:50 p.m.), Ms. Yancy had arrived. There were now nine (9) members present.

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

Mr. Ma moved to approve the November [2021] minutes. Ms. Davis-Overstreet seconded. The motion carried with all nine members present voting in favor. Four were absent (Wiley, Curley, Murray, Williams).

5. Monthly Expenditure Report: Discussion and possible action November MER

Mr. Piatek reviewed the report. He encouraged Mr. Ma to submit a reimbursement request. The City required that UmeWorks be paid by check and not by PayPal. The budget for website “upkeep” might need to be increased. The promotional items reflected on the MER could be seen at the recent CicLAvia event. Bags would be ordered shortly.

Ms. Yancy agreed to contact board members regarding the ordering of business cards.

Mr. Piatek moved to approve the November MER. Ms. Yancy seconded. The motion carried with all nine members present voting in favor (Davis-Overstreet, Dujon, Dawson, Ma, Meeks, Piatek, Simmons, Thomas, Yancy). Four were absent (Wiley, Curley, Murray, Williams).

6. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment: Octaviano Rios

Mr. Rios explained that the <https://empowerla.org/wanc/> webpage was normally updated weekly. According to the page, board members ineligible to vote on funding motions due to incomplete or expired trainings were Ms. Yancy, Dr. Dawson, Coach Williams, and Mr. Wiley.

Dr. Dawson said he had completed ethics training three times and the financial training, and [Cornerstone] indicated no trainings were available for him. Rios said Dawson might need to use “another link” to renew his training. Dr. Dawson expressed frustration at the system not being clear. Mr. Rios acknowledged that challenges are sometimes on [the Department’s] end.

Mr. Simmons noted that user passwords had been changed. There was no telephone support. He had completed the Code of Conduct and it didn’t show up in time for the previous meeting. Mr. Rios said “technical glitches” required the Department to change every board member’s login name, but the passwords should not have changed. He advised anyone having problems with the login to reset their password.

Links to recordings of the Core Institute trainings were in the November Monthly Profile. The deadline for the Anti-Bias Learning for Employees (ABLE) training and for the Planning 101 training for PLUM committee members had been extended to 1/1/22. Virtual meetings were mandated to continue through March.

Following the City Council passage of a vaccination requirement, the Department was working with other agencies to determine whether Neighborhood Council board members would be required to be vaccinated. Bylaw amendments applications were due on April 1, 2022.

7. Standing Committees, Ad-Hoc, City Liaison and NC Alliance Reports

Mr. Piatek gave the Land Use Committee Report. The Crenshaw Crossing [developer] had “cut a deal” with CD10 and would only provide 80% of units at low income levels. The remaining 20% would rent at 120% of the area median income. The arrangement was approved by City Council, and Piatek was “very sorely put out” by the deal.

He requested that representatives from CIM and the developer for 5801 Jefferson attend the January board meeting, as well as another development the board had not supported in its bid

for a liquor license for a space on Jefferson. They had formally applied for a full license, Piatek reported. Mr. Meeks added that the committee had not met in December but would in January.

Ms. Davis-Overstreet gave the Public Safety Committee Report. She thanked everyone who participated in 2021. WANC had a presence at CicLAvia on December 5th in South LA. She thanked Mr. Piatek and Ms. Weisert for “pulling it together” and for volunteering alongside Mr. Meeks, Mr. Ma, and Ms. Dujon. The West Adams Boulevard Safety Project would continue with more “narrative sharing” by community members. The WANC website now included sub-pages for Public Safety and for Environmental and Public Health. Each committee was to add public information. Trees had been planted between Fairfax and Hauser and featured informational tags for the public to learn how they grow and what they will look like when mature. A three-year tree maintenance plan was in place. Additional trees would be planted east of Hauser. Emergency preparedness information was also on the website and on the Facebook page, Davis-Overstreet added; it was developed over the previous year with help from Mr. Ma, Ms. Weisert, Mr. Piatek, and from Abel Sun, Nicholas, and Eli.

She commented that there was still a need for an LAPD representative to attend meetings and share updates. “Mika” from the West Adams Neighborhood Association had been providing [crime and safety] updates at committee meetings based on reports to the association. Davis-Overstreet was looking for a committee member to attend [Community-Police Advisory Board] meetings.

Ms. Dujon gave the Arts & Culture Ad Hoc Committee Report. They were collaborating with Empathy in Action and with Abramson Architects to develop a logo and collateral materials. The committee would also develop a welcome package. Dujon asked all board members to write a paragraph about and provide a photo of themselves.

Mr. Meeks gave the Outreach Committee Report. At their most recent meeting, they had discussed whether to hire an entity to do PR, print media, social media, and logo design. The committee would meet in January.

Ms. Thomas said she had not attended a Los Angeles Neighborhood Councils Coalition (LANCC) meeting and did not have a report.

John Ma gave the Ad Hoc Homelessness Committee Report. The Shower of Hope continued to take place Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Church of Christ on Adams Blvd. In addition to showers, they were now providing haircuts, COVID and flu vaccines and boosters, and COVID tests. Participation had increased from around 10 to between 25 and 30. On Sundays, volunteers were doing outreach from their vehicles and providing 60 hot or cold meals from the Eayikes organization. The REI store in the South Bay was bringing weekly donations including tents, tarps, shoes, technical gear, and survival gear.

Ms. Dujon said the Budget Advocates had asked her to participate.

Mr. Meeks said he would be attending Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance (NCSA) meetings.

Ms. Davis-Overstreet asked that SLAANC agendas be shared with the WANC community. She was interested in being a liaison to the Business Improvement District.

8. Presentation: none

9. Old Business

A. Discussion and possible action 3401 LA Cienega case VTT-83550-CN mixed use commercial and residential development <https://planning.lacounty.org/pdiscaseinfo/caseid/MjUwODQ50>

At Mr. Meeks' request, Ms. Davis-Overstreet took over as chair at 7:30 p.m., at which time Mr. Meeks temporarily left the meeting, leaving eight board members present.

Ms. Davis-Overstreet allowed Ryan Burton to share his screen. Mr. Burton said he had presented to the board that October; now, he was asking local leaders to help get the word out his projects local hire program for construction jobs. Brotherhood Crusade and My Brother's Keeper were also doing outreach. They also had a budget to hire local artists and artisans. Burton asked that names of prospective artists/artisans be sent Lendlease, the developer. Burton reviewed the entitlements the project was requesting, and he agreed to present to the Land Use Committee in February. He noted there was a "wine bar concept" in the retail portion of the site. They would add 80 trees to the two that were currently on the site.

Responding to Mr. Simmons, Burton confirmed that the onsite park space would be open to the public, a condition of the entitlement. To Ms. Dujon, he said there were no current plans for a community room that the general public could use, but he would "make a note" of her request.

To Ms. Davis-Overstreet, he said they were trying to make design changes and modifications encourage other methods of transportation besides personal car, such as the bike path and "end of trip" facilities like bike storage, showers and lockers, which were part of the plans, a "bike fix" facility, and a bike rental facility. The Ballona Creek Bike Path presented a "rare opportunity" to ride without vehicular traffic. Vehicular traffic was moved to the south of the site to encourage pedestrian flow. They planned to "open the corner" to create a seamless transition to Metro.

Ms. Davis-Overstreet encouraged Burton to present to the Public Safety Committee. In public comment, Tracy Weisert said she'd heard Mr. Burton on 3 occasions, and she requested to review a particular slide from his presentation on the screen.

Fernando Villa was called on but could not be heard.

A speakers identified only as "Call in user #2" asked if public restrooms would be available for the public space and whether tenant residents would be provided TAP Cards to promote Metro ridership. Mr. Burton said he would need to provide both answers at a later time.

Dr. Dawson announced he would need to step away.

B. Discussion and possible action NPG funding request from Eayikes in the amount of \$5000

By 8:01 p.m., Dr. Dawson and Ms. Yancy had both left the meeting, leaving 6 board members present. A quorum was lost.

An individual named Alex began to present on Eayikes and "homey made meals."

Mr. Meeks then returned at 8:01 p.m., making 7 board members. Quorum was 8. Mr. Meeks said the meeting would need to conclude due to the loss of quorum. He announced that the January and February meetings would be rescheduled to the 4th Mondays because of national holidays.

- C. **Discussion and possible action on formulation of a document/letter on NC letterhead to developers requesting a good faith effort for but not limited to: local (WANC area) hire such as, laborers, contractors, materials/equipment procurement, crafts people, low costs start up space/business and NGO incubator's, low cost/free meeting space, displaced resident applicants given first opportunity for low cost rental units**

This item was not taken up due to the loss of quorum.

- D. **Discussion and possible action on sponsoring discussion/symposium on the history of red lining, urban renewal, displacement for expenses such as but not limited to AV editing, speaker fees, not to exceed \$1000**

This item was not taken up due to the loss of quorum.

10. New business:

- A. **Discussion and possible action reimbursement Yolanda Davis Overstreet for payment to Gail D.Johnson in the amount of \$201.45**

This item was not taken up due to the loss of quorum.

- B. **Discussion and possible action sending a letter on NC letterhead and filing a CIS on Council File 21-1203 requesting appointment of a replacement/steward to represent CD10 in voting matters and voice at City Council**

This item was not taken up due to the loss of quorum.

- C. **Discussion on Board Member attendance at Monthly and Standing Committee Meetings Standing Committee Meetings scheduled and held as being Brown Act compliant and Board Member participation in NC programs and activities.**

This item was not taken up due to the loss of quorum.

- D. **Discussion and possible action filing a CIS in favor or opposition to Council F 21-1115 Sidewalk bicycle "chop shops."**

This item was not taken up due to the loss of quorum.

11. Agenda setting: Future Monthly and or Special Meetings

This item was not taken up due to the loss of quorum.

12. Adjourn

Mr. Meeks thanked all for being in attendance. The meeting ended at 8:05pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Conrad Starr.