

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
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 April 18, 2022* Regular Board Meeting Zoom Meeting online or by telephone March 21, 2022, 6:30 PM

1. Call to order and Roll Call

A meeting of the West Adams Neighborhood Council (WANC) was held on March 21, 2022 over Zoom, Webinar 959 3661 2418.

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

Brian Piatek (Treasurer) called the roll. There were six (6) board members present at roll call (Mr. Meeks, John Ma, Yolanda Davis-Overstreet (Vice-President), Mr. Piatek, Thomas Murray, and Kristyn Yancy. Quorum is eight (8) and was not met. Dorsay Dujon (Secretary), Jace Dawson, Clint Simmons, Connie Thomas and Richard Williams arrived later. Sean Curley (Parliamentarian) and Phillip Wiley were absent.

Board member Jace Dawson arrived at 6:40, making seven (7) board members present.

2. Government Representatives

Officer Crystal Garcia (39339@lapd.online | (213) 709-9120), Acting Senior Lead Officer (SLO) for Basic Car Area 3A31, LAPD Southwest Division presented. Her area extended from La Brea to the 10 Freeway to Crenshaw, then from Adams, to Montclair, to Arlington, to 27th, to Jefferson, back to Crenshaw, to Coliseum, to Chesapeake, to Obama [*see <https://lapdonlines-trgeacc.blob.core.usgovcloudapi.net/lapdonlinemedia/2021/02/sow-slo-map-june-2021.pdf>*]. In the latest 3-week reporting period, there had been six aggravated assaults, six burglaries from a motor vehicle, two burglaries, three cases of grand theft auto, five thefts, and no robberies. One aggravated assault was a shooting at 28th and Victoria on February 14th at 5:30 a.m. where four rounds were fired, one hitting the victim in the foot. She described a second shooting on March 3rd at 7:30 p.m. on the 4900 Block on 9th Ave. A third shooting in an abandoned building in the 3700 Block of Western Ave. involved a suspect shooting a victim “over a bicycle,” though there were no serious injuries.

She said 55 citations had been issued for bike lane violations on Adams as part of a traffic monitoring program on March 1st from 6 to 8:30 a.m., between Crenshaw and La Brea. Violators were first provided with an educational piece before being cited.

She would try to get the acting SLO for Basic Car Area 3A1 covering areas west of La Brea) to attend the next meeting.

Ms. Yancy requested enforcement of speeding and driving outside of marked lanes on Obama Bl. between La Cienega and La Brea. Garcia said she would share the request with the Community Traffic Safety Unit. She would also ask the SLO to connect with the Public Safety Committee.

Board members Dorsay Dujon and Connye Thomas had arrived by 6:49 p.m. Nine (9) members were now present, constituting a quorum.

Herman Jones (herman.jones@asm.ca.gov), Field Representative to CA Assemblymember Isaac Bryan, reported. Calls to the district office were commonly about EDD cases, disability insurance, and recently, inquiries around the “Housing is Key” program by individuals who had been accepted to the program in October but still had not received their money and couldn’t get anyone on the phone to address their concerns. Jones offered to connect constituents with the best contact information for the program and a list of the various tiers of the program.

Coach Williams arrived by 6:53 p.m. 10 members were now present.

3. General Public Comment

Marcia Jones said she had previously expressed an interest in joining the WANC board after attending meetings for one and a half years. She currently worked for the VA in recreation services and was a shop steward with her union. She highlighted her understanding of diplomacy, her organizing skills, and her interest in economic infrastructure and the maintaining of social programs. She lived in the 90016 ZIP Code. She requested a seat on the WANC Board. She was possibly interested in the Land Use and Grants committees.

Ernest Moore said he had approached the Council several times requesting a resolution of no confidence on Mark Ridley Thomas. He was not supportive of Herb Wesson serving in Ridley Thomas’ place on the City Council. He said the Cumulus Project had “hardly any” Black workers involved in its construction, and the project “didn’t do anything for the Black American community as they promised they would do.”

Jason Lombard said he was an Empowerment Congress West board member but was attending on behalf of Lincoln Properties Company. He was seeking support for a planned commercial office building with no retail and no housing, located in the West Adams - Baldwin Hills - Leimert Community Plan area. The project site was a 2.91-acre parcel on a 7-acre site within walking distance of Metro. The project was entirely consistent with zoning and the community plan. They would replace a surface parking lot to “activate” and beautify the existing site. They would finish the incomplete sidewalk on Jefferson Blvd. Setbacks would improve the pedestrian experience. The floor area ratio (FAR) was 1.61, while the Community Plan Implementation Overlay (CPIO) allowed a 2.0 FAR. The site would be accessible by two driveways on Jefferson and one existing driveway on Obama. A project review anticipated no significant traffic impacts. Transportation Demand Management (TDM) would include bicycle and pedestrian facilities. Seating was planned on community side of the site. There would be an upgrade to the existing parking lot and a TDM transit kiosk in the lobby. The approval requests included a Site Plan Review, a Zoning Administrator Adjustment from transitional height and Administrative Clearance for compliance with the provisions of the CPIO.

4. Secretary's report: Discussion and possible action approval of January and February minutes
Mr. Meeks said no minutes had been submitted from January's meeting, and the board had not had enough time to review the February draft minutes.

5. Monthly Expenditure Report: Discussion and possible approval of February MER
Mr. Piatek explained that Constant Contact had failed to send a receipt which prevented him from printing the MER. There was money in the budget to "help some neighborhood organizations," and any decisions should be made by the May meeting.

6. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment: Octaviano Rios

Octaviano Rios (octaviano.rios@lacity.org) reported. He recommended three "Core Institute" training sessions last year which were available as recordings as well as a recent training on candidate forums. A training on Community Impact Statements would be held on March 31st. A series of workshops on NPGs would be on 4/7 and 4/21. Financial officers' training sessions were to be held on April 12th and 26th.

DONE was working to engage NCs on developing department citywide outreach and engagement for NC elections. A town hall would be announced soon. NC outreach chairs and vice chairs would soon be invited to discuss what they were looking forward to in the following year's elections. NCs were encouraged to agendize purchasing Zoom licenses for approximately \$200 each per year. The Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (BONC) had approved an extension to holding NC meetings virtually. DONE was working with the City Clerk for each NC to assess all in-person locations where they host public meetings and events. Those which didn't respond in Fall 2021 would be contact to schedule in-person inspections with the Dept. of Disability.

Rios told Mr. Piatek he would ensure WANC was contacted about their recent ADA application.

Mr. Piatek asked to have an open discussion at the April board meeting about funding for NCs, noting the "budget line" had not changed much in years.

Mr. Meeks requested that to proceed directly to Item 8 due to the presenter's time constraints. There was no objection.

At this time (7:22 p.m.), Item 8 was taken up.

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

This item was taken up at 7:32 p.m. after Item 8.

Mr. Piatek gave the Land Use Committee Report. They had endorsed the 5870 Jefferson project at a previous meeting. They heard a presentation from "another building" they would be discussing later in the agenda. They held a brief discussion about proposed guidelines for developers, which he expected they would bring to the Board at the next meeting.

In public comment, **William Rodriguez Morrison** asked if the 5870 Jefferson building would be "affordable, based on income"? Piatek explained that it was strictly an office building.

Mr. Meeks requested that members refrain from back-and-forth discussion when giving reports.

Ms. Thomas reported on the March 5th Los Angeles Neighborhood Councils Coalition (LANCC) meeting: it was interesting to have a group of representatives of different neighborhood councils come together to talk about specific things they'd like to see done, she noted. She reported on the Rules Committee. She had sent draft of the Bylaws [proposed revisions] to each board member along with an explanation by email. They could contact members of the committee with any questions. The draft was complete, she said.

Dorsay Dujon gave the Arts and Culture Ad Hoc Committee report. Items taken up by the committee would be discussed later in the meeting. She could not access her notes from the South LA Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (SLAANC) meeting due to computer issues.

Ms. Davis-Overstreet reported on the Public Safety Committee. The March 3rd meeting featured a presentation by SLO Garcia. She repeated some statistics shared previously by Garcia. The goal, she said, was ongoing updates from LAPD representatives on "behavioral resistance" to using bike lanes. LADOT had put in an order for bollards for the bike lanes in certain locations along Adams Bl as a pilot program to see if it helped deter motorists from entering the bike lane. Trees had been planted from Fairfax almost to Redondo, with shade being the primary purpose. She said restaurant traffic kept stakeholders from being able to park on their residential streets. Residents on Ridgeley had been brought into a preferential parking district, which required support at the block level before the City would take such action.

Mr. Ma said the Outreach Committee had met earlier that day to discuss how to take the logo design and "turn it into a full-blown block party event" to engage neighbors.

At this time (7:43 p.m.), Item 9.A. was taken up.

8. Presentation: Healthy Streets LA ballot measure by Michael Schneider-five minutes

This item was taken up after at 7:23 p.m. after Item 6.

Michael Schneider shared a presentation on his screen. A City of LA ballot measure would result in less traffic, help fight climate change, and result in safer streets for all modes of transportation. He provided statistics, including that a pedestrian was killed every 3 days, which was four times the national average for a big city. Despite the Mobilization Plan passed in 2015 and Vision Zero launched in 2016, it was "getting worse." The plan included 1500 miles of improvements. In 7 years, the city had only implemented 3% of its own plan. Schneider said every time a street was repaved, it was an opportunity to treat it as a blank canvas and to restripe in accordance with the mobility plan. The Healthy Streets LA ballot measure would require the City to implement its plan. He pointed to a "broad coalition" of support. They would need to collect 65,000 signatures by the end of May to appear on the ballot.

Schneider asked for the NC to pass a letter of support to send to the City Council to help in our efforts.

Responding to Mr. Piatek, Schneider describe said it included a pedestrian enhanced network, a driver enhanced network, a transit enhanced network, a bike enhanced network, and a neighborhood enhanced network.

In public comment, Mr. Morrison asked about curbs and sidewalks. Mr. Schneider clarified that the Mobility Plan did not include sidewalks or curbs.

Mr. Simmons asked if the effort was meant to “eliminate automobiles entirely.” Schneider said that on the contrary, the plan included a driver enhanced network with an extra lane on Olympic.

At this time (7:31 p.m.), Item 7 was resumed.

9. Old Business

A. Discussion on holding a Special Meeting(s) to review and approve recommended Bylaws amendments

Mr. Meeks discussed the possibility of scheduling a joint Rules Committee/Board meeting.

Mr. Simmons said the committee had made proposed changes to the bylaws as was its mandate and that it had requested to be on the agenda for discussion and action, but that the agenda did not reflect this. He was unable to attend the special meeting Meeks had proposed.

Ms. Thomas requested that any other requested changes be sent to the committee and cite the section and number of the item to be changed.

Mr. Simmons offered that the email sent to board members would have been sent earlier had the item appeared on the agenda.

Mr. Meeks said he had not received the agenda request in a timely manner.

The board shared their availability for several proposed dates, and Mr. Meeks later proposed to conduct a poll later in the evening.

Mr. Rios said DONE was not considering granting deadline extensions. Proposed changes should be available prior to any meeting so board members who were unable to attend could ask another member to raise their issues.

No action was taken.

B. Discussion and possible action on reconsideration of February 28th agenda item Old Business E.

Meeks explained that a reconsideration of the vote would start with the vote on whether to reconsider.

Prior to any motion, the board discussed whether the proposed logo design approved at the February meeting might have violated any copyrights. Mr. Piatek said the City was requesting an “assignment of rights” from the designer, Krishna Patel. Once the form was complete, it would not be “a big deal.”

Ms. Dujon said Ms. Patel was a professional graphic artist who used typefaces and designs, taken from other sources, to repurpose for her clients, and that no copyright infringement was taking place.

Mr. Ma proposed to “turn it over to the City Attorney for review,” observing that the design was “generic enough.”

Ms. Davis-Overstreet said the design was royalty-free artwork that can be used to create graphic design themes and logos. The Council had been “dragging our feet” on the logo for three years, she said.

Mr. Meeks said, for \$2,200, the logo should stand out and not be generic or in the public domain.”

Mr. Simmons moved to reconsider the motion, as in the agenda. Ms. Thomas seconded.

Similar stock images of uplifted hands were shared on screen by Mr. Piatek and, at the request of Mr. Meeks, by Mr. Starr.

In public comment, Ms. Weisert said the committee had performed due diligence and had reviewed various colors arrays for the hands design at committee meetings. Ms. Davis-Overstreet asked that Ms. Patel be asked to present her other designs if the Board objected to the hands design.

The motion failed by a vote of 4 in favor (Meeks, Simmons, Thomas, Williams) and 6 opposed (Davis-Overstreet, Dujon, Ma, Murray, Yancy, Piatek). Dr. Dawson was declared ineligible for the vote.

At this time (8:31 p.m.), Item 9.D was taken up.

C. Discussion and possible action on submitted logo design and using other designers

This item was not taken up.

D. Discussion and possible action - NPG funding request from Eayikes not to exceed \$5000

This item was taken up at 8:31 p.m. after Item 9.B.

John Ma recused on the basis he was a volunteer with the applicant.

Alex Yoon described their “Homey Made Meals” which had started with the COVID pandemic in March 2020 and had served 83,996 meals across LA and Orange Counties. Volunteers made the meals at home. Others drove. Outreach groups used the meals to build relationships with neighbors experiencing homelessness. West Adams was Eayikes’ home base for operations since 2017. Yoon shared the organization’s vision and mission of “empowering and bringing together a diverse community to maintain and improve our quality of life.”

This request was for \$5,000 to fund the free pantry used by the volunteers to prepare food, to include food supplies, bottles of water, to-go containers, utensils, carrying bags, and other necessary items. The grant would provide for approximately 2,200 meals to the pantry and would also serve the neighborhood Restaurant Depot, a local nonprofit, local neighbors, and local volunteers. He encouraged anyone interested in volunteering to visit <http://homeymademeals.com>.

Mr. Meeks said \$5,000 was a lot of money to be spent in the limited remainder of the fiscal year.

In public comment, Ms. Weisert spoke in support of the grant.

Coach Williams said they should “go to the City” which had “millions of dollars,” not to WANC which had only \$32,000.

Ms. Davis-Overstreet suggested Eayikes could share with the Board how it could make its effort stronger.

Estimates of the number of homeless individuals living in WANC were discussed.

Mr. Meeks said more outreach was needed to maximize utilization at the Shower of Hope.

Mr. Piatek asked if a substantial portion of the requested funds could be spent by the end of June. Yoon said Eayikes had applied for nine NPGs with the City and there had never been an issue with their spending the grand according to the terms.

Mr. Yoon said the group could make use of a smaller amount if that was the board’s wish.

Mr. Piatek moved to approve an NPG grant of \$2,500 to Eayikes. Ms. Dujon seconded. There was no additional board discussion or public comment. The motion carried with seven (7) in favor (Davis-Overstreet, Dujon, Meeks, Piatek, Simmons, Murray, Thomas), one (1) opposed (Williams), one (1) ineligible (Dawson), one (1) recused (Ma), and two (2) absent (Yancy, Wiley).

E. Discussion and possible action on 4301 Jefferson - ZA 2020-5929 MCUP and ZA 2021-9961 MPA proposed multi-unit restaurant development and operating plan including but not limited to all alcohol licenses and parking Case Information & Documents - Los Angeles City Planning (lacity.org)

Mr. Meeks announced the item would be postponed until “the entity” was available to discuss it.

F. Discussion on Board Member censure and or removal based on attendance at Monthly and Standing Committee Meetings scheduled and held as being Brown Act compliant *and* Board Member participation in NC programs/activities *and* required trainings.

Mr. Ma had returned from recusal by this time (9:03 p.m.)

Mr. Meeks announced that a letter would be sent to several board members who had missed three meetings reminding them that missing a 4th regular monthly meeting “in a 12-month period” would lead to censure.

At this time (9:08 p.m.), Item 10D was taken up.

10. New business:

A. Discussion and possible action on writing a letter of support on Healthy Streets LA ballot measure

Mr. Piatek moved to write a letter of support of the Healthy Streets LA ballot measure. Coach Williams seconded. In board discussion, Mr. Meeks instructed the board that it could amend the letter, a template to which had been provided by Michael Schneider.

The item was laid on the table without objection.

At this time (9:32 p.m.), Item 10.B was taken up.

Item 10.A was taken from the table at 9:38 p.m.

Mr. Piatek said the template letter was unnecessary; he advocated for a simple letter of support.

The motion carried with seven (7) in favor (Dujon, Meeks, Piatek, Simmons, Murray, Thomas, Williams). Dr. Dawson was ineligible. Two (2) had recused (Davis-Overstreet, Ma), and three (3) were absent (Curley, Wiley, Yancy).

At this time (9:42 p.m.), Item 10.E was taken up.

B. Discussion and possible action on designing and production/installation of street utility pole WANC banners, not to exceed \$10,000

Coach Williams moved to fund the design and production/installation of street pole utility WANC banners, not to exceed \$10,000. Mr. Piatek seconded.

Dr. Dawson announced he would be leaving the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

The motion carried with seven (7) in favor (Davis-Overstreet, Meeks, Simmons, Murray, Thomas, Williams, Piatek). Ms. Dujon was opposed. Dr. Dawson was ineligible and three were absent (Curley, Ma, Yancy)

C. Discussion and possible action on filing a CIS and or writing a letter on proposed La Brea corridor peak traffic dedicated bus lane

This item was taken up at 9:24 p.m. after 10.D.

Mr. Meeks explained the proposal to dedicate the parking lane as a bus-only lane during peak traffic morning and evening hours on La Brea from Coliseum to Sunset.

Ms. Davis-Overstreet moved to write a letter or file a CIS in support of this proposed La Brea corridor dedicated bus lane. Coach Williams seconded. Mr. Simmons had previously spoken in opposition.

The motion carried with seven (7) in favor (Davis-Overstreet, Dujon, Ma, Meeks, Piatek, Murray, Williams) and two (2) opposed (Simmons, Thomas). Dr. Dawson was ineligible and three were absent (Curley, Ma, Yancy)

At this time (9:28 p.m.), Item 10.A was taken up.

D. Discussion on the use of My LA 311 app

This item was taken up at 9:08 p.m. after 9.F.

Mr. Murray explained the process of using My LA 311 from a computer browser or via a smartphone app to create a service request for graffiti removal, illegal dumping, potholes, overgrowth, or other services, using location data. He described a 48-hour turnaround for graffiti removal on occasion. Typically, requests were addressed within a week or less.

Several board members said they used the app regularly with good results.

Coach Williams suggested calling the Council Office was a useful alternative.

In public comment, **a call-in user** spoke against perpetuating the stereotype that the system only worked for connected individuals like NC board members.

At this time (9:24 p.m.), Item 10.C was taken up.

E. Discussion and possible action on the selection of any of the two Board vacancies, Business and At Large Representatives

This item was taken up at 9:42 p.m. after 10.A.

Mr. Meeks explained the above

Ms. Dujon reminded Mr. Meeks that Marcia Jones requested to join the Board.

11. Agenda setting: Future Monthly and or Special Meetings

Mr. Meeks said he would poll the board regarding availability for a special meeting to discuss the proposed bylaws changes.

12. Adjourn

Mr. Meeks adjourned the meeting at 9:45 p.m. without objection.

Respectfully Submitted by Conrad Starr.