

West Adams Neighborhood Council

Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 27, 2023 6:30 - 9:30 PM

1. Call to order at 6:38 p.m. by West Adams NC President Steven Meeks. **Roll Call:** Present were: Brian Piatek, Connye Thomas, Thomas Murray, Jace Dawson, John Ma, Marcia Jones, Steven Meeks and Richard Williams. Quorum was established with 8 board members. Clint Simmons joined the meeting at 6:55 p.m. **Absent:** Yolanda Davis-Overstreet, Dorsay Dujon, Kristyn Yancy and Phillip Wiley.

2. Government Representatives: CD10 Field Deputy Jonathan Mitchell gave an update on damage from the recent winter storm. There was one incident of a power outage that affected 460 customers in the Council District; it was a citywide outage. As far as tree trimming, they are working on elm trees and palm trees on the north and south of the 10 freeway. If you have street lights out, use 311 to report it. It takes about 45 days to get them repaired. Brian and his wife have noticed several disabled people cruising in their chairs down the street, rather than using the sidewalks. He asked for an update on the timeframe for sidewalk repairs as he is concerned about their safety. Richard Williams asked whether a homeless encampment on Obama Blvd. by LaBrea can be moved. Jonathan said they have done 6 or 7 cleanups there but the homeless continue to camp out there. Steven spoke about a need for a service request with a traffic concern. Jonathan said he would work on it with LADOT.

3. General Public Comment: None.

4. Secretary's report: (Simmons/Williams) moved to accept the minutes of the January 2023 West Adams NC board Meeting. The motion carried unanimously: 9-0-0 (with 4 absences).

5. Monthly Expenditure Report: Treasurer Brian Piatek gave the monthly treasurer's report, noting that \$12,386.00 has been spent, to date, leaving \$38,480.90 in the fiscal year budget. Of that, commitments or historical spending accounts for \$37,500, which leaves only about \$1,000.00. Brian did not have the MER for January so that action was tabled.

6. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment Report: EmpowerLA Rep. Octaviano Rios reported a vote by the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (BONC) to extend virtual meetings for NCs until March 29th. They also rescinded their previous resolution to have NCs meet in-person as of March 1st. As of March 29th, NCs will be required to meet in-person or hold hybrid meetings according to the guidelines of the department. Regarding Zoom accounts, the department will stop covering this cost (\$200.00 per account) as of May 2023. At that point, each NC will need to pay this fee themselves. When holding meetings in-person, the City Clerk will handle any agreements that are required. There are also requirements that need to be met with the City for using either city or outside buildings. He thanked the board for promoting participation in the upcoming election and having a strong turnout. There is a Candidate Info Session on Saturday, March 4, 2023 at 10 a.m. online. (See: [EmpowerLA.org/elections](https://empowerla.org/elections)). There are some free tools available with Canva and NextDoor to promote the elections.

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

Connye attended the most recent LAANC meeting but did not give a report.

Brian said the Finance Committee received a request for \$5,000 in funding but needs more info to evaluate it. The Land Use Committee hasn't had a lot of action in the last month but will reconvene in March. Steve stated that there have been a lot of demolitions lately and it's important to know if they are in compliance or not.

Steve reported on Outreach saying that the first Compost Workshop only had three in attendance: two board members and one stakeholder. Another was scheduled but cancelled due to a staffing shortage at the library. Steve is putting in an event approval form for the Urban Renewal Event. There has been interest in a partnership for the Talk Back/Feedback Town Hall Event from the Empower Congress West Area Neighborhood Development Council.

Dorsay reported on the Arts and Culture committee saying they have composed a list of art installation areas where the 1% development fee can be used but they won't have any more info until late summer or early fall. At the next meeting, there will be discussion about the design for Utility Pole Banners.

8. Presentation: NONE

9. New Business:

- A. **Discussion and possible action: (Piatek/Dawson) moved that West Adams NC approve the 2023 Elections Candidate Forum (s) for expenses, such as but not limited to, refreshments, facility rental not to exceed \$2000.** Connye expressed concerns about the timeframe for approvals for this, as well as the getting the necessary approval to use the Obama Sports Complex. Steve suggested she not let the approval process hold up the planning for this event. **The motion passed unanimously: 8-0-0. (Clint was ineligible to vote on finances) with 4 absences.**

- B. **(Simmons/Williams) moved approval of Council File 23-0002-S16 - to amend to The Brown Act that will allow Neighborhood Councils the option to continue to hold remote/virtual meetings.** Steve explained that many NCs want to continue to hold their meetings online. Clint pointed out that there is a need to have the right equipment in place to hold hybrid meetings. **The motion carried: 7-2-0 (Simmons and Williams opposed) with 4 absences.**

- C. **Discussion and possible action: (Ma/Thomas) moved that West Adams NC support Council File 23-0002-S17 to amend the Brown Act to allow Neighborhood Councils the option to continue to hold remote/virtual meetings.** The motion carried: **6-3-0 (Piatek, Simmons and Williams opposed) with 4 absences.**

10. Old Business:

A. Discussion update: 2023 NC Elections Progress Report: Connye spoke about the Elections Committee meeting where they have started the planning process for the election and the Candidate Forums. They have received the application to request use of the Obama Sports Complex. They will meet again on Wednesday, March 8th at 6:30 p.m. She invited anyone who is interested in participating to join their meeting. The election takes place on April 22, 2023. There was discussion about collecting old yard signs and putting out election signs. Jace and Marcia volunteered to pick up yard signs. Steve suggested repurposing the signs and the metal stakes. Brian said there are 17 certified candidates so far. Connye said it is also a diverse mix of people with different talents.

B. Discussion and possible action: (Piatek/Murray) moved that West Adams NC possibly partner with an adjacent NC such as ECWANDC, UNNC, P.I.C.O. and or Mid City on December approved “Talk Back Feedback” event. The motion passed unanimously: 9-0-0. with 4 absences. There is no date for this yet. Connye and Brian said they would work on it.

C. Discussion and possible action: (Piatek/Williams) moved to amend the previously approved budget for “Talkback Feedback” event with an increase for, but not limited to, refreshments and facility rental not to exceed \$1200.00. Brian added that the total for the whole budget will be \$3200.00. The motion passed unanimously: 8-0-0. (Clint was ineligible to vote on finances) with 4 absences.

D. Discussion and possible action: (Williams/Dawson) moved to amend the previously approved budget for Displacement/Urban Renewal event with an increase of \$2000 for expenses, such as but not limited to, refreshments and facility rental. The motion carried: 7-1-0 (Piatek opposed) with 4 absences.

E. Agenda setting for future Monthly or Special Meetings: Steve asked board members email their agenda requests a week or two beforehand. Brian asked for 10-15 minutes on the next agenda for Outreach. Steve said they need additional keys made for posting the agendas on the bulletin board. Yolanda has the key. Brian will get the keys made.

11. Meeting Adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

- Minutes by Pat Kramer, Apple One -