



Committee on Transportation & Safety

Monday, August 26, 2013, 7:00 PM

Conference Room, Fire Station 43, 3690 Motor Avenue,
Los Angeles, CA 90034



All items below may include a motion or recommendation to the Assembly.

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The following members of the committee were present: Charles Miller (chair), Jennifer Tobkin, Willie Bell, Elise Rothberg, PNC member Tanya Leal as well as Jonathan Weiss of the City of Los Angeles Bicycle Advisory Committee, and stakeholders Marissa Stewart, Freddy Stewart, Richard Quezada and Kathryn Reesman.

2. Approval of minutes from previous meetings.

Minutes were approved for the June and July meetings.

3. Expo Line–Palms Station Ongoing Issues

Charles Miller informed the committee that Shizu Saldamando sent regrets that she unexpectedly had to cover a work shift but is excited to attend our next meeting.

Mr. Miller reported the following EXPO-related road closures: intermittent westbound National, full closure of Motor Avenue 9:00 pm - 6:00 am through August 30th, full closure of Sawtelle 9:00 pm - 6:00 am through August 30th, full closure of Colorado Avenue in Santa Monica between Lincoln and 9th Street 10 pm - 6:00 am September 3rd - October 1st. Mr. Miller also passed around a map of the Colorado reroute.

4. Overland Beautification.

Ms. Rothberg reported that she spoke with George Gonzales from Urban Forestry. He reaffirmed the permit is fee-free and can be applied for online. He recommended finding a company with a certified Arborist. On average, we can expect to pay approximately \$350.00 per medium sized Ficus tree. If we do a block of 20-30 that price may go down to \$100 per tree. In response to Freddy Stewart's query, Mr. Miller explained the trees are encroaching signs and sidewalks but some are the purview of Mar Vista Community Council. Mr. Bell said we should trim the ones on "our side" of the street. Ms. Rothberg suggested we should at least consider trimming the Ficus by the cleaners. Marissa Stewart expressed that we should not pay for any repairs or trimming in areas that are going to be changed by property developers; they should pay.

Eli Lipmen asked for the following motion to be put on the agenda:

MOTION: The Palms Neighborhood Council supports traffic calming and walkability measures on Overland Avenue to include: 1) The creation of a higher visibility crosswalk (zebra crossing) at the Rose Avenue traffic light, with a step back for cars to stop at three feet back; 2) Adding a crosswalk at Woodbine Street as a safety, traffic calming, and business improvement measure; 3) Improved higher visibility signage and law enforcement at Overland Avenue and Rose Avenue (East side of the street) to decrease speeding on the Overland hill; 4)

Rapid Rectangular Flashing Beacons, crosswalk flags, or another high visibility measure for the crosswalk at Overland Avenue and Rose Avenue (north); 5) Removal of the ficus tree at 3357 Overland Avenue (next to La Lycee Francaise de Los Angeles parking lot on the east side of the street), and repair of the sidewalk with replanting of the tree well with a native tree.

Mr. Miller reported that Mr. Lipmen had already taken this motion to the Mar Vista Community Council and they voted to wait to see what this committee recommends. Difficulties arose as Mr. Lipmen was not present to answer the many questions from the board and stakeholders such as; how many students use the crosswalk, is this the best use of funding (demonstrating the most need for change in Palms), which high visibility measure is best, why the need for change on Rose South that has the light, has any consideration been given to the idea that a crosswalk adds a false sense of security to those crossing?

Mr. Bell explained that there had been a crosswalk at Woodbine and it was removed by the city. Ms. Rothberg explained that Mr. Greg Spotts, Methods and Standards Superintendent that walked the area with some members of the PNC said the city saw no reason to put a crosswalk at Woodbine, Mr. Miller explained that the PNC had formally requested a crosswalk be installed at that intersection and had been turned down by LA-DOT but we could request a traffic study.

Jennifer Tobkin made a motion to break up the motions, sever 3 and 4 and consider them individually. Ms Rothberg seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Miller made a motion to table 1, 2, and 5 and seconded the motion as chair. Ms. Tobkin, Mr. Miller, and Ms. Rothberg voted in favor, Mr. Bell voted against, motion carried.

The motion, *The Palms Neighborhood Council supports traffic calming and walkability measures on Overland Avenue to include improved higher visibility signage and law enforcement at Overland Avenue and Rose Avenue (East side of the street) to decrease speeding on the Overland hill*, did not pass: Ms, Tobkin and Ms Rothberg voted for, Mr. Bell and Mr, Miller against.

An amendment to the motion, *The Palms Neighborhood Council supports traffic calming and walkability measures on Overland Avenue to include Rapid Rectangular Flashing Beacons, crosswalk flags, or another high visibility measure for the crosswalk at Overland Avenue and Rose Avenue (north)* was offered by Ms Rothberg, seconded by Mr. Bell which changed the language of the motion to *The Palms Neighborhood Council supports traffic calming and walkability measures on Overland Avenue to include Rapid Rectangular Flashing Beacons for the crosswalk at Overland Avenue and Rose Avenue (north)*. The amended motion passed unanimously.

5. Motor Avenue Congestion Public Feedback.

Mr. Miller moved this item up the agenda to accommodate stakeholders. Mr. Miller explained he has also received many emails complaining about the congestion and wanting to reverse the re-striping which added bike lanes and removed a car lane in each direction. Mr. Bell said he had great difficulty getting to the Motor Avenue post office due to traffic back-up. Ms. Tobkin reported seeing people driving in the bike lanes because traffic was so bad. Ms. Reesman stated she no longer uses Motor during the week to get to work.

Mr. Weiss suggested that the traffic is not due to the addition of bike lanes but because of the traffic mitigation imposed by Cheviot Hills. Ms. Stewart said there are multi-million dollar homes in other areas that do not cause bottlenecks in neighboring areas. Mr. Miller encouraged those present to make the bike people our allies; the first thing the Cheviot Hills will do is try to pit us against one another and changing the traffic mitigation by moving it up to Manning may solve the problem we are having, though he has suggested this several times in the past and met with great resistance. Mr. Weiss said not to overlook Southbound metering as

well, and to consider that Manning may not be the best place for that metering to start.

6. Walk To School Day

MOTION: The Palms Neighborhood Council endorses the Los Angeles Department of Transportation's Walk to School Day, Los Angeles, slated for October 9, 2013, and encourages schools in Palms to participate in this important initiative.

The motion was seconded by Ms. Rothberg and passed unanimously.

Mr. Weiss offered to have people hand out leaflets available from LA-DOT to the parents dropping off their kids in the morning.

7. Bureau of Street Services Neighborhood Council Blitz

Mr. Miller explained we will get one day of attention from the city- September 27th. On that day a crew will show up with a truckload of asphalt to do minor street repairs. We can also request tree trimming or removal and sidewalk repair. He encouraged everyone to look around Palms and email him by Thursday afternoon, August 28th, with an address, photo, and description of what they would like done. Ms. Leal suggested checking the stakeholder feedback to the PNC website. Mr. Stewart suggested using the asphalt to do more than patch potholes since the patch material will wash away with the next rain.

More information is available at the Empower LA website.

8. Outreach to Westside Village for Safety Plan

Mr. Miller tabled this item.

9. Working with other NCs

David Lewis, Venice NC Transportation and Parking Strategy Committee was unable to attend.

Mr. Miller told the committee that the South Of Robertson Neighborhood Council Transportation Committee has proposed a meeting of the transportation committees of the Neighborhood Councils of SORO, Palms, Mar Vista, Westwood, and West LA. This meeting will take place September 26th at 7:00 pm at the Hamilton High Rec Center. Mr. Miller is planning to attend and encourages everyone to do so as well.

10. Open Floor

Mr. Weiss informed the committee of a City of Los Angeles Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting September 18th at the IMAN Center at 8:00 pm.

11. Adjournment.

Agendas of Palms Neighborhood Council and Committee meetings can be found at these designated posting sites

Palms Cycle 3770 Motor Ave., Simpang Asia Groceries 10433 National Blvd., Casa de Laundry 3371 Motor Ave.,
The Cleaning Club 10905 Venice Blvd., Noah's Bagels 8985 Venice Blvd., the Palms-Rancho Park Library and www.palmsla.org.

Other posting places include, but are not required at St. Mary's, Charnock Elementary, Palms Elementary, Palms Middle,
Le Lycee Francais de Los Angeles, the Hare Krishna Center & Culver-Palms Church of Christ.

To reach members of the Palms Representative Assembly, see the contact directory at www.dnncity.org/dnn/ or go to www.palmsla.org
SI REQUIERE SERVICIOS DE TRADUCCIÓN, FAVOR DE NOTIFICAR A LA OFICINA 3 DÍAS (72 HORAS) ANTES DEL EVENTO. SI NECESITA ASISTENCIA CON ESTA NOTIFICACIÓN, POR FAVOR LLAME A NUESTRA OFICINA AL (213) 485-1360.

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