

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA



10008 National Blvd. #210
Los Angeles, CA 90034

Phone: (424) 256-5762

www.palmsla.org

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**Palms Neighborhood Council
Representative Assembly**

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Trevor Mulligan, Residential Rep. E

PALMS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Representative Assembly Meeting Special Agenda

Wednesday, September 3, 2014 – 7:00 p.m.

IMAN Center – 3376 Motor Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90034 (onsite parking available)

The Neighborhood Council system enables meaningful civic participation for all Angelenos and serves as a voice for improving government responsiveness to local communities and their needs. We are an advisory body to the City of Los Angeles, comprised of stakeholder volunteers who are devoted to the mission of improving our communities.

I. WELCOMING REMARKS

- a. Call to Order (Stewart)**

II. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

- a. Roll Call (Nguyen)**

III. COMMUNITY/GOVERNMENT REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS (30 minutes)

(Representatives from government offices, police and community based organizations)

- a. Special Guest - State Senator Holly J. Mitchell, 26th District**
b. L.A. City Council Representative
c. LAPD Senior Lead Officer
d. L.A. City and other Government Departments/Agencies

IV. BUDGET MOTIONS (discussion and possible action items) (40 minutes)

- a. Treasurer (Greif) – Treasurer’s report including various motions related to FY14-15 Palms Neighborhood Council Budget**

- i. MOTION:** *Approve the [FY14-15 Palms Neighborhood Council Budget](#)*
ii. MOTION: *Allocate up to \$1,000 for Palms Neighborhood Council food and refreshments for General Assembly and Committee meetings*
iii. MOTION: *Allocate up to \$1,450 for the 1-year rental of a storage unit for Palms Neighborhood Council materials, to be paid in monthly installments*
iv. MOTION: *Allocate up to \$250 for the rental of a P.O. Box for the Palms Neighborhood Council*
v. MOTION: *Allocate up to \$500 for monthly payments to Constant Contact or another vendor to manage newsletter distribution*
vi. MOTION: *Allocate up to \$500 for monthly payment of the website hosting service and enhancements to the website to improve its effectiveness for the community*
vii. MOTION: *Allocate up to \$1,800 for monthly payments for transcription services (i.e. minutes writing) for the Palms Neighborhood Council's General Assembly meetings*

- viii. MOTION: *Allocate up to \$400 for office supplies for General Assembly and Committee meetings*
- ix. MOTION: *Allocate up to \$200 for audio/video services for General Assembly and Committee meetings, and more.*
- x. MOTION: *Approve [Monthly Expenditure Report – August 2014](#)*

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS (discussion and possible action items) (59 minutes total)

- a. **Green** (Miller) – (30 min. total) Update and Guest Speaker Annette Mercer (10 min.)
 - i. MOTION: (4 min.) *Whereas the Westwood Neighborhood Greenway would 1) bio-remediate urban runoff prior to release into Santa Monica Bay, 2) educate the public on bioremediation, native plant gardens, sustainability, and water conservation, 3) restore a resilient local ecosystem, and 4) conserve water, land, and energy in an area that is critically underserved with open space; and whereas, the Expo Board passed a motion February 6, 2014, directing the Expo Authority "CEO and staff to work collaboratively with the City of Los Angeles to ensure that the landscaping of the two projects [LRT and Greenway] complement each other and Expo Authority, Metro and the City of Los Angeles coordinate maintenance responsibilities for the two projects."; and whereas Cris B. Liban, Deputy Executive Officer, Metro, Environmental Compliance Services, has suggested that Metro will not accept leaving the land adjacent to the rail line fallow (due to security and environmental concerns); and whereas the Expo Authority will need to address the degradation of the City of Los Angeles land by construction activities in any case, as well as fulfilling its air quality and water quality mitigation obligations; and whereas the Greenway could be built in two phases: 1) design, grade, and landscape the entire area, without the pumped water but leaving a dry creek and detention basins, using the City of Los Angeles' \$750,000, and 2) daylighting of stormwater for remediation and use for irrigation when funding has been found; and whereas Mayor Garcetti's office has confirmed that the \$750,000 for the Greenway in the previous Mayor's 50 Parks Initiative can be spent on the park; and whereas Ryan Thiha of the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation Watershed Protection Division has confirmed that the landscaping phase of the project can be designed and built for \$750,000; Therefore, the Palms Neighborhood Council supports the Greenway Steering Committee in its call for creation of an Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to move this project forward, which shall be accomplished by convening representatives of the City of Los Angeles (RAP, Sanitation, DOT, BOE, and/or other departments as necessary), Expo Authority (staff and consultants), and Metro (staff and consultants) to collaboratively create and sign an MOU regarding the Metro land and City of Los Angeles land between Overland Avenue and Westwood Boulevard that will become the Westwood Neighborhood Greenway. The MOU shall determine which entity(s) will accept responsibility for design, construction, maintenance, and operation of the Westwood Neighborhood Greenway, and allow that entity (those entities) to proceed with design and construction of the grading, landscaping, and irrigation of the entire area with the currently available funds (\$750,000) and with the understanding that the funding for the water quality portion of the project may be available in future. The MOU shall be implemented on a schedule such that the bike/ pedestrian path, Greenway design, and other issues are resolved with a minimum of duplication of effort or expenditure of public funds and as close to the opening of the rail line as possible.*
 - ii. MOTION: (4 min.) *Whereas the bike/pedestrian path is part of the transit corridor running through the Palms area; and whereas the bike/pedestrian path location between Westwood Blvd. and Overland Ave. should not compromise the*

optimal design of the Westwood Neighborhood Greenway (the Greenway) bioremediation; and whereas the bike/pedestrian path location in the current design is placed at the southern edge of the rail right-of-way (18 feet from the southern sound wall); and whereas the current location divides the optimal Greenway design and results in a 20 percent loss of land to the Greenway, substantially and adversely affecting grading, water flow, green space, aesthetics, effectiveness, maintenance, and pedestrian and educational use of the Greenway; and whereas if the bike/pedestrian path were adjacent to the sound wall, the remaining rail right-of-way land would be adjacent to the City land and could be treated in one consolidated design; and whereas a 5-foot offset of the bike/pedestrian path from the wall is adequate for bicyclist safety, and allows for the planting of trees in the 5-foot offset or on the south side of the bike/pedestrian path; therefore, the Palms Neighborhood Council supports moving the bike/pedestrian path between Westwood Blvd. and Overland Ave. north 13 feet to a location 5-feet from the sound wall and incorporating this design into the overall Greenway Memorandum of Understanding for grading, design, construction, operation, and maintenance. This re-design should be accomplished immediately so that the bike/pedestrian path construction by the Expo Authority can continue on schedule and completion of the Greenway project can be as close to the opening of the rail line as possible.

- iii.** MOTION: (4 min.) *Whereas current drought conditions and future demand projections in California require that water be conserved wherever possible; and whereas over 70% of the residential water use in the Los Angeles region is for irrigating mostly non-native plants like those that makeup the vast majority of landscaping in Palms; and whereas traditional non-native landscaping uses on average seven times the water of native landscaping; and whereas the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP) have made substantial investments in landscape incentive programs including rebates, literature, and training seminars aimed at steering residential and commercial customers towards landscaping that requires less water, which these organizations define as “California Friendly” landscaping; and whereas while these programs include native plant options, they also include and even advertise and emphasize non-native options; and whereas California native plants offer many vital benefits over even the most “drought- tolerant” non-natives: 1) California native plants do not require soil amendments that are necessary for every non-native. Runoff from landscaping fertilizers is one of the top three sources of water contamination in the Ballona Creek Watershed and Santa Monica Bay, which serves the stakeholders of Palms. 2) California native plants do not require herbicides and pesticides that are commonly used with non-natives and typically shipped on the plants and in the soil accompanying non-native plants from many retailers. These herbicides and pesticides further contaminate water supplies. 3) Only natives help our threatened pollinators. Native plants are the foundation of the food web. Our native butterfly caterpillars can only eat native plants. Our native baby songbirds depend on native caterpillars as a primary food source. As we’ve filled our region with non-natives, it is no coincidence that we’ve lost 90% of our native songbird and butterfly populations in the last half century. Replacing water-hungry non-natives with drought tolerant non-natives only perpetuates this cycle. 4) Natives are our heritage, and we need to reclaim that. Only natives offer a sense of geographical heritage and identity for our region. Given that there are drought tolerant California natives to fit essentially every possible landscaping situation, promoting inferior non-natives is a remnant of twentieth-century thinking about how we should reshape the land instead of working with nature as*

a partner in urban sustainability; and whereas the lack of sustainability offered by non-native landscaping of any kind makes it clear that there is no such thing as a “California Friendly” non-native plant; therefore the Palms Neighborhood Council urges MWD, DWP, and the City of Los Angeles to discontinue the use of the phrase “California Friendly” in reference to any non-native landscaping, and to redesign the “Waterwise”, “SoCal Water\$mart”, and all other landscaping programs to emphasize natives over non-natives, with a tiered system that always provides preferential incentives to drought tolerant California native landscaping over non-native options.

- iv.** MOTION: (4 min.) *Whereas the Palms Neighborhood Council (PNC) believes that water is of paramount importance to the City of Los Angeles; And Whereas the PNC supports the Mayor’s goal of cutting imported water supplies in half by 2025; And Whereas the stakeholders of Palms can be active participants in reaching this goal, but currently lack consistent guidance, reliable incentives, resources, and support; And Whereas the Water LA program has been providing these tools to Panorama City and Studio City; Therefore Be It Resolved that the Palms Neighborhood Council requests the assistance of Mayor Garcetti and Councilmember Paul Koretz to bring the Water LA program to Palms.*
- v.** MOTION: (4 min.) *Whereas 80% of antibiotics in the U.S. are fed to factory farm animals that aren’t even sick. And Whereas many of these antibiotics are the same drugs that we rely on to treat infections in people. And Whereas two million Americans experience antibiotic-resistant infections every year, resulting in at least 23,000 deaths. Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Palms Neighborhood Council supports local, state, and national efforts to ban antibiotics that are medically important to human healthcare from being used for unnecessary, non- therapeutic purposes in livestock.*
- b. Planning and Land Use (Anderberg) – Daycare Motion postponed until October (1 min.)**

 - i.** MOTION: *Approve Requested Zone Variance at 3608 S Clarington Ave Request To Convert A Child Care Facility With Up To 20 Children To A Child Care Facility W 50 Children In The R3 Zone; Convert Garage To Rec Room postponed until October meeting*
- c. Transportation and Safety (Miller) – LAX, Parking and Sidewalk Motions (25 minutes)**

 - i.** MOTION: (15 min. for both – presentation) *Whereas the stakeholders of Palms are all stakeholders of services provided by LAX and LA Metro Transit; Therefore, The Palms Neighborhood Council supports a remote access plan to best connect LAX to the greater county and Southern California region which: 1) Relocates an upgraded LAX City Bus Center to either the future Intermodal Transit Facility at 96th & Airport or the future Metro Rail Station at 96th & Aviation to best accommodate commuters, 2) Explores, prioritizes, and funds a South Bay Green Line Extension, and 3) Funds two Major Investment Studies for connecting light rail extensions to both the Westside, via the Sepulveda Corridor through Palms, and the Norwalk Metrolink Station.*
 - ii.** MOTION: *Whereas the stakeholders of Palms want to see an efficient, world-class LAX; Therefore, the Palms Neighborhood Council supports any comprehensive, pedestrian-friendly LAX plan that includes a People Mover station location and design, as well as moving walkways to best encourage convenient and rapid access from the future People Mover rail line for all pedestrians, including those with special needs.*
 - iii.** MOTION: (5 min.) *Whereas parking tickets should be issued in the name of making the City of Los Angeles a safer and more livable place; And Whereas parking tickets disproportionately penalize working-class commuters who constitute a substantial percentage of Palms residents; Therefore, the Palms Neighborhood Council opposes any policies, official or implied, that encourage*

the establishment of any Parking Ticket Quotas within the ranks of the LAPD and LA Parking Enforcement.

- iv. MOTION: (5 min.) *Whereas an estimated 40 percent of Los Angeles' sidewalks, 4,600 miles, need to be repaired; And Whereas with many sidewalks dating to the first-half of the twentieth century, the community of Palms has a high number of sidewalks in a state of failure; And Whereas these failed sidewalks impact negatively on pedestrian mobility for the stakeholders of Palms; And Whereas, the currently considered 50/50 program for residential areas is silent with respect to multi-family residents that constitute a high percentage of Palms stakeholders; Therefore, the Palms Neighborhood Council supports the "Citywide Sidewalk Repair Program" being considered by City Council with the stipulation that any approved program should also include provisions for residents of multi-family residential units to successfully petition the City to require building owners to participate in the program.*

- d. **Outreach** (Stewart & Nguyen) – (3 minutes) Committee update; Outreach Committee meeting tentatively scheduled for third Thursday 9/18 at 7pm location TBD; 9/27 Faris Dr. Block Party

VI. BOARD REPORTS (discussion and possible action items) (9 minutes total)

- a. **President** (Stewart) – (3 minutes) 9/4/14 DONE Regional Westside Ethics Training, 9/16/14 Controller Ron Galperin's presents ControlPanelLA, 9/20/14 Congress of Neighborhoods
- b. **Vice President** (Bradley) - (3 minutes)
- c. **Secretary** (Nguyen) – Communications update (3 minutes)
 - i. MOTION: *Approve minutes from [6/4/14 Assembly](#)*
 - ii. MOTION: *Approve minutes from [8/6/14 Assembly](#)*
 - iii. MOTION: *Approve [Palms Neighborhood Council Strategic, Outreach & Budget Package for FY14-15](#)*

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS (5 minutes)

Comments from the public on non-agenda items within the Assembly's jurisdiction (Up to two minutes per speaker – time permitting)

VIII. ADJOURNMENT:

Note: Meeting end time is approximately 9:30-9:45 p.m. or shortly thereafter

Time allocations for agenda items are approximate and may be shortened or lengthened at the discretion of the President.

The public is requested to fill out a "Speaker Card" to address the Assembly on any item of the agenda prior to the Assembly taking action on an item. Comments from the public on Agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the Agenda that is within the Assembly's subject matter jurisdiction will be heard during the Public Comment period. Public comment is limited to 2 minutes per speaker, unless waived by the Assembly. Per Board of Neighborhood Commissioners Policy #2014-01, agendas are posted for public review at: 1) Woodbine Park Kiosk, 3409 S. Vinton Ave.; 2) Palms Neighborhood Council website, www.palmsla.org; Other non-mandatory posting locations include 3) Simpang Asia Groceries, 10433 National Blvd.; 4) Casa de Laundry, 3371 Motor Ave.; 5) Launderland, 10829 Venice Blvd.

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