



**Minutes of the 134th Meeting of the
Palms Neighborhood Council (PNC) and its Representative Assembly
General Meeting, Wednesday, February 4, 2015
IMAN Center, 3376 Motor Avenue, Palms, California**

PNC (and all other) Meeting Minutes are a summary; Minutes were not, are not and are never meant to be an exact, verbatim, word-for-word transcript or comprehensive record of what was said at a Meeting. Exceptions: Motion(s) (included as stated at the Meeting, or, if not stated, as written on the Agenda); quotes (words that have quotation marks (“ ”) at the beginning and ending of a word or words); and Agenda wording copied into the Minutes.

I. WELCOMING REMARKS

Call to Order (Stewart)

President Marisa Stewart welcomed everyone and called the Meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

A. Roll Call (Nguyen)

Secretary Len Nguyen called the roll. Eight of the nine Board Members were present at the beginning of the Meeting: Willie Bell, Dr. Wayne Byrd, Nick Greif, Faye Johnson, Eli Lipmen, Len Nguyen, Paulina Quaranta and Marisa Stewart. One Board Member was absent: Cat Stevens. The PNC quorum (the minimum number of Board Members needing to be present to take binding votes on Agendized Items) is seven (see <http://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/Palms-NC-Bylaws.pdf>), so the Board could take such votes. Nine of the 13 Board Seats were filled (by election or appointment). Four Board Seats were vacant (Vice-President; Pacific Electric (Area 1); Charnock Ranch (Area 2); and Palms Depot (Area 3). Also attending: 18 Stakeholders and guests.

B. MOTION: Approve minutes from 1/7/15 Assembly meeting

Mr. Lipmen wanted it noted that he was excused from the January 7th Meetings.

MOTION (by Mr. Nguyen, seconded by Mr. Greif): The Palms Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its January 7, 2015 General Assembly Meeting as amended.

MOTION PASSED with no objection.

MOTION (by Mr. Nguyen, seconded by Mr. Greif): The Palms Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its January 7, 2015 Special Assembly Meeting as amended.

MOTION PASSED with no objection.

III. COMMUNITY/GOVERNMENT REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. L.A. City Council District 5 Deputy Joseph Galloway

Joseph Galloway, Field Deputy for L.A. City District Five Councilman Paul Koretz (323.866.1828; Joseph.Galloway@LACity.org; <http://CD5.LACity.org>), thanked the PNC and 58 Homeless Count volunteers. There will be a car seat safety event sponsored by the LAPD and LAFD on February 22nd, 10:00-2:00 at 8866 W. Pico.

B. LAPD Senior Lead Officer Juan Ceja

Juan Ceja, LAPD Pacific Division Senior Lead Officer (310-482-6334; 32929@LAPD.LACity.org; http://www.LAPDOnline.org/pacific_community_police_station), was not present and there was no report.

C. Other Government Departments/Agencies

Ray Verches, SoCal Gas Company Advanced Meter Project representative, distributed information and reported that they are installing Advanced Meters. He said “they’re coming to this area within the next 30 days” to install a small faceplate on existing meters; it takes 10-15 minutes. If special access is needed, such as because of a pet, please let them know. Workers do not need to and will not enter homes. They are not selling any services, are not the DWP and are not using any third-party companies to install the meters. A door hanger will be left, then a letter sent. The Meters will enable the Gas Company “to read your gas meter on a daily basis . . . you’ll be able to go online” to read it. He said “the system is triple-encrypted” and “there’s no personal information that goes through there,” just the meter number and the usage amount. He encouraged contacting the Gas Company if there is a discrepancy. Mr. Verches will email information for the PNC to forward to Stakeholders.

D. Presentation by Citizens for Increased Voter Participation re: Charter Amendments 1 & 2 with discussion and possible action

Fliers were distributed regarding proposed City Charter Amendments 1 and 2. Andrew Westall, Assistant Chief Deputy for L.A. City District 10 Councilman Herb Wesson (downtown 213.473.7010; Andrew.Westall@LACity.org; <http://CD10.LACity.org>), described the proposed Amendments and challenge to “get people to participate” and “increase voter turnout.” The Amendments would move City elections to the same dates as Presidential elections and make other improvements in the voting process. Mr. Westall explained options and City Council reasoning and decisions regarding upcoming elections.

<http://VoterParticipationLA.com> and the City Clerk election website [<http://clerk.lacity.org/Elections/index.htm>] have more information.

IV. PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Discussion and possible action items

- A. CIS – Community Impact Statement discussion and possible action. MOTION: Appoint President and Secretary to upload CIS statements

MOTION (by Ms. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Bell): The Palms Neighborhood Council appoints its President and Secretary to upload Community Impact Statements.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Stewart explained that the L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment requested the information to update their records.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Ms. Stewart). There was no objection.

MOTION PASSED with no objection.

- B. MOTION: [see the below Motion].

MOTION (by Ms. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Nguyen): The Palms Neighborhood Council approves the following Resolution: Whereas, the Palms Neighborhood Council (PNC) recognizes that the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) provides essential utility services to the City of Los Angeles, including a reliable grid. Whereas, electric utility properties and equipment are distributed over a large region and there may be vulnerabilities to this equipment including but not limited to: extraordinary solar flares creating damaging Electromagnetic Pulse (EMP) effects, geomagnetic disturbances, nuclear and non nuclear EMP weapons, physical attacks, cyber attacks, equipment failures, and power overloads. Whereas, it is important that LADWP maintain the historical reliability of the power system and address the power grid vulnerabilities described. Be It Resolved, that PNC wholeheartedly and emphatically supports Councilmember Paul Koretz's Motion to Maintain Historical Reliability of the Power System/Power Grid Vulnerabilities/Department of Water and Power which calls on the LADWP to report to the Energy and Environment Committee within 60 days regarding the vulnerability of our power grid, the costs and feasibility of upgrading and protecting the grid, and other related items. The PNC urges all other Neighborhood and Community Councils and other stakeholder groups to join in and support this important effort. This PNC position is to be filed as a Community Impact Statement in Council File #14-1690.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Stewart reported that this was presented at WRAC [the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils]; many Neighborhood Councils support it. The PNC Green Committee did not meet in January; WRAC wants support now.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Ms. Stewart). There was no objection.

MOTION PASSED with no objection.

C. MOTION: Allocate up to \$225 for PNC Assembly appointment and Neighborhood Purpose Grant materials

Ms. Stewart requested and it was agreed to TABLE this Item.

D. New funding training and Region 11 updates

Ms. Stewart noted the above.

E. School update

Ms. Stewart reported that the Goethe International School was “not able to pursue the building at 10100 Venice” Blvd. and “will continue to search for a private facility.”

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Transportation and Safety (Bell) – Committee update, presentation from Big Blue Bus re: bus route changes, discussion/possible action re: Palms/Jasmine crosswalk, next meeting on Monday, February 23, 7:00 p.m. (4th Monday)

1. Presentation by Aimee Wyatt of Big Blue Bus re: new bus route changes and how they impact Palms

Tim McCormick, Transit Planning Administrator for Santa Monica’s Big Blue Bus (310.458.1975 x5831; Tim.McCormick@SMGov.net), presented and displayed slides. They are surveying people to adapt to the Metro Exposition Line train. He noted that Palms is served by Metro, Culver City and Santa Monica Blue Bus buses. He described Blue Bus routes and schedules that affect Palms. Service changes could include moving their #6 route from Charnock to Palms Blvd. They would install more bus stops on Overland, including at Rose, Palms and Venice. There was discussion of the best intersections for bus stops. Mr. McCormick reminded that the L.A. Department of Transportation controls and manages traffic control systems. No Motion was made or vote taken.

Mr. Bell reported that “property crime was up.” A safety video is available. He reminded not to leave valuables in vehicles.

2. MOTION: [see the below Motion].

MOTION (by Dr. Byrd, seconded by Mr. Greif): The Palms Neighborhood Council supports the following Resolution: Whereas neighbors and the Palms Neighborhood Council requested the installment of a crosswalk at northwest corner Palms Blvd. and Jasmine Ave. This crosswalk will be a direct crossing from the south of Palms Blvd. to access Woodbine Park. Many Residents and commuters to UCLA also cross busy Palms Blvd. in order to get to the bus stop

across the street. The City of Los Angeles shall install a "Smart Crosswalk" with flashing lights on the road at the northwest corner of Palms and Jasmine in order to enhance the safety of both pedestrians and drivers. Therefore, be it resolved that the Palms Neighborhood Council will write to Los Angeles City Councilmember Paul Koretz and the Department of Transportation to install this crosswalk immediately.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Nguyen was concerned that there would be a crosswalk "only one block from a signalized intersection." There was discussion of the merits of the Motion and the best crosswalk location.

MOTION to REFER (by Mr. Lipmen, seconded by Mr. Nguyen): The Palms Neighborhood Council REFERS this Item to its Transportation Committee.

DISCUSSION: There was discussion to clarify which parts of the intersection would be affected. Mr. Greif encouraged more action, such as petitioning.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Ms. Stewart). There was no objection.

MOTION PASSED with no objection.

- B. Projects & Policy (Byrd) – Homeless Count recap and discussion/possible action to allocate \$100 for secondary follow-up meeting in February/early March
1. MOTION: Allocate up to \$100 for secondary Homeless Count follow-up meeting in February/early March.

Dr. Byrd thanked volunteers and reported that "the numbers are being totaled now by LAHSA (L.A. Homeless Services Authority) [LAHSA@NationBuilder.com; <http://lahsa.org>]; he will follow up. Stakeholder Lee Wallach offered Motor Avenue Improvement Association (MAIA) support services.

FUNDING MOTION (by Dr. Byrd, seconded by Mr. Greif): The Palms Neighborhood Council allocates \$100 for food and outreach materials for a secondary follow-up meeting in February/early March regarding the January 28, 2015 Palms Homeless Count.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Ms. Stewart). There was no objection.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the eight eligible voters present with all eight in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Bell, Byrd, Greif, Johnson, Lipmen, Nguyen, Quaranta and Stewart); 0 opposed ("No" or "Nay"); 0 abstained.

- C. Planning and Land Use (Anderberg) – Committee update including new mixed use development at 10300 Venice Blvd., Overland Ave. Streetscape Plan, and

discussion/possible action re: beer/wine CUP extension for 3300 Overland Ave, next meeting on Monday, February 16, 7:00 p.m. (3rd Monday)

1. MOTION: Approve the extension of a conditional use permit for beer/wine sales at 3300 Overland Ave. (at Rose Ave.) for Vintage Wine + Market

MOTION (by Mr. Lipmen, seconded by Ms. Stewart): The Palms Neighborhood Council supports the beer/wine CUP extension for 3300 Overland Ave.

DISCUSSION: Representative Jennifer indicated that they bought the market; it now is “a boutique beer and wine market.” They want to extend the format for 10 more years serving gourmet sodas, beers and wines. Mr. Lipmen indicated that the Committee extensively discussed the application and supported it. The Market would “sell but not serve” alcohol.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Ms. Stewart). There was no objection.

MOTION PASSED with no objection.

2. Update re: mixed use development at 10300 Venice Blvd. (at Vinton Ave.)

Mr. Anderberg reported that the project would demolish two single-family homes to build a Small Lot Subdivision that would include bicycle parking and lockers. The Committee will hear developer presentations at upcoming Meetings.

3. Update re: Overland Ave. Streetscape Plan

Mr. Anderberg reported that copies of the Plan will be distributed to business owners on Saturday. The Committee will meet in March to review results. Mr. Wallach reported that the MAIA, the Dept. of Transportation and others met; Motor Ave. will receive many improvements.

- D. Outreach (Nguyen) – Committee update and discussion/possible action to allocate up to \$300 for PNC Green Restaurant Certification Program outreach materials

1. Bike Rodeo 2015

Mr. Nguyen reported that the Committee “had a good Meeting”; the Bike Rodeo is being planned.

2. MOTION: Allocate up to \$300 for PNC Green Restaurant Certification Program outreach materials

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Nguyen, seconded by Ms. Quaranta): The Palms Neighborhood Council allocates up to \$300 for PNC Green Restaurant Certification Program outreach materials.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Ms. Stewart). There was no objection.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the eight eligible voters present with all eight in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Bell, Byrd, Greif, Johnson, Lipmen, Nguyen, Quaranta and Stewart); 0 opposed (“No” or “Nay”); 0 abstained.

E. Green (Miller) – No January meeting, next meeting on Wednesday, February 11, 7:00 p.m. (2nd Wednesday)

Ms. Quaranta reported the above for Mr. Miller that the next Committee Meeting will be at Fire Station 43.

VI. EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS

A. Treasurer (Greif) – Treasurer’s report and action to approve Monthly Expenditure Report for January 2015

1. **MOTION:** Approve Treasurer’s Report & Monthly Expenditure Report for January 2015

Copies were distributed of the PNC “Monthly Expenditure Report for January” 2015 and the “[PNC] FY 14-15 Budget Adopted on 9/3/14.” Mr. Greif reviewed expenses. The balance is \$29,691.35. He reminded that funding from the PNC and also around \$26,000 from the Victor on Venice Fund, for a total of around \$55,000, must be allocated by the June 30th end of the Fiscal Year.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Greif, seconded by Ms. Quaranta): The Palms Neighborhood Council approves its Treasurer’s Report and Monthly Expenditure Report for January 2015.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Wallach would like all Neighborhood Purposes Grant applications Agendized for Board consideration.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the eight eligible voters present with all eight in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Bell, Byrd, Greif, Johnson, Lipmen, Nguyen, Quaranta and Stewart); 0 opposed (“No” or “Nay”); 0 abstained.

B. Secretary (Nguyen) – Update including Street Services NC Blitz

Mr. Nguyen distributed copies of the “City of Los Angeles Bureau of Street Services NC Blitz Request Form” and reported that more repair requests were submitted “for the end of March.” Ms. Stewart urged Board Members to use this outreach opportunity to get Stakeholder feedback.

C. Community Organization Rep. (Byrd) – Update

Dr. Byrd indicated that there was no update.

D. NC Budget Advocate Rep. (Lipmen) – Budget Forum 2.0 Town Halls

Mr. Lipmen reported that “the White Paper will come out in March.” The L.A. Board of Neighborhood Commissioners certified the City’s 96th Neighborhood Council. Organizing has begun for the September 26th Congress of Neighborhood Councils. All Board Members must sign the Code of Conduct by April 1st [see <http://empowerla.org/code-of-conduct>].

VII. AREA REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

A. Business Rep. 3 (Johnson)

Ms. Johnson indicated that there was no report.

B. Residential Rep. A (Bell)

Mr. Bell indicated that there was no report.

C. Residential Rep. B (Stevens)

Ms. Stevens was not present and there was no report.

D. Residential Rep. C (Lipmen)

Mr. Lipmen reported that there is a new coffee shop, “The Commissary,” at Motor and Woodbine.

E. Residential Rep. D (Quaranta)

Ms. Quaranta reported that Stakeholders were “concerned about burglaries and car thefts.”

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There was no comment at this time.

IX. Adjournment

Ms. Stewart declared and it was agreed to **ADJOURN** the Meeting at 9:34 p.m.

Minutes written by DL, possibly edited by PNC. *The first paragraph of some Items is directly from the Agenda.*