



**Minutes of the 131st Meeting of the  
Palms Neighborhood Council (PNC) and its Representative Assembly  
General Meeting, Wednesday, December 3, 2014  
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 7:13 p.m.

**II. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS -- Roll Call (Nguyen)**

Secretary Len Nguyen called the roll. All nine of the nine Board Members were present at the beginning of the Meeting: Willie Bell, Dr. Wayne Byrd, Nick Greif, Eli Lipmen, Trevor Mulligan, Len Nguyen, Paulina Quaranta, Cat Stevens and Marisa Stewart. No Board Members were absent. 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) (Eliot Hochberg recently resigned). Four Board Seats were vacant (Vice-President, Business 1, Business 2 and Business 3). Also attending: 15 Stakeholders and guests.

**III. COMMUNITY/GOVERNMENT REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

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](mailto:Joseph.Galloway@LACity.org); <http://CD5.LACity.org>), announced that City Attorney Mike Feuer will host an event introducing Veronica de la Cruz-Robles, L.A. City Deputy Attorney, Pacific Division, Neighborhood Prosecutor Program (310-202-3861; [Veronica.Delacruz-Robles@LACity.org](mailto:Veronica.Delacruz-Robles@LACity.org));

<http://atty.LACity.org/CRIMINAL/NeighborhoodProsecutorProgram/index.htm>). Also, community cleanups will be scheduled.

B. LAPD Senior Lead Officer Juan Ceja

Copies were distributed of “Harden Your Target Grand Theft Auto” fliers encouraging securing vehicles and offering a free steering wheel Club.

C. L.A. Homeless Count Regional Coordinator Stephanie Inyama

Copies were distributed of Homeless Count fliers. Ms. Inyama explained that the January 28th at night Count collects data; “there is no face-to-face contact” except for some interviews; most people are counted by seeing them while walking or driving. Volunteers age 18 and older are needed; sign up at LAHSA@NationBuilder.com. Dr. Byrd will be the Site Coordinator.

D. Other Government Departments/Agencies

Daniel Tamm, West Area Representative for Mayor Garcetti (213.978.0836; Daniel.Tamm@LACity.org), reported that an agreement was reached between government agencies and unions to manufacture rail cars in the Los Angeles area. Also, more street repairs will be funded. City parking lot revenues increased by starting a card-based entrance system. The Mayor visited LA’s top business partners in China, South Korea and Japan.

**IV. PRESIDENT’S REPORT** – Thanksgiving recap, Magnolia recap, Palms Elementary recap, filling of Business Rep. 3 vacancy

Ms. Stewart said the Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> picnic at Woodbine Park “was a wonderful recruiting tool.” She encouraged requesting street maintenance by calling 3-1-1.

A. MOTION: To appoint Faye Johnson as Business Representative 3

Copies were distributed of Ms. Johnson’s candidate biography statement.

**MOTION** (by Ms. Stewart, seconded by Dr. Byrd): The Palms Neighborhood Council appoints Faye Johnson as Business Representative 3.

**DISCUSSION:** Stakeholder Charles Miller encouraged also appointing Ms. Johnson as the Transportation Committee Chair. Board Members and also Stakeholders Jamie Laubach and Leslie Radford expressed support. Ms. Johnson described her views about business and community development. There was discussion that three Business Representative Board Seats are vacant; Ms. Stewart noted difficulty recruiting for them.

**MOTION to CLOSE DEBATE** (by Ms. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Bell).

**MOTION to CLOSE DEBATE FAILED** by a roll call vote of the nine eligible voters present with four in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Bell, Nguyen, Quaranta and Stewart); three opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Byrd, Greif and Lipmen); two abstained (Mulligan and Stevens).

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Greif believed there was not enough candidate outreach, especially to business owners and/or employees. Mr. Miller noted that “it’s been a chronic problem . . . despite significant efforts” to recruit Business Representative candidates.

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

**MOTION PASSED** by a roll call vote of the nine eligible voters present with eight in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Bell, Byrd, Lipmen, Mulligan, Nguyen, Quaranta, Stevens and Stewart); one abstained (Greif).

*Faye Johnson was seated with the Board at this time, making 10 Board Members present (the PNC quorum is seven).*

B. MOTION: To approve up to \$200 for tripod display stands and posters

Ms. Stewart explained the need.

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Ms. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Bell): The Palms Neighborhood Council approves up to \$200 for tripod display stands and posters.

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a roll call vote of the nine eligible voters present with all nine in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Bell, Byrd, Greif, Lipmen, Mulligan, Nguyen, Quaranta, Stevens and Stewart). Ms. Johnson was not yet eligible to vote.

## **V. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

A. Green (Miller) – Discussion and possible action re: allocation motions of \$5,000 for landscaping and \$10,000 for native plant demonstration garden at Woodbine Park.

1. MOTION: Whereas the Palms Neighborhood Council (PNC) previously earmarked a sum of \$5,000 for tree well landscaping with native plants on Overland Ave. in Palms; and whereas the PNC Green Committee has identified five locations on Overland in Palms that are suitable for such plantings and have an adjacent stakeholder who has committed to monitor and assist with the welfare of new landscaping installations done by the PNC Green Committee; and whereas the PNC Green Committee has an infrastructure in place to oversee the health of the new landscaping; therefore,

the Palms Neighborhood Council allocates \$5,000 to the Theodore Payne Foundation for designated landscaping to be installed by the PNC Green Committee under the supervision of Green Committee participant, Palms Stakeholder, and Certified Arborist, Sasha Henkin. The PNC further requests that the Los Angeles Bureau of Street Services, Los Angeles Department of Urban Forestry, Los Angeles Department of Transportation, and Los Angeles Council District 5 provide this project with all necessary approvals and support for success.

Mr. Miller noted adjustments made to the above #1 and below #2 proposed Motions, final versions of which appear below and which he read aloud. He described landscaping and signage locations and the Committee's desire to keep costs low. The Committee is committed to long-term maintenance including "a three-month cycle." Mr. Lipmen pointed out that, due to the large allocation amount, the City Council may need to vote on approving this.

**FUNDING MOTION** (by the Committee): The Palms Neighborhood Council adopts the following Resolution: Whereas Los Angeles City Council District Five previously earmarked a sum of \$5,000 for tree well landscaping with native plants on Overland Ave. in Palms; and whereas the PNC Green Committee has identified four locations on Overland in Palms that are suitable for such plantings and have an adjacent stakeholder who has committed to monitor and assist with the welfare of new landscaping installations done by the PNC Green Committee; and whereas the PNC Green Committee has an infrastructure in place to oversee the health of the new landscaping; therefore, the Palms Neighborhood Council allocates \$2,500 to the Theodore Payne Foundation, the Hashimoto Nursery and the Alexander Garden Center for designated native drought-resistant landscaping to be installed by the PNC Green Committee under the supervision of Green Committee participant, Palms Stakeholder, and Certified Arborist, Sasha Henkin. The PNC further requests that the Los Angeles Bureau of Street Services, Los Angeles Department of Urban Forestry, Los Angeles Department of Transportation, and Los Angeles Council District 5 provide this project with all necessary approvals and support for success.

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a roll call vote of the nine eligible voters present with all nine in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Bell, Byrd, Greif, Lipmen, Mulligan, Nguyen, Quaranta, Stevens and Stewart). Ms. Johnson was not yet eligible to vote.

2. MOTION: Whereas Los Angeles City Council District Five previously earmarked a sum of \$30,000 for a native plant demonstration garden with seating area in Woodbine Park in Palms; and whereas the PNC Green Committee will break this into two phases, with the first phase focused on removal of non-native landscaping and establishing native landscaping in the designated area; therefore, the Palms Neighborhood Council allocates

\$10,000 for phase one of the PNC Native Plant Demonstration Garden in Woodbine Park to the Theodore Payne Foundation for designated landscaping to be installed by the PNC Green Committee under the supervision of Green Committee participant, Palms Stakeholder, and Certified Arborist, Sasha Henkin. The PNC further requests that the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks, Los Angeles Department of Urban Forestry, and Los Angeles City Council District 5 provide this project with all necessary approvals and support for success.

**FUNDING MOTION** (by the Committee): The Palms Neighborhood Council adopts the following Resolution: Whereas Los Angeles City Council District Five previously earmarked a sum of \$30,000 for a native plant demonstration garden with seating area in Woodbine Park in Palms; and whereas the PNC Green Committee will break this into two phases, with the first phase focused on removal of non-native landscaping and establishing native landscaping in the designated area; therefore, the Palms Neighborhood Council allocates \$5,300 for phase one of the PNC Native Plant Demonstration Garden in Woodbine Park to the Theodore Payne Foundation for designated landscaping to be installed by the PNC Green Committee under the supervision of Green Committee participant, Palms Stakeholder, and Certified Arborist, Sasha Henkin. The PNC further requests that the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks, Los Angeles Department of Urban Forestry, and Los Angeles City Council District 5 provide this project with all necessary approvals and support for success.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Miller described that this is “to remove a non-native set” of plants and replace them with native plants. The City Recreation and Parks Dept. “would need to sign off” on it; the design is not yet finalized. The preliminary design “was already vetted by the public” and created “as a result of public feedback.” He described the design, landscaping, signage and locations educational opportunity. Signage would recognize the PNC. The area is approximately “75 square feet.” Existing irrigation “would be converted to drip irrigation” until plants are established.

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a roll call vote of the nine eligible voters present with all nine in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Bell, Byrd, Greif, Lipmen, Mulligan, Nguyen, Quaranta, Stevens and Stewart). Ms. Johnson was not yet eligible to vote.

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Mr. Greif, seconded by Ms. Stevens): The Palms Neighborhood Council allocates \$200 to Sasha Henkin for landscape removal services.

*Board Member Len Nguyen left the room at this time, making nine Board Members present (the PNC quorum is seven).*

**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, Lipmen, Mulligan, Quaranta, Stevens and Stewart). Ms. Johnson was not yet eligible to vote.

*Board Member Len Nguyen returned to the room at this time, making ten Board Members present (the PNC quorum is seven).*

**MOTION to RECALL from the TABLE** (by Mr. Miller, seconded by Ms. Stewart): The Palms Neighborhood Council will RECALL FROM THE TABLE the below Motion.

**MOTION to RECALL from the TABLE PASSED** by acclamation.

Mr. Miller noted that the following Motion has been Tabled three times, starting at the June 14, 2014 General Assembly Meeting. He read it aloud:

**MOTION** (by Mr. Miller, seconded by Ms. Stewart): The Palms Neighborhood Council adopts the following Resolution: 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 nonnative 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.

**MOTION PASSED** by a voice vote of the eight eligible voters present; one abstained (Lipmen). Ms. Johnson was not yet eligible to vote.

- B. Transportation and Safety (Bell) – Update on pedestrian safety at Overland Ave./Rose Ave.; intersection of National Blvd./Rose Ave./Mentone Ave.; and intersection of Venice Blvd./Robertson Blvd.

Mr. Bell described dangerous intersections including Overland with Rose, Woodbine and the 10 Freeway; and traffic and safety measures being worked on by the City. The Expo Line is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2015 and service to start by the end of 2016. He encouraged contacting City Council Districts Five and 11 to get service started.

- C. Planning and Land Use (Anderberg) – Update

Mr. Anderberg reported that the Committee met and discussed pedestrian and bicycle safety, and will work with the Transportation and Safety Committee. A developer will present to the Committee about a proposed SB1818 project on Venice by Jasmine. A developer will present about a proposed beer and wine Conditional Use Permit renewal. A developer will present in January or February about a proposed 13-unit SB1818 apartment building in the 3700 block of Midvale.

- D. Outreach (Stewart & Nguyen) – Thanksgiving recap, discussion and possible action on allocation motion of \$800 for Holiday Mixer/10th Anniversary, and allocation motion of \$250 for four resin foldable tables

1. PNC Holiday Mixer & 10th Anniversary – Discussion and possible action re: holiday mixer/10th anniversary, Sunday, December 14 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm at

Gaby's Mediterranean. MOTION: To allocate up to \$800 for PNC Holiday Mixer/10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at Gaby's Mediterranean.

Copies were distributed of Mixer fliers.

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Mr. Nguyen, seconded by Ms. Quaranta): The Palms Neighborhood Council will allocate up to \$800 for PNC Holiday Mixer/10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at Gaby's Mediterranean on Sunday, December 14 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Nguyen will request that vegetarian food be available.

**MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION** (by Mr. Nguyen). There was no objection.

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a roll call vote of the nine eligible voters present with all nine in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Bell, Byrd, Greif, Lipmen, Mulligan, Nguyen, Quaranta, Stevens and Stewart). Ms. Johnson was not yet eligible to vote.

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Mr. Nguyen, seconded by Mr. Bell): The Palms Neighborhood Council will allocate \$250 for four resin foldable tables.

**DISCUSSION:** There was discussion that the PNC does not have any tables. Ms. Stewart described their uses.

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

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** by a roll call vote of the nine eligible voters present with eight in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Bell, Byrd, Greif, Mulligan, Nguyen, Quaranta, Stevens and Stewart); one abstained (Lipmen). Ms. Johnson was not yet eligible to vote.

2. Palms Centennial (1915-2015) – Taste of Palms. Celebrating the diversity of our Community.

Mr. Nguyen described the event to possibly be held June 30<sup>th</sup>.

#### E. Projects (Stewart & Byrd) – Update

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

## **VI. EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS**



- A. Treasurer (Greif) – Treasurer’s report and action to approve Monthly Expenditure Report for November 2014. *[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #VI. B. 2.]*

1. MOTION: Approve Monthly Expenditure Report for November 2014

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Mr. Grief, seconded by Ms. Quaranta): The Palms Neighborhood Council approves its Monthly Expenditure Report for November 2014.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Grief reviewed expenses.

**MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION** (by Mr. Greif). There was no objection.

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a roll call vote of the nine eligible voters present with all nine in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Bell, Byrd, Greif, Lipmen, Mulligan, Nguyen, Quaranta, Stevens and Stewart). Ms. Johnson was not yet eligible to vote.

- B. Secretary (Nguyen) – Update and action to approve Minutes from November Assembly meetings

1. MOTION: Approve Minutes from 11/5/14 and 11/14/14 Assembly meetings

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

2. Update on Street Services NC Blitz Priority List

Copies were distributed of the PNC’s “Blitz Request Form” to the City’s Bureau of Street Services for street repairs. Mr. Nguyen requested submissions by the January 7<sup>th</sup> Assembly Meeting.

- C. Community Organization Rep. (Byrd) – Update

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

## **VII. AREA REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS**

- A. Residential Rep. A (Bell)

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

- B. Residential Rep. B (Stevens)

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

- C. Residential Rep. C (Lipmen)

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

D. Residential Rep. D (Quaranta)

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

E. Residential Rep. E (Mulligan)

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

**VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Stakeholder Elaine Magnani was concerned about the difficulty of finding parking in the area of the 3700 block of Clarrington Ave.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Stewart declared and it was agreed to **ADJOURN** the Meeting at 9:57 p.m.

Minutes written by DL, edited by PNC.