



**Minutes of the 132nd Meeting of the  
Palms Neighborhood Council (PNC) and its Representative Assembly  
General Meeting, Wednesday, January 7, 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**

President Marisa Stewart welcomed everyone and called the Meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. and reminded everyone of the Code of Conduct.

**II. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS: Roll Call**

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, Len Nguyen, Paulina Quaranta, Cat Stevens and Marisa Stewart. One Board Member was absent: Eli Lipmen. 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, Business 1, Business 2 and Residential Representative “E”). 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

Mr. Galloway was not present and there was no report.

B. LAPD Senior Lead Officer Juan Ceja

Juan Ceja, LAPD Pacific Division Senior Lead Officer (310-482-6334; [32929@LAPD.LACity.org](mailto:32929@LAPD.LACity.org); [http://www.LAPDOnline.org/pacific\\_community\\_police\\_station](http://www.LAPDOnline.org/pacific_community_police_station)), reported that

burglaries and vehicle break-ins are a big problem; he cautioned “don’t leave your GPS attached to the window” or valuables in vehicles. Many bicycles are being stolen; engrave an identifying number on it and register it with the City. It’s not just homeless people stealing; “these are professional people” including in gated underground parking lots. He encouraged reporting suspicious activity. Some thieves move trash cans and recycle bins under windows, stand on them and cut their way into small bathroom and other windows. He said to “expect more people to be under the influence of drugs” and to be less concerned with being caught because penalties have been lowered. Officer Ceja encouraged calling as soon as possible to have graffiti removed, including to avoid rival gangs trying to tag over it.

#### C. Other Government Departments/Agencies

Scott Malsin, Representative for State 54<sup>th</sup> District Assemblyman Sebastian Ridley-Thomas (310-342-1070; [Scott.Malsin@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Scott.Malsin@asm.ca.gov); <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a54>), distributed fliers for the January 24<sup>th</sup> “California Budget Priorities Forum

#### **IV. PRESIDENT’S REPORT** – PNC Holiday Mixer/10th Anniversary recap, new school in area

Ms. Stewart reported that “the holiday mixer was a huge success”; Mr. Nguyen listed community organizations that were represented. It was explained that the Goethe International School, a charter school currently in Marina del Rey, wants to move to and get a 15-year lease at 10100 Venice Blvd. (and Clarington) to expand their 436 K-5 student body to 700 K-8 students.

#### **V. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

A. Green (Quaranta) – Discussion and possible action re: City of L.A. parkway tree policy and tree removal and replacement at 3670 Westwood Blvd.

Ms. Quaranta read aloud the below Motion.

**MOTION** (by Ms. Quaranta, seconded by Mr. Greif): The Palms Neighborhood Council approves the following resolution: Whereas California is undergoing a drought of historic proportions and forecasts for the future suggest rainfall will remain at lower levels than those of the Twentieth Century, which were abnormally high; and whereas much of the non-native landscaping in Palms was selected and planted prior to general awareness of the importance of water conservation; and whereas the Urban Forestry Division of the Bureau of Street Services of the City of Los Angeles currently only allows removal of trees in the parkway for reasons that have to do with construction and does not provide permits for reasons involving conservation; and whereas the City of Los Angeles, County of Los Angeles, and State of California are encouraging various solutions to “Hack the Drought”; therefore, the Palms Neighborhood

Council urges the Urban Forestry Division of the Bureau of Street Services of the City of Los Angeles to revise its parkway tree permit evaluation policy to include provisions for removal of non-native trees for conservation purposes and to amend its circumstances list to reflect this rationale.

**DISCUSSION:** There was discussion of tree replacement policy and possible effects of the Motion. Stakeholder Jennifer Tobkin described the effort to have an entire parkway of foliage, including three sick trees, replaced with native plants. She said the Motion does not cost anything or request a new or revised Ordinance, only an administrative policy change.

**MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a roll call vote the eight eligible voters present with all eight in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Bell, Byrd, Greif, Johnson, Nguyen, Quaranta, Stevens and Stewart); none opposed; none abstained.

Ms. Quaranta read aloud the below Motion.

**MOTION** (by Ms. Quaranta, seconded by Mr. Greif): The Palms Neighborhood Council approves the following resolution: Whereas the Westwood Palms HOA at 3670 Westwood Blvd. in Palms is seeking to replace conventional, water-hungry, non-native landscaping with drought tolerant, sustainable, California native landscaping in an effort to “hack the drought”, support the ecosystem, and beautify Palms; and whereas three sickly Magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*) trees are in the parkway and have been determined unhealthy and warranting removal by a certified arborist; and whereas replacing these non-native trees with City-approved native landscaping would greatly reduce the water use on this property, support the native landscaping plan of the property, and beautify the street; therefore, the Palms Neighborhood Council supports the removal of the three Magnolia trees at 3670 Westwood Blvd. in Palms by the Westwood Palms HOA and requests that the Urban Forestry Division of the Bureau of Street Services of the City of Los Angeles issue all necessary permits to support this action.

**DISCUSSION:** Ms. Tobkin explained that lippia, “a ground cover plant” like grass, would replace the three trees. Ms. Quaranta said “these trees are water-guzzlers.”

**MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a roll call vote the eight eligible voters present with all eight in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Bell, Byrd, Greif, Johnson, Nguyen, Quaranta, Stevens and Stewart); none opposed; none abstained.

- B. Transportation and Safety (Bell) – Discussion and possible action re: relocation of transit stop from northwest to northeast corner of Palms Blvd. and Motor Ave. and installation of transit shelter at northeast corner of Palms Blvd. and Motor Ave., next meeting on Monday, January 26, 7:00 p.m. (4th Monday)

Mr. Bell explained that the bus stop would be moved to a less busy corner. Committee Member Eduardo read aloud the below Motion.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Bell, seconded by Ms. Stevens): The Palms Neighborhood Council approves the following resolution: Whereas a transit shelter should be installed at the northeast corner of Palms Blvd. and Motor Ave. for the benefit of transit riders who currently have nowhere to sit and no protection from the sun and rain. Whereas the present bus stop at the northwest corner of Palms Blvd and Motor Ave. should be moved to the northeast corner of Palms Blvd. and Motor Ave. The change is needed given to the current northwest corners bus stop's inadequacy for the placement of a transit shelter, and the danger of its location, due to the danger posed by the sidewalk being in-plane with the aisle pavement of the adjoining service station with no physical barrier to separate the two paved surfaces. There are currently existing bus shelters at the corners of the: northwest corner of Venice Blvd. and Motor Ave.; the southeast corner of Motor and Palms Blvd.; and the northeast corner of National Blvd. and Motor Ave. Whereas it is just as important for the crowded future stop at the northeast corner of Palms Blvd. and Motor Ave. to have a transit shelter. Therefore, be it resolved that the Palms Neighborhood Council will write to Los Angeles City Councilmember Paul Koretz, and the Bureau of Street Services to move and install a bus transit shelter on the northeast corner of Palms Blvd. and Motor Ave.

**DISCUSSION:** It was explained that bus riders waiting for the bus on the northwest corner where the existing bus bench is can be endangered by cars using the gas station there.

**MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a roll call vote the eight eligible voters present with all eight in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Bell, Byrd, Greif, Johnson, Nguyen, Quaranta, Stevens and Stewart); none opposed; none abstained.

- C. Planning and Land Use (Anderberg) – No meeting Dec. 2014, next meeting on Monday, January 19, 7:00 p.m. (3rd Monday)

Ms. Stewart indicated for Mr. Anderberg that there was no report. Mr. Greif will send land use Early Notification Reports to all Board Members.

- D. Outreach (Stewart & Nguyen) – Holiday Mixer/10th Anniversary recap, update on Bike Rodeo and Palms Centennial Celebration, discussion and possible action re: allocation for outreach materials, next meeting on Thursday, January 8 at 7:00 p.m. (2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday)

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Mr. Nguyen, seconded by Dr. Byrd): The Palms Neighborhood Council will allocate up to \$200 for event equipment carriers.

**DISCUSSION:** Dr. Byrd reported that the committee agreed upon the need and that the carrier(s) "will be used over and over." Different options were considered.

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

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a roll call vote the eight eligible voters present with all eight in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Bell, Byrd, Greif, Johnson, Nguyen, Quaranta, Stevens and Stewart); none opposed; none abstained.

Ms. Stewart added that the Palms Bike Rodeo will be in mid-May and that the event was started by the LAPD; safety “is priority.” Ms. Tobkin described the community value of the event.

- E. Projects (Stewart & Byrd) – Discussion and possible action re: PNC sponsorship of 1/28/15 Palms Homeless Count Deployment Site at Culver Palms Church of Christ

Dr. Byrd described the Homeless Count procedure. The Count will help form the basis for grant applications and funding services.

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Dr. Byrd, seconded by Mr. Greif): The Palms Neighborhood Council will allocate up to \$250 for PNC sponsorship of 1/28/15 Palms Homeless Count Deployment Site at Culver Palms Church of Christ, including coffee, supplies, snacks, etc.

**DISCUSSION:** Ms. Stevens wanted “as little waste as possible and vegan options.” Dr. Byrd indicated that veterans’ and other groups will do more detailed surveys.

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

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a roll call vote the eight eligible voters present with all eight in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Bell, Byrd, Greif, Johnson, Nguyen, Quaranta, Stevens and Stewart); none opposed; none abstained.

## **VI. EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS**

- A. Treasurer (Greif) – Treasurer’s report and action to approve Monthly Expenditure Report for December 2014

Mr. Greif distributed and reviewed copies of the PNC “Monthly Expenditure Report for December 2014,” the “[PNC] FY 14-15 Budget Adopted on 9/3/14” and a Hillcrest Party Rentals invoice. He encouraged preparing to allocate funds for Neighborhood Purposes Grants. Ms. Stewart noted that the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party was “under budget.”

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Mr. Greif, seconded by Ms. Stewart): The Palms Neighborhood Council approves its Monthly Expenditure Report for December 2014.

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a roll call vote the eight eligible voters present with all eight in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Bell, Byrd, Greif, Johnson, Nguyen, Quaranta, Stevens and Stewart); none opposed; none abstained.

B. Secretary (Nguyen) – Update and action to approve Motion from past Assembly meetings

1. MOTION: Approve Motion from 11/5/14, 11/14/14 and 12/3/14 Assembly meetings

The following correction was requested to the draft November 5, 2014 Minutes: page three, Item #IV. A. 4 DISCUSSION, “Ms. Stewart explained possible uses. Mr. Greif was concerned that the banner was not approved before it was created and was bought before funds were allocated” should be “Ms. Stewart indicated that the banner was made and used for the Halloween event and that funding was allocated from the Halloween outreach budget, and that it has more uses so can be funded from the General outreach budget; that the banner is made of different material than other banners; and that nothing was done wrongly or inappropriately.”

**MOTION** (by Mr. Nguyen, seconded by Ms. Stewart): The Palms Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its November 5, 2014 General Assembly Meeting as corrected.

**MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a roll call vote the eight eligible voters present with all eight in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Bell, Byrd, Greif, Johnson, Nguyen, Quaranta, Stevens and Stewart); none opposed; none abstained.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Nguyen, seconded by Dr. Byrd): The Palms Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its November 14, 2014 Special Assembly Meeting as written.

**MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a roll call vote the eight eligible voters present with all eight in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Bell, Byrd, Greif, Johnson, Nguyen, Quaranta, Stevens and Stewart); none opposed; none abstained.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Nguyen, seconded by Dr. Byrd): The Palms Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its December 3, 2014 General Assembly Meeting as written.

**MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a roll call vote the eight eligible voters present with all eight in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Bell, Byrd, Greif, Johnson, Nguyen, Quaranta, Stevens and Stewart); none opposed; none abstained.

C. Community Organization Rep. (Byrd) – Update

See above Item #V. E.

**VII. AREA REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS**

A. Business Rep. 3 (Johnson)

Ms. Johnson reported that she will contact businesses.

B. Residential Rep. A (Bell)

Mr. Bell indicated that there was no report.

C. Residential Rep. B (Stevens)

Ms. Stevens reported that holiday spirit was present in the area and that she is communicating with a possible Assembly Candidate.

D. Residential Rep. C (Lipmen)

Ms. Stewart indicated for Mr. Lipmen that there was no report.

E. Residential Rep. D (Quaranta)

Ms. Quaranta indicated that there was no report.

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

Ann Porter of Move to Amend (<http://MoveToAmend.org>) announced their “A Question of Personhood” seven-minute video on YouTube. Stakeholder Elaine Magnani was concerned about vehicle tires having been slashed and the antenna bent. Rich Waters announced that free rain barrels are available through Tree People (<http://www.treepeople.org>). Stakeholder Kalani Whittington believed that services for homeless people are not being coordinated with Culver City.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Stewart declared and it was agreed to **ADJOURN** the Meeting at 8:52 p.m.

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