



**Minutes of the 139th Meeting of the
Palms Neighborhood Council (PNC) and its Representative Assembly
General Meeting, Wednesday, May 6, 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: Motions/Resolutions (as stated at the Meeting, which take precedence over versions written on the Agenda, if different); quotes (words that have quotation marks (“”) at the beginning and ending of a word or words); and other wording from the Agenda such as the first paragraph(s) of some Items. Items are listed in and match the same order as on the Agenda.

I. WELCOMING REMARKS

Call to Order (Stewart)

President Marisa Stewart welcomed everyone and called the Meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

A. Roll Call (Nguyen)

Secretary Len Nguyen called the roll. Seven of the nine Board Members were present at the beginning of the Meeting: Willie Bell, Nick Greif, Faye Johnson, Len Nguyen, Paulina Quaranta, Cat Stevens and Marisa Stewart. Eli Lipmen arrived later. One Board Member was absent: Dr. Wayne Byrd. 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, and Business 1, 2 and 3). [To apply, see <http://PalmsLA.org>.] Also attending: 22 Stakeholders and guests.

B. MOTION: Approve Minutes from 4/1/15 Assembly meeting

MOTION (by Mr. Nguyen, seconded by Ms. Stevens): The Palms Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its April 1, 2015 General Assembly Meeting as written.

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

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote.

MOTION (by Mr. Nguyen, seconded by Ms. Stewart): The Palms Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its April 1, 2015 Special Assembly Meeting as written.

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

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote.

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; <http://CD5.LACity.org>), reported recent shooting “suspects are in custody.” Information is wanted and can be given anonymously regarding a suspect in the Mentone and Woodbine shooting; a \$50,000 reward is offered. The Palms Bike Rodeo will be May 30th, not May 16th, from 10:00-2:00 at Palms Elementary School. He is working with the City Bureau of Street Services and the Dept. of Transportation regarding the installation of utility boxes. Ms. Stewart noted that housing condition concerns can be directed to the PNC Planning and Land Use Committee.

B. LAPD Senior Lead Officer Juan Ceja

[*This Agenda Item was addressed after Item III. C.*] Juan Ceja, LAPD Pacific Division Senior Lead Officer (310-482-6334; 32929@LAPD.LACity.org; http://www.LAPDOnline.org/pacific_community_police_station), reported that the Police are seeking leads about a recent murder. He encouraged using the “WeTip” [<https://wetip.com>] or “CrimeStoppers” [http://www.lapdonline.org/crime_stoppers] Internet links, which can be used anonymously. He reminded not to leave valuables in vehicles. Grand Theft Auto is up two-thirds; Burglary Theft from Motor Vehicles is up 15.2%. Violent crime is down 15.4%; property crime is up 8.4%. There were zero homicides last year. Some rapes are “relationship rapes,” for example, involving spouses or girlfriends/boyfriends. He said “these are just isolated incidents”; there is no serial rapist in Palms and “we don’t have an area that is gang-infested.” Also, some robberies involve someone caught trying to walk out of a business with something for which they did not pay. Officer Ceja encouraged walking wearing no more than one earbud, not two.

C. Other Government Departments/Agencies

Tom Soong, Neighborhood Empowerment Analyst, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) (213-978-1551; cell 323-359-2579; Thomas.Soong@LACity.org; www.EmpowerLA.org), encouraged the PNC to designate two Budget Day representatives and to allocate funding for the September 26th Congress of Neighborhood Councils. EmpowerLA awards will be September 11th. The Neighborhood Purposes Grants submission deadline is June 22nd. Next Fiscal Year's budget is due by July 1st. The Self-Assessment Survey is due September 1st.

Carmen Hawkins, L.A. City Deputy Attorney, Neighborhood Council Advice Division (Carmen.Hawkins@LACity.org; 213-978-8132; http://atty.LACity.org/Community_Services/Neighborhood_Councils/index.htm), explained that "our primary role is to provide legal advice for Neighborhood Council Board Members." She described that and services available. She would like the PNC to soon Agendize a Special Meeting for her office to do "a refresher training" about funding allocations, the Code of Conduct and more. She clarified that "the credit card is only to be in the possession of" the Primary Signatory. Also, "if folks are being disruptive at a meeting . . . the meeting can be temporarily closed down"; that information should be available in writing for Stakeholders.

Mike Harriel, SoCal Gas Co. Public Affairs Manager, distributed copies of an information flier about "methane emissions" and indicated that local levels are considered safe. See Methane.wsu.edu.

IV. PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Update

Ms. Stewart described recent street repairs, including "part of the Post Office alley."

A. MOTION: Allocate \$200 for meeting security

Ms. Stewart explained the issue and recommended a service costing \$45 per hour with a three-hour minimum.

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Bell): The Palms Neighborhood Council will allocate \$200 for meeting security.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Bell believed there was no reason for a physical altercation that occurred. Mr. Greif believed there are better uses for the funding. Mr. Nguyen was concerned about allocating funding regarding an incident that occurred after a meeting between two non-Board Members.

Board Member Cat Stevens recused herself from voting on the Motion and left the room at this time, making six Board Members present, which was not a quorum (the PNC quorum is seven).

Ms. Stewart WITHDREW the Motion. No vote was taken.

Board Member Cat Stevens returned to the room at this time, making seven Board Members present (the PNC quorum is seven).

B. MOTION: Remove Lance Linden from Transportation & Safety Committee

MOTION (by Ms. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Nguyen): The Palms Neighborhood Council will remove Lance Linden from its Transportation & Safety Committee.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Stewart explained that Mr. Linden wants to participate but has too many commitments, and is aware of this procedure.

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

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote.

C. MOTION: Appoint two new Budget Advocates for June 27 Meeting

Ms. Stewart asked for two volunteers and explained Budget Day. Mr. Bell and Stakeholders Deva Powell and Kalani Whittington volunteered. Ms. Stewart requested and it was agreed to TABLE this Item.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Green (Miller) – No April meeting, next meeting on Wednesday, May 13, 7:00 p.m. (2nd Wednesday)

Ms. Quaranta noted the above.

B. Planning and Land Use (Anderberg) – No April meeting, next meeting on Monday, May 18, 7:00 p.m. (3rd Monday)

Mr. Greif noted the above.

C. Transportation and Safety (Bell) – Update on Town Hall, next meeting on Monday, May 25, 7:00 p.m. (4th Monday)

Mr. Bell reported that a stoplight will be installed on the east side of Overland and Rose around October. The bus shelter at Motor and Palms will be moved west of the gas station.

D. Projects & Policy (Byrd) – No April meeting

Dr. Byrd was not present and there was no report.

E. Outreach (Nguyen) – Update, next meeting on Thursday, May 14, 7:00 p.m. (2nd Thursday)

1. MOTION: Allocate up to \$600 for Bike Rodeo band

Mr. Nguyen described this and other below Motions related to the May 30th Rodeo.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Nguyen, seconded by Ms. Stewart): The Palms Neighborhood Council will allocate up to \$600 for a band for the Palms Bike Rodeo and Centennial on May 30, 2015 at Palms Elementary School.

DISCUSSION: Stakeholder Lee Wallach believed that live music is available for free and that the Motion needed to be more specific. Ms. Stevens and Stakeholder Jamie Laubach believed it would be “unethical” to not pay for a band’s work.

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

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the seven eligible voters present with all seven in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Bell, Greif, Johnson, Nguyen, Quaranta, Stevens and Stewart); zero opposed; zero abstained.

2. MOTION: Allocate up to \$150 for composting bins

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Nguyen, seconded by Ms. Stewart): The Palms Neighborhood Council will allocate up to \$150 for composting bins for the Palms Bike Rodeo and Centennial on May 30, 2015 at Palms Elementary School.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Stewart clarified that funding would be for a vendor to provide bins for the event.

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

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the seven eligible voters present with all seven in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Bell, Greif, Johnson, Nguyen, Quaranta, Stevens and Stewart); zero opposed; zero abstained.

3. MOTION: Allocate up to \$1,500 for canopies, stage from Hillcrest Party Rentals or other vendor as needed for Palms Bike Rodeo & Centennial

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Nguyen, seconded by Ms. Stewart): The Palms Neighborhood Council will allocate up to \$1,500 for canopies, stage from Hillcrest Party Rentals or other vendor as needed for the Palms Bike Rodeo and Centennial on May 30, 2015 at Palms Elementary School.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Wallach would like quotes available for Stakeholders to see.

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

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the seven eligible voters present with all seven in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Bell, Greif, Johnson, Nguyen, Quaranta, Stevens and Stewart); zero opposed; zero abstained.

4. MOTION: Allocate up to \$550 for Bike Rodeo & Centennial Banners

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Nguyen, seconded by Ms. Stewart): The Palms Neighborhood Council will allocate up to \$550 for banners for the Palms Bike Rodeo and Centennial on May 30, 2015 at Palms Elementary School.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Nguyen explained that “these are vinyl banners . . . \$7.50 a linear foot.” They are on-site banners, not street banners. Ms. Stewart clarified that they will be used more than once. There was discussion of the re-usability of a banner that says “Centennial.”

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

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the seven eligible voters present with six in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Bell, Johnson, Nguyen, Quaranta, Stevens and Stewart); zero opposed; one abstained (Greif).

5. MOTION: Allocate up to \$1,000 for PNC reusable bags, sports bags

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Nguyen, seconded by Ms. Stevens): The Palms Neighborhood Council will allocate up to \$1,000 for PNC reusable bags, sports bags for the Palms Bike Rodeo and Centennial on May 30, 2015 at Palms Elementary School.

DISCUSSION: It was explained that the funding would purchase around 500 bags in two styles. Ms. Stevens believed there are better uses for the funding. Mr. Greif preferred to spend some of the funding for local issues such as graffiti removal. Mr. Bell said “this is a main event for this council, we need to do it.” Officer Ceja noted that some expenses may be higher than last year because of

the increased cost of living. He noted the community outreach value and meaningfulness for Stakeholders of the annual event. Ms. Powell said there has been “little publicity” about this Rodeo. Mr. Wallach believed that too many outreach materials would be given away; he noted that community projects such as tree trimming and speed bumps have been requested. Mr. Bell noted that those are City services which the City funds. There was extensive discussion of whether to purchase the bags and, if so, in what amount(s).

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

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the seven eligible voters present with six in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Bell, Johnson, Nguyen, Quaranta, Stevens and Stewart); zero opposed; one abstained (Greif).

6. MOTION: Allocate up to \$650 for PNC promo bike helmets (25-35)

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Nguyen, seconded by Mr. Greif): The Palms Neighborhood Council will allocate up to \$650 for PNC promo bike helmets (25-35) for the Palms Bike Rodeo and Centennial on May 30, 2015 at Palms Elementary School.

DISCUSSION: There was discussion of the outreach value. Officer Ceja estimated that 90% of children attending the Rodeo live in Palms.

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

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the seven eligible voters present with all seven in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Bell, Greif, Johnson, Nguyen, Quaranta, Stevens and Stewart); zero opposed; zero abstained.

7. MOTION: Allocate up to \$1,275 for five PNC table covers with three carry cases

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Nguyen, seconded by Ms. Stewart): The Palms Neighborhood Council will allocate up to \$1,275 for five PNC table covers with three carry cases for the Palms Bike Rodeo and Centennial on May 30, 2015 at Palms Elementary School.

DISCUSSION: It was clarified that the PNC would be buying, not renting, the table covers and that they are re-usable.

Board Member Eli Lipmen arrived at this time, making eight Board Members present (the PNC quorum is seven).

Stakeholders Ms. Laubach and Ms. Powell noted the table covers' value.

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

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the eight eligible voters present with six in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Bell, Johnson, Nguyen, Quaranta, Stevens and Stewart); zero opposed; two abstained (Greif and Lipmen).

8. MOTION: Allocate up to \$3,700 for PNC street banners (up to 100)

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Nguyen, seconded by Mr. Bell): The Palms Neighborhood Council will allocate up to \$3,700 for PNC street banners (up to 100) for the Palms Bike Rodeo and Centennial on May 30, 2015 at Palms Elementary School.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Nguyen is checking for how many banners to be installed at the same time the City would issue a Permit. The banners may be allowed to be displayed for up to one year; he will report back. Mr. Wallach supported this.

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

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the eight eligible voters present with seven in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Bell, Johnson, Lipmen, Nguyen, Quaranta, Stevens and Stewart); zero opposed; one abstained (Greif).

9. MOTION: Allocate up to \$350 for PNC roll labels (2" round, 3 color)

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Nguyen, seconded by Ms. Stewart): The Palms Neighborhood Council will allocate up to \$350 for PNC roll labels (2" round, 3 color) for the Palms Bike Rodeo and Centennial on May 30, 2015 at Palms Elementary School.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Quaranta and Mr. Lipmen were concerned about the usefulness of the labels.

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

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the eight eligible voters present with six in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Bell, Johnson, Lipmen, Nguyen, Stevens and Stewart); zero opposed; two abstained (Greif and Quaranta).

10. MOTION: Allocate up to \$1,000 for graphic artists for street furniture, and PNC materials

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Nguyen, seconded by Ms. Stewart): The Palms Neighborhood Council will allocate up to \$1,000 for graphic artists for street furniture and PNC materials for the Palms Bike Rodeo and Centennial on May 30, 2015 at Palms Elementary School.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Stewart mentioned that the Outreach Committee has details. Mr. Lipmen was concerned that that information was not available to the Board at this Meeting; Ms. Stevens requested that more background information be available to the Board. Mr. Wallach believed that the Motion was “vague.” Stakeholder Eduardo reported that an experienced graphic artist is being considered.

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

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

VI. EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS

A. Treasurer (Greif) – Update

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

Mr. Greif distributed and reviewed copies of the April 2015 PNC “Monthly Expenditure Report,” the “[PNC] FY 14-15 Budget Adopted on 9/3/14,” the “[PNC] Balance Sheet for FY 2014-15 Prepared as of 4/30/2015,” the “[PNC] Statement of Expenditures for FY 2014-15 Prepared as of 4/30/2015,” and the “P-Card Charges” to date and reported there was “just over \$28,000 left to spend” before this Meeting’s allocations.

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

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Mr. Greif). 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, Greif, Johnson, Lipmen, Nguyen, Quaranta, Stevens and Stewart); zero opposed; zero abstained.

B. Secretary (Nguyen) – Update

Mr. Nguyen indicated that there was no report at this time.

C. Community Organization Rep. (Byrd) – Update

Dr. Byrd was not present and there was no report.

VII. AREA REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

A. Business Rep. 3 (Johnson)

Ms. Johnson reported that there will be a Palms Emergency Preparedness Coalition (PepC) Meeting May 20th.

B. Residential Rep. A (Bell)

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

C. Residential Rep. B (Stevens)

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

D. Residential Rep. C (Lipmen)

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

E. Residential Rep. D (Quaranta)

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

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

[This comment was made between Item III. B. and Item IV. A.] Pamela Irwin, homeowner, was concerned about a three-unit building being demolished for a five-story building on Bentley north of Venice in an R-3 zone.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Stewart declared and it was agreed to **ADJOURN** the Meeting at 9:56 p.m.

Minutes written by DL, possibly edited by PNC. The first paragraph of some Items, Motions/Resolutions and other wording may have been directly copied from the Agenda.