



**Minutes of the 141st Meeting of the
Palms Neighborhood Council (PNC) and its Representative Assembly
General Meeting, Wednesday, June 3, 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 7:22 p.m. She explained procedures and reminded about “courtesy and respect . . . civility and decorum.”

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, Nick Greif, Faye Johnson, Eli Lipmen, Len Nguyen, Paulina Quaranta, Cat Stevens and Marisa Stewart. 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: 20 Stakeholders and guests.

B. MOTION: Approve Minutes from 5/6/15 Assembly meeting

MOTION (by Mr. Nguyen, seconded by Mr. Greif): The Palms Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its May 6, 2015 General Assembly Meeting as written.

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

MOTION PASSED without any objection.

MOTION (by Mr. Nguyen, seconded by Mr. Greif): The Palms Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its May 6, 2015 Special Assembly Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED without any objection.

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>), announced the June 6th “Celebrate Woodbine Park” event and a June 23rd LANI community forum.

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), reported that catalytic converters are being stolen and “knock-knock” burglaries have increased; he encouraged calling 9-1-1 if you see suspicious activity. National Night Out will be at Woodbine Park on the usual first Tuesday night in August [4th].

C. Other Government Departments/Agencies

There were no other reports at this time.

IV. PRESIDENT’S REPORT – Update

A. MOTION: Appoint Willie Bell and one other Board Member as Palms NC Budget Representatives

[*This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #VIII.*] Ms. Stewart explained. Budget Day will be June 27th; she and possibly Ms. Johnson volunteered.

MOTION (by Ms. Stewart, seconded by Ms. Stevens): The Palms Neighborhood Council will appoint Marisa Stewart and Faye Johnson as Palms NC Budget Representatives.

MOTION PASSED without any objection.

B. Community Projects

Ms. Stewart indicated that there was no report at this time.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Green (Miller) – Update; next meeting on Wednesday, June 10, 7:00 p.m. (2nd Wednesday)

Mr. Miller distributed copies of a “Bike Rodeo Waste Report.” He reported that the waste percentage increased at this year’s Bike Rodeo. He requested that the PNC “reinstate” a reusable beverage container program. The Committee is working to create a “sustainable” model for multi-family residential buildings. He described working with the LADOT on planting native plants at the Expo Line train project. Mr. Miller reported that three more restaurants are “in the final stages of being approved” for certification in the Restaurant Green Certification Program.

- B. Planning and Land Use (Anderberg) – Update; next meeting on Monday, June 15, 7:00 p.m. (3rd Monday)

1. MOTION: To [see the below Motion].
Ivan Vasquez, Catering Manager

Mr. Lipmen reported that the Committee met and discussed the two Motions.

MOTION (by Mr. Lipmen, seconded by Mr. Greif): The Palms Neighborhood Council will support El Nopal Restaurant’s conditional use permit application to upgrade to a full alcohol license at 10426 National Blvd (at Motor Ave).

DISCUSSION: Mr. Lipmen described operations and customers, saying “they’re planning to expand . . . it’s not a bar; it’s predominantly a restaurant . . . this wouldn’t be a new license . . . they addressed all of our concerns . . . it was unanimously supported” by the Committee. El Nopal’s Willie Nievas said proposed hours of operation would be Sunday-Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m. and Friday-Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 a.m. and “there will be no alcohol served on the patio, ever . . . there’s no bar.” They want to do “a major expansion of the kitchen.” Seating would increase from 28 inside and 12 outside to 59 inside and 20 outside. He added that “we’re taking over another outdoor space” from next door. Mr. Bell was concerned that a lot of alcohol already is served in the area. Stakeholder Lee Wallach indicated that the Motor Avenue Improvement Association supports the application.

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

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

2. MOTION: [see the below Motion].

Mr. Lipmen reported that Overland could qualify for the City’s “Great Streets Program.”

MOTION (by Mr. Lipmen, seconded by Mr. Greif): Whereas the Palms Neighborhood Council Planning & Land Use Committee is embarking on a program to revision Overland Avenue to improve its use for residents, businesses, pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists; and Whereas the PNC has already allocated \$5,000 for native tree plantings in empty tree wells on Overland Avenue; and Whereas the “bottlebrush” (Callistemon) trees along Overland Avenue are non-native, unattractive, provide little shade, and produce a red blossom that litters sidewalks and stains parked cars; and Whereas Gateway Equities agreed in 2011 to contribute \$20,000 for use by the Palms Neighborhood Council to modernize Woodbine Park; and Whereas those monies were unable to be spent during the construction of Woodbine Park because the City Council had not approved the project for construction; and Whereas the current owner of 10601 Washington Blvd. (with frontage on Overland Avenue) is aware of their obligation to the Palms community; Therefore the Palms Neighborhood Council will write a letter to the current owner requesting that \$20,000 be allocated towards removing all bottlebrushes along Overland Avenue from Washington Blvd. to National Blvd. and replacing them with a native plant determined by the PNC Green Committee.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Lipmen reported that two bids were received in the “range from \$8,000 to \$15,000” and that “it’s between 35 and 39 trees . . . we will have to do some negotiating with the developer.” He explained that the funding was “originally allocated” for Overland Ave. and is separate from Victor on Venice funding.

AMENDMENT to the MOTION (by Mr. Greif, seconded by Ms. Stewart): The Palms Neighborhood Council amends the Motion’s last line phrase “with a native plant determined by the PNC Green Committee” to “with a native palette determined by the PNC Green Committee.”

MOTION to AMEND PASSED with no objection.

DISCUSSION: Stakeholder Kalani Whittington encouraged adding wording regarding difficulties for handicapped people; Ms. Stewart asked the Planning and Land Use Committee to address that.

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

AMENDED MOTION PASSED with no objection.

Ms. Stewart requested the Committee to copy emails to her.

C. Transportation and Safety (Bell) – Update, next meeting on Monday, June 22, 7:00 p.m. (4th Monday)

Mr. Bell reported that the traffic signal at Overland and Rose “has been approved.” Mr. Galloway added that it should be operational in October. Mr. Bell reported that Expo Line Phase Two should be operational “all the way to Santa Monica . . . by

the end of the year.” The bus shelter at Motor and Palms will be moved west of the gas station “probably within the next month.”

D. Projects & Policy (Byrd) – No May meeting; next meeting TBD

Ms. Stewart indicated that there was no report.

E. Outreach (Nguyen) – Update; next meeting on Thursday, June 11, 7:00 p.m. (2nd Thursday)

Ms. Stewart reported that the Bike Rodeo “was a great event.”

MOTION: Allocate up to \$1,200 for graphic design services

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Nguyen): The Palms Neighborhood Council will allocate up to \$1,200 for graphic design services.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Stewart explained the need. At the last Meeting \$1,000 was allocated for this, which would bring the total to \$2,200; \$600 already has been spent on posters and other media. Mr. Greif explained that DONE [the L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment; 213.978.1551; www.EmpowerLA.org] needs Neighborhood Councils “to have mock-ups” available for the Board to see upon what they are voting and that funding could be allocated “probably from the branding” Budget category. Mr. Bell and Ms. Johnson noted the importance and usefulness of the banners. Mr. Lipmen would like written quotes and mock-ups available to see before voting.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Ms. Stewart). 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, Quaranta and Stewart); three opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Greif, Lipmen and Stevens); zero abstained.

VI. EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS

A. Treasurer (Greif) – Update

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

Mr. Greif requested and it was agreed to TABLE this Item because “reports he sent were not presented.” He noted the June 22nd Neighborhood Purposes Grant and June 30th Purchase Card deadlines. No Motion was made or vote taken.

B. Secretary (Nguyen) – Update

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

C. Community Organization Rep. (Byrd) – Update

Ms. Stewart indicated for Dr. Byrd that there was no report at this time.

VII. AREA REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

A. Business Rep. 3 (Johnson)

Ms. Johnson reported that residents are concerned that increased dog waste is being left by owners on sidewalks and elsewhere.

B. Residential Rep. A (Bell)

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

C. Residential Rep. B (Stevens)

Ms. Stevens reported that there is a new stop sign at Tabor and Keystone; “it’s now a four-way stop.” Also, “a lot of trees were planted” on parkways.

D. Residential Rep. C (Lipmen)

Mr. Lipmen reported that the Police barbeque at Woodbine Park was attended by “hundreds of people.”

E. Residential Rep. D (Quaranta)

Ms. Quaranta also reported that residents are concerned that increased dog waste is being left by owners on sidewalks and elsewhere.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Stakeholder Jason Buchalter, PNC Treasurer from 2006-2012 and a local Teacher, believed there was “insufficient outreach” for the May 30th Palms Bike Rodeo. He was concerned that Charnock Elementary School was “not told” of the event. Stakeholder Jamie Laubach requested support for a September 26th Block Party.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Stewart declared and it was agreed to **ADJOURN** the Meeting at 8:55 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.* The PNC Minutes page is <http://palmsla.org/about/pnc-meeting-minutes>.