



**Minutes of the 144th Meeting of the  
Palms Neighborhood Council (PNC) and its Representative Assembly  
General Meeting, Wednesday, September 2, 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 7:15 p.m. She explained the PNC’s role and priorities.

**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: Dr. Wayne Byrd, Nick Greif, Faye Johnson, Len Nguyen, Paulina Quaranta, Cat Stevens and Marisa Stewart. Eli Lipmen arrived later. One Board Member was absent: Willie Bell. 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: nine Stakeholders and guests.

B. MOTION: Approve Minutes from 8/5/15 Assembly meeting

**MOTION** (by Mr. Nguyen, seconded by Ms. Quaranta): The Palms Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its August 5, 2015 General Assembly Meeting as written.

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

**MOTION PASSED** with six in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Byrd, Greif, Johnson, Nguyen, Quaranta, and Stevens); zero opposed; one abstained (Stewart).

### **III. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Kalani Whittington believed that crime has increased not only due to Proposition 47; population and other factors also have contributed.

### **IV. 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 that the L.A. Bureau of Street Services was unable to install a curb cut at National and Rose due to sidewalk height differences. Speed limit signs were installed on Motor Ave. by Vista del Mar and the Bureau of Sanitation will clean up the homeless encampment under the 405 Freeway overpass. City Councilman Koretz and Congresswoman Bass will hold a community event here on Monday, September 21, 7:00-8:30 p.m. There will be a CHP Child Care Seat Safety event on Saturday, September 19, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the National Council for Jewish Women office. There will be a Peace Picnic on Sunday, October 4, 1-4 p.m.

*Board Member Eli Lipmen arrived at 7:29 p.m., making eight Board Members present (the PNC quorum is seven).*

Mr. Galloway cautioned that DWP imposters are calling and emailing; he will provide information for the PNC website.

#### **B. LAPD Senior Lead Officer Juan Ceja**

Ms. Stewart reported that 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)), will return to duty on September 4<sup>th</sup>.

#### **C. Other Government Departments/Agencies**

There were no reports from other government representatives.

### **V. PRESIDENT’S REPORT** – Update

#### **A. MOTION:** Allocate up to \$250 for 9/26/15 Faris Drive Block Party

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Ms. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Greif): The Palms Neighborhood Council will allocate \$250 for the September 26, 2015 Faris Drive Block Party.

**DISCUSSION:** Stakeholder Amber Brown said she is working to get funding from businesses. Ms. Stewart reminded that an event budget is needed for the PNC to consider funding the event.

**AMENDED FUNDING MOTION** (by Mr. Greif, seconded by Ms. Stewart): The Palms Neighborhood Council will allocate \$250 for the September 26, 2015 Faris Drive Block Party to purchase food and supplies.

**DISCUSSION:** A Stakeholder explained that “neighbors get to meet each other.” Ms. Stewart said that “around 200 people show up”; City Councilman Koretz attended last year.

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

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

B. 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 \$1,200 for graphic design services.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Lipmen would prefer that the Motion have “much clearer language,” including the vendor name. Stakeholder Lee Wallach wanted funding spent in Palms and believed that the allocation is too much for one event flyer. Ms. Stewart reminded that the graphic design services would be used for the entire Fiscal Year on many events and other purposes.

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

*Board Member Cat Stevens left at 7:56 p.m., making seven Board Members present (the PNC quorum is seven).*

C. MOTION: Allocate up to \$350 for PNC labels

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Ms. Stewart, seconded by Ms. Quaranta): The Palms Neighborhood Council will allocate \$350 for PNC labels.

**DISCUSSION:** Ms. Stewart indicated that the labels are for many things including outreach and correspondence. Mr. Lipmen offered to get quotes.

**AMENDED to the FUNDING MOTION** (by Mr. Lipmen, seconded by Ms. Quaranta): to add the words “purchased from a local and sustainable source” to the Motion.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Lipmen said that stakeholders expressed concerns about sustainability.

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

**AMENDMENT to the FUNDING MOTION PASSED** by a roll call vote of the seven eligible voters present with six in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Byrd, Greif, Johnson, Lipmen, Nguyen, and Quaranta); one opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Stewart).

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

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

## **VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- A. Transportation and Safety (Bell) – Update on 8/4/15 National Night Out, no August meeting, next meeting on Monday, September 28, 7:00 p.m. (4th Monday)

Ms. Stewart noted the above and that Mr. Bell was unable to attend this meeting.

- B. Green (Quaranta) – Update on Native Plant Demonstration Garden at Woodbine Park, Palms Green Restaurant Certification Program, Native Trees for Palms Parkways; next meeting on Wednesday, September 9, 7:00 p.m. (2nd Wednesday)

1. MOTION: Whereas California is undergoing a drought of historic proportions with no end in sight; and whereas the twentieth century was among the wettest in Southern California in the last 7,000 years, making it an inappropriate metric for water expectations going forward; and whereas, despite this drought, the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Street Services, Urban Forestry Division, continues to issue permits to plant high-water-use, non-native trees for parkways on residential streets in Palms; and whereas despite the critical water shortage and loss of native habitat, this same division of the city uniformly blocks the replacement of such trees with drought-tolerant city-street-list-approved California native trees; therefore, the Palms Neighborhood Council (PNC) urges the Los Angeles Bureau of Street Services, Urban Forestry Division to immediately reverse its outdated policy of issuing permits for the planting of non-native trees in the neighborhood of Palms and to instead only

issue permits for drought-tolerant, California native trees for parkways in Palms from this date forward; and the PNC reiterates its call for revised parkway tree removal permit guidelines that allow property owners to remove non-native trees and replace them with drought-tolerant California native trees on parkways in Palms; the PNC also asks for the help of the Los Angeles Mayor and City Council to assist the stakeholders of our community with this long-needed policy change.

Ms. Quaranta reported that the Committee will meet with the L.A. Dept. of Recreation and Parks regarding the Fire Station 43 garden location. Four restaurants, include Forge on Overland, are now Green Certified. She requested to Table the Motion until she gets more information.

**MOTION to TABLE the MOTION** (by Ms. Quaranta, seconded by Mr. Lipmen).

**MOTION to TABLE PASSED** unanimously.

C. Planning and Land Use (Anderberg) – Update on proposed Verizon wireless facility at 10717 Lawler, WRAC motions to oppose AB57 limiting local regulation of cell towers, oppose AB1373 exempting 40 square blocks of Downtown L.A. from the CA Outdoor Ad Act, approve revised City sign ordinance motion; next meeting on Monday, September 21, 7:00 p.m. (3rd Monday)

1. MOTION: Opposition to AB57 limiting local regulation of cell towers
  - i. WRAC requests that Councilmembers Bonin and Koretz co-sponsor a resolution in City Council opposing AB57, which passed in the Assembly recently and is now in two State Senate Committees.

Mr. Lipmen indicated that the Motion failed and is in the Committee. He believed that the cell towers are needed for safety.

2. MOTION: Oppose AB1373 exempting 40 square blocks of downtown L.A. from the California Outdoor Ad Act
  - i. WRA recommends the City of Los Angeles oppose AB1373 and requests Councilmembers Mike Bonin and Paul Koretz introduce a resolution opposing AB1373.

Mr. Lipmen indicated that the Motion was Tabled and is in the Committee. He believed that the Motion does not directly affect Palms.

3. MOTION: Approve revised City Sign Ordinance motion
  - i. Only digital signs in sign districts
  - ii. Mandatory take down of signs that were illegally erected
  - iii. Signs need to be upgraded to current law

**MOTION** (by Mr. Greif, seconded by Mr. Lipmen): The Palms Neighborhood Council supports the revised City Sign Ordinance.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Lipmen explained issue history. Mr. Wallach stated that there were “three illegal digital billboards on Motor” and another eight non-digital billboards that should not be grandfathered.

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

**MOTION PASSED** by a unanimous roll call vote with all seven in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Byrd, Greif, Johnson, Lipmen, Nguyen, Quaranta and Stewart); zero opposed; zero abstained.

D. Outreach (Stewart) – Update on homeless event, Halloween event, movie night event, Woodbine Park bathroom pilot; next meeting on Thursday, September 10, 7:00 p.m. (2nd Thursday)

1. MOTION: Allocate up to \$1,000 for October Homeless event

**MOTION** (by Mr. Nguyen, seconded by Ms. Stewart): The Palms Neighborhood Council will allocate up to \$1,000 for an October Homeless event.

**DISCUSSION:** Ms. Stewart noted that \$500 already was allocated for the event. There was discussion of the best ways to outreach to homeless people. Mr. Lipmen believed that the Silver Lake NC has a good outreach “model.” Ms. Whittington was concerned with the effectiveness of the funding; Stakeholder Stakeholder Fred Stewart believed it was worthwhile. Mr. Wallach said there are “successful” programs in Palms for homeless people. Mr. Lipmen said that homeless people have expressed specific needs such as lockers in which to keep belongings.

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

2. MOTION: Allocate up to an additional \$1,450 for Palms Movie Night

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Mr. Nguyen, seconded by Ms. Stewart): The Palms Neighborhood Council allocates \$1,450 for Palms Movie Night.

**DISCUSSION:** Ms. Stewart and Mr. Nguyen explained the usefulness of having two screens because trees block some views. The total cost would be \$2,500. Dr. Byrd, Mr. Greif and Mr. Wallach believed the cost to be too high. Mr. Stewart noted the community event value. Stakeholder Jamie Laubach said Stakeholders have been “impressed” with the event.

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

3. MOTION: Allocate up to \$1,280 for 3 month pilot for portable restroom cleaned twice a week at Woodbine Park

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Ms. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Nguyen): The Palms Neighborhood Council will allocate up to \$1,280 for a three-month pilot for a portable restroom cleaned twice a week at Woodbine Park.

**DISCUSSION:** Ms. Stewart explained the Motion. Mr. Greif believed that this would be “a great use for funds.” Mr. Lipmen noted that Recreation and Parks indicated that a permanent restroom could not be installed at Woodbine Park, though that was the top request of 100 Stakeholders.

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

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

4. MOTION: Allocate \$465 plus tax, shipping and setup fees for 1,500 PNC book covers

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Mr. Nguyen, seconded by Ms. Stewart): The Palms Neighborhood Council will allocate \$465 plus tax, shipping and setup fees for 1,500 Palms Neighborhood Council book covers.

**DISCUSSION:** Ms. Johnson explained the covers’ usefulness and is contacting local vendors. Mr. Nguyen and Mr. Wallach questioned their usefulness and the funding. Ms. Laubach said that “book covers are a requirement” and that “parents would appreciate it.”

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

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

5. MOTION: [see the below Motion].

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Ms. Stewart, seconded by Ms. Johnson): The Palms Neighborhood Council will allocate \$500 plus tax, shipping and setup fees for Walk to School Day materials.

**DISCUSSION:** Ms. Stewart explained the Motion; the materials are safety-related. Walk to School Day is October 7<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Wallach wanted to see more information and the budget for this.

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

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

## **VII. EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS**

### A. Treasurer (Greif) – Update

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

Copies were distributed of the August 2015 PNC “Monthly Expenditure Report,” the “[PNC] FY 15-16 Budget Adopted on 7-1-15,” the “[PNC] Balance Sheet for FY 2015-16 Prepared as of 8/27/2015,” the “[PNC] Statement of Expenditures for FY 2015-16 Prepared as of 8/27/2015,” a list of “Purchases by Line Item,” and a list of “Funding Motions Approved FY15-16.” Mr. Greif reviewed expenses and reported that no funds rolled back from last Fiscal Year’s budget. Ms. Stewart will submit more National Night Out receipts.

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

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

### B. Secretary (Nguyen) – Update

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

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

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



## **VIII. AREA REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS**

### A. Business Rep. 3 (Johnson)

Ms. Johnson reported that “residents and businesses are concerned” about the amount of trash.

### B. Residential Rep. A (Bell)

Mr. Bell was not present and there was no report at this time.

### C. Residential Rep. B (Stevens)

Ms. Stevens was not present and there was no report at this time.

### D. Residential Rep. C (Lipmen)

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

### E. Residential Rep. D (Quaranta)

Ms. Quaranta indicated that dog cleanup bag stations are not needed because dog owners have their own bags.

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Stewart declared and it was agreed to **ADJOURN** the Meeting at 9:21 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>.