

City of Los Angeles, California  
 Westlake North Neighborhood Council  
 Regular Board Meeting  
 December 14, 2017 at 6:00PM

1. Welcome Remarks

- a. WNNC President Sandra Villalobos called the meeting to order at 6:00PM.
- b. Secretary Randy Waller called roll.

Present	Sandra Villalobos, Jennifer Virgen, Rocky Valenzuela, Randy Waller, Harold (Mac) McCarthy, Ivonnenanette (Ivonne) Machado, Katherine Ugalde, Alejandra Cooper, Karina Rodriguez, Consuelo Morales, Alicia Lopez, Ventura Mendez Florencia
Absent	Aurora Pineda, Margarita Alvarez Gomez, Alicia Lopez, Ventura Mendez Florencia

2. Community/Government Reports & Announcements

- a. AD53: Lizeth Zardeneta, Field Representative from Assemblymember Miguel Santiago's office, was present with announcements.
  - i. She announced that Miguel Santiago's Winter Wonderland Toy Giveaway would be taking place on Sunday, December 17, 2017 from 12:00PM to 2:00PM at the Boys and Girls Club of Estrada Courts – 3232 Estrada Street, Los Angeles, CA 90033.
  - ii. She announced that there would be a free Citizen Application Workshop at the Instituto de Educacion Popular del Sur de California (IDEPSCA). The workshop will take place on Sunday, December 17, 2017 from 9:00AM to 3:00PM with the last appointment at 2:00PM. IDEPSCA is located at 1565 W 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Los Angeles, CA 90015. Call (213) 805-5331 ext. 207 to make an appointment.
- b. CD1: Hugo Ortiz, Field Deputy for City Councilmember Gil Cedillo, was not present.
- c. CD13: Juan Fregoso, Field Deputy for City Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell, was not present.
- d. CA34: Esperanza Gueva, Field Deputy for Congressman Jimmy Gomez, was not present.
- e. City Attorney Office: Andrew, Prosecuting Attorney, was not present.
- f. LAPD: Senior Lead Officer, Rampart Station, was not present.
- g. LA Fire Department, was not present.
- h. EmpowerLA: Mario Hernandez, Field Representative, was not present.

3. Community Presentations

- a. Presentation from New Economics for Women on their Moms Helping Moms 5k Run/Walk that will be held in May 2018 at the California State Historic Park.
  - i. Christina Villalobos was present from New Economics for Women, located at 3<sup>rd</sup> and Loma. The organization helps women achieve economic mobility and offers affordable housing and educational programs.
  - ii. The Moms Helping Moms event is a 5k run, walk, and stroller roll, at the cornfield. The event will have food trucks and music. The runner's fee is \$30.
  - iii. Christina Villalobos stated that Latinas have the lowest participation rate in competitive outdoor activities, and the motto for the event is, "Families who sweat together, stay together."
  - iv. This year is the second annual event. Last year the event had 300 participants, and this year they hope for 500 or more participants. Christina Villalobos stated that New Economics for Women was hoping the WNNC would want to sponsor and possibly participate in the event.
  - v. President Sandra Villalobos announced that she and Christina Villalobos share the last name but have no relation at all.
- b. Follow up Presentation from BlueLA regarding their pilot program and its role within the Westlake North Neighborhood Community.
  - i. A representative from BlueLA was not present.
- c. Presentation from the Levitt Pavilion summer concert events, possible opportunity for Westlake North Neighborhood Council to have booths at their events for summer 2018.
  - i. A representative from the Levitt Pavilion was not present.

#### 4. General Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

- a. Susan Hunter was present from Los Angeles Tenants Union (LATU) and the Coalition to Preserve LA.
  - i. She stated that the LATU would be hosting a community forum on January 17, 2018 to address reforms in the Design District. LATU is reaching out to local businesses regarding the North Westlake Design Ordinance and how it would affect the neighborhood. The community forum will take place at the Pilipino Workers Center, 153 Glendale Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90026. Email [nodesigndistrict@gmail.com](mailto:nodesigndistrict@gmail.com) for more information.
  - ii. Susan Hunter updated WNNC on the Coalition to Preserve LA. She said that the city of Los Angeles held four meetings and the Coalition said they would have to do more outreach and hold more meetings in order to reach more residents. She said that the WNNC could request more meetings as well.

1. Susan Hunter announced that the Coalition to Preserve LA is creating an interactive transit priority area map that residents would be able to use in order to see if they would fall within the area affected. The map will be available in the spring.

5. Agendized for Discussion & Vote

- a. Discuss and possible motion to reaffirm the monetary value of \$2,500 that will go towards the swag for outreach events.
  - i. Randy Waller moved to extend up to \$2,500 on outreach materials. Rocky Valenzuela seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.
- b. Jennifer Virgen announced that the Rampart toy give-away event was on December 22, 2017 at 2:00PM at the Rampart Police Station. WNNC gave \$4,900 to the event.

6. Board Items

- a. Discussion and possible motion to appoint people to participate in the Civic U 2.0.
  - i. Sandra Villalobos stated that the organizers want a male and female from each neighborhood council to participate. Sandra Villalobos informed the board that she enrolled herself and was accepted. Mac McCarthy announced that he also enrolled himself and has not heard back. He asked if any other male board member wanted to participate. Sandra Villalobos and Mac McCarthy will attend.
  - ii. Sandra Villalobos moved to appoint Mac McCarthy to attend Civic U 2.0, Randy Waller seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.
- b. Discussion from Harold "Mac" on the Community Impact Statement and the Boards views on the matters.
  - i. Mac McCarthy stated that this is going to be the beginning of the beginning. He was so inspired that the board had done a CIS that he wanted to do another one.
    1. He looked at the council file list and wanted to choose something from the list. He downloaded the City Council file and got a 700 page long list. He downloaded it into an Excel file and got it down to 42 pages, which he distributed to the board.
    2. He wanted the board to look through the list and if there was something they were interested in, Mac McCarthy said that he would look into it deeper and give a report on where the City Council was and what both sides were saying on it so they could get involved and maybe get the community involved in what they wanted to say to City Council.

3. Mac McCarthy said that he did not yet have any suggestions because he did not want to drive it; he wanted the community to drive it. He said that it was super that the board was getting involved with the community and now it was time to talk to City Council and tell them what neighbors were telling WNNC.
- ii. Ivonne Machado stated that she was very concerned with low-income condos. Mac McCarthy suggested looking at the list, looking at the summary descriptions, and if she found one that said, "low-income condos," telling Mac McCarthy the file and he would come prepared to the next meeting with more information about the file. Ivonne said that she noticed on Wednesday that there was a meeting at City Hall where the city was voting on allocating some to low-income housing, but the housing would not involve local residents that would be displaced.
    1. Mac McCarthy replied that once they pass it in City Hall and make a resolution, the WNNC has no say in the item. He said that the WNNC does not decide what goes in front of City Council, but once it is there, WNNC has to jump on it and have a say. Sandra Villalobos said that now that WNNC is so involved, it is time to have a voice and take the next step.
  - iii. Rocky Valenzuela asked if you could search by council districts. Mac McCarthy replied that council files are not really organized by council districts. He said that usually the council files are broader in scope and work cross council, and in Los Angeles in general, so many of them would not have a council number.
  - iv. Ivonne Machado stated that Gill Cedillo is sitting in the Housing Committee. She suggested looking for council files that deal with housing and what projects in the area would be affected by Housing Committee decisions. Mac McCarthy offered to go through the process more with Ivonne Machado.
- c. Discussion and Report on the Promise Zone meeting.
    - i. Sandra Villalobos announced that she and Karina Rodriguez were at the meeting and learned that the Youth Policy Institute (YPI) received a \$1 Million grant and had selected a promise area that is in the middle of Macarthur Park.
    - ii. She said that the YPI is having meetings about how community members can help beautify the park, work with one another, create safety areas, and work within the needs of the community in the area. They want to incorporate neighboring areas to see how community leaders can work together.
    - iii. She announced that CCNP would be on the committee. She said that the committee is working on Vision Zero, and January 14,

2018 is the next meeting. Homies Unidos, Up to You, CCNP, New Economics for Women, and LAUSD were all there.

- d. Discussion and Possible action to fill in the Board Vacancies:
  - i. The WNNC got an application from Romina Zarza for the at-large seat.
    - 1. Romina Zarza stated that she was part of the community cleanup, is a resident and would like to participate and see what the community needs and how she can help.
    - 2. Ivonne Machado asked if Romina Zarza lives or only works in the community. Romina Zarza replied that she lives in the area.
    - 3. Mac McCarthy asked Romina Zarza to tell the board about a time when she did service in the past, what liked about it, and what draws her to it. Romina Zarza stated that she used to box a long time ago, and her sister had a boxing equipment store. At Christmas, they used to give away equipment to kids for free. She said that she was part of the Oscar De La Hoya School. She also participated in the street cleaning and really liked it.
    - 4. Rocky Valenzuela asked what committee she would like to join, and what she is passionate about. She replied that she is interested in the Outreach Committee.
  - ii. Mac McCarthy moved to accept Romina Zarza onto the board as the new at-large representative. Randy Waller seconded this motion.
    - 1. Ivonne Machado stated that she was concerned that Romina Zarza's name was not on the agenda. Mac McCarthy replied that WNNC purposely left an item open for filling the board on the agenda so they would always have the ability to fill the board seats.
    - 2. The motion passed, 11-0-1.

Aye (11)	S. Villalobos, J. Virgen, R. Valenzuela, R. Waller, H. McCarthy, K. Ugalde, A. Cooper, K. Rodriguez, C. Morales, A. Lopez, V. Mendez Florencia
Abstain (1)	I. Machado

- iii. Ivonne Machado suggested for Romina Zarza to go onto EmpowerLA's website and take the trainings.
- iv. Mac McCarthy asked board members to stand and applaud Sandra Villalobos for leading the board to fill every seat for the first time. Sandra Villalobos said that it had been an amazing year, and everyone had put in a lot of hours to form the board.
- v. Sandra Villalobos asked Randy Waller how to amend the agenda to add the MERs for approval. Randy Waller replied that every month the board should write an agenda that

includes a Treasurer's Report. That agenda item would cover everything including MER approval.

1. Sandra Villalobos asked if the board could amend the current agenda for the current meeting, and Randy Waller said that the board could hold it over to January 2018 and approve two MERs at the January meeting.
2. Rocky Valenzuela stated that the board already had two MERs to approve. Randy Waller replied that the board could approve three MERs at the January meeting.

## 7. Committee Reports

- b. Bylaws (Margarita Alvarez Gomez & H. "Mac" McCarthy)
  - i. This committee has not yet met
- c. Beautification/Planning & Land Use (Sandra Villalobos & H. "Mac" McCarthy)
  - i. Sandra Villalobos stated that on the vacant lot on Whitmer where they are boarding up apartment buildings, she was informed that Skid Row Housing is building 100 units for homeless veterans. Sandra Villalobos called Skid Row Housing to come to the next board meeting and tell WNNC about what they are building.
- d. Outreach Committee
  - i. Karina Rodriguez reported about the Community Clean Streets Challenge. She shared a printed report that she and Margarita Alvarez Gomez had compiled.
    1. She announced that 150 volunteers came to help, including lots of children, and there were many activities sponsored by different organizations, all employing the theme of sustainability.
    2. She said that after the event, streets looked cleaner, safer and more welcoming. She encouraged more cleanups to make the streets safer for everyone.
    3. Congressman Jimmy Gomez visited the event, and he walked the streets and looked at the troubled areas.
    4. Sandra Villalobos stated that this was an offset of the EPA event they did for New Economics for Women. At the EPA event, women and families put dots on a map on places in the community where they felt safe. Everything was done around recycling, cleaning and sustainability.
    5. Karina Rodriguez said that Peace Over Violence was at the Clean Street Challenge. She said that mothers, children, boys and girls, suffer a lot of street harassment. She wanted to start planning self-defense classes and offer resources for women and children so

they can feel safe; especially people living around Alvarado and Whitmore.

6. Sandra Villalobos stated that during the event, there was a group of boys smoking weed in the middle of the street and after she approached them to ask if they thought it was a good idea to smoke around women and children, they moved inside.
  7. Sandra Villalobos stated that they would have over 75 women, children and boys in a self-defense class if they chose to do it in March 2018 for Women's Health Month.
  8. Karina Rodriguez announced everyone got a certificate, and youth went out and did pre-pictures and post-pictures of the streets that were cleaned up. She thanks Margarita Alvarez Gomez for printing out the certificates and creating such a detailed report.
- e. Budget & Finance Committee
- i. Rocky Valenzuela announced that WNNC is running out of funds. He asked the board to review the November 2017 MER and he suggested reallocating some funds.
    1. He said that he had the expenses and receipts.
  - ii. Sandra Villalobos stated that she learned a lot about required documentation while working on the community event. She thanked all the committee chairs, especially Rocky Valenzuela's work as the Treasurer.
  - iii. Mac McCarthy suggested that the board agendize a Secretary Report.
- f. Crime Prevention/Public Safety Committee
- i. Rocky Valenzuela asked Jennifer Virgen, since she talked to Rampart Station, if she could make sure someone was at the WNNC board meetings.
    1. Sandra Villalobos replied that Andrew, the Neighborhood Prosecutor, made a commitment to have an officer at every meeting beginning in January 2018.
- g. Youth/Education Committee
- i. not present

## 8. NC Alliances & Liaison Reports

### a. DWP Liaison

- i. Mac McCarthy announced that he was not sure what to report about the DWP. He asked what kind of info the board would like. Rocky Valenzuela suggested reporting any money saving tips and rebates that would be useful to stakeholders.

### b. Film Liaison

- ii. Rocky Valenzuela announced that he had someone reach out about filming and parking, and she could not make it to the

December meeting but Rocky Valenzuela is following up with another person.

1. He said the parking is getting pretty bad, especially on the 6<sup>th</sup> Street area around Parkview. Sandra Villalobos said that she had seen some arguments on Loma and 6<sup>th</sup> Street.
  2. Susan Hunter asked if any of the film companies had any parking lots that they could offer residents during filming.
- c. Purposeful Aging Liaison
- i. nothing to report
- d. Animal Service Liaison
- i. nothing to report
- e. Homeless Liaison
- i. Ivonne Machado announced that gentrification is displacing people and there are still homeless on Wilshire and Coronado who were taken from Macarthur Park.
    1. She said that there is a new street crossing on Wilshire and Alvarado and even though they are improving the city, it is not improving for people who live in the area.
    2. The 46-floor high-rise building being built in the area will increase the rent for the small businesses nearby. She said that it the doctor building the high-rise is making money off of people's Medicare payments and using that money to displace them with his high-rise building.
  - ii. Sandra Villalobos asked if Ivonne Machado could contact LAFSA and see if they could come to a WNNC meeting and talk to the board about what is going on in the community and the homeless encampments. Sandra Villalobos stated that she had outreach people that might be able to come to the next meeting and talk about hot spots in the area.
    1. Ivonne Machado said that she sees people being displaced that do not participate in community organizations.

## 9. Board Member Comments/Announcements

### a. President Update

- i. Sandra Villalobos announced that she wanted to talk about participation.
- ii. She said that there were three events coming up and she would pass around a sign up sheet so that more board members would work at events. She said that it is always the same people and she would like to see board members rotating and participating in events. Not just coming in and saying hi, but participating.

- iii. Mac McCarthy suggested that board members immediately enter the event into their phone calendars when they sign up.
  - 1. CCNP Toy Drive on Friday, December 15, 2017.
    - a. CCNP asked Sandra Villalobos to remind Mac McCarthy that this event needs a Santa Claus.
  - 2. Macarthur Park Toy Giveaway on Saturday, December 16, 2017.
    - a. Sandra will be there in the morning. They open the ice skating rink at 11:00AM. The majority of activities are in the afternoon.
  - 3. Rampart Toy Giveaway on December 22, 2017.
  - 4. Helping with the Red Cross CPR First Aid certification program in January 2018.
  - 5. Self defense classes in March 2018.
  - 6. Sandra Villalobos announced that Levitt Pavilion would have series of concerts starting June 9, 2018.
    - a. WNNC will have a table, and the organizers are asking for community input on what music to have and what kind of tables to have.
    - b. Sandra Villalobos signed up WNNC for the event. The concerts will be Thursday through Sunday.
    - c. Ivonne Machado said she invited Levitt Pavilion to involve their artists in one of the WNNC events but they charge money to perform. Also, people were smoking pot at the concerts last summer. Sandra Villalobos replied that the Levitt Pavilion pays for their artists, and reaches out to the artists who are in town to see if they can play for one hour.
- iv. The board members signed up for their events.
- b. Sandra Villalobos announced that she made an appointment with EmpowerLA for the inventory report on January 16, 2018.

#### 10. Requests/Motions of Future Agenda Items

- a. no requests/motions

#### 11. Adjournment

- a. Rocky Valenzuela moved to adjourn the meeting. Karina Rodriguez seconded this motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:14PM.