

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Palms Neighborhood Council

Name: Eli Lipmen

Phone Number:

Email: secretary@palmsla.org

Date of NC Board Action: 03/02/2011

Type of NC Board Action: For Proposal

Impact Information

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Council File Number: 11-1531

Agenda Date: 03/15/2012

Item Number:

Brief Summary: The Palms Neighborhood Council strongly urges you to join the County of Los Angeles, neighboring cities of Santa Monica and Long Beach, as well as other municipalities around the state and around the world, to ban single-use plastic bags.

Additional Information:



**Minutes of the 86th meeting of the
Palms Neighborhood Council (PNC) and its Representative Assembly
General Meeting, Wednesday, March 2, 2011
at the IMAN Center, 3376 Motor Avenue, Palms, California**

1. Welcome, Call to Order

Secretary Eli Lipmen welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

2. Roll call

Roll call was taken by Secretary Eli Lipmen. Board Members present:

M. Dee Olomajeye, President

Eli Lipmen, Secretary

Mark Brower, Exposition Residential

Charles Miller, Overland Residential

Rob Olague, Motor Residential

Terry Robinson, Studio Residential

Elise Rothberg, Charnock Ranch Business

Jennifer Tobkin, Palms Depot Business

Eight of the 13 Board Members were present at the beginning of the Meeting. The PNC quorum (the minimum number of Board Members needing to be present to take binding votes on Agendized Items) is a majority [seven at this time] of the filled Board positions, so the Board could take such votes. No Board seats were vacant. Also attending: 13 Stakeholders and guests. Board Members absent: Niall MacMenamin, Vice President; Jason Buchalter, Treasurer; Neal James Anderberg, Community-based Organizations; Caroline Carr, Pacific Electric Business; and Natasha Ericta, Palms West Residential.

3. Public forum: Measure L (Common Cause) and Measure H (Library Staff)

Karen Pickard-Four, L.A. Library Studio City Branch Senior Librarian, encouraged supporting Measure L. It “would restore services . . . in around four years.” Barbara Metzenbaum, their Children’s Librarian, described the Measure’s importance for children’s education and safety. Maggie Johnson, Palms-Rancho Park Senior Librarian, thanked the PNC for its recent funding; “half of it is being processed” and the other half will be ordered. There’ll be a May 5th Library Fundraiser with Barnes & Noble Bookstore; “each item [you buy], mention . . . the Palms-Rancho Park Library and you’ll get a 20% discount.”

4. Monthly Updates

a. Government Rep. Announcements & Reports (City, State and Federal Reps.)

David Giron, Field Deputy for L.A. City District Five Councilman Paul Koretz (818-971-3088; David.Giron@LACity.org), announced that he got access to Old Fire Station 43; “work will start right away . . . We’ll . . . clean the place.” He’s “doing everything [he] can to get it turned into a park.” He’s meeting with the Westwood Village Homeowners Association March 3rd.

Juan Ceja, LAPD Pacific Division Senior Lead Officer (310-482-6334; 32929@LAPD.LACity.org), announced that Brenda Crump was transferred; they have a new Captain. Last year there was “a significant decrease in crime.”

[This update was given after Item #4. c.] Kate Anderson, Chief of Staff for the U.S. 36th District of California Congressional Office (310-643-3636; Kate.Anderson@mail.house.gov) and Mar Vista Community Council Board Member, announced that although Congresswoman Jane Harmon retired “the

Office stays open . . . until another Congressperson gets elected . . . you can still get . . . constituent services.”

- b. President’s Report (Olomajeye) WRAC, Hamilton High, DONE NC Mentoring Task Force, Outreach plan for new bar on Motor. Strategic Planning Check in meeting during April meeting, Bylaws revision. Owners Adam and Jamie of “The Garage” restaurant on Motor Ave. at Woodbine St. introduced themselves. Jamie spoke with Officer Ceja and Adam spoke with the LAPD Vice Division. Jamie stated “we’re not operating a nightclub . . . [or] having live music . . . Amplified music is not part of what we’re doing . . . We can serve alcohol until 2:00 a.m.; we plan to do it in a much more controlled way than the previous owners did . . . We won’t permit” parking in the alley and “we’re going to have a valet . . . if the Iman Center is used for some of their parking “only valets would have access to the cars.” They’re considering having employees park in the neighborhood so that customers can park closer to the restaurant. He described planned security measures up to one block from the business. The “seating capacity is either 136 or 142 . . . occupancy is . . . 25% more than that.” Their “plan . . . is to cut things off earlier” than the 2:00 a.m. closing time. Mr. Giron reminded about the City moratorium on creating permit parking.

Ms. Olomajeye announced that the Mayor will attend the WRAC Town Hall Meeting March 24th at 6:30 p.m. at the Felicia Mahood Center. Also, the DONE [L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment] NC Mentoring Task Force is almost finished organizing. The PNC will have a Strategic Planning Meeting for “going over our goals” during the April 6th General Board Meeting. The PNC Bylaws will be re-organized to conform to the DONE template; Ms. Robinson and Mr. Olague volunteered to assist.

Edith Torres, Vice-President of the Palms-SORO Alliance at Hamilton High School, reported that they’re “planning to clean up around the School.”

- i. MOTION: [see below].

MOTION (by Ms. Olomajeye, seconded by Mr. Miller): The Palms Neighborhood Council allocates \$5,000 for Pacific Graffiti Solutions to do graffiti removal in Palms

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a voice vote.

- ii. MOTION: [see below].

Ms. Olomajeye explained that DONE mistakenly issued two \$5,000 checks instead of the one that the PNC voted to allocate for a computer lab at Palms Elementary School. DONE contends that they cannot return the second check to the PNC; either the \$5,000 would have to go into the City’s General Fund or be allocated as issued to the School. This Motion formally allocates the second \$5,000 check to the School.

MOTION (by Ms. Olomajeye, seconded by Ms. Robinson): The Palms Neighborhood Council allocates \$5,000 for a computer lab at Palms Elementary School.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Mr. Miller). There were no objections.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a voice vote.

- c. Secretary (Lipmen): Approval of Minutes from Jan. 5 and Feb. 2, 2011; website update.

Mr. Miller requested and it was agreed that the February 2, 2011 Minutes Items 4. f) ii) and iii) should be renumbered as Items 4. g) i) and ii). Ms. Robinson noted that February 2nd Item 4. a) “Stakeholder Neil Zorobsky” should be “Stakeholder Neal Zoromska.”

MOTION (by Mr. Lipmen, seconded by Mr. Miller): The Palms Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its January 5, 2011 and February 2, 2011 General Assembly Meetings as corrected.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote; Mr. Lipmen, Mr. Brower, Ms. Rothberg and Ms. Tobkin abstained due to being absent from the February 2nd Meeting.

Mr. Lipmen encouraged sending www.PalmsLA.org website ideas and “friend”-ing the PNC.

d. Treasurer (Buchalter)

Ms. Olomajeye said that Mr. Buchalter was not present and there was no report.

e. Outreach Report (Brower/Ericta): Bike Rodeo task assignments, Wellness Week, Banners.

i. **MOTION**: [see below].

Mr. Brower reported that they’re “getting close to finalizing the process to get the banners up” and are “considering a Wellness Week in Palms.”

MOTION (by Mr. Brower, seconded by Ms. Olomajeye): The Palms Neighborhood Council will sponsor a Health and Wellness Week Project starting March 20, 2011.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote.

ii. **MOTION**: [see below].

MOTION (by Mr. Brower, seconded by Mr. Miller): The Palms Neighborhood Council will apply for a Permit to install banners around the PNC area.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote.

iii. **MOTION**: [see below].

Mr. Brower described the Palms Bike Rodeo. It’s a “community festival and bike safety event . . . looking for volunteers.” Task assignments were discussed and many Board Members volunteered. The event budget is \$12,000.

MOTION (by Mr. Brower, seconded by Mr. Miller): The Palms Neighborhood Council allocates \$12,000 to fund the June 4, 2011 Palms Bike Rodeo to be held from around 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at Palms Elementary School

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote.

Mr. Brower also reported that the Committee met with a CERT [Community Emergency Response Team] representative about the PNC sponsoring “a consolidated version . . . free of charge . . . [taking] a day or two.” CERT “teaches you what you need to do” in emergencies. Also, St. Mary’s Church is having an event March 23rd, 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the Iman Center to promote non-violence in public discourse; the Committee is helping to organize and promote the event. Mr. Lipmen is working to recruit “interfaith” and elected official speakers; they could have “a series of conversations on different topics.”

f. Projects/Policy Report (Lipmen/Carr): Palms Clean Up, SoRo-Palms Alliance, website update, clean up (PNC and Chrysalis). Motion [see below].

Mr. Lipmen reported that Chrysalis re-cleaned some areas. Also, the Committee is “working with AT&T and CD10 on the mural project . . . and to write to the City Council” regarding the proposed “Citywide ban of plastic bags.”

MOTION (by Mr. Lipmen, seconded by Mr. Miller): The Palms Neighborhood Council will write a letter to the City Council in support of the following Motion pending before the City Council: "...that the Bureau of Sanitation be instructed to report back to the City Council with the next steps necessary to implement a citywide ban of single-use plastic bags, and include in that report the status of the County's Environmental Impact Report and the State's Master Environmental Assessment that relate to single-use plastic bags."

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote.

Mr. Lipmen "will draft a letter to the City Council" regarding the above vote. Let Ms. Carr or him know of any Agenda items for the next Committee Meeting.

g. Transportation and Road Works (Miller)

i. **MOTION**: [see below].

Mr. Miller reported that Tonya Durrell, Principal Public Relations Rep., L.A. Dept. of Public Works, Public Affairs Office (213-978-0328; Tonya.Durrell@LACity.org), reported that the "Overland Avenue Bridge Widening Over I-10 Freeway Project" is "still unfinished and is scheduled to be completed by Summer." He requested construction site graffiti removal. The Committee met with Interim Public Works General Manager Amir Zadadi and Engineer John Fisher regarding the Westwood Blvd. parking situation. "They apologized" for the slow response and they'll "contact Councilman Rosendahl . . . and get this restored." The Committee will follow-up with Councilman Rosendahl. The Committee also met with a Street Lighting Program representative; Mr. Miller described available lighting programs and the process for making changes. The Committee will identify problem lighting areas in Palms.

The Committee is also "continuing to work on the annexation project . . . The Westside NC voted 14-0 in favor of" it and will write to DONE. The "MVCC unanimously voted in favor of this." The South Robertson NC may dispute the eastern part of it. Regarding the Westside Mobility Plan, "we got the area around the Palms Metro Station to be considered as one of the hot spots." The Committee will meet March 28th at 7:00 p.m. at new Fire Station 43 [3690 Motor Ave. by Regent]; the City Bicycle Plan will be discussed.

MOTION (by Mr. Miller, seconded by Ms. Rothberg): The Palms Neighborhood Council accepts the invitation to partner with the FAST (Fixing Angelinos Stuck in Traffic) Coalition.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote.

ii. **MOTION**: [see below].

MOTION (by Mr. Miller, seconded by Ms. Rothberg): The Palms Neighborhood Council will solicit the Los Angeles MTA to install solar panels at all outside light rail stations.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Miller explained that it "makes sense . . . to build awareness of opportunities to use solar panels." The Committee would write a letter of support to the Expo Line Authority, the MTA, the Mayor and the DWP.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote.

h. Planning and Land Use (MacMenamin)

Mr. Miller reported that there was no Committee Meeting last month and no report.

5. Assembly business

There was no more Assembly business.

6. Adjournment

Ms. Olomajeye declared and it was agreed to **ADJOURN** the Meeting at 9:05 p.m.



Palms Neighborhood Council
10008 National Blvd., #210 Los Angeles, CA 90034
president@palmsla.org
www.palmsla.org



May 15, 2011

President Eric Garcetti and Members of the Los Angeles City Council
Los Angeles City Council
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Implementing a citywide ban of single-use plastic bags

Dear Council President Garcetti and Members of the Los Angeles City Council:

The Palms Neighborhoods Council supports the motion pending before the City Council to explore the implementation of a citywide ban of single-use plastic bags.

According to the Los Angeles Times, Californians use more than 120,000 tons of the bags each year and, despite efforts to increase it, only 5% are actually recycled. Governments like Los Angeles must absorb the costs of cleaning littered streets, beaches, and catch basins that become clogged with plastic bag debris. One estimate finds that Los Angeles residents use an estimated 6 billion plastic bags a year costing the City millions in collection, recycling, disposal, and environmental clean up of these bags. Since plastic bags do not biodegrade or dissolve into organic matter, they essentially last forever and compound the problem.

There are both economic and ecological reasons for a ban on single-use plastic bags. Beyond saving the City money from reduced clean up costs and compliance with Stormwater Permit requirements, a ban will protect our important natural resources from wildlife in the Ballona Creek area to cleaner beaches, roadways and parks.

The Palms Neighborhood Council strongly urges you to join the County of Los Angeles, neighboring cities of Santa Monica and Long Beach, as well as other municipalities around the state and around the world, to ban single-use plastic bags.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Eli Lipmen
Secretary, on behalf of the Palms Neighborhood Council

cc: Mayor Villaraigosa
Council Member Perry, Council Member Reyes, Council Member Krekorian, Council Member Zine,
Council Member LaBonge, Council Member Koretz, Council Member Cardenas,
Council Member Alarcon, Council Member Parks, Council Member Wesson,
Council Member Smith, Council Member Huizar, Council Member Hahn