

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Palms Neighborhood Council

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Item Number:

Brief Summary: On April 3rd, 2013, the Palms Neighborhood Council passed the following motion: The Palms Neighborhood Council supports the implementation of a Beekeeping Pilot Program in the City of Los Angeles to test safety and develop best practices for future expansion into single-family residential districts.

The motion passed 11-0-0.

Thank you for your consideration of this important Citywide issue.

Additional Information:



**Minutes of the 110th Meeting of the
Palms Neighborhood Council (PNC) and its Representative Assembly
General Meeting, Wednesday, April 3, 2013
at the IMAN Center, 3376 Motor Avenue, Palms, California**

1. Welcome, Call to Order

Facilitator and President Eli Lipmen welcomed everyone, called the Meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. and explained the role of Neighborhood Councils.

2. Roll call

Roll call was taken by Secretary Tanya Leal. Board Members present:

Eli Lipmen, President

Niall MacMenamin, Vice President

Jason Buchalter, Treasurer

Tanya Leal, Secretary

Neal James Anderberg, Community-Based Organizations

Natasha Ericta, Palms West Residential

Charles Miller, Overland Residential

Shilpan Patel, Motor Residential

Terry Robinson, Studio Residential

Elise Rothberg, Charnock Ranch Business

Jennifer Tobkin, Palms Depot Business

Eleven of the 13 Board Members were present at the beginning of the Meeting. Andrew Pennington, Exposition Residential, arrived later. Board Members absent: Caroline Carr, Pacific Electric Business. No Board Seats were vacant. Also attending: 25 Stakeholders and guests. The PNC quorum (the minimum number of Board Members needing to be present to take binding votes on Agendized Items) is seven, so the Board could take such votes.

3. Public forum

There were no public comments at this time.

4. Presentations

- RePower LA (Nieto)

A representative distributed copies of and described RePower LA and DWP "Home Energy Improvement Program" information. They encourage the DWP to develop programs to reduce rates and dependence upon coal and increase energy efficiency. The Program is "open to any DWP customer." Mr. Miller will work with RePowerLA.

Keith Abrahams, Palms Elementary School Principal (310-838-7337; <http://palms-laUSD-ca.schoolloop.com>), thanked the PNC for its beautification grant. The Board recognized Mr. Abrahams for his achievements in increasing academic achievement and beautifying the campus.

Board Member Andrew Pennington arrived at this time.

- Celebrate Israel Festival (Enticknap)

Sierra Enticknap distributed copies of an "Agenda for Festival Committee Meeting: Celebrate Israel Festival: April 21, 2013" and described that they've reserved 11,000 parking spaces and 36 shuttles for improves access. They're getting the required City Permits.

Glenda Silva, Metro (www.ExpoVenice.org) Government and Community Relations representative, distributed copies of “Expo: Bridging the Future . . . Major Construction for the Venice Boulevard Bridge Begins March 25, 2013” information. There will be land reductions “to about the end of the year.” Most work will be at night. Gabby Collins, Metro Expo Project representative, explained repaving work. Mr. Lipmen indicated that information will be on the [www.PalmsLA.org] PNC website.

5. Monthly Updates

a) Government Representative Announcements and Reports (City, State and Federal).

Sydney Kamlager, District Director for State 54th District Assemblymember Holly Mitchell (310-342-1070; Sydney.Kamlager@asm.ca.gov; <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a54>), introduced himself. The Senator proposed Assembly Bill 1323 to ban fracking; constituent advisory groups available. He encouraged feedback.

Tania Bradkin, Field Deputy for L.A. City District Five Councilman Paul Koretz (310-289-0353; Tania.Bradkin@LACity.org), reported that she is working with Ms. Erica on the Saturday, May 18th 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Palms Bike Rodeo at Palms Elementary School. Ms. Bradkin also distributed copies of a “subject to inspection and clean up” sample notice posted in areas where homeless people are thought to be.

b) PNC Representative Reports.

Tanya Trumble, PNC Budget Representative, announced that there were 5,400 Mayor’s Budget Survey responses; top priorities were public safety and improved infrastructure. The Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates (www.BudgetAdvocatesLA.com) will report their recommendations.

Dee Olomajeye of the NC Plan Review & Reform Initiative, and former PNC President, reported the Initiative’s progress. Each NC will decide what a Stakeholder is.

c) President’s Report.

Mr. Lipmen reported that he and Mr. Patel will track incoming calls to the PNC. The City activated a “MyLA311” app for reporting City services needs. The next monthly PNC Community Cleanup and City services needs inventory will be April 20th from 10:00 – 12:00 meeting at Fire Station 43.

MOTION (by Mr. Lipmen, seconded by Ms. Robinson): The Palms Neighborhood Council resolves that: Whereas the City is asking the Neighborhood Councils to postpone their elections due to budget issues, and Whereas the City is asking each neighborhood council to pay for their next elections, approximately \$7,300.00 per council, and Whereas the City continues to violate Charter Section 911 by cutting neighborhood council funds, sweeping annual excess funds, and failing to fund Neighborhood Councils in a secure account one year in advance, Therefore, the Palms Neighborhood Council moves that the: City issues NO DELAYS in the 2014 neighborhood council elections; City fully fund the Neighborhood Councils’ 2014 elections; City imposes no further cuts to the Neighborhood Councils annual budgets and increases the funding to \$50,000; City cease and desist from any further sweeping of Neighborhood Council funds, in violation of Charter Section 911; and the Palms Neighborhood Council files an immediate letter of complaint against the City for its violations of Charter Section 911.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Miller commented that NC election date flexibility is needed.

AMENDED MOTION (by Mr. Miller and Mr. Anderberg, accepted by Mr. Lipmen and Ms. Robinson): The Palms Neighborhood Council resolves that: Whereas the City is asking the Neighborhood Councils to postpone their elections due to budget issues, and Whereas the City is asking each neighborhood council to pay for their next elections, approximately \$7,300.00 per council, and Whereas the City continues to violate Charter Section 911 by cutting neighborhood council funds, sweeping annual excess funds, and failing to fund Neighborhood Councils in a secure account one year in advance, Therefore, the Palms Neighborhood Council moves that the: City fully fund future Neighborhood Council elections; City imposes no further cuts to the Neighborhood Councils annual budgets and increases the funding to \$50,000; City cease and desist from any further sweeping of Neighborhood Council funds, in violation of

Charter Section 911; and the Palms Neighborhood Council files an immediate letter of complaint against the City for its violations of Charter Section 911.

AMENDED MOTION PASSED by a hand vote; one opposed.

d) Vice President's Report (MacMenamin): (5) Elections Ad Hoc Committee

Mr. MacMenamin reported that, at the PNC March 28th Special Assembly Meeting, it was recommended to establish an ad hoc Bylaws Election Committee.

MOTION (by Mr. MacMenamin, seconded by Mr. Pennington): The Palms Neighborhood Council establishes an ad hoc Bylaws Committee to recommend changes to the PNC Bylaws related to elections, Factual Basis Stakeholder definitions, budgets, Board votes, and other issues.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Lipmen encouraged Stakeholder feedback about Bylaws revisions. Ms. Leal noted that Bylaws revisions are due to DONE [the L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment] by June 1st. There was discussion about the timing of the Committee formation in regard to the June 1st deadline. Ms. Leal encouraged all Board Members to adhere to the Bylaws.

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

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a voice vote.

e) Secretary's Report (Leal). Approval of Minutes from March 6th General Assembly.

Ms. Leal noted and it was agreed to strike the sentence in the draft March 6, 2013 General Assembly Meeting Minutes on page two, Item #5. d "The Committee "has not received anything from Stephen Box yet" and will report to the Assembly when it is provided."

MOTION (by Ms. Leal, seconded by Ms. Robinson): The Palms Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its March 6, 2013 General Assembly Meeting as corrected.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote; five abstained.

f) Treasurer's Report (Buchalter). PNC Budget

Mr. Buchalter distributed copies of and reviewed the "[PNC] Balance Sheet . . . Prepared as of 3/22/2013," the "[PNC] Statement of Expenditures Prepared as of 3/22/2013," the "[PNC] Expense Projection as of 3/21/13" and the "[PNC] Budget for Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Approved June 27, 2012." Copies of a "Return of Request for Demand Warrant" letter from DONE to the PNC were distributed. Mr. Lipmen announced that a previous Neighborhood Purposes Grant (NPG) application for the PNC to allocate funds to Charnock Road Elementary School had been "vacated" by the City Attorney's (C.A.) Office because they indicated "the Motion was tainted because a Board Member did not recuse himself from the entire process of the application." Mr. Buchalter read aloud the attached statement and requested that it be entered into the record. DONE determined that there was a conflict of interest for Mr. Buchalter because he happened to make the Motion for the NPG, which had been approved the previous three years. He announced that he will resign as Treasurer as of the June 30th end of the Fiscal Year.

Board Member Jason Buchalter left at this time.

Mr. Lipmen has appealed the NPG application vacation decision to DONE.

MOTION (by Mr. Lipmen, seconded by Ms. Robinson): The Palms Neighborhood Council will appoint a replacement for current Treasurer Jason Buchalter when one is available.

AMENDED MOTION (by Mr. Miller, accepted by Mr. Lipmen and Ms. Robinson): The Palms Neighborhood Council will appoint a replacement for current Treasurer Jason Buchalter when one is available; when a replacement is found that person will immediately be appointed to the Budget Committee.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Lipmen encouraged Treasurer nominations.

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

AMENDED MOTION PASSED unanimously by a voice vote.

No other Motions were made for this Item.

- g) Transportation and Safety Report (Miller): Expo Line Ongoing Issues, Emergency Preparedness. [This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #5. j.] Mr. Miller reported that this and the Green Committees support the Motion, which he described, including as an outreach opportunity.

MOTION (by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Pennington): The Palms Neighborhood Council shall solicit businesses in Palms to provide stakeholders with special discounts or other promotions on Sunday, April 21, 2013, as part of promoting the CicLAvia event touring through Palms. Participating businesses will be promoted on the PNC website and in other CicLAvia-related promotion by the PNC.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Leal requested more CicLAvia information.

MOTION PASSED by a hand vote; Ms. Robinson abstained.

Mr. Miller announced an April 10th Expo Line Planning Meeting here.

- h) Outreach Report (Erica): Google+ page up and running. CicLAvia promotion. Bike Rodeo Promo! Coffee w/ the Council reminder.

Ms. Erica reported that the PNC Google outreach page is working; Mr. Patel is managing it. The Saturday, May 18th 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Palms Bike Rodeo at Palms Elementary School needs volunteers. Coffee with the Council will be on the second Tuesday, April 12th, 11:00-1:00 at Café Brazil.

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Erica, seconded by Mr. Miller): The Palms Neighborhood Council allocates \$250 for online advertising of events and promotion of its website, Twitter feed, and Facebook page.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Ms. Erica). There were no objections.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a unanimous voice vote of all 11 Board Members present.

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Erica, seconded by Ms. Leal): The Palms Neighborhood Council allocates of up to \$1,500 for the design and printing of a new Palms NC brochure in time for CicLAvia.

DISCUSSION: A draft brochure is passed around. It was requested to use a different photo than was on the draft.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a voice vote with 10 in favor; Ms. Robinson abstained.

- i) Green (Miller)

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #5. f.] Mr. Miller reported that the Committee is building a coalition to encourage Expo to plant native landscaping for the next phase of the Metro Expo Line in Inglewood.

MOTION (by Mr. Miller, seconded by Ms. Rothberg): The Palms Neighborhood Council resolves that: Whereas the Palms Neighborhood Council supports the use of native landscaping for public projects, And Whereas the PNC, as a founding coalition member of LA Native, was successful in drastically increasing the amount of native landscaping in the design for Phase Two of the Expo Line, And Whereas in its most recent Sustainability Report, the Los Angeles Metro Transit Authority lists among its “next steps” goals that it plans to “Use native plants for landscaping and implement rain water saving systems to reduce the use of municipal water for landscaping.” And Whereas native landscaping uses less water and energy, does not require soil amendments that are a source of runoff pollution, creates less green waste (trimmings, etc.), provides crucial wildlife habitat, and creates a geographical identity, Therefore, the Palms Neighborhood Council endorses and requests that native plants and trees be utilized by the Los Angeles Metro Transit Authority for all landscaping needs connected to the Crenshaw/LAX Transit Corridor Line light rail project.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Miller reported that the Committee unanimously passed the Motion, which will affect the “Palms route to LAX” airport. He noted “liability issues” regarding food growing next to train tracks.

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

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote; Mr. MacMenamin abstained.

Mr. Miller distributed copies of a “[PNC] Green Certification Program for Restaurants” information sheet and described Program requirements.

MOTION (by Mr. Miller, seconded by Ms. Rothberg): The Palms Neighborhood Council resolves that: Whereas promotion of environmentally sustainable choices increases the incentive to make those choices that benefit Palms and the larger eco-system, Therefore, the Palms Neighborhood Council authorizes and endorses the Palms Green Certification Program as outlined by the Palms Green Committee.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Lipmen had “concerns about the implementation” and noted an existing City program. Mr. Miller believed that it would be simple to determine whether Program requirements are fulfilled and that the Program would be “great outreach for the PNC.” Mr. Lipmen suggested “different levels” of certification. Ms. Rothberg reminded that the PNC “can revisit” the Program later and adjust it. Certification would be limited to two years.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote; Mr. Lipmen and Mr. MacMenamin abstained.

Mr. Miller explained that Ms. Rothberg designed three possible Certification logos.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Miller, seconded by Ms. Erica): The Palms Neighborhood Council allocates up to \$500 for the printing of decals, promotional materials, and worksheets for the Palms Green Certification Program.

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

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a unanimous voice vote of all 11 Board Members present.

Mr. Miller indicated that the below Motion was unanimously passed by the Committee.

MOTION (by Mr. Miller, seconded by Ms. Erica): The Palms Neighborhood Council supports the implementation of a Beekeeping Pilot Program in the City of Los Angeles to test safety and develop best practices for future expansion into single-family residential districts.

DISCUSSION: Chelsea McFarland of Honey Love described the benefits and reported that 11 Neighborhood Councils support this. Stakeholders expressed support.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote without any objections.

j) Policy & Projects Committee (Carr/Lipmen): Murals; Fracking Moratorium.

Mr. Lipmen reported that the Committee is working to re-apply the utility box mural at Overland Ave. and Venice Blvd. that was painted over. The below Motion was read aloud.

MOTION (by Mr. Lipmen, seconded by Mr. Pennington): The Palms Neighborhood Council Board urges the City of Los Angeles to comply with the appeals court ruling in the Summit Media LLC v. City of Los Angeles. The City of Los Angeles should work to improve the quality of life of its residents by: Addressing current signs through mitigation; Resolving litigation to protect communities in Los Angeles; Allowing for community plans and modifications (including angling and louvers) to mitigate the impacts on residents; Strictly enforcing laws on billboards; Establishing lower standards for luminosity (0.3 foot candles or less) for digital billboards & implementation of ambient light meters; Encouraging community PSAs to be displayed; and Any proposed changes, or permit application should be subjected to an open and transparent outreach process to community stakeholders that includes early notification of Neighborhood Councils.

DISCUSSION: David Gershwin, of DG Consulting on behalf of Clear Channel Outdoor Advertising, spoke in favor of the Motion. Ms. Robinson encouraged supporting it because “the digital billboards aren’t going to go away because they’re big moneymakers for the City.” Mr. Miller encouraged Tabling the Motion until opposing views are presented. Mr. Lipmen described Committee work on the issue that requesting mitigations is better than requesting removal of all digital billboards.

MOTION (by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. MacMenamin): The Palms Neighborhood Council TABLES the Motion in Item #5. j. regarding digital billboards.

MOTION to TABLE PASSED by a hand vote; Mr. Lipmen opposed.

Mr. Lipmen said that the Committee will reconsider the issue.

Board Members Niall MacMenamin and Terry Robinson left the room at this time.

MOTION (by Mr. Lipmen): The Palms Neighborhood Council resolves that while high-capacity magazines are not the cause of gun violence, they make such tragic cases far more deadly. This Neighborhood Council believes the City should prohibit the possession of high-capacity ammunition magazines within the City of Los Angeles, and so supports the request for a report from the City Attorney, the Chief Legislative Analyst and the Police Department on the feasibility, effectiveness and benefits of such an ordinance. The report should consider issues of pre-emption by, and compatibility with, current and proposed state and federal law. The Palms Neighborhood Council will write a Community Impact Statement in support of Council File 13-0068 (Prohibit Possession of High-Capacity Ammunition Magazines).

MOTION FAILED for lack of a second.

Board Members Niall MacMenamin and Terry Robinson returned to the room at this time.

6. Assembly Business & Announcements

There was no more business or announcements at this time.

7. Adjournment

MOTION to ADJOURN (by Mr. Lipmen).

MOTION to ADJOURN PASSED by a voice vote.

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 9:37 p.m.

[A Special Assembly Meeting immediately followed this Meeting.]