WEST LOS ANGELES SAWTELLE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (WLASNC)
REGULAR BOARD MEETING – MINUTES 11/16/16

Meeting begins 7:13 PM
Ends: 9:00 PM (approximate)

I. Call to Order

Attending: Eric Nakamura (Vice Chair), Jamie Keeton (Chair), Jay Handal (Treasurer), Naomi Kageyama (Sec’y), Greg Ericksen (OR Director), Ron Migdal, Jean Shigematsu, Arman Ghorbani and Xochitl Gonzalez. Quorum achieved with 9 members attending.

Absent: Rosie Kato, Zana Glisovic, Danilo Torro, Kirk Watanabe and Jian Kerendian.

II. General Public Comment

Alexa A: Wanted to know how long Nike had use of the Civic Center Skate Park. Asked about trash pickup at the skate park within the Civic Center. Wanted to know if the Civic Center could be used for more special events. WLANC Treasurer Handal noted that the Skate Park was approved by Councilman Bonin and it was “in perpetuity” (i.e. unlimited) with Nike providing $15K per year for upkeep and trash pickup. There are efforts to remove trash more regularly and obtain new tables and chairs for the area. Chair Keeton added that she has spoken to Councilman Bonin’s office about this as well. It was also noted that the space is available for special events.

Janet C.: Asked that community partner reports be possibly moved to the end of the meeting so more community-focused concerns are heard by the majority of participants who attend. The community partner reports go on a long time. Chair Keeton

Sylvie M.: They are giving away free trees at the Farmer’s Market on 12/4/16. 50 trees available.

Adrian Cross: Is interested in becoming the organizational representative for the NC. Will submit an application.

Brian Paul: Green Progressive affiliation. Wants to collect enough signatures to get on ballot for upcoming City Council election in 2017.

III. Community Partner Reports – No Reports at this meeting

IV. Approvals

a. Draft meeting minutes of October 26, 2016 minutes (Secretary Naomi Kageyama)

Minutes from 10/26/16 (regular meeting) were reviewed. Motion to accept minutes. 9 approve. 2 abstain. Motion passed.

b. MERs report (Treasurer Handal)
No MERs report for October 2016 because Treasurer still waiting for information from LA City for end of month details. A Treasurer’s Report was handed out.

c. Approve participation in the homeless count

Motion to participate in the SPA 5 annual Homeless Count. Unanimous approval. Motion passes.

V. Work on and Approve Strategic Plan

Worksheet on developing a Strategic Plan is provided by Jasmine Elbarbary from Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE)

Facilitator: Stephen Box from Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE), Director of Outreach & Communications

- Overview of the reason for having a Strategic Plan. And the importance of having the “big vision” to guide the WLASN for the coming year.
- Chair Keeton noted that the “big vision” rests on getting out of Exhaustive Efforts (EE) while instilling better cooperation and cooperation between board members
- Some prior drafts were reviewed.
- Discussion about specific ‘metrics’ that the NC can measure themselves with.
- Examples of various ideas
- Engaging with surrounding NC’s
- More information about development projects and give them out in a more timely manner
- More dialogue with community residents
- Examples of outreach
- Becoming a better ‘voice’ for the community
- The role of the NC – education for stakeholders
- We need to be better story-tellers
- Need more one-on-one connections with stakeholders. Door-knocking.
- Need more town halls.
- Need more bilingual efforts (large Oaxacan community)
- Outreach to local neighborhood groups and clubs
- Efforts to make residents feel more empowered
- The board needs to become more functional and less “toxic”.
- Need to create more opportunities for engagements
- Emergency preparedness plan for the community.
- Animal control and ‘no kill’ initiatives.
- More connection with the Commission
- More informed grievance process in place.

After about an hour of discussion Vice Chair Nakamura suggested comments to be heard from community members sitting in the audience. Comments:

- New participants to the NC may not always feel welcome because they don’t know the rules (e.g. 1 minute)
- Residents want more timely information.
- Wants meetings to be more friendly and welcoming.
- Residents need more understanding of the protocols for the NC. Also history and information about topics on the agenda
- Facilitator Box noted that other NC’s have greeters and hospitality procedures in place for meetings.
- Those with institutional knowledge should share knowledge about past as well as current events.
- One resident says that they don’t need to hear about past hostility among NC. Maybe focus on new participants and active civic engagement.
- NC members talked about bylaws and standing rules. Rules, boundaries, process etc.
So big vision: Engage and keep track of new people. Educate and inform. Raise the standard for civic engagement through widespread outreach, personal outreach and education of stakeholders at every level.

Then the discussion continued to more specific goals:

- Standing rules and policies need to be finalized. Boundaries, policies, process. Needs to be done once and then we can be done with it. This is a good operational goal.
- ‘Fresh Meat’! Need to engage new people. Maybe keeping track of the number of participants attending meetings.
- Ask on-line users if they are new to the site.
- Some specific topics to focus on include traffic and homelessness.
- More specific projects (e.g. civic center revitalization)
- 2 levels of outreach – those with very little understanding of NC. And those already focused on community engagement and want more info on issues – e.g. new developments.
- Have a ‘Development’ Town Hall for residents. Maybe other Town Halls.
- Need Active Committees.
- PLUM needs support
- Need to plan ahead – communication and outreach on a more scheduled basis.
- More information on planning and land use on the website. A better ‘index’ of current developments and an ‘archive’ of prior developments. And more information and explanations.

Budget: There was a general discussion on the usefulness of a budget since funding is restricted while the NC is in exhaustive efforts (EE).

Overall a Strategic Plan is required as part of ongoing operations for the NC’s. The Strategic Plan includes a budget plan. Various board members will provide goals and other info to Chair Keeton in order to develop a draft Strategic Plan.

Bylaws plus Standing Rules provide overall structure

Standing Rules can be changed more easily than Bylaws.

VI. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

None.

VII. Board Comment and Announcements

- For Thanksgiving 2000 – 3000 people served at the local VA. Annual VA event. Over 600 volunteers. Volunteers welcome. Full service and complete meals.

- Housekeeping. After meetings please take trash and all personal belongings.

- Chair Keeton asked board members if anyone knew where NC laptop is located.

- Emergency preparedness including a ‘bin’. A question was asked if this is available for NC’s. Board Member Migdal will bring more information about bins and also CERT.

- Homeless Liaison meeting on 11/20/16 at City Hall. Several members noted they could attend.
- It was decided that there would be NO meeting in December 2016.

- NC copier should only be used for NC business. There needs to be a personal code for copies. This can be part of the standing rules. Konica Minolta can assign codes.

VIII. Adjournment
9 pm

RECORDING MEETINGS – Note that Board meetings may be sound or recorded for backup to Minutes. We look forward to seeing you!

SERVICIOS DE TRADUCCION – Si require servicios de traduccion, favor de avisar al Concejo Vecinal 3 días de trabajo (72 horas) antes del evento. Por favor contacte a Xochitl Gonzalez al xochiti@wlanc.com para avisar al Concejo Vecinal.