WEST LOS ANGELES SAWTELLE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
BOARD MEETING AGENDA MINUTES
Wednesday, May 23, 2018, 7:00 PM
Felicia Mahood Multipurpose Senior Center
11338 Santa Monica Boulevard – Community Room – Los Angeles, CA 90025

Attending: Jamie Keeton (Chair), Eric Nakamura (Vice Chair), Jay Handal (Treasurer) (Jay Handal arrived at 7:08 p.m.), Ron Migdal, Jean Shigematsu, Naomi Kageyama, Jay Ross, Desa Philadelphia, Jennifer Gavina, Arman Ghorbani.

Absent: Danilo Torro, Zana Glisovic, Partho Kalyani (named as part of roll call, but has resigned from West Sawtelle Neighborhood Council Board)

TIME BEGINS: 7:06 p.m. TIME ENDS: 9:12 p.m.
Community and stakeholder members present: count not taken

I. Call to Order
Chair Jamie Keeton called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

New Field Deputy Shannon from Supervisor Sheila Kuehl’s office introduced herself, and said she would be attending meetings and staying connected with the West Sawtelle board and its stakeholders, inviting them to feel free to contact her.

Hannah Levien, Field Deputy for 11th Council District Councilmember Mike Bonin, introduced herself and gave updates on community projects. The tennis courts will be done on Friday, May 25. Also, $2,500 had been approved for outdoor summer movie screenings in Stoner Park. Levien then finished by saying that Councilmember Bonin was seeking community input for potential Metro BikeShare locations via his Facebook page, and invited stakeholders to contribute. She also thanked stakeholders who provided feedback on the street vending ordinance.

LAPD Officer James Lavenson, Senior Lead Officer for the West LA Sawtelle area, introduced himself and summarized a crime meeting held the day previous with detectives from the LAPD, concluding that West LA Sawtelle had been pretty lucky compared to other areas. Captain Valencia Thomas and Captain Linley are fairly new heads, and are pushing the Special Olympics torch run in two weeks. Officer Lavenson gave out his email, 30627@lapd.online, and encouraged stakeholders to email him with any issues they might have. He summarized the crimes in the region as being mostly property crimes, with the number one most common crime being theft from cars. Their violent crimes are usually homeless people fighting other homeless people over property, money, and sometimes over drugs or alcohol. He added that they had seen a huge increase in heroin use among homeless in the area.

Eric Nakamura asked Officer Lavenson whether there had been an update on the police shooting involving a dog last week near Stoner Park. Officer Lavenson confirmed that he could not comment on it, but that the Force Investigation Division was investigating the incident. He emphasized that if police have to use any force including deadly force, they do not take it lightly. Keeton asked if he knew when they were going to clean up the bloody pawprints on Mississippi between Stoner and the next street, and Officer Lavenson asked her to send her specific location information and he would make sure it was clean by tomorrow.

II. General Public Comment

[Community Partner Janet Turner arrived late but her comments are included here for the sake of minutes: A Community Partner (Janet Turner) from Congressman Lieu’s office communicated that he had been hard at work in DC. He had gotten three bills cosponsored passed in the House which are now going to the Senate. One was the Music Modernization Act, which increases fair payment for musicians. Another was the VA Mission act, which provided for more home care for veterans of all wars, not just post-9-11 wars. He also passed the Hack Your State Department act, which involves the State Department working with hackers to show the flaws in their security system. Other legislation in the works includes HR5573, the Robocall act, which expands and clarifies the abilities to prohibit unwanted telephone calls. Also, the FAA Reauthorization Bill, including provisions to reduce noise pollution. And she said that Lieu wrote a letter to the FDA in concern about their efforts to test lysosate levels in food. He is concerned that they’re finding lysoplates in wheat crackers, corn meal.]

III. Approvals

a. Outstanding draft meeting minutes
Migdal moved, and Philadephia seconded.

Motion to approve outstanding draft of last meeting’s minutes. 10 Yes (Keeton, Nakamura, Handal, Migdal, Shigematsu, Ross, Philadelphia, Ghorbani, Gavina). 0 No. 1 Abstain (Kageyama). Motion passes.
Migdal moved, Kerendian seconded.

Ross asked what happens now following $5,000 being allocated to the Westside community coalition, and Keeton explained that they had received a check from the city, and spent the money how they said they were going to spend it. Her understanding was that Greg (last name needed? - Ericksen) was keeping receipts and track of the money. Ross asked if there could be an ongoing agenda item to check in and make sure that their money is being spent property, and Keeton responded that they could do that once the project is done perhaps, but does not think it is appropriate to make it a monthly item. Handal added that this is not up for approval on the current month’s agenda, and was approved last month and has not been paid yet. He moved that this discussion was out of order.

Stakeholder Rosie Kato, going back to the Neighborhood Purpose Grant, said that they had to follow up with the board with the person who wrote the NPG. Second, she asked why a phone bill included in the MER was so high. Handal responded that the phone bills for the council had been forwarded downtown to DONE for months, so they were just coming now to him and were outstanding for the council office’s land line, wifi, and DSL. Stakeholder Kato said that for transparency purposes, they should have the entire bill attached to the MER.

Motion to approve outstanding draft of last meeting’s minutes. 11 Yes (Keeton, Nakamura, Handal, Migdal, Shigematsu, Ross, Philadelphia, Ghorbani, Gavina, Kageyama). 0 No. 0 Abstain. Motion passes.

IV. Presentation by Sugarman Group re: Trident Center Project and renewed discussion of PLUM motion from January 2018 meeting

Will do public comment immediately after presentation.

Steve Sugarman introduced himself as a representative on behalf of McCarthy Cook, owners of the Trident Center property, to talk about the plan to transform the center. This was their fifth appearance before the West LA Sawtelle Neighborhood Council, so he was just going over highlights. The Trident Center plot was built in 1983, and part of it was built in 2005. The project will be a model for sustainability and bring numerous benefits for area residents through modernizing the space. There would be sitting space, a dog park, retail space, and a shared parking plan. They have received excellent feedback after being encouraged by PLUM in August of last year to conduct more outreach. They mailed to 5,000 residents and knocked on 1,200 doors, in addition to having an information night for the community so they could ask questions and meet the architect. They also had residents vote on the design of public areas. This is a surgical change that brings benefits to the property as well; it connects the two buildings for earthquake safety, enhances long-term business viability. They are also activating Olympic boulevard through retail space, and creating transit connections to the expo line through shuttles to and from the property. They believe the community benefits surrounding the property are extremely significant and respond directly to feedback we’ve received.

The item was then opened to public comment, and a city representative, Glen (Last name needed? - Len Nguyen, Sr. Field Deputy for Councilmember Mike Bonin), said that he wanted to provide to provide general comments: one of the things that was identified in the 2015 parking study that his office funded with development communities was to take a look at the parking issue along Sawtelle and spillover parking. They commissioned that study in 2014, with a report produced in 2016. They identified the Trident Center as a possible parking opportunity to do a partnership and provide more parking at a cheap cost, essentially turning it into a de facto parking garage. McCarthy Cook agreed to make 150 parking spaces available at nights after 6 PM and on weekends. The cost will be low, and they feel this is a community benefit. As a deputy for 15 years, he has never seen an opportunity like this.

Public comment Rosie:

Stakeholder Rosie commented that since they were talking about activating Olympic blvd, she requested (as she said she has time and again) to have an ADA disability ramp put in on Olympic. She also asked how many people they actually spoke to when knocking on doors, and said that they should be making more than 150 spaces available if they have 300 spaces total. A stakeholder said he always walks along Olympic, and thinks that walk sucks right now, so he is all for this. Keeton then read a letter from Brian O’Hara, who wanted to support this project. He thought Cook and his associates will support Japantown and engage with Japanese-American history and preserve it in the area.

Keeton also read a letter from Nancy Descobo (sp? – Vescovo ), who wanted to communicate her support, saying that the developers have worked hard to reach out to the Sawtelle community, particularly Japanese American residents, and incorporated a design that reflects Japanese-American heritage.

Nakamura read a letter by Jack Fujimoto - Fujimoto, who said that while he would not be attending the meeting, he wanted to show support for the concept. Nakamura then said he was himself enthused with the developers’ engagement with the community.

Migdal said he appreciated the amount of outreach the developers have done.

Ross had an individual motion, not a PLUM one. He thought that in general the developer’s proposal was a good start, but they were asking for a zone change which is not typical. As a result, he believed they could ask for an extra donation to Stoner Park and to an affordable housing fund, and thought it was a fair request. His opinion was that they do not need more
office space, but rather housing, so his motion is to put residential space instead of office on the upper floors. They are asking to increase their allowed size by 32% with this zone change.

Handal was concerned that Mr. Ross had submitted a proposal to the board on West LA Sawtelle letterhead, which looks like it is coming officially from a committee or the board, and he would ask that this document be withdrawn immediately. He cited it as unethical and violating the use of the logo and name for personal use which none of them are allowed to do.

Keeton denied this motion, saying that Ross had submitted documents before using the letterhead and Handal had not raised objections, and thought it was clear looking at the document that it is from Jay Ross to the rest of the board. Handal requested that the DONE representative present, Jazmin (last name? Jasmine Elbarbary), bring the document to the city attorney, and Keeton reiterated that it was for personal use to inform the board. She would request Jazmin to bring this back to the city attorney, but asked that they move on.

Handal continued to say that the community benefit from this building is tremendous, whether it’s 150 spaces or 200 spaces or 300 spaces, and that the dog park and the gorgeous design of the building is incredibly beneficial. He motioned to approve the project as presented. Keeton clarified that there were two motions discussed, and added that Ross’ motion was not seconded.

Migdal seconded Jay’s motion, and discussion began on Handal’s motion. Handal said that he thought this project could do for Olympic what similar projects have done for Santa Monica Blvd.

Ghorbani asked if the developers had a breakdown of what kinds of housing and spaces would be in the project. Sugarman responded that they have no residential units currently, as it’s all office space and ground floor retail.

Stakeholder Kato said that her question hasn’t been answered. Keeton responded that Sugarman had not had a chance to speak yet, and admonished Kato for being disruptive, and said that public comment was not for asking questions.

Nakamura thought that the parking was going to be helpful, even if it’s just 150 spaces. He lamented that the building right now is like a fortress, and as far as business spaces, there’s a bank there, and that it’s. He thought there were a lot of problems with the building as is, and that this redesign will be useful.

Kerendian thought that there are inconsistencies with the information as presented to the council, and cautioned that whatever the developers are presenting here will not necessarily be the project they get 3, 4, or 5 years from now. He also believes that they have not analyzed the height issue around the property properly.

Philadelphia said she would like for the front of the development can’t be more flush with the sidewalk in order to make it as accessible as possible. She feels in general that they should be moving towards designs that prioritize accessibility. She also thought that the developers’ mailing and community outreach efforts were a great start, and encouraged them to engage with the community going forward and after the project is complete. She sees this project as one that can form beneficial partnerships with restaurants and businesses around the project so that they don’t just have this kind of engagement during the building process.

Keeton said that she had met city representative Glen in 2016 to talk about the parking issues in the area, and was very excited by the project in its current form, which has a lot of potential for Sawtelle, and would encourage people to visit Sawtelle thanks to the extra parking. The outreach is larger with this project than other ones they have seen. And as far as rezoning, she believes that this is a different time and a different project, into which a lot of consideration has been put.

Kageyama said that she appreciated what the Sugarman Group had done for the community, and that she’d been at several of the events they had mentioned. But she also realized that it has been tabled before and hasn’t come to the board level, and that they should have a little more time to talk about the concessions. She believed the motion was a little rushed, although she appreciates the job they did of reaching out to community leaders.

Ross asked whether the parking agreement between city representative Glen and the developers has been signed in writing, and Glen confirmed it had not, and that they hadn’t scheduled public hearings about it yet.

Ross then proposed an amendment that the developers pay a contribution to Stoner Park and the previously mentioned affordable housing fund, and that the amount for each could be discussed. Migdal seconded the amendment.

Philadelphia said that she did not like to mandate good neighborhood behavior, and thought that if the developers were not good neighbors, the board would hear about it from the community. But she does not think they should mandate good neighborhood behavior.

Handal did not think it was legal or proper to ask developers to give money in return for the council to vote on motions. He encouraged the developer to have discussions with board members later on about how they can contribute to the community.

Sugarman said that there will be an agreement that the city will evaluate, but they have not begun working with the city council office. When they negotiate, the community will have a chance to be heard on it, and a formal development agreement will be formulated sometime down the road.

Keeton said that she agreed with Handal that they were not the kind of body who can put conditions on the project like the ones mentioned, and agreed with Philadelphia that they shouldn’t be shaking the developers down.

Kageyama asked when the public hearing would be, and Sugarman said that the hearing would be on June 27th followed by a planning commission review and vote. Kageyama said that she would like to hear more community input before the council makes an approval process, and asked why they were rushing it through now.

Migdal said that in light of the fact that they were strictly an advisory board, he did not think it premature to give approval to the project.

Keeton called the vote for Ross’ amendment.

Motion to amend Jay Handal’s motion to require the developers pay a contribution to Stoner Park and the previously mentioned affordable housing fund, and that the amount for each could be discussed. 3 Yes (Ross, Shigematsu, Kageyama). 6 No (Handal, Ghorbani, Philadelphia, Keeton, Garvani, Nakamura) 2 Abstain (Kerendian, Migdal). Motion fails.
Handal’s original motion was then brought up to vote:

Motion to approve the Sugerman Group’s plan for renovating the Trident Center as presented. 8 Yes (Handal, Ghorbani, Philadelphia, Shigematsu, Keeton, Nakamura, Migdal, Gavina). 1 No (Ross). 2 Abstain (Kerendian, Naomi). Motion passes.

V. Presentation by Laila Alequresh re: Public Works

Laila Alequresh was not present.

VI. Discussion and Possible Motion re: Los Angeles City Council Street Vending Ordinance

No discussion.

VII. Report on ADA office situation

Keeton said that she had been informed from someone at CD11 that the first row of seating had been removed and the barrier removed in response to the ADA complaint against the neighborhood council’s office. Field Deputy Levien elaborated and said that the barrier in the former meeting room had not been removed but is slated to be removed by General Services to make the room fully compliant, and it would be removed in a couple weeks.

Stakeholder Kato asked if anyone discussed this with the stakeholder who filed the complaint against the board, and Keeton reminded her that it was inappropriate for board members to respond to questions asked during public comment. Kato asserted that the Brown Act said they could ask questions and expect answers, and again asked if the stakeholder who filed the complaint was contacted.

Keeton replied that she did not think the board had contacted the stakeholder who filed the complaint, but added that the additional complaints regarding air circulation and fumes had been taken care of, and the small barriers were being dealt with.

VIII. Establishment of Public Works Committee

Ross explained that the idea was to put public works through PLUM, a separate committee can address public works that come up.

Keeton saw that there was no interest among the board members and no volunteers to form said committee, and said they could bring it up next month.

IX. Outreach Report

Nakamura said he had no report prepared, but summarized that the committee had met and was discussing concerts in the park, and had had public input on what movies to show in Stoner Park this summer. The committee is having printed material made for that to pass out, and a newsletter is in the progress of being made.

Stakeholder Kato asked who the postcards and notices were going out to, and said that in the past, people and neighbors she knew hadn’t gotten any similar materials. Keeton said that she didn’t think the radius of the Outreach Committee’s mailing had been determined yet. Kato asked if they could get a quote on how many flyers and postcards are being sent out. Keeton replied that they knew the money they have to spend on it, so Outreach will buy as many flyers and postcards as they can with their allotted budget.

[Community Partner Janet Turner spoke at this point; see section on ‘Community Partner’ reports for details]

X. Bylaws Report

a. Motion regarding quorum requirements for committees

Keeton explained that they don’t have a quorum number set for committees and feels it is a good time to set quorum numbers.

Ross motioned, and Migdal seconded.

Ross asked for clarity if the city attorney wanted the council to do this, and Keeton said that the city attorney’s advice in response to questions of quorum was to deal with it at board level. Migdal said that the motion looked like it established quorum at over 50% of members. Ghorbani asked whether that referred to board members or total members, and Keeton confirmed that it was total members of each committee.

Motion regarding quorum requirements for committees. 10 Yes (Ross, Kageyama, Handal, Ghorbani, Philadelphia, Keeton, Garvani, Nakamura, Kerendian, Migdal). 0 No. 1 Abstain (Shigematsu). Motion passes.

A stakeholder asked what the quorum number was now for committees, and Keeton explained that on a committee of 8 or 9 members, quorum is 5, for 6 or 7 members, quorum is 4, for 4 or 5 members, quorum is 3, and on a committee of 2-3 members, quorum is 2.

b. Motion to add committee members to Bylaws

Keeton said that there was an application from Jay Handal to be on the Bylaws Committee, and asked if anyone else was interested in joining the Bylaws Committee. Migdal and Philadelphia were interested. Handal withdrew his application. Ross moved to add Philadelphia to the committee, Keeton seconded.

Motion to add board member Desa Philadelphia to the Bylaws Committee. 11 Yes (Ross, Kageyama, Handal, Ghorbani, Philadelphia, Keeton, Garvani, Nakamura, Kerendian, Migdal, Shigematsu). 0 No. 0 Abstain. Motion passes.
XI. Public Safety Report
Migdal wanted to highlight some earlier events since there wasn’t a big crowd at the last special meeting. In late March, the Public Safety committee held a safety meeting at Fire Station 59 with a decent turnout. SLO Lavenson came and did a powerpoint regarding safety in the area. They also voted unanimously to recommend the board pay for cameras in Stoner Park to alleviate graffiti tagging in the area. Migdal also went to Pancakes with Cops, which had a really good public turnout. The Paralympics are supported by the LAPD and he is still taking donations for the events, and Migdal added that if any stakeholders have public safety issues, they should see him or committee members, including Handal, Torro, and Philadelphia.

Ross said that several months ago stakeholders were here and asking about reporting on sexual assaults and getting information on sexual assaults; Philadelphia said that they should discuss it at the next committee meeting and make a recommendation. Handal added for the record that the LAPD will not release information until they are ready to release it, because it might jeopardize ongoing investigations.

Migdal added that there are privacy issues related to reporting of sexual assault crimes, and said that SLO Lavenson also attends Public Safety Committee meetings, so stakeholders with concerns should come to those and address SLO Lavenson. Philadelphia said that she thinks the fact that the LAPD is not releasing any data at all is the reason why stakeholders want information or at least reports about specific types of crimes. Handal wanted to couple on what Philadelphia was saying, and said that SLO Lavenson sends out a crime report about what’s happening in the area regularly, and if people aren’t getting the crime report, they can put information in the board newsletter when they come out with it on how to join the crime report email list.

Keeton said that she thought what he actually said was that they could not release info about sexual assault during a period where several rapes happened last year, and one of them was thought to be unrelated to the rest, and was therefore not included in the crime report to protect the investigation.

Stakeholder Kato said that the issue about the rapes goes back two years ago to July 4th, when people were not told about them, and had to hear about it on the news. She believed the police can always give out the modus operandi of the rapist to alert women, including the time of day and other information so they can be more alert and defensive.

XII. Selection of members for Yamaguchi Center ad hoc committee
Keeton said that she had received an email from a stakeholder saying they really wanted to be on the committee dealing with parking at Yamaguchi; since that happened, Nakamura had talked to Manny Salzman at the center.

Nakamura said that he had contacted Manny and talked to him on the phone. Manny said he has two neighborhood parking spaces on Mississippi. None of his cars should be parking around the corner with his permits, since they are for guests of the building. The valet is not supposed to repark any car off of his lot since he’s not insured for that. It had been happening without his knowledge, apparently.

Evan Kitahara, local stakeholder, who lives on 2000 block of Corinth, said that he had come with his wife and group of neighbors. He wanted to thank the council members for their service, and said that he and his group were here because they were concerned about issues about the Yamaguchi Center, and would like to participate in the Ad Hoc committee. All the neighbors here live around the Center, and have personal knowledge of the parking issues, plus photographic evidence contradicting Manny’s statements.

Keeton volunteered to be on the Ad Hoc committee, and asked Kitahara’s group to choose two of them to be on committee. She recommended they meet next week to begin talking about issues. Kitahara submitted himself and his neighbor Mr. Marcagwi (sp?) Kerendian. Kerendian suggested that they investigate Zoning Administration reports to see what kind of restrictions are in effect on the property, and to report them if the Yamaguchi Center is violating them.

XIII. Scheduling Joint PLUM/Board Meeting for standard conditions
The agenda item was removed

XIV. Inventory Report
Handal said that this had already been reported on, that Kyle (last name needed? – Kyle Stone) from DONE came out a couple months ago, and they did a full inventory which was submitted to DONE.

Ross said that there was a laptop that they had purchased two years ago, and it was gone from previous inventories. He asked if they ever found out where it was. Keeton said that when it was reported initially, no one knew where it was. Handal said that it was purchased 5 years ago, has been missing for at least 2 years, and inquiries were put to everyone on past and present boards. The last time it was seen was when Al (last name needed? Al Casas was long time chair for the PLUM committee) used it in a meeting.

Ross then added whether they owned the chairs and tables mentioned in the inventory report, and Handal confirmed that they did, and that his last understanding was that they were behind the band shell in Stoner Park. Ross asked when they could meet to check the band shell, since it was city property.
Field Deputy Levien said that the idea was to have Ross, her, and a representative from DONE go to inventory the contents of the storage behind the band shell, and that it would happen as soon as a time was suggested that works for everyone. She confirmed that the city has the keys to the lock on the band shell storage.

Stakeholder Kato said that it was odd that the West LA Sawtelle Neighborhood Council was storing items in a city facility, and that the items should be in the council’s office so they have direct access.

**XV. PLUM Report and Motions**

a. Motion to add Board Member to PLUM

Ghorbani and Handal have both applied to be members of the Planning and Land Use Management committee, and there are two open seats following the resignation of Kalyani. Keeton moved to consider the application of Handal, and Migdal seconded.

Keeton moved Handal. Migdal seconded. Kerendian said that he thought both Ross and Handal being on PLUM would not be a good combination and might lead to increased friction on the committee. Handal responded, saying that he thought it was a great opportunity to expedite PLUM matters and facilitate consensus on items like the Trident Center, adding that if they were afraid of crossfire, that is not what a committee should be.

Nakamura commented that during the last meeting, it seemed that Handal had done his homework and pushed through an hour and a half’s worth of PLUM items in only half an hour. He also said that Ross and Handal seemed to work well together in that meeting.

Migdal commented that he thought the exchange of opposing ideas is a good thing.

Ross began asking questions of Handal, including about his primary residence, work he’s done for architects at projects, and his relationship with a building at 12330 Pico. Handal responded that he lived on Rutland, that he had worked with architects and given them advice previously, and did not disclose to the neighborhood council because they were not doing disclosures at the time. He said that he had supplied financing for the building at 12330 Pico, but had never worked as building manager, and was not soliciting work with developers in the neighborhood council’s district.

Ross expressed concern that Handal looks at projects and votes for ones that are as big as possible, whereas Ross’s idea of PLUM’s mission is to come to a compromise with developers. Ross believes that they are going to want more open space, more trees, and more affordable housing in the future, and has seen Handal resist things like that. Ross believes PLUM should not be developer-first.

Handal asserted that when he has made motions and spoken on developments related to PLUM, he has not rammed the item through, and that the board vote has always been strongly for. He accused Ross of alienating PLUM members and developers in the area, leading to PLUM committee meetings not meeting quorum.

Ross denied this, and Keeton cautioned everyone to tone down their rhetoric.

Handal moved that Ross’s PLUM meetings be filmed, because he has received complaints from developers who feel bullied in PLUM meetings run by Ross. He urged that they should be negotiating calmly and sanely with developers, and shouldn’t tell a developer entitled to 4 stories that they can only have 2. He asserted that such behavior was why PLUM items fail at the board’s table more than 60% of the time. That is why he wants to go back on PLUM, so they can have these debates at PLUM and bring forward realistic ideas.

Migdal asked Handal if he had ever accepted fees from developers for helping them navigate projects, and Handal said that he had not in this district. Migdal then asked Ross if he thought he could still realize his vision for PLUM even with Handal on the committee, and Ross replied that his vision is to represent the neighbors, and he sees Handal representing the developers first.

The item was opened for public comment, and a stakeholder who had been on two PLUM committees in the past 7 years, one that Handal was on, and one that he wasn’t on, spoke about Handal’s time on the committee. He described how when Handal was on the committee, every meeting had developers showing up with presentations. He is currently on the PLUM committee, and developers are not showing up and he finds it frustrating. The developers come to these meetings voluntarily, and if they know the PLUM committee is a wreck, they won’t show up.

Philadelphia wanted to caution against talking about developers as if they are not stakeholders in the neighborhood. They are also neighbors for lack of a better term. She said if they treat them as such, she feels they can demand that they be good neighbors and expect that. But if the board treats them as if they are encroaching carpetbaggers who have no interest in integrating in the community that is what they will get.

| Motion to add board member Jay Handal as a member of the Planning and Land Use Management Committee. 7 Yes (Keeton, Shigematsu, Nakamura, Gavina, Migdal, Philadelphia, Handal). 1 No (Ross). 3 Abstain (Kageyama, Ghorbani, Kerendian). Motion passes. |

Keeton moved for Ghorbani to be added to the PLUM committee.

Ross said that Ghorbani believes in backing up neighbors in the community, and that he is smart and studying very hard in school for architecture. The previous stakeholder who is a member of PLUM added that Ghorbani was already voted to be on PLUM by the committee’s members.

| Motion to add board member Arman Ghorbani application to become Northwest Representative. 10 Yes (Keeton, Shigematsu, Nakamura, Gavina, Migdal, Philadelphia, Handal, Ross, Kageyama, Kerendian). 0 No. 1 Abstain (Ghorbani). Motion passes. |

b. Motion re: speed traps
Ross referred board members to their packets, and explained that the motion relates to increased speeds on some streets in the area, and the only way he could think of to stop the change is to change the state law regarding speed limits. He motioned, and asked the board if they were concerned about the issue or had any ideas about solutions. Keeton replied that she did not feel the item had merit; even if they did send a letter to the legislature as the motion asks, the legislature would not care, and Sawtelle Blvd is a parking lot anyway during the day.

Stakeholder Kato said that it was a public safety issue since the speed limit had gone to 40 mph from 35 mph all along Century, which is not always congested. She said there was something wrong if Councilmember Bonin is not supporting their community and keeping it safe by raising the speed limit.

Handal moved to postpone this item to schedule a motor officer from the LAPD to talk about speed tables and explain how the state determines what speed limits should be and where. Migdal seconded, and the motion was tabled.

Handal moved.

Ross explained that the motion was something the Westside Regional Council’s Planning Committee came up with, and explained that it placed restrictions on Air B and B’s in the area, and added that money collected via taxes would go to enforcement of them, since there are never enough inspectors in LA to make sure Air B and B’s are abiding by regulations.

| Motion re: short term rentals. 10 Yes (Keeton, Nakamura, Handal, Migdal, Shigematsu, Kageyama, Ross, Philadelphia, Ghorbani, Gavina). 0 No. 0 Abstain. Motion passes. |

| d. Motion re: Bundy Triangle Park Expansion |

Keeton explained that PLUM had voted 3-0-0 that the board request that the City of LA create a public park to expand the Bundy Triangle area to Ohio Avenue. Various board members had clarification questions, and it was determined that the city would also have to put a left turn signal in as well as a result of the expansion.

Ghorbani emphasized the need to keep the bike lane on Broadway open, since it is a great entrance into the surrounding neighborhood. Kageyama asked whether anyone had approached businesses along Ohio Avenue about the potential expansion, and thought they would be remiss if they didn’t ask the business owners and property owners about how the expansion would affect them.

Ross suggested tabling it for a month so he could invite business owners and stakeholders to have their say.

Stakeholder Kato suggested the board should go to DMT regarding the traffic issues, and added that there is a barbershop and a beauty salon on the stretch that would be affected by the expansion, and that they need to be consulted.

XVI. Consideration of applications to vacant Board seat

Keeton explained that they now have a vacancy for Northwest Representative because of Partho Kalyani’s resignation. Stakeholders Galen and Dylan have applied to fill the vacant seat, but neither were present at the meeting. There was also an application from board member Jennifer Gavina to become the NW representative.

Handal moved to consider her application, and Keeton seconded.

During public comment, stakeholder Kato asked Gavina how long she has been on the board, and noted that Gavina has not volunteered for any committees. Keeton cut her off, saying that her public comment had become an interrogation. Gavina replied that she has been a member of the board since October or November, and has not joined committees because she wanted to get her bearings as a board member first.

| Motion to consider board member Jennifer Gavina’s application to become Northwest Representative. 9 Yes (Keeton, Nakamura, Handal, Migdal, Shigematsu, Kageyama, Ross, Philadelphia, Ghorbani). 0 No. 0 Abstain (Gavina). Motion passes. |

Handal said he would like to open up the organizational seat to discuss next month, and emphasized that regarding the continued back and forth between public commenters and the board, the rules are clear: when an individual is making public comment, they are addressing the board as a whole, not individuals, and the quizzing of individual board members needs to stop. Keeton agreed, and expected that there will be none of it next meeting.

XVII. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

A stakeholder commented on the board asking developers for donations, and called it purely a bribe. He said he had brought this up about six years ago and the city attorney did say it was illegal.

Stakeholder Evan Kitahara talked about the new popularity of Bird electric scooters around Sawtelle, and brought to the attention of the board the safety issues involved, including multiple near-collisions between stakeholders, and several collisions around Sawtelle and Corinth. Chairwoman Keeton said that the Councilman’s office is looking into it, and that it’s a good idea to have it on the agenda for next time. Handal added that a former member of Councilman Ryu’s office was now a public affairs official with Bird, and he can ask him to come to future meetings and talk with stakeholders.

Stakeholder Rosie Kato added that the Bird scooters have been ridden on the sidewalk and the street, and have been running stop signs. She said that the other issue is that when Bird scooter renters park them, they park them right in the middle of the sidewalk, but they need to park on public parkways.

XVIII. Board Comment and Announcements
Kageyama commented that the West LA Sawtelle board had previously had a working Homeless Committee chaired by a past board member, and she thinks that given various homeless initiatives being worked on in the city of LA, it is timely and important that the West LA Sawtelle neighborhood council reform a homeless committee. She asked to agendize the issue for next meeting.

Migdal announced that tomorrow is Red Nose Day, where money raised during Red Nose Day events and through the sale of Red Nose Day clown noses goes to several highly-rated charitable organizations. Noses can be purchased at Walgreens locations for one dollar.

Handal wanted to commend Migdal and Naomi, and thought the homeless committee was a great idea. He also wanted to agendize for next meeting a presentation on the Safe Parking program for the homeless as well as discussion on a test of the program in West LA Sawtelle. He also added that Budget Day is June 23rd at City Hall, and hopefully they will hear from the mayor, the city controller, and the CAO, and emphasized how important it is for citizens to have oversight on the city budget. Philadelphia wanted to say what a great idea she thought the homeless committee is. She added that for next meeting, she had a couple items that they could really use for the outreach committee to try and get more stakeholders to attend and for the election, and that they will be talking about a homeless committee at the Outreach Committee meeting since it is an issue that galvanizes the community.

Ross requested permanent agenda items for VP, Secretary and Treasurer reports every month in case other board members have questions.

**XIX. Adjournment**

Ross moved to adjourn, Migdal seconded. Meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at 9:12 p.m.

Notetaker:  John Parton, Apple 1 (Edits/spelling typos only by Secretary Kageyama)