

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CIUDAD DE LOS ANGELES

**WESTLAKE NORTH**  
**NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

**Minutes**

Regular Board Meeting

Thursday, July 11, 2019 - 6:30 p.m.

CENTRAL CITY NEIGHBORHOOD PARTNERS

Conference Room

501 S. BIXEL STREET

LOS ANGELES, CA 90017

BOARD OFFICERS

ERNESTO CASTRO, PRESIDENT

SARA LONCKA, VICE PRESIDENT

DANIELLE CINTRON, SECRETARY

ELAINE ALANIZ, TREASURER

BOARD MEMBERS

ELAINE ALANIZ - present

MANUEL AREVALO - present

DANIELLE CINTRON - present

CASANDRA CISNEROS - present

CHRISTINE JOHNSON - present

SARA LONCKA - absent

DONALD LEE - present

ERNESTO CASTRO - present

1. **Call to Order and Commission roll call** – 6:31pm. Sara Loncka not present. Manuel Arevalo on his way.

3. **Community /Government Reports & Announcements:**

a. LA City Council District Representative

Luis Gonzalez, Sr. Field Representative for City Council Member Gilbert Cedillo: Thank you for your partnership on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July event. It was a very successful event. There were over 600 attendees able to go there and enjoy the fireworks and music. It was phenomenal work and great information you were able to pass out. Also thank you for Hope and Peace Park event 2 months ago. We had almost a thousand people at that event. It was great to see so many community members in a pocket park, especially enjoying the summer and the splash pad. Thank you, Ernesto, and everyone else that was there.

Castro: Thank you, Luis. We were presented with a Certificate of Recognition...

Gonzalez: Oh, I can present it! (reads certificate and presents to Board Members. They all take a photo)

b. **LAPD Senior Leads / LAFD Representatives – not present**

c. **Government Departments/Agencies, including Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment.**

Mario Hernandez from Department of Neighborhood Empowerment: Housekeeping item – any board member with a Conflict of Interest or potential COI may want to recuse themselves if they haven't consulted with the City Attorney.

Update – Monday July 15<sup>th</sup>, is the first day of Civic U, a 3 consecutive Monday class here at CCNP. Put on with Mayor's Office coordinated with Cal State LA 5:30-9pm. All 3 meetings should be attended.

July 30<sup>th</sup> – Homelessness Liaison City Hall meeting. Office of the Mayor invited to give presentation along with an explanation of the CES. 6:30-8:30. Email coming out next week.

d. **Community Organizations**

Margarita Alvarez-Gomez: There was an Immigration Forum this Tuesday, which had over 30 people here with the Offices of Immigration Affairs. Working with Luis to host another. Many people with questions.

Doing Summer Camp culmination on Aug. 9, a Friday. Hopefully will have fliers. Will give out backpacks, trying to get supplies. Will also have resources that day – Partnering with Volunteers of America to provide food to everyone who comes to the event, bringing some games for that day as well. Main event held here, anything else in the parking lot.

Thursdays at CCNP are happening with 200 people for the pantry and transportation coupons from 10-1 and then 3-6. We don't have time to serve everyone in the line in the morning, so they stay in line for the afternoon.

Castro asked for confirmation of the date for the Culmination. Then asked about the Open House. Margarita did not remember the date for the Open House, but looked on said she'd follow up.

**4. General Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:** None

**5. Discussion and possible motion to approve the Monthly Expenditure Reports**

**(MERs) for the months of May 2019 and June 2019.**

Castro asks for Motion. Cisneros moves, Cintron seconded. No public comments. Cintron asked about badges, which Castro said were ready and needed to be picked up. Will be coordinated between Castro and Cintron.

Any other questions about expenditures? We'll take them one at a time. May first. Board Member comments or questions? None. Since this a budget item we will take a roll call vote. Approved unanimously (Loncka absent). Motion passes.

Castro: Looking at the month of June. It is a bit longer. Any public comments or questions? None.

Cisneros: Item number 5 is all of our swag? Castro: Yes – all the shirts, bottles... Cisneros: The professional spending item 3 – is that for \$425? Castro: I think that was for the pop-up banners. (Cintron noted it is billed separately and there are invoices.) We also got the pens in with a little bit of an issue. We'll go ahead and move on to vote. Unanimously approved (Loncka absent). Motion passes.

**6. Discussion and possible motion to reschedule the date and time for the Westlake North Neighborhood Council Board Retreat and approve up to \$750.00 for meeting space and food and refreshments.**

Castro: We approved the budget last year, but because we are using funds from a different fiscal year, we have to vote again. We were hoping to have the 13<sup>th</sup>, but since CCNP is not open, it would incur extra expense. Also some people said they possibly couldn't make it. So we wanted to see if we could agree on maybe a weekday to do it? They can be here until 10pm, we would just have to pay one extra hour. Fridays were recommended. We can look at any Friday in the month of July. Cintron – the 19<sup>th</sup>? Cisneros works, but is free on 26<sup>th</sup>. Johnson is not available, but all other members.

Castro would like everyone there so we can focus our efforts. It would be hard to make a decision if we have 1 or 2 people who are not going to be able to express their desires. Discussed multiple possible dates and settled on Wednesday, July 31<sup>st</sup>. Moved by Lee. Seconded by Arevalo. Public comments or questions? Alvarez – is that open to the public? Cintron – yes. Any other questions or comments? No, Board members. Alaniz? How much is being requested. Do you have an invoice? Ernesto – Mario do we need to have it itemized as to

how the payment request is split? Not at this time. Any other additional questions or comments? Seeing none, vote? Unanimously approved (Loncka absent). Motion passes

**7. Discuss and possible motion to approve a Co-Sponsorship with Council District 1 and up to \$1,000 for the purchase of popcorn and snacks for a Movie Night at Hope and Peace Park at 7pm on July 27th, 2019.**

Gonzalez gave flier for movie night to board members. On the 27<sup>th</sup> the Council Office will be hosting a movie night at the park. We did this last year and it was very successful last year. We had about 500 people. We will be showing The Incredibles 2. We have other partners providing pizza and raffle items. We are hoping you can provide popcorn or candy or something for the kids. We want them to have as much of a movie night experience as possible. You can have a booth if you want. Any questions for Luis?

Cisneros: Are there any other Neighborhood Councils pitching in for this event besides us? Not at this time. We are working with Westlake South as well, but for a different movie night.

Johnson: it would be great to have one on this side of town like at the police station. Gonzalez – yes we are open to do it any day or time you would like to have another one, we can do it. We have the equipment.

Cisneros: I'm supportive of this, but I feel like it isn't near our district. A lot of the things we've been involved in haven't really been in our area. It would be nice to have something in our neighborhood. Gonzalez – we are open to do anything within your boundaries.

Castro: any other board member questions.

Alaniz: Is it possible to get a blurb? I'm asking because it's a lot of paperwork for me. Luis – yes of course. We have done this in other places. Little pocket park with gang issues. What we tried to do is reactivate the park. Launching movie nights and barbecues. We got the splash pad in, it's the only one in the area. It is great for the kids whose parents don't have the money to afford a water park. It is working. I can tell you that right now. We have more and more families showing up every day. A year ago it was empty.

Any additional questions or comments? No. Since this is a budget item, we will have to take a roll call vote. Any public comments or questions? Seeing none, close discussion. Roll Call vote. Unanimous (Loncka absent). Motion passes.

**2. Administration of Neighborhood Council Oath of Office**

Governing body of Neighborhood Councils, board of Commissioners. Commissioner Wehbe: So nice to be here! I have the honor of being the commissioner for the Central area. I was born and raised in Hollywood, so I joke I have Hollywood Hills where people have the most discretionary funds, all the way down to Little Tokyo, Chinatown and Skid Row. So I represent diverse populations Just so you know, I did charter a Neighborhood Council in my area 17-18 years ago. During that time, I always had the impression that the Commission was there to certify the Councils. When I became a commissioner I found out it was so much more. We want

to hear from you. We have 99 certified Councils now. If there is a place left where there isn't a Council, I would be surprised. We now are looking at what the Neighborhood Councils need beyond where they started 15+ years ago. Officially the Commission was started by the City Charter in 1999. It the policy setting and oversight commission for Neighborhood Councils and also for the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment. There are 7 of us, appointed by the Mayor for 5 year terms. We have to go through the scrutiny of everyone else on the City Council, but we don't get paid. We are volunteering. We ethnically and racially represent the City of Los Angeles. We meet twice per month, but you can get ahold of us through email, etc. One of the things we're doing at our retreat in August is to work on what you all want and need: leadership development, statement of conflict resolution...some would like more teeth on that, removal policy, Code of Conduct, etc. It's all about finding out what you would like to have happen. Some NC have removal policies, some don't.

So who would I give this to so you have some background information on me (Cintron). All of the Commissioners have their bios online. Okay...other than that, would you please stand and repeat after me?

I have to say this is the nicest copy I have seen. I ask you to repeat after me. I'm not going to say everyone's name individually. Please speak it after me.

"I, \_\_\_\_\_, pledge to represent my Neighborhood Council with dignity, integrity, and Pride. I, \_\_\_\_\_, will encourage other points of view, even when they differ from my own. I, \_\_\_\_\_, will respect value and consider everyone's opinion. I, \_\_\_\_\_, will find the good in my neighborhood, praise it and promote it to my neighbors, and to neighbors throughout Los Angeles. I, \_\_\_\_\_, pledge to do this to the best of my ability. " You have been duly sworn in. Thank you so much for your service! (Council took picture with Wehbe and Hernandez)

Castro: At this time I would like to say thank you to Commissioner Wehbe. Hernandez: You can sign the certificate and frame it. It's dated back in May. Castro: On behalf of the Neighborhood Council, we would like to present you (Wehbe) with a shirt so you can wear it at your next Commissioner meeting. Wehbe: I like your logo a lot because it's very clear!

**8. Discussion and possible motion to approve a Community Clean-up and up to \$1,500, from the WNNC Clean Street Funds Special Account, to purchase equipment, materials and supplies to clean up Emerald St. and W 2nd St. Location, date and time to be in collaboration with Council District 1.**

Ricardo couldn't make the meeting, so item is postponed to August meeting

**9. Discuss and possible motion to approve up to \$2,700.00 for a Neighborhood Purpose Grant (NPG) for Union de Vecinos for their Acción Westlake Workshops. Funds to be used to purchase food and refreshments, t-shirts for promoters, and material for workshops.**

Castro: Before we hear from Union de Vecinos can I get a Board member to make a motion . Cintron motions. Cisneros seconded. At this time we're going to ask the representative to speak.

Catherine: what we're asking for \$2,700 because last year we had a workshop on Tenant's Rights and this is a follow up to that. It grew very popular and became 4 times per week. It might seem a big budget, but expecting it to be just as popular as last year. We're bringing in speakers. English and Spanish, like last time. Any questions?

No public questions.

Cisneros: Is there any information you can give me regarding outreach? I'm chair of the outreach committee. Catherine: There are fliers

Johnson: where are the workshops held? Catherine: 318 S. Alvarado St.

Lee: Is this for the organization or the event? Catherine – both actually. It will have the name of the organization, but supporting the specific workshops.

Cintron: Are you covering anything about Section 8 at all? (Adaly Ugalde spoke up) Our mission since 2008 has been to encourage people to apply for low income...have a savings account, have a packet with all information – most Latinos don't have all the information when they are applying. This is a follow up from tenants' rights...this is a follow-up to do the next steps.

Cintron: I'm a building manager, that's why I have so many questions. Catherine: We have been looking for a building manager to come speak. Cintron: Let's exchange contact information for sure. Have you been speaking about their rights to get their credit reports? Catherine: We have been looking for a community organization to run the credit reports and give advice on how to fix it.

Johnson: Of course, I support this. I feel in the future instead of supporting with food and refreshments, if we could help with outreach and location, I would feel better about that. To allow you to reach more people, or if it's a matter of securing a larger meeting location...

Alaniz: What are the materials? How long does it run? It's free for them, right? Catherine: Yes! Mostly it's papers/copies, pens/pencils, folders, our contact information. Ugalde: Sometimes we have people, if we don't follow up, it.... Catherine: Some who miss the early workshop ask for more materials. The workshops are twice a week, Friday evenings and Saturday mornings for 2 hours from July to September. Do you have fliers? Yes.

Castro: If you were to maybe eliminate the t-shirts and maybe use the funds for advertising or outreach or the workshops themselves, that would be more worthwhile. Catherine: We were thinking mostly materials, but maybe I didn't fill this out right. Castro: how many t-shirts? Catherine: We don't have an exact number. Castro: Are they for the participants? Catherine: Yes.

Johnson: When is the next series? Catherine: Next year. Johnson: We should work together for the outreach for next year. Catherine: we are still working on topics.

Cintron: Will you have computers? Catherine: My family is very "electronic" so we will bring whatever we can. Cintron: A scanner would be helpful. If you have something that's available or maybe need help getting it, I think it would be amazing. Ugalde: We get original applications and help people understand how to fill them out. We try to follow up with all of this information. Last time we had more than 400 people. Castro: I'm sorry to interrupt you, but

we have to move on. Cisneros: one more question. How are you doing outreach? Catherine: We are having trouble with digital outreach. Facebook isn't working. Cisneros: We notice a lot of our residents lack email addresses, etc. Catherine: We actually go door to door, too.

Castro: we are going to take a vote. Since this a budget item, roll call – Unanimous (Loncka absent). For the record Board member Johnson stepped out and is marked absent for this vote.

**10. Discussion and possible motion to approve up to \$1,200 for the WNNC Community Engagement Forum to be facilitated by Gabriel Kahan, Sense.LA. Forum is based on the leading-edge MIT methodology which helps to create new thinking and increase community participation at Neighborhood Council meetings.**

Castro: We've had this discussion about training for a few months now. Gabriel isn't here now, but since we are using funds for a new fiscal year, we'll have to approve it again. Unless there's any questions, can I have a motion? Cisneros moved. Cintron seconded. Any questions or comments from the public? Seeing none – closed. Board members?

Cintron: Is there a different amount of money now that we are partnering with South for this?

Castro: I have been reaching out, but it's been really difficult to coordinate. It may just be something we can organize ourselves instead of continuing to postpone.

Cisneros: Did the cost change? Wasn't it \$700? Castro: Since we are doing it on a Saturday when the building is not usually open, we'll have to pay. Originally, we had discussed approving, I think \$750.

Castro: Board members any other questions or comments? Seeing none, roll call vote. Alaniz, Cisneros abstain. All others approve (Loncka absent). Motion passes with 5.

**11. Presentation and discussion by Council District 1 on Union Garden temporary location at 6th St and Columbia Ave and future plans for lot.**

Gonzalez: I don't have an update from the presentation from Council Member last month. Gave some pictures of 23 boxes build last Saturday. They will be growing vegetables and fruits over there. We have three boxes left for Community organizations. I reserved one for you. If you want to appoint someone to take the lead on that and bring students, seniors, etc. Whatever you want to do with the box. We already have seeds for tomatoes, cucumbers, strawberries if you want to use ours, or you can bring your own. Anything grows there. The compost is very rich. We have more room for more boxes, we just used all of the grant I had on those 23 boxes, but there's more space. Maybe in the future we're going to build more and bring more people to the garden. I don't know if they mentioned, but this is going to be a longer stay. We were thinking maybe a few months, but it takes a lot of work to get approval of funds. [long discussion about process of approval and selection of vendors] Whole process 8 months to a year. Council Member would like whatever we do there, no plan right now, to have a green space component. We are looking at vertical gardens, too because you can do more with less space. I think that's the future.

Castro: Can I interrupt you? That's where I think we want to be involved with what happens with this space and any green spaces in our neighborhood. From your perspective what else can we do as a Council to get involved.... Gonzalez: I think one of the things we can start doing is activating the space. For a long time, it was just an empty lot. All the green space is Park and Rec. In the eyes of the City that's a Park. How would it look with a playground, splashpad, etc. I didn't even know that was a park! We can definitely work with whoever want to take the lead from the Neighborhood Council. [long discussion about designs and funding]

Castro: I'm going to open it for questions from the public. Wehbe: I have a myriad of questions for you. You may have already covered these issues. I'm wondering if entities like Community Garden Council have been brought in or other city groups that can help you. Lovely ideas, but once you have the energy - it takes time and money, but there has to be some organizational structure. Gonzales: There is an organization already working with us. For new gardeners, we have experts, one master gardener doing this for free, helping people understand how to take care of the plants. Next month, we will be ready to open it up for school field trips. We are going to start programming little by little. Wehbe: Is it possible for you to provide the NC with the name of the organization? What role would you like the NC to play...any sort of control or just ideas or funding? Luis: what we're doing right now, whoever is interested, and doing their own programming, ..... they are responsible for their own plants, but we're responsible for the whole location. Wehbe: Is there a possibility that isn't available for a permanent garden? Cintron: It's not permanent. Gonzalez: There have been community meetings – everyone has different ideas from parking lots to affordable housing. Ugalde: Do you have anything other in mind? In my opinion this is therapy. Most people are low income, so open space is good. Gonzalez: Cultiva LA is the name of the organization.

Castro: Any other questions or comments. Board members?

Alaniz: How will you decide who gets the free food in the future? Gonzalez: Basically no one has to pay. It's a grant that I have for the fresh produce.

Cisneros: Last meeting we talked to Ortiz and he explained the complexities of the park and grants and that's is what is stopping us from further doing something else with that area. With the grant that you have now, will that affect that area because they are designated for a community garden? Gonzalez: It hasn't been designated as a community garden, it's just an empty lot. But if I may make a recommendation, I would like to have a liaison from the Neighborhood Council with the garden. There's a lot of opportunities for you to get involved. You want to fund a few more boxes, help us out with the farmer's market.

Castro: Quick question in one sentence. How are the boxes being assigned? Gonzalez: Right now are the ones who came in from Union garden, but there's space for more...we don't know how many more, but at least a few. We don't want to open it up for a lot of entities. That's why I wanted to prioritize with you and just work with you. You tell us- this school, this group of seniors, but of course the gardeners who are... Castro: Thank you, Luis.



**12. Discuss and possible motion to create an Ad hoc committee and appoint two Board Members to research and report back to WNNC on the possible uses of the land lot on 6th St. and Columbia St.**

One of the things about an Ad Hoc committee is we can create it for a specific purpose, but there's a possibility we can recreate another, which Mario suggested may be our best approach.

Johnson: Would this ad hoc be able to work on any green space, or only for this space. Castro – just for this space, but future could create more. Johnson: There are many committees from the City about green space. I think someone from our NC should be attending what's going on at McCarthy Park. I think it's critical we, as representatives of our community, have a voice in how any green space in our community is used. Castro: I agree. Mario is there any way we can change the wording on the agenda item? Hernandez: Because of the way it's written the committee would have to focus on this space. You could form other Ad Hoc to explore how other space around the City is used. Johnson: Are there two people on the Board interested? Hernandez: The ad hoc is exploratory or advisory to the Neighborhood Council, as long as they're made of board members, are not required to adhere to committee meeting rules. They can meet on the fly because it is specifically for one item and for a certain amount of time. Cisneros: Would there be a whole other committee for Park liaison? Johnson: It's more important to move forward with this one issue, but maybe we can appoint someone in the future. Castro: If everyone is okay with that, can a board member make a motion? Citron motion. Alaniz seconded. Any public comments? Any other comments from the board? Vote? Not budget so show of hands. Johnson: Are we going to assign members? Castro: Thank you. Who are my nominees? Lee is interested and Board member Arevalo. We can't have more than two, so that would be our nominees. Those in favor of assigning Lee and Arevalo, if you approve raise your hand. Unanimous (Loncka absent). Motion carries.

**13. Presentation and discussion by Clear Channel Outdoor regarding the ordinance that may impact outdoor signage around the City of LA, and the possible upcoming discussion before the Planning and Land Use Committee of the City Council.**

David Gurshwin: Thank you Mr. President. I'm here because I know you care about the visual landscape in your community, and community programs, cleanups, outreach on the census, etc. Any program that might benefit this particular neighborhood. I'm here to tell you about the modernization that would allow the take downs of current signs, and create revenue for NCs. I'm here on behalf of Clear Channel Outdoor, one of the largest advertisers in this City. A modernized ordinance would allow for digital signs, outside of sign districts. A sign district is areas like Staples Center or Hollywood and Highland. So under the ordinance currently before the City Council, digital signs would be allowed in appropriately placed areas away from residences on major commercial corridors, but outside of sign districts. Every sign would have to be considered on a case by case basis and ultimately approved by City Council. Even if no digital sign goes in this neighborhood, this community would benefit from take downs and revenue generated by digital signs. Clear Channel Outdoor has worked with other cities throughout California – Berkeley, Sacramento, most recently the City of Long Beach. In each of

those areas, there is a take down ratio for each digital sign that goes up – 3 to 1, 4 to 1, 5 to 1 square footage of traditional signs that have to come down. Digital signs, based on their nature, based on the fact the images rotate, also allows cities to mandate a certain amount of time on those signs be designated to non-profit and community information. Unless this ordinance is approved you won't have the opportunity for take-downs, etc. A modernized ordinance in addition would allow certain changes to be made to billboards that might be issues to communities, which would not be allowed under current ordinance. I urge you to stand up for your community and advocate a new ordinance that would allow for take downs and generate revenue. If a digital sign went up in a commercial corridor, a certain number of signs would have to come down within a certain radius. 50% would take place in that radius, and the other 50% throughout the City. Same with the revenue sharing. It's on the City Council file index File 11-1705. There is much more detailed information available online. I have some hand-outs for the board that provides information on how the take downs would work. It's a very complicated issue. I also want to be a resource for you moving forward. They are scheduled to hear it again on August 13<sup>th</sup>. Castro: Thank you. Any questions from the public?

Catherine: I wouldn't want to see blaring digital signs outside my window. How would location be decided. David: It's really up to the City, but it would be several hundred feet at least. Also the light could be regulated so it's dimmed at night. The light from a digital sign is also less than that coming off current traditional billboards. It is not the City's goal to have light that interferes with residential lighting. It would be on Major Commercial corridors only. Catherine: Would this replace all signs or...how is that decided? David: Community would have a lot of discretion as to which signs have to come down. August 13<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 pm.

Bowman: Clear Channel is currently the largest advertiser in LA - Is there anything that limits other vendors from participating? David: Not at all

Johnson: I think the fact that Clear Channel has sent a representative is very telling. Here we have a large corporation who is advocating for their money-making opportunities in a low-income neighborhood which also happens to be on the cusp of some of the largest developments in the City, adjacent to downtown; a place where gentrification and displacement is a huge issue. So here we have someone who wants to take down a bunch of billboards which to my knowledge have not been a major issue in this community they're not something that people are complaining about, and a corporation is trying to reduce that to their footprint only and in a digital format, which is something that people do have an issue with and complain about. Even if the light emitting issues are reduced, you have - it's not going to be a sign district, but it's going to be a lot more digital signs for a lot more high-paying companies versus a proliferation of smaller signs. So, I just want to caution the board that it's a wolf in sheep's clothing. A major corporation sending a representative to probably other small neighborhood councils in order to reduce the effect of community outcry. I'm so glad we're here so, if this does go through, we can weigh in on a case by case basis and vote those Conditional Use permits down.

Cintron: How would electricity be paid for and what is the power impact? David: Clear Channel would absorb the cost and wants to reduce energy consumption as much as possible. We already pay for the power for existing signs. Cintron: are any of them solar? David: Some of

them. I can only speak for Clear Channel. We use dimmers for certain times of day, solar panels where available and appropriate. Cintron: Have these signs been tested for radiation? David: There's no radiation, there's light Cintron: I'm aware, but massive amounts of power generated do start emitting a field...what distance is affected? David: There wouldn't be generators, just power going to the sign.

Alaniz: Does Clear Channel absorb the cost for the duration of the or does it eventually trickle down by the community. David: The owner of the billboard pays for the power. Then with the revenue sharing, the city then gets a portion of the revenue generated by the sign. Back to Christine's question I get a lot of complaints from NCs, but I recognize your mileage may vary. I think it would be worse if Clear Channel *didn't* come to NCs....

Cisneros: How does this affect other companies? Are they also going to start putting in digital signs? Is everything going to become digital? David: Based on applicable areas, there would be limits. Cisneros: Are they going to be in existing locations? David: That's conversion and is one possibility. Or they could build a new one and pull down their own. Those would be individual agreements between each company and the City based on those Conditional Use permits.

Johnson: On a case by case basis, who has the final say? David: NCs don't have the final say on many issues, but you have the ability to weigh in. There's no guarantee that any sign would go up in any particular neighborhood. Johnson: So just like many developments are approved despite community input, this would be the same.

Cintron: Within the file, is there an Environmental Impact Statement like with wildlife or birds flying into the signs? David: There's issues with existing signs. Birds fly into windows on buildings as well. I don't think it gets that granular, but yes I believe there is discussion of environmental impact.

Castro: First of all thank you for coming and all the information. I know you said there is something coming up very soon. What would you like to see from our NC? David: I would urge you to support a modernized sign ordinance, the one that is currently before the committee. There are other versions that would restrict to public owned land only, and there aren't enough locations on city owned land to achieve the goal of take downs or revenue.

**14. Presentation and discussion by Bird, a dockless shared mobility provider, operating under LADOT's year-long Share Mobility Pilot Program, to provide updates to their product for both riders and non-riders when it comes to communication with company.**

Morgan Roth: Thank you for allowing me to speak. I liaison typically with NCs, business implement districts and the like to provide updates of where we are right now with the City. We are currently in a one- year pilot program with LADOT. We are one of 8 companies. We have 1000 in San Fernando Valley and 5500 elsewhere. There's a couple cool features about this pilot that is unique to LA. We have integrated with 311, a tremendous benefit to community for to communicate with companies if there are access issues. When we close the ticket out, it goes back to the constituent. Absolutely love it because it gives us engagement with the community. Additionally, we have an equity program we're proud of. It's probably the most affordable if

taken advantage. Bird Access is super easy to understand. Anyone who can demonstrate a financial need...it's \$5 annually for free 30 minute rides. Text to unlock features. Over 25 languages. Overall trying to spread the possibility of using micro-mobility to and from public transit or work, or running an errand, as opposed to adding another car to the road. Happy to take questions. Have some materials. One is overview of the equity program. I'm sure everyone has seen a Bird and knows what a scooter is.

Castro: Any public comments or questions? Wehbe: Reading over CA legislation indicated our governor has passed legislation that will allow scooters to go up to 35 mph and scooter riders to not wear helmets. Is that something Bird would embrace. Morgan: To clarify the vehicle speed is 15mph, but the 25 to 35mph has to do with where the vehicles can operate. And the helmet law was because they are trying to create parity between bicycle and scooter riders, the State wanted to reduce barriers. In terms of the safety, there is a lot of parity. We encourage helmets to be worn. We passed out 6500 last year. That legislation was backed by CA Bike Coalition and a number of mobility representations as well. Wehbe: So you're telling me it's not a requirement anymore? Morgan: If you're over the age of 18, no. Castro: any other public questions. None. Board members?

Alaniz: Any stipulations on age? Morgan: 18 and up is our company policy. Legally you would only have to have ability to operate a vehicle. So technically anyone 16 or up, but our company policy is 18. Alaniz: How do you verify? Morgan: The laws that pertain to scooter riding are nearly the same as bicycles, except you need a driver license. Customers are agreeing to the license/rental agreement. Also, this is a pilot program and there will be a lot of learning. Alaniz: If anyone has an infraction is there an alert so people can't get on the scooters? Morgan: When you take your first ride, there's a tutorial, etc. Can we go retroactively back if we get information, absolutely. Our ultimate goal is to replace car trips, so we want to remove bad apples.

Johnson: I want to ask about Bird Access and opportunities for low income discounts and I understand you're offering 3 free rides per year? Morgan: I'm sorry, I should say FREE, not 3. Unlimited 30 minute rides for \$5 per year. Whereas the normal pricing is a \$1 to start and then 26 cents per minute. Johnson: What types of organizations are you looking to partner with? Morgan: PATH would be great, I haven't reached out to them yet. I've reached out to about 20 organizations in LA so far, like Coco, investing in place, LA bike organization, looking to get more granular – those are more city-wide. Johnson: Are you looking to promote bird use, or give more Bird rides for a discount? Morgan: Both in tandem. We often find one of the biggest barriers is uncertainty getting on the vehicle for the first time. We have a field team that we could come out with a helmet giveaway and sign them up for the Access program. Castro: Any other questions or comments.

**15. Discuss and possibly motion to appoint board members as WNNC budget representative to facilitate budget discussion with budget advocates and LA city council.**

Ernesto – I sent an email about budget day. I found out they work with City Council and to inform them about what can be done with the budget. Each region, we are a part of region 6,

has a budget advocate that works with the Neighborhood Council. Those advocates are part of the NC. We as a NC need to have representatives that are going to communicate and so we can keep informed. We never assigned anyone. So that's one of the items I wanted to see if we can address. What I found out is that usually if the NC doesn't assign, it's usually the President and the Treasurer. If no one else is interested, I would like to nominate myself and if Elaine is interested as a second representative, we would be officially assigned. Just to be more informed on how the City is going to be using funds. Can I have a motion? Cisneros moves. Cintron seconded. Those in favor? Unanimous. Johnson stepped out and was not present for this vote.

#### **16. Discuss and possibly motion to appoint members of the community and board members to serve on WNNC Outreach Committee**

At our special meeting on June 20, we elected Casandra Cisneros as our Chair of the Outreach committee. We would like to have a second member appointed. Are there any nominations? Cintron: Had you requested someone else who speak Spanish? Cisneros: After we discussed Margarita possibly joining and decided it's not necessarily going out personally, speaking Spanish isn't required. I think Christine might be a great addition. Arevalo: I would like to self-nominate. Castro: How would we go about voting if there are two nominees? Hernandez: You would have to vote between them. Would anyone be able to get Christine to come back for discussion? (Johnson returns) Castro: Christine, right now we are discussing appointing a committee member. Johnson: And you've just determined you can only have two members? Yes. I want to consult with you, but if Manny would like to be committee member.... Arevalo: I think you have a point, but I'm fairly new to this. Johnson: Are you declining then? Arevalo: yes. Johnson: Do you need to speak Spanish. Cisneros: No it's larger scale, if we can come up with ideas and strategies. Castro: So Christine self-nominates and Manny you are withdrawing? Arevalo: Yes. Castro: So if I can have a board member motion to appoint Christine as our second member on the Outreach committee. Alaniz moves. Lee seconded. Vote by hand. Unanimous (Loncka absent). No abstentions. Motion carries.

Castro: I am going to propose that we table topic 17 until our next meeting. I know there are important items that we can maybe research. Cintron: Can we itemize some items at our special meeting, the retreat, we weren't able to cover since it's a public meeting? Hernandez: yes. Castro: Okay, so we are going to table item 17 for now.

#### **18. Board & Committee Reports: (15 minutes)**

##### **a. President**

**18.a.1. Vacancy of a Resident Stakeholder Board Seat** - there is a community member interested

**18.a.2. Budget Advocates** - there was a vacancy, so I nominated myself and was appointed. Hopefully I can bring more information about the City budget

**18.a.3. Assessor Advisory Councils Application** - they are asking anyone who is a member of the NC if they are interested in applying.

**b. Vice President** – not present

**c. Secretary** – I'll cover it in by-Laws

**d. Treasurer** – I don't have anything.

**e. Committees** -

**18.e.1. Outreach Committee** - Cisneros – I've been to the last two Levitt Pavilion concerts. I've gotten in contact with other organizations there. I'm going to take some time when the next official committee meeting to get the ball rolling on some of the cool things that can happen here. Castro: If I could have everyone stay around to go over people attending the rest of the concerts.

**18.e.2. Bylaws Committee** - We are getting dangerously close to currently stand with bylaws to possibly losing members. We need to discuss alternates and get them in. I believe it says if you miss three meetings, excused or not... We really need to make sure we get alternates in here. Johnson: We also can change the bylaws? Cintron: Yes, I think so, but I need to know more about what I can do, which I've been waiting for our Retreat.

## **19. Board Member Comments**

Alaniz: I need more information on item 10 to get the ball rolling. Castro: I will get you more information. Cintron: Then once we can nail down a date, we can use Levitt Pavilion as an opportunity to advertise.

## **20. Adjournment**

Cintron moves, Cisneros seconded. Unanimous vote. Meeting adjourns: 9:07pm