



WESTLAKE NORTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (WNNC)
GENERAL BOARD MEETING
Thursday, May 11, 2017 • 7pm



CENTRAL CITY NEIGHBORHOOD PARTNERS
501 S. Bixel Street, Los Angeles, CA 90017

Website: westlakenorthnc.org

WNNC EmpowerLA site: Empowerla.org/WNNC

Facebook: facebook.com/WestlakeNorthNC

Email: WestlakeNorthNC@gmail.com • **Phone:** 213-444-6169

WNNC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President, Sandra Villalobos - Bus. Rep.
VP, *Vacant*
Treasurer, Rocky Valenzuela
Secretary, Harold (Mac) R. McCarthy, At large
Ashley Hawkins, At Large
Eric Contreras, At Large
Ivonnenanette Machado, At Large
Bus. Rep, *Vacant*

Aurora Pineda, CBO Rep
Margarita Alvarez Gomez, CBO Rep
Res. Rep, *Vacant*
Karina Rodriguez, Res. Rep
Res. Rep, *Vacant*
Sen. Rep, *Vacant*
Andrew Gamero, Youth Rep
Ventura Mendez Florencio, Youth Rep

1. Call To Order

- a. 6:02 pm - President Sandra Villalobos called the meeting to order
- b. Quorum not achieved
- c. Absent: Rocky Valenzuela, Harold R. McCarthy, Eric Contreras, Elsa Cespedes

2. General Public Comment

- a. Sylvia Valezques, a stakeholder shared that her community is becoming overly populated. She asked for an endorsement letter to take to the city council to express concern over the lack of green space on the northern side of Pico.
 - i. Ms. Villalobos asked when the endorsement letter would be needed. Ms. Valezques replied before May 17th. Board Member, Margarita Alvarez and Ms. Villalobos then asked for Ms. Valezques to email them a sample letter so that they can get the endorsement letter out by the 17th. Ms. Velazquez agreed.
- b. A Stakeholder expressed concern over the general plan. She explained that she feels the neighborhood councils don't have enough input in the plan. She's worried that when the plan is presented it will be a top down type of thing in which the neighborhood councils are being told what to do in their community. She then asked that Westlake NC request that their council district member give the NC input on what the general plan should look like.
 - i. Ms. Alvarez Gomez asked if there has been input from any of the other neighborhood councils. The stakeholder shared that she had

- contacted other NCs, and many of them have not had anyone ask them their opinion on the plan.
- c. Gary Gamponia, Founder and Director of *The Pay It Forward Band* shared that his band brings musical joy to the sick, the lonely, and the dying in nursing homes all over Los Angeles County. The band is composed of 150 musicians that go out in groups of 7 or 9 to perform at the nursing homes.
 - i. Mr. Gamponia explained that there are 3 or 4 nursing homes in the Westlake area that his band has performed at for the past 6 years, however now the band needs assistance. Mr. Gamponia requested \$1200 of support to do shows within the next 30-60 days in all the Westlake area nursing homes. Ms. Villalobos explained that that ask should go directly to Rocky Valenzuela, the Budget & Finance committee head. She asked Mr. Gamponia to submit an application online to Mr. Valenzuela.
 - d. Officer Laurie, LAPD, Officer for Echo Park asked stakeholders to please report anything they see and not to worry about citizenship. Officer Laurie explained that he and his fellow officers do not work with I.C.E. or Immigration. He serves the areas from Sunset to 3rd street and from Glendale to 110 Freeway. He then reported that the area is looking good with only two crimes reported this week.
 - e. Government Representative, Hugo Ortiz shared that his pilot McArthur Park Metro Station/ Vendor program started in March. One of its partners is CCNP. The hope is that the pilot program will go for one year. He explained that the purpose of the project is to give people a safe space to make money for their families, while also allowing space for pedestrians to access and ingress the metro station. The goal is that the group in the station will create their own non-profit as well as a board, resulting in somewhat of a co-op.
 - i. Board Member, Ivonnenanette Machado asked if there is a resource table and if so why is one clinic there all the time. Mr. Ortiz stated that he would check to see if the clinic is there and also follow-up on how the tables are being rotated to ensure the clinic isn't always there. He then explained that the vendors organized themselves and came to his office, so the core booths/tables are reserved for the union vendor group with a few extra tables available for rotation.
 - ii. Mr. Ortiz explained that the requirements for vending are 1) to be a part of the vendor union group and 2) they have to show that they live in council district 1 and those vending have to have been vending there for at least a year. Ms. Machado then shared that she has seen vendors smoking marijuana at the plaza. Mr. Ortiz stressed the seriousness of such an accusation and said he'll look into it.
ACTION: Ms. Villalobos then said that she, Ms. Machado, and Mr. Ortiz will schedule a separate meeting to further discuss this topic.
 - f. Mario Hernandez, a representative from the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment gave the following updates/reminders:
 - i. If a board member has a conflict they should recuse themselves and speak with the city attorney.

- ii. Westlake North's recent bank statement shows a balance of \$24,839. It has to be spent by June 1st. Afterwards the money will go back to the city. Also June 7th is the last day to issue checks, while June 11th is the last day to swipe the card. Also the MER needs to be turned in ASAP.
- iii. Currently Westlake North has filed zero Community Impact Statements (CIS). The board should look into that as they are a valuable tool.
- iv. Some members are lacking ethics training. There will be training opportunities on May 22nd and 25th.
- v. The Department of Neighborhood Empowerment is sponsoring a civic youth program for ages 14-24. It teaches participants how to engage in civic service, focusing on the arts, sustainability, women empowerment, etc. The program takes place June 12 - August 2nd.

3. Community Proposals for Monetary Support

- *NOTE: President Sandra Villalobos explained that the board can not vote on any of the below proposals due to a lack of quorum. On Thursday, May 18th a special meeting will be convened for voting purposes.*

a. NASA (New Academy of Science and Art)

- i. The Director of NASA extended an invitation to the board and the residents to attend NASA's first annual festival on Saturday, June 3rd from 8am-1pm. The event is free and it will emphasize the importance and benefits of bilingualism to parents, students, and the community.
- ii. The Director asked the board for \$5,000 to go toward workshops, promotion, volunteers for the event and also educating of the parents.

b. New Economics for Woman

- i. A representative from New Economics for Women discussed their upcoming May 13th 5k run entitled, "Moms Helping Moms". The purpose of the event is to bridge the gap between health conscious parents and non-health conscious parents.
- ii. The ask was for \$5,000 to help New Economics for Women break even on the event. The remainder of the amount would go to facilities for mothers and single women. In addition Westlake NC is being asked to have a table at the health and wellness fair also taking place at the event.
- iii. *Note: President, Sandra Villalobos recused herself from this proposal because it could be a conflict of interest.*

c. Vision Zero

- i. Veronica, a representative from Vision Zero, which is an initiative to eliminate traffic fatalities and serious injury, shared that LADOT has identified El Dorado from 6th street to 7th street, and 6th street to Grandview, all the way to Lucas Ave as a high risk area.

- ii. Veronica then asked for \$500 to support a pocket park on 6th street and Columbia. It'll also be home to a walking school bus to take kids to Esperanza Elementary School.
- iii. *Note: Board Member, Margarita Alvarez Gomez recused herself from this proposal because it could be a conflict of interest. She notified the city attorney.*
- d. **MOTION:** Ms. Alvarez Gomez motioned to have an emergency meeting Thursday, May 18th so that the full board can hear the proposals and take action. The motion was seconded by Karina Rodriguez and unanimously passed.

4. Community Presentations

- a. Jim Reese, a representative of land use from Holland Development shared that the tenants at the Bixel and 6th street project are seeking a master permit to sell alcohol. The master consist of 5 permits, one for the grocery store and the other four for restaurants.
 - i. Ms. Alvarez Gomez asked how the project will help the community. Mr. Reese responded that the building will provide housing and also include affordable housing units. He added that the grocery store will be the big draw and that it will be in walking distance. Mr. Brent, a colleague of Mr. Reese's added that there will also be job growth in the area since the grocery store has committed to hiring locally. Ms. Alvarez then asked if they can train people to work prior to the store opening. Mr. Brent explained that since he's not a store representative he can't answer that, but he agreed to pass the idea along.
 - ii. Ms. Villalobos then asked if the grocery store would be willing to take employment referrals from agencies in the area. Mr. Brent answered that they would. She then asked where the low income families can sign up for units. Mr. Brent offered to get the board's contact information so that pass along sign-up information.
 - iii. Hugo Ortiz then shared that the developers presented to him also. He and members of his team will be meeting with them and he said he'd express at the meeting the benefits of hiring locally.

5. Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.