

**CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
CALIFORNIA**



**EMPOWERMENT CONGRESS SOUTH WEST AREA  
NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

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*A Certified City of Los Angeles Neighborhood Council*

Serving the Communities of: **West Park Terrace, Manchester Square, Morningside Circle and Vermont Knolls**

**"Promoting more citizen participation in local government and making government more responsive to local needs"**

**Special Meeting/Executive Board Retreat Agenda Minutes  
Saturday, September 16, 2014 9:00 AM**

**Crenshaw Christian Center  
7901 S. Vermont Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90044**

**I. Call to Order/ Roll Call/Welcome**

Meeting call to order by Board Chair Brent Page at 9:40am. Chair conducted roll call for members. Members present Danielle Strickland, Lois Nelson, Lynette Johnson, Tyron Turner, Daniel Stewart, Mike Guynn, Ted Hope, and Marilyn Hayes.

**II. "Signs of a Successful Neighborhood Council" (Procedures and Expectations)**

Chair Brent Page opened the floor for discussion on signs of a successful neighborhood council to cover topics such as meeting expectations, bylaws, elections, programming, and committee updates

Brent Page stated there should be comfortability in meetings to where you know what takes place

Lois Nelson spoke about how she was uncomfortable with making a motion in the meetings.

Mike Guynn suggested that motions are written down so they can be restated for the original intent. He brought up making a consent calendar in regards to simplifying the motion process to keep the meetings moving.

Daniel Stewart stated that he felt like there should be more people in the meeting especially around his age. Brent Page stated that he really wanted to get younger members out.

Mike Guynn stated that we should have a youth night meeting that is geared toward the younger constituents in our area.

Ted Hope stated that we can attempt to do a lot of things, he talked about commitment. He stated that he was addressed by a man who stated "you guys don't come to the meetings, why should I" We have to look at ourselves.

Lynette Johnson talked about her comfortability with the meeting, The meeting seems some times to be in disarray and we allow people to talk a lot more than they should be. We need to have a time clock to keep the comments short. Recommend that folks come to the committee meetings if they want to make further suggestions, Mike Guynn suggested that we should have a welcoming, setting a tone part for our meeting. Marilyn Hayes discussed changing the meeting so more people can attend. The board spoke about moving the meeting to another day in order to get greater attendance. It was suggested that we keep the meeting the same but have quarterly

meetings' town hall meetings that are on Saturdays. It was also brought up that we should have separate meetings to get things done, outside of our general board meetings specifically our executive committee.

Brent brought up that the meeting has to be open.

Conversation was deferred due to presentation of Airport Ad Hoc Committee Chair, Margaret Peters

Margaret Peters passed out information on the airport noise. She suggested that more people need to show up.

2015 sound contour map did not change, the boundaries actually decreased. In order to qualify for sound proof you have to be 65 decibel on the outside of your house/45 on the inside. Our area is deemed 60. 80% of eligible homes were sound proofed the other

15% aren't. Unless the decibel is lowered the airport will not talk to us. The stakeholders need to make more complaints to the US Senates/Congress in the area, not local government. Margaret had a conversation with Maxine Waters office. Asked about town hall in South LA. We want the same as Inglewood. Tyron Turner stated he would work on that.

Questions were asked about other factors that go into the studies in regards to health or air issues. Tyron Turner spoke about air quality board, monitors and there effectiveness. Margaret Peters talked about health related issues related to the airport. She asked to do an airport related meeting for November 18<sup>th</sup>. Wants to send letter to elected officials for the meeting. Need to get media and tv involved We spoke about doing conference calls for meetings. Lois stated that at the budget advocate meetings have that technology.

Ted Hope brought up that because of the construction at LAX the plane route will change. The cost to mitigate a complete house is 35-40k.

Tyron Turner suggested an open letter to the paper and other media.

The councilman's position is that we should pursue legal action against the airport due to the congressional gridlock right now and nothing being done.

### **Conversation reverted back making the neighborhood council successful**

Brent Page brought up the bylaws and understanding of what role is on the board..

Brent Page asked if everyone understood their role.

Ted Hope went over some of the bylaws considering the Brown Act. He spoke about the responsibility of the board member to take the classes, as soon as possible. Ted Hope also asked if we need anything to make sure that we ask him if we have any questions regarding board activities and practices.

Discussion about funding for board retreat, and agenda changes to the meeting.

Moving into discussion of the elections. City would like NC to move elections to 2019 for those have elections in 2018. If we do nothing we hold the election in 2019.

Brent Page stated that successful neighborhood councils have longer termed commitments Two year term being a pitfall. Amount of time on boards allows you to be more effective. Marylynn Hayes brought up about succession planning and staggered board terms. Ted Hope read from the board by laws he believes that there should be an alternate to every position, make it mandatory that committee chairs and executive have a desktop manual for their position.

Conversation moved to the jazz festival, looked into more corporations and government officials as far as jazz festival sponsorship. Also keeping the NC name on the jazz festival.

The council should not be asking the NC for money.

III. **Public Comments/Announcements** No public comments

IV. **“Pete Brown Tennis Program Follow UP”**

Kevin Simon and Christina Luna were given the floor in regards to funding request for Pete Brown Tennis Program. Kevin Simon spoke about the opportunities of the Tennis program. Christina Luna spoke about other programs to bring into the park, yoga already happening and chess. She also spoke about outreach regarding programming in the park.

Brent asked about how much the funding is needed and how often. The organization would like to do what is being done at the extent at Harvard Park at St. Andrews. The goal is to have the program year around. Next steps review amount that board can give and how often. The organization is requesting a little over \$2000 for equipment.

V. **Budget and Committee updates**

Budget review by Ted Hope, passed out Monthly Expenditure Report as of today the budget is \$39369.59. Brought up the line item for Moore Business results in regards to how much we are spending per month. Spoke about webmaster for handling the website.

Conversation back to cost of the tennis program and meeting the obligations of neighborhood purpose grant.

Lynette Johnson brought up doing a homeless outreach event as well as a job fair, partnering with South LA councils

For committees who would like to do some things in the coming year, they need to submit proposal in two weeks.

Tyron Turner brought up having a contractors fair for minority owned business, job fair for job training programs for the seemingly “unemployable” and discussion of the state of black worker in the trades.

VI. **Council Vote and New Business**

Brent Page called for a Medical Marijuana ad hoc committee vote. Per law the new marijuana shops have to be good community partners by meeting with the neighborhood councils. NC needs to be ready for what is to come

Danielle Strickland made the motion to approve the medical marijuana ad hoc committee Mike Guynn second the motion. All board members were in favor of the motion, no nays, and no abstaining.

Brent bought up that we are currently out of marketing materials... T-shirts with possible slogan, shopping bags, pens. Next steps if anyone has any quotes or slogans as well as marketing ideas please email Brent.

## Meeting Adjourned by Brent Page Board Chair

The public is requested to fill out a “Speaker Card” to address the Board on any agenda item before the Board takes an action. Public comment is limited to 3 minutes per speaker, but the Board has the discretion to modify the amount of time for any speaker.

The public may comment on a specific item listed on this agenda when the Board considers that item. When the Board considers the agenda item entitled “Public Comments”, the public has the right to comment on any matter that is within the Board’s jurisdiction. In addition, the members of the public may request and receive copies without undue delay of any documents that are distributed to the Board, unless there is a specific exemption under the Public Records Act that prevents the disclosure of the record. (Govt. Code Section 54957.5)

The ECSWANDC holds its regular meetings on the third Monday of every month and may also call any additional required special meetings in accordance with its Bylaws and the Brown Act. In compliance with Government code section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the board in advance of a meeting, may be viewed on the [www.southwestnc.org](http://www.southwestnc.org) website and at the Mark Ridley-Thomas Constituent Center located at 8475 S. Vermont Ave. Los Angeles, CA 90044.

The ECSWANDC complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and does not discriminate on the basis of any disability. Upon request, the ECSWANDC will provide reasonable accommodations to ensure equal access to its programs, services, and activities. Sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure the availability of services, please make your request at least 3 business days (72 hours) prior to the meeting you wish to attend by contacting the Neighborhood Council Secretary at (323) 789-6311, or please send an e-mail that states the accommodations that you are requesting to [board@southwestnc.org](mailto:board@southwestnc.org).

### **ECSWANDC**

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