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**Empowerment Congress Southwest Area
Neighborhood Development Council
(ECSWANDC)**

A Certified City of Los Angeles Neighborhood Council

Serving the communities of: **Manchester Square, Morningside Circle, Vermont Knolls and West Park Terrace** Our Purpose: To promote more citizen participation in local government and make government more responsive to local needs

www.southwestnc.org

**Planning and Land Use Management (PLUM)
Meeting Minutes**

Saturday, September 8, 2018 9:30 AM

**St. Andrews Recreation Center Community Room
St. Andrews Pl. Los Angeles, CA 90047**

Meeting was called to order at 9:35 AM.

Speaker: Karen Hernandez, Environmental Services Outreach Specialist of the Koreatown Youth and Community Center

The KYCC has been awarded a South L.A. Corridors grant to increase community involvement around planting trees in the ECSWANDC area between Van Ness Ave. and Vermont Ave., Florence Ave. and Manchester Ave. KYCC would like the ECSWANDC board to assist in finding community members interested in being involved in community planting to increase the number of trees within our residential communities and possibly our business corridors.

The trees would be provided for free. The option of obtaining an additional grant providing a water truck to water business corridor plantings for 3 years may be an option. Training for volunteer leaders would be provided as well as training on how to plant trees.

There are a variety of trees being offered that are appropriate for the front of residential properties as well as business corridors with an emphasis on those less likely to cause sidewalk destruction.

Karen informed the committee that not only do trees provide shade and beauty but they help clean the air and water, reduce noise, promote good health (including decreasing childhood asthma) creates jobs, helps kids do better in schools and help us save and earn money.

KYCC would like the ECSWANDC board to help by engaging the community to find volunteers interested in being a part of the effort.

Business Corridor Strategic Plan

The PLUM Committee decided it is important to determine specific businesses the community would like to see in the suggested pilot area (82nd St. to 92nd St. along Wester Ave. and Gramercy Pl. to Denker Ave. along Manchester Ave.) that will aid in the creation of friendly, welcoming and walkable corridors. It was suggested that a survey be created, and distributed requesting community members provide specific names of businesses. The intention is to eventually contact companies to get them to open stores within our boundaries as well as finding those neighbors that may be interested in taking on the challenges of opening franchises or their own business within our boundaries.

The PLUM Committee also discussed reaching out to residential property owners along the pilot area corridors to motivate them to create a more appealing and cohesive aesthetic.

7-Eleven Survey Results

The developer of the proposed 7-Eleven asked the ECSWANDC Board to provide a Letter of Support to the Zoning Administrator of the City of Los Angeles for a Conditional Use Permit allowing them to operate 24 hours 7 days a week. The Board agreed to create a survey to allow the stakeholders an opportunity to provide input at their July retreat.

The survey has been available for more than 45 days. As of Monday, September 17, 2018, there have been 136 responses received (see handout for the results). Though most survey takers are in favor of the 7-Eleven opening on 83rd and Western Ave., there are concerns regarding possible gang activity, loitering, maintenance of the property and selling of liquor. The developer and owner have attended a few ECSWANDC meetings and committed to not selling liquor at the location, providing 24 hour 7 day a week armed security and ensuring there is a clause in future contracts (when the franchise is sold) that these commitments will remain as well as maintaining the property.

The PLUM Chair's will provide the board with a sample approval letter providing caveats (recognizing the concerns of the community) if they choose to support the Conditional Use Permit.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:22 AM