



EMPOWERMENT CONGRESS WEST AREA NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
Special Meeting of Board
April 15, 2008
3731 Stocker • Los Angeles, CA 90008

Board Members In Attendance: Karen Ceasar , Michelle Colbert, Mary Darks, Jai Gaines, Lark Galloway-Gilliam, Damien Goodmon, Tommy Plummer, Johnnie Raines, Chris Shoaf , Phyllis Taylor, Rev Lee Walker, Charles Zacharie

Absent: Reatha Simon

City Representatives: Charles Brown – District 8

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 pm by the chair, Lark Galloway-Gilliam. A quorum was present.

Public Comment:

- Winston Brooks, a representative from the Park View Manor Association reported on a number of violations by the Bedford Group in the construction of the townhouse complex on Santa Rosalia. The problems included construction seven days per week; construction commencing at 7:00am; deliveries as early as 3:00am; and destruction of private property. The homeowners have pursued a number of channels including the city council office, city Building and Safety and LAPD but the problem has not been resolved. Concern was expressed for the proposed development on Don Felipe and the recommendation was made the community begin to define the standards for future construction in the area.
- Charles Brown reminded the public that the community clean-up is scheduled for April 26th.
- Damien Goodmon announced the upcoming Crenshaw Visioning workshop on Saturday, April 26th starting at 10:00 am at West Angeles Church.

Review and Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the April 2nd, 2008 meeting were not available and therefore tabled.

Committee Reports

- Land Use and Beautification Committee: Damien presented the committee proposal for the release and announcement of a “call for proposals” for community improvement projects. The committee recommended that the board adopt a policy providing equitable allocation of the funds available by area. The committee recommended the development of a streamline application process. Members recommended consideration be given to adapting the proposed application for community events for the community improvement project. The committee will take back the recommendations of the board and develop a written protocol to bring back to the board at the May meeting.

The committee also recommended the board assume responsibility for serving as a clearinghouse for issues and concerns regarding city services. Residents would be encouraged to submit their concerns in writing; the committee would log the complaint and direct the complaint to the appropriate city agency. The board directed the committee to review the city service request form for its possible use and outline the scope of the board’s role in this capacity.

Damien offered the motion that the board submit a community impact statement to the City Council expressing concern for the safety of the Expo-Line and recommending grade separation. ***The motion was second by Michelle Colbert and passed by a vote of 9-0-3 with Chris Shoaf, Johnnie Raines and Tommy Plummer opposing the motion..***

- Finance Committee: Copies of the committee’s recommended funding guidelines were distributed and reviewed. The recommendation was made to offer workshops to assist member of the community in applying for funding.

The motion to approve the funding guidelines and application form as presented was made by Michelle Colbert and second by Phyllis Taylor. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

The committee presented the proposal and recommendation for funding the Leimert Park Book Fair to be held on May 31st. The committee recommended support in the amount of \$2,100 through the funding of the “step and repeat” backdrop for the stage (\$1,200); the welcome banner (\$600); 500 bookmarks (\$165) plus tax. Members expressed support for the event and complemented Cynthia Exum for the outstanding fair in the previous year. Chris Shoaf asserted that the board could not pay for the step and repeat if the sign did not carry the NC name or represent a purchase on the part of the council. Cynthia indicated that the sign was reserved for major contributors, but the contribution of the council would be acknowledged via the banner, program, possibly the bookmark, but this would result in additional cost for a two sided printing. Jackie Ryan expressed concern that the plans for the event included the closure of the street on Saturday which is the most important day for businesses in the village. ***Mary Darks made the motion that the board provide funding to pay for the banner and bookmarks for a total of \$765 plus tax. The motion was seconded by Jai Gaines and passed by unanimous vote.*** Lark asked Cynthia to consult with the local merchants and try to find an alternative to street closure.

Phyllis Taylor and a member of the rancho tennis program provided an overview of their proposal. The proposal had been previously presented to the finance committee but tabled until such time as the applicant was able to secure a funding commitment for the neighborhood council in which Rancho Rec center is located. Consequently there was no recommendation by the committee pending this information. However, Barry Stone advised the committee that given the plan to host a portion of the event at Jim Gilliam Park which is within the ECWANDC boundaries – funding approval from the neighboring council would not be necessary. The committee indicated that the adopted budget set a guideline of a max of \$1,000 per event while the request was in excess of \$14,000. Members expressed concern the board is consistent and objective in its application and interpretation of the financing rules. ***The motion was made by Michelle Colbert to refer the matter back to the finance committee to specify what the board should support and that the committee get clarification from DONE on what is required as an acknowledgement of the NC funding. The motion was second by Chris Shoaf and passed by unanimous vote.***

The motion was made to extend the meeting and passed by unanimous vote.

- ***Outreach Committee:*** Phyllis Taylor reported on behalf of the outreach committee and distributed a sample of the recommended business card for the members to individually approve. The following members indicated that they would wait for their cards until such time as a determination is made on the office space: Lark Galloway-Gilliam, Mary Darks, Michelle Colbert, Karen Ceasar, Rev. Lee Walker. Phyllis reported that the committee was investigating two locations – 3756 Santa Rosalia and 3731 Stocker. ***The motion was made by Johnnie Raines and seconded by Michelle Colbert to direct the committee to move forward in the investigation of these two sites.*** Members were encouraged to submit recommendations for alternative sites asap. The motion was clarified to indicate that the committee was not authorized to execute a lease agreement but rather work with the DONE to analyze the appropriateness and feasibility of each site. ***The motion passed by unanimous vote.***

The recommendation was made to purchase a booth at a fee of \$100 for outreach at the LALA festival with the understanding that Reatha Simon agreed to man the booth on the day of the event on behalf of the NC. ***The recommendation was put in the form of a motion by Mary Darks and seconded by Phyllis Taylor. The motion to approve \$100 for the purchase of a booth at the LALA festival passed by unanimous vote.***

Phyllis Taylor presented a two page memo from Reatha Simons outlining the rationale for the request for \$7,000 to mail the notice for the upcoming campaign finance workshop to 20,000 households in the area through a mailing service. Chris Shoaf noted that the amount of the request increased to \$9,000 given the delay in the board’s action. Members expressed concern for the cost. The recommendation died due to a lack of a motion. ***The motion was made by Mary Darks and seconded by Johnnie Raines to mail the notice including notice of the presentation on the development at Don Felipe and Stocker to the current NC mailing list. The motion passed by unanimous vote.***

- Safety Committee: Johnnie Raines reported that the committee had not met and there was no report.
- Youth Committee: Chris Shoaf reported that there was no report.

The motion was made and passed by unanimous vote to extend the meeting for an additional 15 minutes.

Other Board Business:

- Lark Galloway-Gilliam announced the resignation of Mia Boykin. The board was asked for recommendations on the process for filling the vacant position. It was recommended that the previous applicants be noticed of the opening. Concern was expressed that many of the applicants had not returned to the council since that time. There was consensus that the process be opened similar to the process for the at-large position using a application/nomination process.
- Copies of the application from Christine Hall, a candidate for the youth at-large position were distributed. After reviewing the application, *Mary Darks moved the acceptance of Christine Hall for the open at-large youth position. The motion was seconded by Michelle Colbert. The motion passed by a vote of 9-1-1.*

Expenditure Request

Lark presented and requested authorization for payment of two invoices. The first invoice was for payment to Community Coalition for the purchase of 50 nuisance abatement resource guides handed out as part of the meeting material at the community forum on Marlton Square. Chris Shoaf objected stating the board had not approved the purchase in advance of its distribution and therefore the expense was not permissible. Lark agreed to seek guidance from DONE and bring the matter back to the board at the next meeting.

The second invoice was submitted on behalf of Community Health Councils for approximately \$149 for copying and duplication of materials (agenda, minutes, handouts) for the council meetings for the period August 2007 – April 2008. An invoice and itemization of the copies by meeting was presented to the Treasurer. *The motion was made by Mary and second by Karen to approve payment of the invoice for copying services by CHC. The motion passed with a vote of 10-0-1 with Chris Shoaf opposing the motion.*

Lark reported on the invitation for the council to join the South LA Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (SLAANC). Copies of the by-laws had been distributed at the previous meeting. Lark reviewed the purpose of SLAANC. Chris Shoaf raised concern for Lark's participation on the SLAANC committee and committing the council to sponsor a meeting in September as reported in the minutes of SLAANC prior to the board's approval and designation of its representatives. Lark indicated that all board members were invited to attend; the meetings are open to the public; and that she advised SLAANC that the offer to sponsor the meeting in September was contingent upon the ECWANDC board voting to become an member of the alliance. Lark also stipulated that the chair has the discretion to appoint representatives and make committee assignments. *The motion was made and passed by unanimous vote for the NC to become a member of SLAANC and budget \$200 to host a future meeting.* Chris reiterated his concern for Lark being the representative for the board prior to a full vote by the board. He asked that the vote be postponed until a future time based upon the interest expressed by Reatha Simon to be one of the board's representatives to SLAANC. *The motion was made by Michelle and seconded by Karen authorizing Lark to represent the board on the SLAANC until such time as the board voted on the two representatives and alternate. The motion passed by a vote of 11-0-1 with Chris Shoaf in opposition to the motion.*

Lark presented the request for support up to \$1,200 for expenses associated with the regional congress that is being planned and organized by DONE, the Empowerment Congress and SLAANC. The event will be held on May 17th and open to all members of the public. The event is a regional convening of all neighborhood councils in South LA and will feature guest speakers such as the Mayor, Senator Ridley-Thomas, Gail Goldberg from LA City Planning and Jeff Carr, newly appointed by the mayor to address the gang crisis. *The motion was made by Jai and second by Michelle to approve \$1,200 in funding in support of the South LA Regional Congress. The motion passed by a vote of 10-0-1 with Johnnie Raines voting in opposition to the motion.*

Michelle Colbert asked that the matter of funding support for the Leimert Park Book Fair be reopened. After some discussion ***the motion was made by Michelle and seconded by Rev Walker to allocate \$1,200 to pay for the step and repeat with the understanding that the approval would be contingent upon clarification from DONE on if it is permissible to have the acknowledgement of the council's support in means other than placement on the step and repeat itself. The motion was approved by a vote of 10-1-0.***

Adjournment: All other matters were will be carried over to the next meeting. The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:10pm.