



EMPOWERMENT CONGRESS WEST AREA NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

MINUTES – June 4, 2008
3731 Stocker ♦ Los Angeles, CA 90008

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

Absent: Mary Dark, Rev Lee Walker

City Representatives: Barry Stone – DONE; Deputy Chief Garner; Captain Craig Kit Awakumi, City Planning; Guillermo Cespedes, LA City Gang Prevention and Youth Development.

Call to Order

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

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes from the May 20th, 2008 meeting were presented. Chris Shoaf expressed concern that he had not had an opportunity to review the minutes. Hearing no other objection, **Michelle Colbert provided the motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Karen Ceasar and passed by a vote of 8-1-0 with Chris Shoaf objecting to the approval of the minutes.**

Board Business:

Charles Zacharie presented a draft budget proposal for 2008-09. The budget proposal included both the line item request from the Outreach Committee and the Finance Committee recommendations. The budget was presented as an informational item only and will be considered and voted upon at the board meeting on June 17th.

Charles introduced a request to establish an account for duplication services with CopyCity, a local copying service. The account will allow designated board members to order copies of fliers for distribution as well as other board meeting materials. The company will in turn invoice the NC at the end of each month for copies made with the treasurer maintaining a record of the request. **The motion was made by Jai Gaines and second by Michelle Colbert to authorize the establishment of an business account with CopyCity and the two signatories, Charles Zacharie, Mary Darks, as well as Jai Gaines, for the Outreach Committee to be the persons given authorization to order copies. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.**

Lark Galloway-Gilliam reintroduced the request for approval of an invoice from Community Coalition in the amount of \$249.50 for 50 copies of the nuisance abatement guide. Vote on the item had been tabled from a previous meeting due to questions and concerns raised board members that the item had not been approved by the board prior to the copies being ordered. Lark reported that the matter had been referred to DONE and the response received in the email distributed at the May 20th meeting indicating that the invoice could be paid pending board approval. Lark went on to indicate that the booklet was ordered as part of the board material for the March community meeting; the invoice was presented for payment along with the invoice for copying all other board materials; it would have been inappropriate to copy the information in the booklet therefore the decision was made to order the booklet as part of the board materials for the Marlton Square meeting. Chris Shoaf and Jai Gaines objected to the request for payment reiterating the position that the expense had not been approved by the board in advance to the cost being incurred and the booklets distributed to community members in attendance at the meeting. Lark responded that it was neither practical or realistic to request approval for operational cost such as the cost of copying minutes, fliers, minutes and other handouts for meetings; that the cost was built into the budget.

The motion was made by Michelle Colbert and seconded by Karen Ceasar to approve the invoice from Community Coalition for the nuisance guide. The motion was approved by a vote of 6-5-1 with Phyllis

Taylor, Reatha Simon, Chris Shoaf, Jai Gaines and Johnnie Raines opposing the motion; Tommy Plummer abstained.

Public Comment:

- Jai Gaines thanked 5th Street Dick's for providing the food for the meeting and encouraged the attendees to patronize the coffee house.
- Reatha Simon asked member of the audience and board members to complete the DONE survey as a means of providing feedback and input on the effectiveness of the meetings.
- Tommy Plummer announced that t job fair will be held on June 7th at 3800 ML King Blvd from 10am – 4:00 pm for young adults in college looking for jobs;
- Damien Goodmon announced a Public Utility hearing will be held on June 23rd at Foshay beginning at 6:00pm to solicit community input on the Expo Line safety and crossing at Foshay
- Eddie Jones offered general comments encouraging the board to support the youth of the community and work together.

Presentations:

Deputy Chief Kenny Garner and Captain Craig from the Los Angeles Policy Department along with Kit Awakumi from the City Planning Department – Nuisance Abatement Unit provided an overview and answered questions regarding nuisance property. Mr. Awakumi stressed the importance of documenting potential violations. Deputy Chief Garner outlined the priorities for the area which included a reduction in illegal dumping, enforcement of city ordinance allowing for the prosecution and seizure of property when a landowner willingly and knowingly rents to individuals that violate or represent a public nuisance, and the reduction of crime by 10%. Lizette Hernandez, from Community Coalition, provided a brief overview of the coalition's activities to mitigate the community impact of liquor stores and shared additional copies of the nuisance abatement community guide. Captain Craig recommended that residents call 1-977-ask LAPD to report issues and concerns. Tommy Plummer reminded everyone to also use 311 to request city services and report concerns.

Guillermo Cespedes with the City Gang Prevention and Youth Development Program provided an overview of the needs assessment conducted on gang activity in the area and distinction between gang intervention and prevention strategies. Guillermo reported that the city had released an RFP to identify an agency within a series high risk areas within LA to implement a gang prevention program. The successful applicant will be announced shortly; the funding is \$500,000 per year. Guillermo requested board and community members consider volunteering to help City Parks and other working with youth in the area.

After a number of questions by board and stakeholders – Lark recommended: (1) the Land Use Committee consider a possible role in documenting and providing follow-up on nuisance complaints; (2) the Safety Committee work with the LAPD to identify and publish a number for residents to report suspected criminal activity.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30 pm. The next meeting will be on June 17th.