

Minutes of the General Board Meeting of the

Reseda Neighborhood Council

Monday, September 17, 2018

Reseda Neighborhood Council Community Space, 18118 Sherman Way, Reseda, CA 91335

- I. **Meeting called to order** by Board President C.R. Cochrane at 7:09 PM.
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance** was led by CR
- III. **In attendance**, making a quorum: CR Cochrane, Anna Measles, Martin Buonora, Sharon Brewer, Joe Phillips, Maggi Espada-Hernandez, Yassmin Flores, Anthony Contreras, Cameron Lambert, Sarah Williams and Jeffrey Minter. **Not in attendance**: Gilbert Juarez, J. Benjamin Johnson, Priscilla Anchondo, Narguess Noohi and Jeff Girten.
- IV. **Introduction of City Employees and other visitors:**
 - A. LA-HOP.org online portal is now in activation and all Government officials, community members, stakeholders and related parties are encouraged to use the services. LA-HOP.org is sponsored thru LAHSA and allows individuals to anonymously report any homeless individuals/families in need of services. There are guidelines and restrictions. Please refer to the website: www.LA-HOP.org. Once the report is processed, an outreach team will be sent out to offer Aid, resources, housing and/or shelter referrals to the person/families.
 - B. **Officer Bocanegra**, LAPD Senior Lead Officer, addressed the meeting. Saturday, October 20 is an Open House at the West Valley station from 10:00am-2:00pm. He encouraged folks to come to the station, get a tour, there are fun things for families as well. He will be here himself working the Art Walk. He noted that he's been seeing the neighborhood rising, having been here for over a decade, events such as the Art Walk show the neighborhood is on the rise. He also noted that crime in the West Valley is down 6% this year.
 - C. **Joseph Campbell** from Councilmember Bob Blumenfeld's office addressed the meeting. He said that at the next RNC meeting on October 1, BOE engineers and DOT representatives will attend and make a presentation explaining plans for improvements, (including boarding islands for buses, reconstruction on Reseda Blvd., etc.). There will be town halls and community meetings, Blumenfeld's office is reaching out to businesses affected, etc. Street reconstruction and these plans are all part of the Vision Zero program.
- V. **Public Comment and Announcements:**
 - A. **Don Larson**, from Clean Streets, Clean Starts addressed the council. They've submitted a grant request. He's lived in valley his whole life, his great grandparents founded Northridge and his grandfather owned a local furniture store. Things have declined a bit, so he started the Clean Streets, Clean Starts program. He works with homeless people and the idea has taken off, with successful efforts in Porter Ranch, Canoga Park and Woodland Hills. His organization recruits homeless people and takes them through a 6-

week program and puts them to work. The program moves people on to housing and employment. They only take about 5 people at a time, he's asking for a \$5000 grant. They feed folks, a stipend is given out (in the form of gift cards) and they supply people with metro tokens. The result is a clean street (Roscoe & 405 example given, he just finished that today), community pride, and helping homeless people get fresh starts.

- B. **Garth Carlson** addressed the council regarding holiday decorations. He's still collecting money, they've got around \$3400, but need more to get the decorations up, taken down, stored, etc. Many businesses have committed. If anyone has donations or leads on people or businesses that want to donate, please send his way.
- C. **Paul Elkins** and **Rick Fisher**, from AARP, addressed the council to announce their annual effort of providing free income tax preparation services for folks. They'd like to use the RNC Community Space for that this upcoming year. It's a national program partially funded by the IRS. They're all volunteers, the only costs are locations, software, and minor expenses. They have five locations planned, which are typically donated. They do a few hundred returns each year. There's no charge for their services, they focus on elderly and lower income people. There will be a training session in January for two weeks, then the sessions will take place early Feb-mid April, with two days a week needed. Also, they are looking for volunteers. Garth Carlson noted that he trained for the first time last year, they saved him a bunch.
- D. **Carmen Winston**, from SFV Youth Empowerment Program, addressed the council. She's a Reseda HS grad, she knows the area and knows what the area youth needs. She has distributed back to school bags and been involved in events that include toy giveaways, etc. Seeks to empower the community, hereto help the youth, let them have a voice.
- E. **John Pelzer** addressed the council, he recently ran for congress and addressed the council earlier this year. He thanked anyone who voted for him for their support and in general everyone who voted at all. Affordable housing was a big issue for his campaign. He spoke to advocate for Prop 10, which repeals a law from 1995 that stopped rent control. He said that "Prop 10 gives local governments the power to use rent control if they want." He stated that "the villains are not the mom-and-pop landlords but large equity firms that bought and build huge housing and charge as much as they want, and with each 5% increase in rent 2000 people go homeless." He asked everyone to take a look at Prop 10, know what it does and what it doesn't do. "Large equity firms are going to spend lots of money to convince voters," he said, advocating voters to research first before voting.

VI. **Executive Officer Reports:**

- A. **President – CR Cochrane** – She received a letter from Andrew Choi from the City Clerk's office, thanking the council for the funding training at the last meeting. The admonishment letter has been mostly resolved, four board members still need to take the training at the September 25 training or at the funding session at the upcoming Congress of Neighborhoods. Please let her know which training you'd like to take advantage of, she'll pass it on to Choi. She referred to an incident involving a disagreement over parliamentary procedure from the last meeting, clarifying her stance and noted that this is a learning environment, everyone should be constantly learning how to work together and be aware that everyone learns at different levels. She stated that the Commissioners of NC's held a meeting in Sylmar and that Cochrane and

Anna Measles will be reporting back in writing the findings of the meeting. She also noted that D.O.N.E. wants to change its name, however at the commissioners meeting there was resistance to this idea due to costs. There was also discussion about next year's officer elections, more to come.

B. Vice President – Anna Measles – She just found out before the meeting that she's giving the Treasurers Report, so she'll bring up a few points at that time. She asked C.R. Cochrane to speak about the ceremony which took place yesterday that Measles and Cochrane attended for the installation of new Assemblyman for the 45th District Jesse Gabriel. It was well attended, Mayor Garcetti, Congressman Brad Sherman, State Senator Stern and others were in attendance. It was at Reseda HS, and they had wanted to do an outreach but there was a resource fair right after the ceremony, where items were distributed to the homeless. The legislative body is currently in recess, so everyone is free to call their offices for more information or to communicate opinions on various issues before them. Measles then noted that after the last meeting she contacted those board members who didn't attend the financial training to encourage and coordinate them getting the required training.

C. Secretary – Jeffrey Minter – He noted the parliamentary procedural difference he had with Cochrane at the last meeting, stating that he disagrees with her and how it was handled, noting that several motions were ignored. He said that he had only 2 ½ hours to put today's revised agenda together. He said this issue will be addressed in Standing Rules and thanked everyone for understanding.

D. Treasurer – Gilbert Juarez – Juarez was absent, but Vice Chair Anna Measles said anything relevant will come with agenda items later in the meeting.

E. Parliamentarian – Sarah Williams – She stated that board needs to have a review of parliamentary procedure so that everyone understands it. A Call to Question can't be ignored, but voted on if discussion is to continue. She noted that there has been lots of ignoring, lots of cross debate, hopefully the board can streamline and get meetings done in a more timely fashion. She recommends everyone who is going to the Congress of Neighborhoods to attend the parliamentary procedure workshop. She distributed Standing Rules to everyone, noting that they have to be followed, asking members to please read and if there are any questions or concerns, to talk to her. She will hold everyone equally accountable to them.

F. Sergeant-At-Arms – H. Benjamin Johnson – Not present

At this time, **Vanessa Serrano**, Neighborhood Council Advocate, addressed the meeting (she had been delayed in arriving, or would have addressed the meeting during Section IV above). She asked the council to please attend the Congress of Neighborhoods and register for workshops. She noted that parking passes come from registering, so don't just show up. There will be lots of workshops, so she encouraged the member to coordinate, decide which workshops would be beneficial, and split up to attend and report to each other. Saturday, September 29 will be the Valley Disaster Preparedness Fair, a big event at the Pacific Theatre at 9400 Shirley Ave, from 9:00am-1:30pm. She encouraged people to rsvp, they'll get a bag of emergency kit items. She reminded everyone that the four board members need to have that funding training, she'll follow up. She also spoke about a mural growing in the alley by the Community Space, she's noticed new things being added to it and met the artist doing it after the

last meeting. Lots of tagging had been happening, a business owner asked him to do a mural to lessen the tagging. She said it was good that someone local is doing it, and that there are grants for it as well. This is through the Dept. of Cultural Affairs, it's a complicated process involving applications and such, but the Neighborhood Council can help. The council can't fund the mural, but can offer support, space for meeting and planning, etc. There has to be public notice. She can provide follow up information if anyone wants, ask her. This is the time to do it, this is a time to push for artists, the city is compiling a list of artists. Also, yesterday she checked out LAFD Girls Camp, promoting young women to learn about what it's like to be a firefighter. They had a chance to participate, learned how to use a chainsaw, how to break into a home (legally), it was great.

VII. RNC Committee Reports:

- A. Outreach & Public Relations – Sarah Williams** – More efforts under way, including social media; Instagram is happening, Facebook is back online, Twitter is not being actively utilized, she needs Admin power over the account or she'll close it out and start a new account. The next meeting is September 25 at 7:30pm in the Community Space. Items to be discussed will include social media policy, participation on the Disaster Fair, etc. Regarding the newsletter, Garth Carlson said he'd like to get that out early this month, aiming to be ready to distribute on September 28. If anyone has items, get to him asap to include editing and translating (a deadline of September 19, this coming Wednesday, was set). Additional discussion took place about the RNC Twitter account and the need to get control of it.
- B. PLUM – D.J. Frank**
Nothing to report.
- C. Bylaws & Stand. Rules – DJ Frank**
He referred to the initial, foundational Standing Rules draft that Sarah William distributed, noting that there is more to be added. The next committee meeting will be September 25 at 5:30pm in the Community Space.
- D. Finance – Gilbert Juarez – Not Present, Vice Chair Anna Measles spoke for him.**
There will be agenda items later in the meeting related to Finance and she'll address any issues as they arise in discussion. She noted that she would have appreciated notification that Gilbert Juarez wasn't going to be present, she could have prepared and brought materials.
- E. Community Space – Robert Vogel**
He asked all chairs of committees to notify him of when they're having meetings to avoid conflicts with other groups that are using the space. There was discussion of items purchased for the space, including a dust mop and a weed wacker, and making sure the items are accounted for in the back, which they were. The next Community Space meeting is this Thursday, September 20, items being discussed will include the AARP proposal and CPR classes.
- F. Homelessness Advocacy – Anthony Contreras**
The committee held a meeting a few weeks ago, it was very productive, they finalized the date for the Homelessness Town Hall, Saturday, October 20, 10:00am-Noon. The

event has not been approved through City Clerk's office as of yet. Once the agenda item below (the Clean Streets, Clean Starts grant) is voted on, that paperwork, as well as event form will be submitted, within the 30 day notice they require. Backing from Bob Blumenfield's office, Mayor Garcetti's office, they have connections with the HOPE team and the LAPD, it should be a good event. They are partnering with the West Valley Homeless Alliance, it's a larger event aimed at educating residents about what's ahead and what services are available and to discuss how to alleviate the homelessness problems. Regular committee meetings are the third Thursdays of the month, but they're looking at other times to avoid any conflicts with other meetings.

G. Mobility & Environment – Joe Phillips

The next committee meeting will be October 8, in the Community Space at 7:00pm. The committee looks at the environment and how people get around the neighborhood and the city, how to make streets safer and cleaner. Over the weekend he's been taking rides and looking at other neighborhoods to see how they do things. Long Beach, Santa Monica, etc., lots of opportunities to see how other cities and communities are handling mobility and environment, with bike share areas, bike paths, etc. He'll be going to a mobility meeting this Wednesday, looking to think outside the box when it comes to infrastructure establishment – what's going to happen if we put a bike lane along the Metrolink rail line? If there was a bike path, that could potentially be a safer way for cyclists to get around.

H. Health & Wellness – Maggie

The next committee meeting will be October 10 at 5:30pm, she's also been discussing health and wellness issues with city organizations and would like to combine an event with recruiting youth for participation in those organizations. She has invited them to come to RNC meetings to discuss further. She asked Garth Carlson to include information on these projects in newsletter, and will send him information. She noted that she is looking to reschedule Activate Your Heart, an event with Northridge Hospital, looking for Saturdays in November, more information to come.

I. Economic Development – Garth Carlson

The next committee meeting will be October 27 at 7:00 pm, in the Community Space. They'll be working on different aspects of the business community and how to work with them and their ideas.

J. Beautifying Reseda (ad hoc) – Yassmin Flores

The Jump-Starting Reseda event was amazing, a great success, she expressed thanks to folks who helped, Anna Measles, Joe Phillips, Sarah Williams, Jeffrey Minter, Maggie Espada-Hernandez and Sharon Brewer. The next committee meeting is October 1 at 6:00pm, in the Community Space.

K. Disaster & Emergency Services – Larry Bowman (not present)

Garth Carlson (reporting for Bowman) C.R. Cochrane asked about possibly suspending Bowman until he is able to return. Anna Measles noted that she spoke Bowman a few months ago, and he indicated he could be back in October, so the plan is to wait a bit

longer and see if that happens. If not, other plans will be made. Carlson noted that they're working on the next CPR class, it had been approved in a Finance Committee meeting but didn't show up on the general meeting agenda, and this isn't the first time it hasn't shown up on the agenda. Jeffrey Minter apologized for the oversight. The issue was discussed and will be followed up offline, as the council wants to see these classes happen.

L. Youth and Senior Advocacy – (Vacant)

This is not currently a Chair at this time, however Carmen Winston, who spoke earlier in the meeting, expressed interest in the position. Since there is an agenda item regarding this later in the meeting, it will be discussed then.

M. AD hoc election – Priscilla Anchondo (not present)

Details of the election in the Spring were briefly discussed, it's on the D.O.N.E. web site. Differences between RNC bylaws and the city rules were briefly discussed.

VIII. Reseda Neighborhood Council Administrative Matters:

- A. Approval of Minutes—August 20th, 2018, (5 min) Discussion of corrections and amendments took place, after which Anna Measles moved to approve the minutes as amended, this was seconded by Jeffrey Minter. After a show of hands vote, the motion passed.

Vote count: Yes 10, No 0, Abstain 1 (Contreras, who wasn't present for August 20 Meeting), with 5 members absent.

- B. Discussion, and possible action regarding the Reseda Neighborhood Council General Board Meeting Calendar for the fiscal year 2018-2019. First and third Monday for meetings, no holidays land on meeting days for this fiscal year with a small legal holiday in October. After discussion Anna Measles moved to vote to approve this motion, Jeffrey Minter seconded. After a show of hands vote, the motion passed.

Vote count: Yes 10, No 0, Abstain 1 (Williams), with 5 members absent.

- C. Discussion and Possible action regarding the By-laws and Standing Rules Committee's recommendation for the:

- i. Approval of the standing rules draft.

After discussion, it was noted that Sharon Brewer didn't receive the draft and people need time to look it over. Item B didn't print on her hard copy. There was some confusion over exact email addresses on file for board members. Martin Buonora moved to postpone the action, Anthony Contreras seconded. After a show of hands vote, the motion to postpone was passed.

Vote count: Yes 8, No 0, Abstain 3, with 5 members absent.

- ii. Approval of the Event Approval Packet. Postponing.

- D. Discussion and possible action regarding the Mobility and Environment Committee's recommendation for the:

- i. Approval of the partnership with Ride Reseda bicycle club. Joe Phillips described the proposal and what Ride Reseda is. Ride Reseda is not a non-profit organization, it is a riding club. He'd like to get some shirts or lanyards and have

the council pay for them, but doesn't want to put the city or council at any legal liability. He asked Vanessa Serrano about the legal issues involved. She noted that because it's not a non-profit, she said the City Attorney wants to know if the RNC actually supports the notion before moving forward. There was discussion of the history of the event and that it had, at one time, been sponsored by the RNC. After discussion, Sarah Williams moved that the RNC seek legal counsel from the City about liability and other factors before making any decisions on Ride Reseda, Joe Phillips seconded. A show of hands vote was taken and the motion passed.

Vote count: Yes 11, No 0, Abstain 0, with 5 members absent.

At this time, Sarah Williams and Joe Phillips stepped away for a moment. Also at this time, **Lisa Carreon** from Fantastic Friends of San Fernando Valley addressed the council (she had missed the public announcements section earlier). Fantastic Friends is a group that is a non-profit that helps kids with special needs, it's a local chapter of a national organization, and wants to use the Community Space facility as they have in the past. They would also like to recruit adult and peer volunteers to help with their activities.

- E. Discussion and possible action regarding the Finance Committee's recommendation for the:

- i. Approval of the August 2018 MER

After discussion, it was noted that the report wasn't on the website/dashboard so it needs to be postponed. C.R. Cochrane recommended contacting the City Clerk about the viewing of the MERS online. Anna Measles moved to postpone the vote, Jeffrey Minter seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion to postpone passed.

Vote count: Yes 8, No 0, Abstain 0, Ineligible 1 (Lambert) with 7 members absent (including Phillips and Williams, who momentarily stepped away).

- ii. Approval of payment for the AppleOne Employment Services June 1, 2018 invoice of \$242.65 for our minute taker, Paul Plunkett. A roll call vote was taken and the motion to approve passed.

Vote count: Yes 8, No 0, Abstain 0, Ineligible 1 (Lambert) with 7 members absent (including Phillips and Williams who momentarily stepped away).

- iii. Approval of payment for the AppleOne Employment Services July 18, 2018 invoice of \$358.05 for our minute taker, Paul Plunkett. A roll call vote was taken and the motion to approve passed.

Vote count: Yes 8, No 0, Abstain 0, Ineligible 1 (Lambert) with 7 members absent (including Phillips and Williams who momentarily stepped away)

At this time Joe Phillips returned to the meeting.

- iv. Approval of funds up to \$250.00 for the purchase of 16 Board Member nameplates and holders at \$14 dollars each.

After discussion, a roll call vote was taken and the motion to approve passed.

Vote count: Yes 7, No 1 (Brewer), Abstain 1 (Minter), Ineligible 1 (Lambert) with 6 members absent (including Williams who momentarily stepped away).

At this time Sarah Williams returned to the meeting.

- v. Approval of funds up to \$100.00 for the purchase of 16 Board Member name badges and holders at \$6 dollars each.

After discussion, including the suggestion to hold off on the purchase until seeing what other Neighborhood Council badges look like at the Congress of Neighborhoods, and how the price could change depending on the size, a roll call vote was taken and the motion to approve passed.

Vote count: Yes 8, No 1 (Brewer), Abstain 1 (Measles), Ineligible 1 (Lambert) with 5 members absent.

- vi. Denial of funds of up to \$5000 for the NPG related to the Clean Street Clean Start program by Northridge Beautification Foundation

After discussion, including the reading of a letter from Councilmember Bob Blumenfield in support of the organization and other supporting documents (Anna Measles noted that the supporting documents discussed hadn't been furnished to the Finance Committee), where the work would take place (a guarantee that it would take place in Reseda), the availability of the CSCS personnel for questioning from the council, the organization's status with the Attorney General, and the percentage of the RNC budget that this represents, Martin Buonora moved to postpone the vote to the next meeting, Joe Phillips seconded. A roll call vote was taken and the motion to postpone passed.

Vote count: Yes 9, No 1 (Williams), Abstain 0, Ineligible 1 (Lambert) with 5 members absent.

- vii. Approval of funds up to \$100 for materials for the homeless resource binders for the Reseda NC Homelessness Advocacy Committee

After discussion, clarifying what materials would be included in the aforementioned binders, a roll call vote was taken and the motion passed.

Vote count: Yes 8, No 0, Abstain 2 (Minter, Williams), Ineligible 1 (Lambert) with 5 members absent.

- viii. Approval of funds up to \$400 for snacks, refreshments, and marketing materials for the Town Hall on Homelessness on October 20, 2018. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed.

Vote count: Yes 8, No 0, Abstain 2 (Minter, Williams), Ineligible 1 (Lambert) with 5 members absent.

F. Discussion and possible action regarding the appointment of a chair for:

- i. Ad hoc Community Safety Committee pending creation

This item was postponed.

- ii. Youth & Senior Advocacy Committee – Carmen Winston has thrown her hat in the ring to be the Chair. C.R. Cochrane officially appointed Winston as chairperson of the Youth & Senior Advocacy Committee. After discussion a show of hands vote was taken and the appointment was accepted.

Vote count: Yes 10, No 1 (Brewer), Abstain 0, with 5 members absent.

At this time, three Community Impact Statement recommendations were to have been discussed, but due to the absence of Priscilla Anchondo (who along with Joe Phillips coordinates Community Impact Statements), the board may need additional time and these items were postponed.

IX. **Upcoming Agenda Items:** Possible future agenda items that Board Members would like to include on upcoming agendas should be directed to the Reseda NC President, CR Cochrane or Vice President, Anna Measles.

X. **Tentative -Next Meeting:** 7:00pm, Mon. October 1, 2018 . Reseda NC Community Space 18118 Sherman Way, Reseda, CA 91335 (front half of Bank of America building).

Note: Dates of Future Meetings: Tentative APPROVED General Board meeting dates are the first and third Monday of each month.

XI. **Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 10:03 PM.