



WINNETKA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

20830 Sherman Way, Winnetka, CA 91306

www.winnetkanc.com



President	Vice – President	Secretary	Treasurer	Parliamentarian
Eric Lewis	Erick Lace	Greg Sullivan	JJ Popowich	Marilyn Robinson
Board Members				
Tess Reyes-Dunn	Maria Young	Bettie Ross-Blumer	William Hilliard	Trevor Owen
Victor Lerma	Madison Lamoreaux	David Uebersax	Sarah Andrade	Mary Ellen Moreno

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, January 8th, 2012 – 6:30 PM

Valley Village at 20830 Sherman Way, Winnetka, CA 91306

The Winnetka Neighborhood Council holds its regular meetings on the second Tuesday of every month and may also call any additional required special meetings in accordance with its Bylaws and the Brown Act. The agenda for the regular and special meetings is posted for public review at **Limerick Avenue Elementary School**, 8530 Limerick Ave., Winnetka, 91306; **Fulton Cleaners**, 20109 Roscoe Street, Winnetka, 91306; **Express Pack & Ship**, 7657 Winnetka Ave., Winnetka, 91306; **Canoga Park Bowl**, 20122 Vanowen St., Winnetka, 91306 (near Bar & ATM Machine); **Winnetka Park** 8401 Winnetka Ave., Winnetka, 91306

1. Call to Order & Board Member Roll

Board Member Name	Jan-8	Feb-12	Mar-12	Apr-9	May-14	Jun-11	Jul-9	Aug-13	Sep-10	Oct-8	Nov-12	Dec-10
Eric Lewis												
Erick Lace												
Greg Sullivan												
JJ Popowich												
Marilyn Robinson												
Tess Reyes-Dunn												
William Hilliard												
Bettie Ross-Blumer												
David Uebersax												
Sarah Andrade												
MaryEllen Moreno												
Maria Young												
Trevor Owen												
Victor Lerma												
Madison Lamoreaux, student												
Total												

X = Present, A = Absent, E = Excused, / = Not on the Board at this time, L = Late, LE = Left early

Quorum is 8 members

2. Explanation of Meeting Rules.

3. Approval of Minutes for November.

WNC-2013-010113-01

Board Member	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Eric Lewis				
Erick Lace				
Greg Sullivan				
JJ Popowich				
Marilyn Robinson				
Tess Reyes-Dunn				
William Hilliard				
Bettie Ross-Blumer				
David Uebersax				
Sarah Andrade				
Mary Ellen Moreno				
Maria Young				
Trevor Owen				
Victor Lerma				
Madison Lamoreaux				
Total				

4. **Public Comments:** Comments from the Public on non-agenda items within the Board's subject matter jurisdiction. The public is requested to fill out a "Speaker Card" to address the Board on any agenda item before the Board takes an action. The Speaker Card is requested so that the Speaker's names are complete and correct in the meeting Minutes.
5. **State and Local Government Representative Updates:** Mayor Villaraigosa's representative, Councilman Englander's representative, Councilman Zine's representative, Department of Neighborhood Empowerment representative, and other local or state government representatives that may wish to attend.

OLD BUSINESS

6. Update, discussion and possible action regarding the PLUM Committee's ongoing investigation into the human waste problem occurring near the Pierce College Orange Line transit stop. (Lewis)
7. Update, discussion and possible action from Public Safety Committee on a complaint we got in an email about a month ago from a stakeholder living in the apartments on Sherman Way, saying that there is an infestation of bed bugs in that area. Tenants are leaving the infested mattresses outside for pickup. This should probably be a matter for the Public Safety Committee. (Ross-Blumer)
8. Discussion and possible action on a presentation by Mr. Garth Carlson regarding our \$500 (up to \$750 requested) commitment to the upcoming 2013 Senior Symposium. JJ noted that if the WNC is paid by the City for the Election expenses, then we can consider above expenditure and not overspend. (Lewis)
9. Discussion and possible action on gaining compliance with the Neighborhood Council's Ethics test requirement. It's not hard to read and answer the questions. This came up because there has been poor compliance, noted by DONE, of N. Councilmember's compliance along with questions of how one can best represent one's neighborhood and business.(Sullivan)

Ethics reading (answers) and test found here:

<http://ethics.lacity.org/education/ethics2007/?audience=done>

WNC ethics compliance certificates found here:

<http://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/NeighborhoodCouncilMembersEthicsRoster1.pdf>

NEW BUSINESS

10. Discussion and possible action on a presentation by Michael Johnson, Development Manager for Overton Moore Properties for the proposed commercial 'Chatsworth Commerce Centre' project at SE Corner De Soto Ave. and Nordhoff St.; they are starting the land use process of obtaining a Conditional Use Permit, Zone Change and a General Plan Amendment. (Sullivan)

11. Discussion and possible action to allocate up to \$4000 from the current WNC budget to pay Nationwide Displays for the installation of the new "Winnetka Then and Now" street-light banners. (Lewis)

12. Discussion and possible action the L.A.D.W.P., Southern California Edison and/or The Gas Company charging exorbitant fees for homeowners, apartment owners, condo owners, etc., to opt out of having a smart meter installed for either the gas or power meters.

Recently the California Public Utilities Commission (the "CPUC") held Public Participation Hearings ("PPHs") hearings throughout the Southern California area. WNC's Bettie Ross-Blumer attended the hearing in Downtown Los Angeles on December 17, 2012, not as a WNC member but as a stakeholder in the City of Los Angeles, and only learned of the hearing that same morning. It was a well attended hearing, but none of the 5 CPUC commissioners were present; only a hearing judge, a few clerks, and a video camera. The purpose of the hearing is to take in public comments on the upcoming or current installations of smart meters by both the DWP and the Southern California Gas Co. Both companies are in the process of replacing the current meters with "smart meters", and there is an opt-out process for those that wish to retain their current meter. There is no cost to a homeowner or building owner for the new smart meter. However, if you opt-out, there is a fee (considered a "replacement" fee, as they will most likely switch out to the smart meter, then reinstall an older meter) of \$75 to \$100; plus there is a monthly fee of a similar amount, for each utility. In other words, for those wishing to opt-out of the smart meters, a homeowner might have to pay as much as \$200/month extra fees on top of their utility bill.

A "smart meter", per Wikipedia, "is usually an electrical meter that records consumption of electric [or gas] energy in intervals of an hour or less and communicates that information at least daily back to the utility for monitoring and billing purposes. Smart meters enable two-way communication between the meter and the central system."

Some of the issues raised by those attending the Downtown LA PPH were: 1) health: The smart meters emit pulsed radiofrequency (RF) radiation.

Many complained of headaches, problems sleeping, and other bodily ills after the smart meter was installed. Some of those present are very susceptible to RF radiation and cannot live near it. Note that the World Health Organization issued a proclamation in May 2011 for RF radiation to be classified in the same potentially-cancer-causing category as lead. 2) Lack of privacy issues: the utility - or the company monitoring the meters - will know whether someone is home or not, whether they are on vacation or not and such. 3) Hack-ability of the wireless technology: some complained that their bills went up greatly although their consumption was the same after the meters were installed. 4) Remotely controllable "kill switch" incorporated into some smart meters. 5) Consumers are paying for the cost of these smart meters, when there already are financial issues in California and in Los Angeles. 6) There was a lack of promotion regarding the overall issue, and a lack of promotion that the hearing were taking place - and there is a lack of information about the formation of a "smart grid". 6) Someone suggested using fibre-optic meters instead of the RF meters, which are safer for human health. 7) There is doubt that there is any actual financial or energy savings when comparing the old meters with the newer smart meter.

The information regarding this issue or the hearing was not promoted at any of the DWP Liaison meetings to my knowledge, or at any of the Neighborhood Council meetings. I, Bettie Ross-Blumer, believe that the opt-out smart meter fees are exorbitant and excessive, and that we as a Council should quickly study this issue, let our stakeholders know about this issue, as well as inform the other Los Angeles NCs of the issues, and also vote on and write our own letter as to our stance on the issue. Written comments to the CPUC can be sent to: Public Advisor's Office, CPUC, 505 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco CA 94102. (Ross-Blumer)

13. Discussion and possible action on Election flier expenditure approval, if the following items do not satisfy the cities need do document WNC approvals. (Popowich)

<<Discussion and possible action to fund at least 2 WNC Election related outreach mailings through Academy Mailing for a cost not to exceed \$6,900. (Lewis) Eric motions to allocate \$6,878 for academy for election. JJ seconds to "encumber funds for 2012-2013 board elections. This will be for printing and mailing of election materials" WNC-2012-041012-05 seconded Bill; all approved unanimously. >>

<<Discussion and possible action on two motions from the Rules, elections and By-Laws committee (REB) Reallocating up to \$6,800 for election mailings two post card mailings or a post card and a larger sheet mailing from Academy mailings. JJ will provide accurate numbers for this budget reallocation.

Two motions; 1st; <The REB moves to take \$3,000 from general operating funds and from misc and allocate to Valley Village for a NGP. 2nd, The REB moves to take \$1,280 from gen funds, \$600 paper 500 Oktoberfest and other unused funds to be described by JJ and allocate this \$6800 for election funding for the two mailings.

<<From Mr Lewis; NEW INFO: the Youth March has been expanded and they will be wanting all of the \$500 we originally allocated. So we will need to leave that item as is (at \$500 and not lowered to \$250) and add \$327 more from "Misc." to cover the new invoice total of \$6,877.>> (Lewis)

JJ wants us to change the \$1,280 from general funds to be \$1,607. JJ moves as presented to move money, as per JJ, for elections; Tess seconded, approved by unanimous consensus. **WNC-2012-041012-04**

- 14. Discussion and possible action on a PLUM reviewed issue regarding the new construction on Oso, 1 or 2 blocks north of Saticoy, for 4 houses, not an apartment building or condos. A Stakeholder had been concerned that an apartment building was going up, which would encroach upon a neighborhood of single family residences. The 2200+ sq ft homes are crowded on the lot, with only a "patio back yard". (Ross-Blumer)**

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 15. Finance report and WNC approval (Popowich)**
16. City Mayor's Budget Advocate Report and Survey status: (Hilliard and Young)
17. LADWP Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
18. Public Safety Committee: (Lerma)
19. Outreach and Youth Committee Report: (Robinson)
20. Planning & Land Use Management Committee: (Popowich and Ross-Blumer)
21. Public Works & Transportation Committee: (Uebersax)
22. Rules, Elections & By-Laws (REB) Committee: (Lewis) meeting January?
23. Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Council; V.A.N.C. and L.A.A.N.C. report (Hilliard and Lewis) LAANC
24. Good of the Order
25. Note agenda items here.
26. Future Agenda Items & other Calendar Events:
 - **Public Safety Committee.**
 - **Outreach & Youth Committee.**
 - **Public Works & Transportation Committee.**^{4th}**27. Adjournment**

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. Before a vote on each item any member of the public who has not filled out a **"Speaker Card"** will be accorded 1 minute to make a statement. This period will not last longer than 5 minutes total.

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 § 54957.5)

The Winnetka Neighborhood Council complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and does not discriminate on the basis of any disability. Upon request, the Winnetka Neighborhood Council 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 (818) 718-0629, or please send an e-mail that states the accommodations that you are requesting to sullivang@hotmail.com

SI REQUIERE SERVICIOS DE TRADUCCION, FAVOR DE NOTIFICAR A LA OFICINA 3 Dias de trabajo (72 horas) ANTES DEL EVENTO. SI NECESITA AYUDA CON ESTA AGENDA, POR FAVOR LLAME A NUESTRA OFICINA AL (310) 562-3268.

PROCESS FOR RECONSIDERATION

The Board may reconsider and amend its action on items listed on the agenda if that reconsideration takes place immediately following the original action or at the next regular meeting. The Board, on either of these two days, shall: (1) Make a Motion for Reconsideration and, if approved, (2) hear the matter and Take an Action.

If the motion to reconsider an action is to be scheduled at the meeting following the original action, then two items shall be placed on the agenda for that meeting: (1) A Motion for Reconsideration on the described matter and (2) a {Proposed} Action should the motion to reconsider be approved. A Board member who has previously voted on the prevailing side of the original action taken can only make a motion for reconsideration.

If a motion for reconsideration is not made on the date the action was taken, then a Board member on the prevailing side of the action must submit a memorandum to the Secretary identifying the matter to be reconsidered and a brief description of the reason(s) for requesting reconsideration at the next regular meeting. The aforesaid shall all be in compliance with the Brown Act.

PROCESS FOR FILING A GRIEVANCE

Any grievance by a Stakeholder must be submitted in writing to the Secretary of the Board of Directors. The Secretary shall then within no more than 30 days refer the matter to an ad hoc grievance panel comprised of 3 Stakeholders who are randomly selected by the Council secretary from a list of Stakeholders who have previously expressed an interest in serving from time-time on such a grievance panel. The Secretary will coordinate a time and a place, not to exceed 10 days for the panel to meet with the person(s) submitting a grievance and to discuss ways in which the dispute may be resolved.

Thereafter, a panel member shall promptly prepare a written report to be forwarded by the Secretary to the Board to be heard at the next board meeting outlining the panels' collective recommendations for resolving the grievance. The Board of Directors may receive a copy of the panel's report and recommendations prior to any meeting by the Board, but the matter shall not be discussed among the Board members until the matter is heard at the next regular meeting of the Board pursuant to the Ralph M. Brown Act.

This formal grievance process is not intended to apply to Stakeholders who simply disagree with a position or action taken by the Board at one of its meetings. Those grievances can be aired at the Board meetings. This grievance process is intended to address matters involving procedural disputes, e.g., the Board's failure to comply with the Board Rules or these Bylaws, or its failure to comply with the City's Charter, the Plan, local ordinances, and/or State and federal law.

In the event that a grievance cannot be resolved through this grievance process, the complainant has the right to appeal the matter to the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment for consideration or dispute resolution.

