

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Palms Neighborhood Council

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Date of NC Board Action: 09/05/2012

Type of NC Board Action: For Proposal

Impact Information

Date: 09/17/2012

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 12-0002-S67

Agenda Date: 09/21/2012

Item Number:

Brief Summary: We, the Palms Neighborhood Council, with 30,000 stakeholders in Los Angeles, hereby support Proposition 37, the California Right to Know Genetically Engineered Food Act, and urge the adoption of Los Angeles City Council resolution 12-0002-S67 proposed by Councilmember Paul Koretz in support of Prop 37.

Additional Information



**Minutes of the 102nd meeting of the
Palms Neighborhood Council (PNC) and its Representative Assembly
General Meeting, Wednesday, September 5, 2012
at the IMAN Center, 3376 Motor Avenue, Palms, California**

1. Welcome, Call to Order

Facilitator and Secretary Eli Lipmen welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

2. Roll call

Roll call was taken by Secretary Eli Lipmen. Board Members present:

M. Dee Olomajeye, President
Eli Lipmen, Secretary
Caroline Carr, Pacific Electric Business
Natasha Ericta, Palms West Residential
Charles Miller, Overland Residential
Terry Robinson, Studio Residential
Elise Rothberg, Charnock Ranch Business
Jennifer Tobkin, Palms Depot Business
Greg Zissman, Motor Residential

Nine of the 12 Board Members were present at the beginning of the Meeting. Niall MacMenamin, Vice-President; Jason Buchalter, Treasurer; and Neal James Anderberg, Community-Based Organizations, arrived later. The Exposition Residential Board seat is vacant. Also attending: 26 Stakeholders and guests. The PNC quorum (the minimum number of Board Members needing to be present to take binding votes on Agendized Items) is [**DO CONFIRM: __ (floats?)**] six/seven, so the Board could take such votes.

3. Public Forum

Rachel Cushing, L.A. City District Five Pedestrian Advisory Committee Representative, introduced herself and encouraged feedback regarding neighborhood needs.

4. Westside Mobility Plan (Edna Cruz)

Tom Gall of Fehr & Peers described Westside north-south mobility challenges.

Board Member Niall MacMenamin arrived at this time.

Mr. Gall noted the challenges include bicycle, vehicle parking and rail. Public meetings have been held. He described options being considered. Community workshops will be held in West. L.A.

Board Member Jason Buchalter arrived at this time.

The workshops will be October 4th [Thursday, 6-8 p.m., Westside Pavilion Community Meeting Room B, 10800 W. Pico Blvd.] and 9th [Tuesday, 6-8 p.m., Felicia Mahood Senior Citizen Center, 11338 Santa Monica Blvd.]. Information is available at www.WestsideMobilityPlan.com.

5. Neighborhood Council Election Candidate Q&A (Olomajeye) – FILE YOUR CANDIDACY TODAY! More info at www.palmsla.org/get-involved/elections.

Ms. Olomajeye reminded that the PNC Election will be [Sunday] October 28 [10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. here at the Iman Center]. She introduced IEA (Independent Election Administrator) Tony Wilkinson, who described the Election and Candidate process and the Board Seats up for Election. Ms. Olomajeye described the time commitment and Neighborhood Council role, and encouraged Stakeholders to become Candidates.

Board Member Neal Anderberg arrived at this time.

6. Monthly Updates

a) Government Representative Announcements and Reports (City, State and Federal).

David Giron, Field Deputy for L.A. City District Five Councilman Paul Koretz (818-971-3088; David.Giron@LACity.org), introduced himself and encouraged feedback. A Farmers Market Grand Opening will be announced.

b) President’s Report (Olomajeye). WRAC, Hamilton High.

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #6. g. Motion #1.] Mr. Anderberg described the “Rail~Volution 2012 — Building Livable Communities with Transit” Conference [<http://www.railvolution.org>] October 14–17, 2012 in Los Angeles.

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Olomajeye, seconded by Ms. Rothberg): The Palms Neighborhood Council allocates \$425 for attendance at local conferences with a Neighborhood Council purpose or focus.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Anderberg will present to the PNC about the Conference.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a voice vote.

c) Secretary’s Report (Lipmen). Website; Approval of Minutes from August 1st, Palms BBQ.

Mr. Lipmen reported that the “great Palms Barbeque” was attended by around 40 people, including LAPD Officers, and that PNC Facebook page participation has greatly increased.

MOTION (by Mr. Lipmen, seconded by Mr. Miller): The Palms Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its August 1, 2012 General Assembly Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote; Mr. Anderberg abstained.

d) Treasurer’s Report (Buchalter). PNC Budget

Mr. Buchalter distributed and reviewed the “[PNC] Statement of Expenses Prepared as of 8/22/2012,” the “[PNC] Balance Sheet for 2012-13 Prepared as of 8/22/2012” and the “[PNC] Budget for Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Approved June 27, 2012.” He described recent funding allocations, including two still to be charged from last Fiscal Year’s Budget, and added that “operating expenses are under seven percent . . . one of the lowest” of all Neighborhood Councils.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Buchalter, seconded by Ms. Olomajeye): The Palms Neighborhood Council approves its “Statement of Expenses Prepared as of 8/22/2012.”

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a voice vote.

e) Planning and Land Use Report (MacMenamin). Woodbine Park.

Mr. MacMenamin reported that the Committee will meet this month.

f) Outreach Report (Ericta). Election Outreach, Farris Drive Neighborhood Block Party.

Ms. Ericta reported that an Election outreach banner will be up on September 7th at Palms Elementary School and that information is on the website [www.PalmsLA.org]. Also, there will be a Block Party Saturday, September 29th, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. at St. Mary's [of Palms, 3647 Watseka Ave.; <http://stmarypalms.org>]. Mr. Wilkinson added that there will be an Election Candidates Meeting September 6th, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

g) Projects/Policy Report (Lipmen and Carr).

[Motion #1] [This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #6. g. Motion #2.]

MOTION (by Mr. Lipmen, seconded by Ms. Carr): We, the Palms Neighborhood Council, with 30,000 Stakeholders in Los Angeles, hereby support Proposition 37, the California Right to Know Genetically Engineered Food Act, and urge the adoption of Los Angeles City Council resolution 12-0002-S67 proposed by Councilmember Paul Koretz in support of Prop 37. The PNC will write a letter for the Council resolution and add its name as a supporter of Proposition 37.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Lipmen reported that the Projects and Policy Committee passed the Motion with one opposed and one abstention. Ms. Carr described the Proposition and that it would require food labeling. Mr. Lipmen described opposing arguments. Stakeholders David Feuer, Victoria Block, Ken Lizer, Christine Glover, Laurie Pennington, Susan Wheeler and Jeri Speed, and Andy Shrader, Field Deputy for L.A. City District Five Councilman Paul Koretz (310-289-0353; Andy.Shrader@LACity.org), spoke in support of the Proposition. Ms. Olomajeye remarked that if the Proposition passes the PNC is willing to help educate local businesses.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Mr. Miller). There were no objections.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote.

[Motion #2] [This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #6. g. Motion #3.]

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Rothberg, seconded by Ms. Carr): The Palms Neighborhood Council allocates \$1,500 to support St. Mary's Parish public sitting area and WiFi zone.

DISCUSSION: Father Vincent Shamo, of St. Mary's of Palms, was introduced. Ms. Rothberg distributed an information packet and described the sitting area near the intersection of Watseka Ave., Charnock Ave. and Farris Dr. where Stakeholders already informally meet. Mr. Miller described that native plants will be used. Mr. Buchalter reminded and Father Shamo is ready to submit an NPG (Neighborhood Purpose Grant) Form. Mr. MacMenamin was concerned regarding the PNC, a public agency, allocating funds to a faith-based organization. Father Shamo related that St. Mary's is 80 years old and that the funding would only be used "to create a safe seating area for the community" which will continue to be open to the public and which people of all faiths visit from 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. seven days a week. He assured that "this is not an evangelical program." Ms. Ericta noted that the PNC meets here at the Iman Center.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a voice vote.

[Motion #3] Ms. Carr described the need for the following allocation.

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Carr, seconded by Ms. Robinson): The Palms Neighborhood Council allocates \$3,000 in support of field trip funding for Hamilton High School's Bilingual Program.

DISCUSSION: Stakeholder Sara Jean Lipmen and students April and Henry displayed photos of last year's trip and described the trip's value. Ms. Olomajeye noted that funding is available.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a voice vote; Mr. Lipmen recused.

h) Transportation and Safety Report (Miller). Overland Avenue Parking.

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #6. f.] Mr. Miller reported that Ms. Rothberg and Mr. Giron outreached to Overland Ave. business owners and mechanics to resolve parking issues. The Committee will meet on the usual fourth Monday. There will be an Expo Line Design Meeting September 18th, 7:00 a.m. Mr. Anderberg announced a Bicycle Mobility Meeting Wednesday September 19th, 6:00 p.m. Mr. Lipmen announced a Saturday September 29th Faris Dr. Cleanup in combination with the St. Mary's Block Party.

7. Assembly business

No Assembly business was mentioned at this time.

8. Adjournment

Ms. Olomajeye declared and it was agreed to **ADJOURN** the Meeting at 9:12 p.m.



Palms Neighborhood Council
10008 National Blvd, #210
Palms, CA 90034



www.palmsla.org

September 9th, 2012

Honorable Paul Koretz
Los Angeles City Council Member
Council District 5
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Councilmember Koretz:

The Palms Neighborhood Council, with 30,000 stakeholders in Los Angeles, hereby support Proposition 37, the California Right to Know Genetically Engineered Food Act, and urge the adoption of Los Angeles City Council resolution 12-0002-S67 proposed by Councilmember Paul Koretz in support of Prop 37. This initiative, if approved by voters in November, will establish mandatory food labeling requirements for certain genetically engineered foods.

At issue is the fundamental right consumers have to make informed choices about the food they eat and feed to their children. The Palms Neighborhood Council supports providing its stakeholders in the Palms community with accurate and essential information about the products they purchase so that they can make informed choices. Our community is very conscious of their food supply – Palms is now home to a new Farmers' Market, launched in the past few weeks, and a variety of organic, vegan, and sustainable restaurants and businesses. Standardized labeling of genetically engineered foods is a reasonable way to ensure that consumers have the freedom to make choices about the foods they eat without creating too onerous a burden on businesses in our community.

Currently, the FDA requires the labeling of over 3,000 ingredients, additives, and processes; providing basic information does not confuse the public, it empowers them to make choices. Absent labeling, Americans are unable to choose for themselves whether to purchase genetically engineered foods. Polls have consistently shown that consumers are not only surprised to know the GE foods are not identified, but that they want the government to label these products. Furthermore, labeling foods does not imply a product is unsafe or will be confusing to consumers as some may argue.

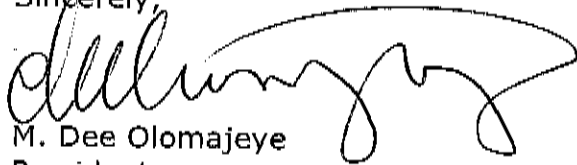
Palms Neighborhood Council
www.palmsla.org

Labeling food products is not at all unprecedented, nor uncommon. Every grocery shopper can pick up a can of food in a U.S. supermarket and read the ingredients. The Food Allergen Labeling and Consumer Protection Act was enacted in 2004 and addresses, among other issues, the labeling of foods that contain certain food allergens, including peanuts, milk, eggs, fish, shellfish, wheat, and soybeans. This required food labeling did not cause any financial hardship to food producers or farmers, nor will Proposition 37. Farmers already keep records of what they grow; food producers already label the products they sell.

Fifty countries with over 40% of the world's population already label genetically engineered foods, including the entire European Union and China. California should lead the nation on this important issue. Knowledge of food ingredients is a basic consumer right and we have the right to know what we are buying and putting in our children's mouths.

Proposition 37 presents a clear opportunity to protect a consumer's right to know, the freedom to choose what we feed our families, and the integrity of our free and open markets. The Palms Neighborhood Council joins nearly a million Californians who signed the petitions that put Proposition 37 on the ballot in support of mandatory labeling genetically engineered foods.

Sincerely,



M. Dee Olomajeye
President
Palms Neighborhood Council
president@palmsia.org

Cc: Mayor Villaraigosa, LA City Council

For further study:

Right to Know website
<http://www.carighttoknow.org/>

LabelGMOs website resources
<http://www.labelgmos.org/resources>