

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Palms Neighborhood Council

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Impact Information

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Council File Number: 13-1152-S1

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Brief Summary: The Palms Neighborhood Council supports a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing and on the disposal of fracking wastewater by injection wells.

Additional Information:



**Minutes of the 104th meeting of the
Palms Neighborhood Council (PNC) and its Representative Assembly
General Meeting, Wednesday, November 7, 2012
at the IMAN Center, 3376 Motor Avenue, Palms, California**

1. Welcome, Call to Order

Facilitator Eli Lipmen welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

2. Roll call

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

Niall MacMenamin, Vice-President

Jason Buchalter, Treasurer

Eli Lipmen, Secretary

Neal James Anderberg, Community-Based Organizations

Caroline Carr, Pacific Electric Business

Natasha Ericta, Palms West Residential

Charles Miller, Overland Residential

Elise Rothberg, Charnock Ranch Business

Jennifer Tobkin, Palms Depot Business

Greg Zissman, Motor Residential

Ten of the 12 Board Members were present at the beginning of the Meeting. M. Dee Olomajeye, future-former President, arrived later. Board Members absent: Terry Robinson, Studio Residential. The Exposition Residential Board Seat was vacant. Also attending: 42 Stakeholders and guests. The PNC quorum (the minimum number of Board Members needing to be present to take binding votes on Agendized Items) is seven, so the Board could take such votes.

3. Seating of Board Members and Neighborhood Council Pledge.

Mr. Lipmen introduced Tony Wilkinson, Independent Election Administrator, who read the names of incoming Board Members Neal James Anderberg, Jason Buchalter (Treasurer), Caroline Carr, Natasha Ericta, Tanya Leal (Secretary), Eli Lipmen (President), Niall MacMenamin (Vice-President), Charles Miller, Shilpan Patel, Andrew Pennington, Elise Rothberg and Jennifer Tobkin. (Terry Robinson was absent.) Twelve of the 13 Board Members were present. All Board Seats are now filled. Mr. Wilkinson led the new Board in saying aloud the Pledge / Oath of Office. Photos were taken.

4. Public forum

Stakeholder Brigitta Schumacher-Bradley opposes “traffic calming measures” on Palms Blvd. Stakeholders Jack and Jonathan Weiss, Hannah Gustafson, John Brown and Niall Huffman like the new bike lane on Motor Ave. Stakeholder Jacqueline Washington requested the PNC to “investigate” regarding PNC Presidential Candidate Marissa Stewart’s challenge to the Election. Stakeholder Madhu Malhotsi would like the PNC to “investigate” some Election voters’ requests for “beer” upon voting.

5. 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), said that the Motor Ave. bike path was established by a City Council Motion in 2011 and approved by the Mayor; there is no plan to add a bike lane to Palms Blvd.. Stakeholder David Feuer recommended and Mr. Giron agreed to look into adding more pavement markings on the Motor Ave. bike lane to make clearer that it’s a bike lane. Mr. Giron explained that the Roz Wyman Recreation Center [formerly Palms Park] was named after the 1950’s City Councilwoman who represented this area. Mr.

Lipmen reminded that the PNC Transportation and Safety Committee meets on fourth Mondays at Fire Station 43 at the corner of Motor and Regent and encouraged contacting Mr. Miller.

b) President's Report (Lipmen). WRAC, Hamilton High.

Mr. Lipmen announced that the PNC Election had 263 votes. The runoff vote was new for Neighborhood Councils; Palms is the first. He thanked Ms. Olomajeye for four years of Board service and thanked Ms. Stewart "for raising important issues" and helping to increase community participation. He described his goals for the new Board. Mr. Lipmen also requested two PNC Budget Representative volunteers to attend the November 17th Mayor's Budget Day.

c) Vice-President's Report. Palms Middle Beautification Update.

Mr. MacMenamin requested and there were no objections to moving the Motion regarding Palms Middle School beautification to Item 5. i. He explained that DONE (the L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment) ruled on the PNC Election challenges; he believed that the challenges should be addressed. Mr. MacMenamin described extensive community service work and projects initiated for Palms by now-former PNC President Ms. Olomajeye, including "creating a vision for the Board."

d) Secretary's Report (Lipmen). Website; Email; Approval of Minutes from October 3rd GA Meeting.

MOTION (by Ms. Leal, seconded by Mr. Lipmen): The Palms Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its October 3, 2012 General Assembly Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote; five abstained (Anderberg, Leal, Patel, Rothberg, Tobkin).

e) Treasurer's Report (Buchalter). PNC Budget.

Mr. Buchalter, PNC Treasurer since 2007, distributed and reviewed the "[PNC] Statement of Expenditures Prepared as of 10/22/2012," and the "[PNC] Balance Sheet . . . Prepared as of 10/22/2012." He welcomed new Board Members and Stakeholders and thanked Ms. Olomajeye for her service "and countless hours she put in to improve and selflessly serving this community." Around \$600 of \$1,000 budgeted was spent for PNC Election outreach. The St. Mary's of Palms Neighborhood Purpose Grant application is "in progress" and a Hamilton High School Grant is being worked on. "Around \$10,500 has been spent" of the \$37,000 that was available in the Budget for this Fiscal Year July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013. The balance is \$26,261.22 as of October 22nd. The Palms Bike Rodeo is budgeted for \$12,000; it "occurs in June."

f) Projects/Policy Report (Lipmen and Carr). Palms Cleanup.

i) [See the below Motion.] Funding invoices copies were available and are also online at <http://palmsla.org/get-involved/committees/projects>.

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Carr, seconded by Ms. Miller): The Palms Neighborhood Council allocates \$1,467 for tables and tents for the LAPD Toy Drive Holiday Event.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Carr described the annual event at which the PNC would have an outreach booth. The LAPD Pacific Division has already received funding for this event from other Neighborhood Councils and the PNC previously has helped fund it.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a voice vote with 11 in favor; Mr. Anderberg abstained.

ii) [See the below Motion.] Policy letter copies were available and are also online at <http://palmsla.org/get-involved/committees/projects>.

MOTION (by Ms. Carr, seconded by Mr. Anderberg): The Palms Neighborhood Council supports Los Angeles City Councilmember Paul Koretz's Resolution to include in the City of Los Angeles 2012-2013 Legislative Program support for Governor Jerry Brown, the Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, and the State of California's Division of Oil, Gas & Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) to move swiftly to place a

moratorium on hydraulic fracturing and on the disposal of fracking wastewater by injection wells until DOGGR, in conjunction with local and state authorities and an independent third party reviewer, makes a determination that such processes are safe for public health, for the Los Angeles water supply, for the environment and from initiating seismic activity. The Palms Neighborhood Council will write a Community Impact Report to the City of Los Angeles in support of the resolution and sign to a letter of support for a statewide ban on fracking to be sent to Governor Jerry Brown.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Carr noted that there is an “oil reserve directly under Venice Blvd.” Brenna Norton, Organizer, Food and Water Watch (BNorton@FWWatch.org; 323.843.8446; www.FoodAndWaterWatch.org), described fracking and concerns about it. The Inglewood Oil Field is “the largest urban oil field in the country.” An oil company released plans in 2010 to drill there but they have not yet applied. She said “many other” Neighborhood Councils support the Motion. Several Stakeholders spoke in support of the Motion. Mr. Giron added that City Councilman Koretz is preparing a Motion for City Council consideration to place a moratorium on fracking.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote with no objections.

iii) [See the below Motion.]

Mr. Lipmen requested to TABLE the below proposed Motion for Committee discussion.

MOTION (by Mr. Lipmen, seconded by Mr. Anderberg): The Palms Neighborhood Council TABLES the Item 5. f. iii. proposed Motion to submit a Community Impact Report regarding the LA City Council Motions 12-1682 & 12-1681 regarding L.A. City policy for Neighborhood Council subdivision/boundary adjustments and factual basis stakeholder definition.

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

Mr. Lipmen will consider forming an ad hoc Committee for this.

Mr. Lipmen reported on “a great cleanup” recently. The next cleanup will be November 10th.

g) Transportation and Safety Report (Miller). CERT Team for Palms, Expo Line & Palms Station Planning, Westside Mobility Study, Overland Avenue Beautification.

Mr. Miller encouraged completing and sending a copy to the PNC of the survey at www.WestsideMobilityPlan.com to help represent Palms views. He described the importance of the Plan and different options. The Committee favors “the Sepulveda Plan.” Mr. Miller described Expo Line Palms Station work. Mondays through Fridays 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. through the end of January there will be construction and traffic patterns disruption on Palms Blvd. between National and Clarington. The complaints hotline is 213.922.EXPO.

MOTION (by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Anderberg): The Palms Neighborhood Council resolves that: whereas the recent re-striping of Motor Avenue in Palms reduced traffic from four lanes to two, increasing already considerable automobile congestion on Motor, and whereas much of the traffic in the 3700 block of Motor during business hours involves the US Post Office, and whereas the alleyway behind the Post Office could serve as an effective mitigation for congestion on Motor by offering a point of automobile ingress, and egress, and whereas the current alleyway is in a state of considerable disrepair, rendering it nearly impassable, therefore, the Palms Neighborhood Council petitions the City of Los Angeles to fully repave the alleyway between Motor and Mentone, from Regent to Venice in Palms, as a necessary mitigation to offset additional congestion resulting from the decision to reduce Motor from four lanes to two in Palms.

AMENDED MOTION (by Mr. Lipmen, accepted by Mr. Miller and Mr. Anderberg): The Palms Neighborhood Council resolves that: whereas the current alleyway is in a state of considerable disrepair, rendering it nearly impassable, and whereas the alleyway behind the Post Office could serve as an effective mitigation for congestion on Motor by offering a point of automobile ingress, and egress, therefore, the

Palms Neighborhood Council petitions the City of Los Angeles to fully repave the alleyway between Motor and Mentone, from Regent to Venice in Palms, as a necessary mitigation to offset additional congestion resulting from the decision to reduce Motor from four lanes to two in Palms.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Miller described the location and issue history. There was extensive discussion that the amendment could “dilute” the original Motion and/or possibly increase traffic.

AMENDED MOTION FAILED by a voice vote; one was in favor.

DISCUSSION: Speed bumps to help prevent speeding were requested if the alley is repaved. Mr. Miller reminded that this Motion cannot “force the City to do anything.” Mr. Giron stated that “the City in 2008 cut all funding for alleyways”; City Councilman Koretz puts alley repaving requests on a wait list.

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

ORIGINAL MOTION PASSED by a voice vote; two opposed.

Mr. Miller indicated that the next Committee Meeting will discuss supporting development around the intersection of National and Motor Blvds. that does not create too much congestion. Most LANative.org work will be moved to the new PNC Green Committee, which will have its first Meeting November 14th at 7:00 at Fire Station 43 at Motor and Regent; all are welcome. The Expo Line Urban Design Committee proposed “far, far less” native plants “than promised”; the contractor has “resisted” planting native plants.

h) L.A. Neighborhood Councils Coalition (LANCC) Report.

Ms. Robinson could not attend and there was no report.

i) Planning and Land Use Report (MacMenamin). Woodbine Park Modernization Update.

Mr. MacMenamin described Committee work and encouraged feedback. He reported that Palms has around 4,000 children and is “park-poor.” The Palms Middle School Principal is working with the PNC to make their recreational space more available to the community.

MOTION (by MacMenamin, seconded by Mr. Lipmen): The Palms Neighborhood Council supports the Palms Middle School's beautification plan.

DISCUSSION: Palms Middle School held two Beautification Days in which many Stakeholders participated.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote; one abstained.

j) Outreach Report (Erica) Candidate Forum, Election outreach.

Ms. Erica described the “great” PNC Election Candidates Forum. She also described Committee work and upcoming events, including a Welcome for Councilman Koretz, and encouraged participating; the Committee meets on third Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. here.

6. Assembly business

Mr. Lipmen will discuss with Board Members and Stakeholders about upcoming Committee changes.

Mr. Giron presented and read a Certificate of Appreciation from City Council District Five to former PNC President Dee Olomajeye. [Long standing ovation and applause.]

There was discussion about the handling of Stakeholder concerns regarding the PNC Election.

7. Adjournment

Mr. Lipmen declared the Meeting **ADJOURNED** at 9:19 p.m.



Palms Neighborhood Council
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January 23, 2013

Honorable Paul Koretz
Los Angeles City Hall
200 North Spring Street,
Los Angeles, CA 90012

The Palms Neighborhood Council supports Los Angeles City Councilmember Paul Koretz's resolution to include in the City of Los Angeles 2013-2014 Legislative Program support for Governor Jerry Brown, the Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, and the State of California's Division of Oil, Gas & Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) to move swiftly to place a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing and on the disposal of fracking wastewater by injection wells until DOGGR, in conjunction with local and state authorities and an independent third party reviewer, makes a determination that such processes are safe for public health, for the Los Angeles water supply, for the environment and from initiating seismic activity.

Sincerely,

Eli Lipmen
President
Palms Neighborhood Council