

# CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA



## GOVERNING BOARD

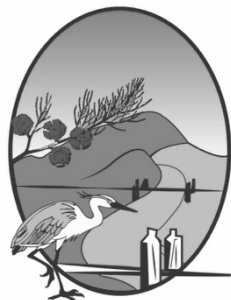
CLINT BIRDSONG  
CHAIR  
ROMANA BARAJAS  
VICE-CHAIR  
ASH KRAMER  
TREASURER  
BRYAN KRAMER  
CHLOE RIVAS  
TERESA ROMAN  
ALEXIA TERAN

## GREATER CYPRESS PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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## GREATER CYPRESS PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, September 8, 2020 – 7:00 P.M.  
Online/Telephonic Meeting via Zoom # 965 5334 0703



## DRAFT MINUTES

Board Members	Roll Call
Romana Barajas	Present
Clint Birdsong	Present
Ash Kramer	Present
Bryan Kramer	Present
Chloe Rivas	Present
Teresa Roman	Present at 7:10 p.m.
Alexia Teran	Present

### 1. Call to Order

- 1.1. The meeting was called to order at 7:03pm by Greater Cypress Park Neighborhood Council (GCPNC) Chair, Clint Birdsong. The minutes taker, Mr. Starr, called the roll. At that time, Romana Barajas, (Vice-Chair), Mr. Birdsong, Ash Kramer (Treasurer), Bryan Kramer, Chloe Rivas, and Alexia Teran were present, and there was a quorum [GCPNC defines a quorum as five (5) Board members present]. Teresa Roman joined later.
- 1.2. Mr. Birdsong welcomed the assembled group and provided instructions on making public comment and accessing interpretation features..

[Ms. Roman arrived at 7:10]

### 2. Comments from Public Officials

There were none

### 3. Public Comments

- 3.1. Ana Aldaco of Mujeres de la Tierra thanked GCPNC for its support of the “Rompiendo Barreras con la Tecnología” project and said they we are able to move forward. It would start in September and early October. She said they would not host the Día de los Muertos Community Procession due to COVID-19 restrictions. Ms. Aldaco said the group was distributing care packages of feminine hygiene products and potential recipients could be shared at [ana@mujeresdelatierra.org](mailto:ana@mujeresdelatierra.org). Distribution could be direct to the individual or from the River Center.

#### **4. Chairperson's Report**

##### **4.1. Update on member eligibility to vote.**

Mr. Birdsong said he believed all board members present were eligible. Alfred Beltran and Peter Quezada had been removed from the board by the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) for not completing required trainings, particularly the Code of Conduct.

Mr. Birdsong acknowledged that "we are on Tongva land."

*[At this time (7:19 p.m.) Ms. Roman dropped off the meeting for several minutes.]*

##### **4.2. Cypress Parks Slow Streets update**

Mr. Birdsong reported that despite stakeholder interest, LADOT would not expand the program any further. For now, existing signs would remain.

##### **4.3. Cypress Park Rec Center serving as Alternative Learning Site from 8/31, Grades 1-8, Call 213-485-5384**

Ms. Kramer made the above announcement. Ms. Barajas said the site provided for kids to be supervised while using WiFi. She added that LAUSD was providing free wireless routers for families without internet, or for children who might be with a babysitter outside the home.

Ms. Teran noted a disregard by drivers, including those from outside Cypress Park, for the Slow Streets signs and restrictions. She proposed GCPNC install additional signs. Mr. Birdsong suggested that they wait until October for a reply from LADOT and absent one, they add to the agenda an item regarding more prominent signs.

#### **5. Treasurer's Report**

##### **5.1. Approval of July & August 2020 Monthly Expenditure Report**

Ms. Kramer said \$13,700 had been spent of the \$38,590 budget, leaving approximately \$25,000. \$11,000 was spent on Neighborhood Purposes Grants (NPGs) of the \$20,290.51 which had been budgeted, and \$9,290 remained for the rest of the year.

Theoretically, meeting translation services would be reimbursed after a 3 to 6-month delay.

**Ms. Kramer moved to approve as above. Ms. Roman seconded.**

There was additional discussion among board members. There was no public comment.

**The motion passed by a roll-call vote with 6 yes (Barajas, Birdsong, A. Kramer, B. Kramer, Roman, Teran), 0 no, 0 abstentions, with 1 ineligible (Rivas).**

*[At this time, Item 7 was taken up.]*

#### **6. Presentation from LA County Registrar-Recorder Elections Division on Nov. 3rd Elections procedures**

*[This item was taken up at 8:31 p.m. following Item 8.1.]*

Jeff Klein introduced himself as the County Manager for Civic Engagement, in charge of overseeing the upcoming election. He shared a slideshow presentation with the assembled group.

Los Angeles County was the largest voting jurisdiction in the US with 5.5M voters and all would receive a vote-by-mail packet automatically. While vote-by-mail was a very secure method of voting, there would still be 800 in-person voting locations around the county, including Dodger Stadium, the Los Angeles Civic Center, and the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion.

In-person voting would be available from 10am to 7pm starting with 75 locations on October 24 to the full 800 locations from October 30 through the November 3 Election Day. Hours on that day would be 7am-8pm.

380 to 400 drop boxes would be available around LA County from October 5. Those voting by mail would need to sign the ballot as in the past, and mailed ballots would need to be postmarked by election day. They could also be brought to a vote center.

Mr. Klein described the ballot marking device (BMD) used for in-person voting, which would be similar to the experience during the March primaries. The BMD would allow for an independent and private voting experience with accessibility support. He encouraged use of the Interactive Sample Ballot (ISB) for those planning to vote in person which would allow choices made at home to be accessed on vote center BMD machines using QR codes.

Public Health guidelines such as mandatory face coverings and social distancing would be enforced. Machines would be sanitized.

He said sample ballots would be sent to voters around September 24, and actual ballots would be distributed starting October 5, though they would be sent over the course of a few days due to the volume.

October 19 was the voter registration deadline. Klein said voters should ensure they were registered at their current address. Anyone who moved to LA County after then could go to the vote center and vote using a conditional registration.

He encouraged the community to follow the County Registrar-Recorder on social media at @lacountyrcc, on the web at [www.lavote.net](http://www.lavote.net), and to email questions to [vsap@rrcc.lacounty.gov](mailto:vsap@rrcc.lacounty.gov).

Klein said inactive voters (those who had not voted in 6 years or who had moved and not updated their information) should call the registrar to update their records. Inactive voters would not receive a ballot by mail, but could fill out a provisional ballot in person.

Responding to Ms. Teran, Mr. Klein said a voting center needed to be 2,600 square feet due to social distancing guidelines so some former voting locations such as libraries might not be used this time around. He noted there was an online lookup tool.

Responding to Mr. Birdsong, Mr. Klein said anyone who is registered but did not receive the vote-by-mail ballot could request one by email or phone and even have someone pick one up on the person's behalf. They would issue them up to the day before to qualified voters. Anyone turning in a vote-by-mail ballot at a vote center would want to sign it in advance and simply drop it in the box.

Anyone wishing to vote in person would not need to surrender their vote-by-mail ballot.

Responding to Ms. Roman, Mr. Klein said assistance was available at voting centers for anyone who had trouble with the devices, though he pointed out they had been "focus tested" with seniors.

He said the phone number for questions was (800) 815-2666, option 2, then option 3; and the website was [www.lavote.net](http://www.lavote.net).

*[At this time (9:07 p.m.), Item 8.5 was taken up.]*

## **7. Consent Calendar**

- Approve July and August Regular Meeting Minutes

**Ms. Barajas moved to approve consent calendar. Ms. Kramer seconded.** There was no board discussion or public comment. **The motion passed unanimously by a roll-call vote with 7 yes (Barajas, Birdsong, A. Kramer, B. Kramer, Rivas, Roman, Teran).**

## **8. Action Items**

### **8.1. Discussion and Possible Action: Review Emergency Neighborhood Purpose Grants**

- Manos Que Sobreviven: up to \$5,001 - Grant to fund back to school supplies for 300 students in Cypress Park and Glassell Park area
- Manos Que Sobreviven: up to \$5,000 - Grant to fund 150 care packages (food, cleaning items, etc.) for Cypress Park stakeholders

Oscar Gaytan and Frank Martinez were present to represent Manos Que Sobreviven.

Ms. Kramer explained NPGs. Ms. Roman stated that the GCPNC should not give money to organizations who are not helping members of the Cypress Park community.

Mr. Gaytan presented on a back-to-school event, which was originally to take place at Sotomayor Arts and Sciences Magnet with a sponsorship by Cal State University, but which was being revised

due to the pandemic. He said the organization distributed hundreds of backpacks annually to the Greater Cypress Park community. The revised plan focused on school supplies for 300 students, and not on backpacks. They were hoping Irving Middle School's parking lot would be their distribution point at a date in October. They asked for \$5,001.00 from each area neighborhood council.

Mr. Gaytan said the grant request for \$5,000 for care packages was for a "food and hope event." During the summer and fall when "stuff gets back to normal," they wanted to provide care packages and hot meals to 150 families, to take place at Cypress Park Recreation Center.

Ms. Barajas noted that Irving School was in Glassell Park, but Nightingale was in Cypress Park.

Mr. Martinez described how the events would be first-come, first-served.

Ms. Roman again argued against programs taking place outside or at the border of Cypress Park if they were not benefitting the Cypress Park community directly, and she claimed the outreach needed to be improved within Cypress Park.

Ms. Barajas noted the loss of a local bus line, making it hard for local residents to get to Irving School. She asked the applicants about a separate giveaway specifically for 150 Cypress Park residents. Mr. Martinez said he'd need to speak with Alberto.

Mr. Birdsong expressed concerns with being locked into one group's approach and said he heard Ms. Barajas' and Ms. Roman's concerns. Ms. Barajas said the applicants were doing great work in the community, and she understood the difficulty securing a location. She suggested Aragon Elementary and the public library, and that a board member might assist by reaching out on the applicants' behalf.

Ms. Kramer said GCPNC had given \$7,000 to the applicant toward the end of the previous fiscal year. She said Patrick at Cypress Park Library had been enthusiastic about using their parking lot for food distribution.

Ms. Roman said she had distributed 150 bags of food from her home and that people felt welcome there; the applicants could use her home as a distribution point if the library was not available.

Mr. Martinez clarified that the 150 families from Cypress Park consisted of referrals of 50 families from Acción Comunitaria, 50 from Unidos por Nela, and 50 from Juntos Park.

Mr. Kramer argued that they shouldn't feel bad about limiting grants to those who will directly benefit the Cypress Park community.

**Ms. Barajas** moved to postpone consideration of the first grant request (school supplies) to the next board meeting. **Mr. Kramer** seconded, and there was unanimous consent.

**Ms. Kramer** moved to grant Manos Que Sobreviven \$3,000 for care packages (food, cleaning items, etc.) for Cypress Park stakeholders exclusively. **Ms. Teran** seconded.

There was discussion of how the recipients of the care packages would be identified and whether it would be advantageous to donate directly to groups like Acción Comunitaria and Unidos por Nela. Ms. Roman said she would not be supportive of a 50-family limit because it would discriminate against other families. She said she would support only a minimum of 150 families.

Ms. Kramer noted Unidos por Nela was not a 501(c)3 and would need a fiscal sponsor if GCPNC was to provide a grant to that organization.

**Ms. Kramer** withdrew the motion without objection. **Mr. Birdsong** requested to postpone indefinitely. There was unanimous consent.

*[At this time (8:31 p.m.), Item 6 was taken up.]*

**8.2.** Discussion and Possible Action: Community Impact statements in support of the following Council Files:

**8.2.1.** Support: Council File 20-0838 Permanent Slow Streets Network / Commuter Traffic Reduction / Pilot Program

Mr. Birdsong noted the motion was a recommendation from the Land Use Committee. He said the proposed pilot program would be a new program with lessons learned from the Slow



Streets temporary program. The Council File would set up a review for a city ordinance. LADOT could administer the program in a similar way to the speed hump program.

Board members suggested possible future slow streets.

**Mr. Birdsong** moved to file a CIS in support of the Council File as written from the Land Use Committee. **Ms. Kramer** seconded. The motion passed unanimously by a roll-call vote with 6 yes (Barajas, Birdsong, A. Kramer, B. Kramer, Rivas, Roman). Ms. Teran had left the meeting by this time.

- 8.2.2.** Support: Council File 20-0990 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Training, and Anti-Bias Training  
Mr. Birdsong explained the letter's intent. He referred to issue at ARC and described this training as an antidote.

**Mr. Birdsong** moved to file a CIS in support as above. **Mr. Kramer** seconded. The motion passed unanimously by a roll-call vote with 6 yes (Barajas, Birdsong, A. Kramer, B. Kramer, Rivas, Roman), with Ms. Teran absent.

- 8.2.3.** Support: Council File 20-0980 Approval Revocation / Development Projects and Project Applications / Corruption or Fraud / Los Angeles Municipal Code / Amendment / Ordinance  
Mr. Birdsong explained that the CF would allow approvals to be undone if discovered to have been approved based on fraud or corruption.

**Ms. Barajas** moved to support as above. **Mr. Birdsong** seconded. The motion passed unanimously by a roll-call vote with 6 yes (Barajas, Birdsong, A. Kramer, B. Kramer, Rivas, Roman) , with Ms. Teran absent.

- 8.2.4.** Support: Council File 20-0931 Laundromat Incentives & Rebate Pilot Program / Water & Power Cost Reduction / Low Income Residents / Discounted and Free Laundry WMs. Krameres / COVID-19 Pandemic

**Ms. Barajas** moved to write a CIS in support of CF 20-0931, with a requested amendment to include incentives for business owners to open new laundromats, to make the program permanent, and to require that any customer discounts apply during all operating hours, and to include free drying.

**Mr. Birdsong** seconded. The motion passed unanimously by a roll-call vote with 6 yes (Barajas, Birdsong, A. Kramer, B. Kramer, Rivas, Roman) , with Ms. Teran absent.

*[At this time (9:58 p.m.), Item 8.4 was taken up.]*

- 8.3.** Discussion and Possible Action: Support letter of censure related to ARC Steering Committee transphobic comments, to put it on GCPNC letterhead, and to address the letter to EVRNC and to the ARC.

Mr. Birdsong explained the issue. He said the LGBTQ+ Alliance took the position that: "we don't live in a city that should allow people to demonstrate transphobia and hatred." He added that the only group that could enforce the code of conduct is the NC itself, and if the ARC steering was allowing anti-trans comments, they should be alerted.

**Mr. Birdsong** moved as above. **Ms. Kramer** seconded.

Romana said the person who made the comment said he didn't know he was being transphobic because English was his second language. Since she was on steering at that time, she said she would abstain from the vote. She said, "We were able to agree on code of conduct and ARC needs to push it forward."

Jose Galdamez from DONE noted the NC Censure Policy and Removal Policies.

Mr. Birdsong acknowledged the motion was meant to address the transphobic side because Rachael and Helene came to the LGBTQ+ Alliance, Rachael as plaintiff and Helene as witness. He said people should apologize and agree to do better in the future.

The motion passed by a roll-call vote with 5 yes (Birdsong, A. Kramer, B. Kramer, Rivas, Roman), 0 no, 1 abstention (Barajas), with 1 absent (Teran).

*[At this time (9:25 p.m., Item 8.2.1 was taken up.)]*

- 8.4.** Discussion and Possible Action: Procedure for filling 2 vacant seats on the Governing Board  
Mr. Birdsong described ways the application form had been posted in the past. The board discussed challenges in verifying stakeholder eligibility during Safer at Home.  
Ms. Barajas stressed that the matter was urgent, that she knew of two candidates who were interested, and that the seats should be filled in October. Ms. Kramer said she would upload the application to cypressparknc.com. Mr. Galdamez offered to provide a candidate application form.  
It was noted that Ms. Rivas would not be eligible to run for the youth seat under the new bylaws due to not turning 18 until September, 2021, following the elections.  
It was agreed to hold an Outreach Committee meeting before the next board meeting.
- 8.5.** Discussion and Possible Action: Event Approval: Community Cleanup at Confluence Plaza Oct 17. Requested budget \$100 for disposable supplies and outreach

*[This item was taken up at 9:08 p.m. after Item 6.]*

**Mr. Birdsong** moved to approve the community cleanup as above, noting the city might not allow it due to coronavirus restrictions. **Ms. Barajas** seconded.

In board discussion, Ms. Kramer said the cleanup would take place at Confluence Plaza where a fountain previously stood. Starting in November the cleanup would include the library and other locations.

The motion passed by a roll-call vote with 5 yes (Barajas, Birdsong, A. Kramer, B. Kramer, Roman), 0 no, 0 abstentions, with 1 ineligible (Rivas) and 1 absent (Teran).

- 8.6.** Discussion and Possible Action: Pop-up Cleanups event approvals: Every month on the Saturday after the NC meeting. Requested budget of \$200 for the year - supplies and outreach  
Ms. Kramer explained this was a standing hourlong cleanup every Saturday and \$200 might be more than was needed.  
**Mr. Birdsong** moved to approve as above. **Ms. Barajas** seconded. The motion passed by a roll-call vote with 5 yes (Barajas, Birdsong, A. Kramer, B. Kramer, Roman), 0 no, 0 abstentions, with 1 ineligible (Rivas) and 1 absent (Teran).

*[At this time (9:13 p.m.), Item 8.3 was taken up.]*

## **9. New Business and ideas for future meetings**

Set up outreach meeting.

## **10. Upcoming Meetings and Events:**

- Governing Board Meeting: Tuesday, September 8, 7:00PM

## **11. Adjournment**

Mr. Birdsong adjourned the meeting at 10:14 p.m. without objection.

*Respectfully Submitted by Conrad Starr*