

# 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

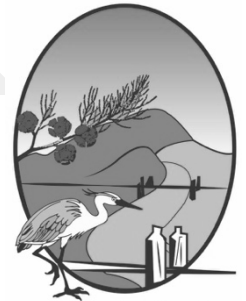
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## GREATER CYPRESS PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, October 13, 2020 – 7:00 P.M.

Online/Telephonic Meeting via Zoom # 882 3303 9184



## DRAFT MINUTES

Board Members	Roll Call
Romana Barajas	Present
Clint Birdsong	Present
Ash Kramer	Present
Bryan Kramer	Present at 7:48 p.m.
Chloe Rivas	Present
Teresa Roman	Present at 7:14 p.m.
Alexia Teran	Present

### 1. Call to Order

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

### 2. Comments from Public Officials

There were none.

### 3. Public Comments

Ms. Barajas reminded everybody that street cleaning ticketing would resume on October 15th.

### 4. Chairperson's Report

- 4.1. Mr. Birdsong reported that all board members were current with their trainings and certifications.
- 4.2. Mr. Birdsong reminded everyone to vote. Information on free flu shots was available on GCPNC's Facebook page.
- 4.3. Budget Advocate update, Outreach Committee update from Ms. Roman  
Ms. Roman recounted an incident involving an acquaintance, a single mother, whose daughter had asked her daughter for help.

Ms. Roman went to the home where the woman rented a room for herself and three children, when observed the woman being “beat up” by four women she understood to have been sent by the landlord to forcibly remove the family.

Ms. Roman said she, herself, was pushed to the wall by one of the women, breaking her arm, and that her son was scratched by one of the women, and a 30 to 35 year-old hit her son in the face.

Police were called, but Ms. Roman said they didn’t do their job. They completed the report without allowing Ms. Roman to answer questions herself, including her height, her eye color, and her version of the events. They did not give her a card when she asked. The report stated only 2 women were involved. She said police “were laughing with those people who hit us,” and she felt humiliated.

Later, when Ms. Roman’s acquaintance took her 11 year-old child to the hospital, the landlord complained that nobody was looking after her other child who stayed at home. Ms. Roman said she took the child to her home.

Ms. Roman said that had she not intervened, they could have killed the woman or “left her there in bad shape with the kids crying.” She said the landlord has called the woman a prostitute and engaged in other acts of harassment. Meanwhile, the woman is paying her rent, though the landlord has tried not to receive the money. Ms. Roman said he took the woman to court 3 times and lost.

Ms. Roman filed a police complaint the next day, but she hasn’t received a copy. She said there were other cases of area residents not being provided copies of requested reports.

Ms. Roman invited a woman named Olivia to speak. Olivia said she was pushed to the street pavement by someone on drugs while at a Cypress Ave. bus stop. A bus driver called the police, who took a report, as well as paramedics. Olivia was never contacted by a detective. She had to pay for x-rays out of pocket.

Mr. Birdsong offered to get a police representative for the next meeting. Ms. Barajas offered to try to get the councilmember involved. She suggested Department of Children and Family Services could help with the assault of the minor described by Ms. Roman.

As Ms. Barajas’ suggestion, Mr. Birdsong agreed to agendize a resolution denouncing “this type of behavior,” citing “race-on-race assaults.” Mr. Birdsong added “violence against renters.”

## 5. Treasurer’s Report

### 5.1. Approval of the September 2020 Monthly Expenditure Reports

Ms. Kramer reported \$24,000 remained available. \$11,000 of the \$20,290 budgeted for NPGs had been spent. \$9,290 remained. **Ms. Kramer** moved to approve as above. **Ms. Barajas** seconded.

In public comment, Nichole Torres announced that the Día de los Muertos event from Mujeres de la Tierra had been canceled. Ms. Teran made comments regarding the eviction moratorium.

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

## 6. Consent Calendar

- Approve September Regular Meeting Minutes

**Mr. Birdsong** moved to approve the consent calendar. **Ms. Rivas** seconded. The motion passed by a roll-call vote with 4 yes (Birdsong, A. Kramer, Rivas, Roman), 0 no, 2 abstentions (Barajas, Teran), with 1 absent (B. Kramer).

## 7. Action Items

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

#### 7.1.1. Support: CF 20-1045 - Land Use Reform / Increasing Transparency / Processes and Procedures Ordinance / Update

This item was not taken up.

**7.1.2. Oppose: CF 20-1044 - Land Use Reform / High Value Projects**

This item was not taken up.

**7.1.3. Neither Support nor Oppose: CF 20-1045 - City Zoning Code Update / Ballot Measure.**  
Comment that (1) the TOC should not be used as a gold standard for the report because it has failed to meet its goals and (2) the study needs to include who should develop low-income properties and where the resources for such development would come from because rezoning reduces costs for developers who may not be committed to building affordable housing.

This item was not taken up.

**7.2. Discussion and Possible Action: Review Neighborhood Purpose Grants**

- Buried Under the Blue (BUB): up to \$4,000 – Grant to fund food and supplies events for Cypress Park residents

**Ms. Roman recused on the basis she was affiliated with the applicant organization.**

Ms. Kramer described read from the application:

“This grant will be used to purchase toilet paper, toothbrushes, toothpaste, hand sanitizer, mask, and other toiletries. Buried under the blue will work with Acción Comunitaria to make over 150 hygiene kits for the stakeholders of Cypress Park. We will work with Acción Comunitaria to come up with a date, time for distribution and flyer for the event.

“Currently, the community of Cypress Park is suffering from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic with loss of work and the many other issues that come with the pandemic. Some community members are in need of some of the basic items like toilet paper or toothpaste. These hygiene kits will help them tremendously in this great time of need.”

Ms. Kramer said “Anthony” would present on behalf of the applicant, but Anthony announced he was experiencing computer issues. Ms. Kramer invited any Acción Comunitaria participants who might be present to speak to the application.

Lizette Montes said 100 to 180 people came to Acción Comunitaria’s food distribution every week. They had started to distribute clothing, but hygiene kits were still lacking.

**Ms. Kramer moved to support Buried Under the Blue (BUB) with an NPG in the amount of \$4,000 to fund food and supplies events for Cypress Park residents. Mr. Kramer seconded.** Ms. Kramer noted funds budgeted for in-person meetings might be redirected to NPGs later in the fiscal year.

In public comment, Alanna Holt said she volunteered for Acción Comunitaria and spoke in support of the motion, praising the execution and the scalability of the operation.

Stakeholder “Vee” spoke in support, noting her pride at the work by community members. She noted food stamps don’t pay for necessary and expensive hygiene products.

Stakeholder “B” said she volunteered with Acción Comunitaria and that she supported the motion., She highlighted importance of hygiene products in containing the spread of COVID-19.

**Ms. Barajas moved to amend the motion by replacing “\$4,000” with “\$3,000.” After some discourse, she withdrew the motion.**

*[Interpretation had been unavailable from approximately 9:05pm to 9:10pm due to technical issues.]*

*[Ms. Teran left the meeting at approximately 9:11 p.m.]*

Stakeholder “Erica” inquired about limits to donations to a single recipient during a fiscal year, and there was discussion. Empowerment Advocate Jose Galdamez stated that anything over \$5,000 would require a contract, and anything over \$20,000 would be subject to approval by the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (BONC).

It was clarified that BUB would supply the items that Acción Comunitaria would be in charge of distributing. Following further discussion, Mr. Galdamez suggested asking BUB to provide a post-event report with photos listing how funds were used.

**The motion passed by a roll-call vote with 4 yes (Barajas, Birdsong, A. Kramer, B. Kramer), 0 no, 0 abstentions, with 3 ineligible (Montes, Rivas, Rodriguez), 1 recused (Roman), and 1 absent (Teran).**

*[At this time (9:22 p.m.), Ms. Roman returned to the meeting, and Mr. Kramer left the meeting.]*

Mr. Birdsong asked Ms. Roman to give a post-grant report for how it goes. Ms. Roman thanked the board and said she would make sure the money was well administered to the community.

*[At this time (9:25 p.m.), Item 7.4 was taken up.]*

- 7.3.** Discussion and Possible Action: Appoint 2 At-Large Directors to the Governing Board (applications and qualifications available at <https://cypressparknc.com/gbapps/>). Applications must be received before the start of this meeting.

*[This item was taken up at 7:45 p.m. after Item 6.]*

Mr. Birdsong noted the bylaws prevented vacant board seats being filled after December 15.

He said 8 applicants had applied. Those present would be invited to address the board. Then, board members could ask questions. Finally, members of the public could address the board.

The first vacant seat would be voted on, and filled, by a majority vote of the board (4 votes). If there was no majority, he explained how a second vote could determine the winner.

Once the first seat was successfully filled, the second vacant seat would be filled by the same process from among the 7 remaining candidates.

*[Ms. Kramer stepped away briefly at 7:48 p.m. She and Mr. Kramer then rejoined the meeting.]*

The applicants were invited to address the board.

Ramiro Diaz, Jessica Ramos, Lizette Montes, Nick Richert, Jennifer Rodriguez, and Alfred Beltran introduced themselves and took questions from the board. Applicants Susan Rocha and Rebecca Trotzky were not present.

In public comment, Vee, Ms. Holt, and B encouraged appointing Ms. Montes to the board.

Mr. Birdsong, Ms. Barajas, and Mr. Kramer encouraged applicants to participate in committees regardless of who was appointed to the board.

Ms. Roman thanked the applicants and said never before had so many people shown an interest in joining the GCPNC. She encouraged participation in the street cleanup efforts.

Erica said she was pleased so many young people wanted to be involved.

**Mr. Birdsong called the vote on the first open seat.**

**Ms. Montes received 4 votes (Barajas, A. Kramer, B. Kramer, Roman) and was declared the winner. Ms. Rodriguez received 2 votes (Birdsong, Teran), and Mr. Diaz received 1 vote (Rivas).**

**Mr. Birdsong called the vote for the second open seat.**

**Ms. Rodriguez received 5 votes (Birdsong, A Kramer, B. Kramer, Rivas, Teran) and was declared the winner. Mr. Diaz received 1 vote (Roman). Ms. Ramos received 1 vote (Barajas).**

Mr. Galdamez administered the Neighborhood Council Oath. The new members were seated.

- 7.4.** Discussion and Possible Action: 2021 Neighborhood Council Elections Worksheet and other elections planning

- Tentative plan from the City Clerk: The election will be conducted by mail. Stakeholders must request a ballot online or through a mailed form by April 6. Ballots must be returned by April 13. Ballots will be postage paid. We will also have a ballot drop box location within the NC boundaries.
- Appoint an Elections Committee

*[This item was taken up at 9:25 p.m. after Item 7.2.]*

Mr. Birdsong explained the elections plan, some of which still needed to be approved. Election day would be April 13, 2021 and would be by mail. Stakeholders needed to request a ballot and demonstrate eligibility, either online or by mailing in a form, to be received by the City Clerk's office by April 6, 2021. Postage-paid ballots would need to be postmarked by the election day to be counted. Materials will be in Spanish, Korean, and English, with other languages by request.

In public comment, stakeholder “Yoselin” stated she did not know where the money “you’re giving to Ms. Roman” was going or “what she’s going to get out of this.”

Ms. Barajas noted that stakeholders could call a Spanish-language line to request a ballot, which was (213) 978-0444.

Mr. Birdsong brought up the Election Information Worksheet on a shared screen. It was also in the supporting documents.

He proposed the election day drop box hours as 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The board agreed for the library to be the first-choice drop box location and the Recreation Center as the alternate location.

Ms. Roman agreed to be election chair without opposition.

Board members were asked if election materials needed to be in languages besides English, Spanish, and Korean. None were requested.

**Mr. Birdsong moved to approve the worksheet as agreed, and listing Ms. Roman as elections chair. Ms. Kramer seconded.**

There was no public comment.

Mr. Galdamez stated that candidate filing would begin on November 22.

**The motion passed by a roll-call vote with 5 yes (Barajas, Birdsong, A. Kramer, Rivas, Roman), 0 no, 0 abstentions, with 2 ineligible (Montes, Rodriguez) and 2 absent (B. Kramer, Teran).**

Ms. Rodriguez shared the following NC Elections FAQ page link:

[https://clerk.lacity.org/sites/g/files/wph606/f/2021\\_NC\\_VBM\\_FAQ.pdf](https://clerk.lacity.org/sites/g/files/wph606/f/2021_NC_VBM_FAQ.pdf).

#### **7.5. Discussion and Possible Action: Community Cleanup Events**

- Our plan was denied by the City Clerk - but CD1 has offered to co-host small ones

Ms. Kramer explained the above.

#### **7.6. Discussion and Possible Action: Metro is conducting an independent noise study of the Metrolink Central Maintenance Facility.**

Ms. Kramer explained that Metro would be conducting a sound study because they thought Metrolink had not done a good job in assessing how much sound was produced by that facility. Volunteers who could offer an area at their home or yard to monitor sound levels could contact Ms. Kramer by email at [ash.gcpnc@gmail.com](mailto:ash.gcpnc@gmail.com).

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

Ms. Barajas asked that the Housing Department be invited as well and someone from Councilmember Cedillo’s office. Mr. Birdsong agreed to invite an officer from LAPD Northeast.

Ms. Kramer encouraged reviewing CIS motions had to wait for the November meeting.

Ms. Roman thanked the board and also Mr. Kramer for setting up tents, tables, and chairs at the Wednesday food giveaways. It was noted that the “community feels loved, not abandoned.”

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

- Governing Board Meeting: Tuesday, November 10, 7:00PM

### **10. Adjournment**

Mr. Birdsong adjourned the meeting at 9:55 p.m. without objection.

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Conrad Starr, Minutes Writer*



Addendum: Greater Cypress Park Neighborhood Council Governing Board Application (Responses)

*\*Email addresses and telephone numbers have been removed for privacy purposes.*

Timestamp	Please choose:	First name	Last name	Please select your stakeholder status:	Statement of interest: please share why you want to serve on the GCPNC Governing Board.
9/12/2020 11:18:47	English	Ramiro	Diaz	Live (own or rent) within the Greater Cypress Park NC boundaries (verify your address at <a href="https://empowerla.org/city-map/">https://empowerla.org/city-map/</a> )	I would like to serve to better improve the healthcare and wellbeing of our community members by voting in on topics that would benefit the community as a whole. There will be a lot of construction to come in the neighborhood based on the august 2020 meeting of the new train rails being established. While it would definitely benefit the community, we must also take into consideration noise levels, construction related air particles, and establishing new walkways/ crosswalks. I was also very pleased with the mobile clinic that arrive to the cypress park neighborhood for free COVID testing. There are other free clinical services and as a board member of the community, it would make it easier to bring in events to the area.
9/16/2020 8:41:04	English	Jessica	Ramos	Live (own or rent) within the Greater Cypress Park NC boundaries (verify your address at <a href="https://empowerla.org/city-map/">https://empowerla.org/city-map/</a> )	To help our community grow and thrive and to be a voice for our community members. I feel it is important to be aware on what is going on in our community and to give back to the community that has given me so much.
9/16/2020 12:26:44	English	Jessica	Ramos	Live (own or rent) within the Greater Cypress Park NC boundaries (verify your address at <a href="https://empowerla.org/city-map/">https://empowerla.org/city-map/</a> )	To help our community grow and thrive and to be a voice for our community members. I feel it is important to be aware on what is going on in our community and to give back to the community that has given me so much.
9/16/2020 22:20:57	English	Jessica	Ramos	Live (own or rent) within the Greater Cypress Park NC boundaries (verify your address at <a href="https://empowerla.org/city-map/">https://empowerla.org/city-map/</a> )	To help our community grow and thrive and to be a voice for our community members. I feel it is important to be aware on what is going on in our community and to give back to the community that has given me so much.

Timestamp	Please choose:	First name	Last name	Please select your stakeholder status:	Statement of interest: please share why you want to serve on the GCPNC Governing Board.
9/23/2020 11:41:56	English	Lizette	Montes	Live (own or rent) within the Greater Cypress Park NC boundaries (verify your address at <a href="https://empowerla.org/city-map/">https://empowerla.org/city-map/</a> )	I have lived my entire life in this neighborhood and want nothing but the best for it. Now as an adult I would like to be more involved in the decision making of the well being of not only my livelihood but my neighbors as well. As a bilingual individual I feel like I could offer a lot to monolingual spanish speaking residents who are the majority in our area.
9/23/2020 19:44:43	English	Nick	Richert	Live (own or rent) within the Greater Cypress Park NC boundaries (verify your address at <a href="https://empowerla.org/city-map/">https://empowerla.org/city-map/</a> )	I'd love to know more about and contribute to the community I've lived in for the past 8 years.
9/23/2020 19:51:28	English	Jennifer	Rodriguez	Live (own or rent) within the Greater Cypress Park NC boundaries (verify your address at <a href="https://empowerla.org/city-map/">https://empowerla.org/city-map/</a> )	To work with my community.
9/23/2020 22:37:20	English	Nick	Richert	Live (own or rent) within the Greater Cypress Park NC boundaries (verify your address at <a href="https://empowerla.org/city-map/">https://empowerla.org/city-map/</a> )	I'd love to know more about and contribute to the community I've lived in for the past 8 years.
10/5/2020 1:17:12	English	SUSAN	ROCHA	Live (own or rent) within the Greater Cypress Park NC boundaries (verify your address at <a href="https://empowerla.org/city-map/">https://empowerla.org/city-map/</a> )	To make neighborhood improvements

Timestamp	Please choose:	First name	Last name	Please select your stakeholder status:	Statement of interest: please share why you want to serve on the GCPNC Governing Board.
10/6/2020 18:12:24	English	Rebecca	Trotzky	Live (own or rent) within the Greater Cypress Park NC boundaries (verify your address at <a href="https://empowerla.org/city-map/">https://empowerla.org/city-map/</a> )	Hi folks! I have lived in Cypress Park for a few years. I am a family doctor and work in the Dept of Emergency Medicine at LAC+USC. My medical practice includes complex care for our neighbors experiencing homeless and substance use disorder. I look forward to working with the team to make our neighborhood strong and healthy. I am part of COVID response teams. You might see me riding my bike to work, walking with my insomniac 6month old, or doom scrolling with my kid in college. I am bilingual English/Spanish. Thanks for consideration
10/13/2020 17:53:31	English	Alfred	Beltran	I affirm a substantial and ongoing participation within the Neighborhood Council's boundaries (may be in a community organization)	To serve the community.