

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA



GOVERNING BOARD

CLINT BIRDSONG
CHAIR
ROMANA BARAJAS
VICE-CHAIR
ASH KRAMER
TREASURER

BRYAN KRAMER
LIZETTE MONTES
CHLOE RIVAS
JENNIFER RODRIGUEZ
TERESA ROMAN
ALEXIA TERAN

GREATER CYPRESS PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

1150 CYPRESS AVE
LOS ANGELES, CA 90065

E-mail: GCPNC@empowerla.org
Website: cypressparknc.com

GREATER CYPRESS PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, November 10, 2020 – 7:00 P.M.
Online/Telephonic Meeting via Zoom # 892 0533 2134



DRAFT MINUTES

Board Members	Roll Call
Romana Barajas	Present
Clint Birdsong	Present
Ash Kramer	Present
Bryan Kramer	Present
Lizette Montes	Present
Chloe Rivas	Present
Jennifer Rodriguez	Present
Teresa Roman	Present by 7:23
Alexia Teran	Absent

1. Call to Order

- 1.1. The meeting was called to order at 7:01 by Greater Cypress Park Neighborhood Council (GCPNC) Chair, Clint Birdsong. The minutes taker, Mr. Starr, called the roll: Mr. Birdsong, Ash Kramer (Treasurer), Bryan Kramer, Lizette Montes, Chloe Rivas, and Jennifer Rodriguez were present. Quorum is five (5) and was met. Romana Barajas (Vice-Chair) and Teresa Roman joined later. Alexia Teran was absent.
- 1.2. Mr. Birdsong welcomed the assembled group and provided instructions on making public comment and accessing interpretation features. He acknowledged that Cypress Park sits on land formerly inhabited by the Tongva people.

2. Comments from Public Officials

- 2.1. Ricardo Flores, Senior Field Deputy for Councilmember Cedillo (District One) discussed a virtual housing workshop planned for November 18. He said room rentals would be covered in the agenda. Translation would be available at the meeting.

The intersection of Avenue 26 and Figueroa would be named after Cypress Park resident, Anita Cardona.

He and Ms. Kramer agreed to connect about a possible street clean up partnership.
- 2.2. Jose Galdamez, Empowerment Advocate, Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) said amended bylaws had been sent to the GCPNC board, reflecting ordinances passed by City Council,

which included an update to the Community Interest Stakeholder definition and Uniform Age Ordinance; now, the minimum voting age was 16 years old.

NCs could add in a youth seat open to individuals 14 to 17 years old on election day or upon selection. Anyone who turned 18 during their term would be allowed to finish the term. Galdamez said to run for the GCPNC seats, one would need to be at least 18 years old; or to vote, 16.

The Planning Department's Planning 101 series would continue on November 17, 19, and 21 with a session on Community Plans. 35 such plans were undergoing updates.

Mr. Birdsong noted the GCPNC had opposed all the bylaws changes. Mr. Galdamez said the bylaws amendment window would open immediately after the elections.

[At this time, 7:23 p.m., Mr. Birdsong announced that Teresa Roman was present in the Zoom attendees. She was promoted to panelist.]

3. Public Comments

- 3.1. Susan Rocha said she had been bullied by Divine Savior Catholic Church. Twice they lied in court. Twice they lost. She said she had been told by neighbors not to walk on their side of the street and claimed she was the victim of racism and claimed the GCPNC did not care about racism against white people. She said she is still fighting against the church's use of amplified sound.
- 3.2. Kelsey Jessup said she works at the Nature Conservancy, which, she said, was partnering with State Parks on the Bowtie Parcel. She announced that they finished collection of soil samples in December, 2019 and acknowledged they still had not provided results to the GCPNC, which they would do "early next year," when they would be available to discuss health risks and other concerns.
- 3.3. Romana Barajas said Grocery Outlet, formerly Fallas, was taking applications. She said \$500 assistance was available from the LADWP. The Mayor's Office and the Mexican American Bar Association would have a fair for assistance to undocumented individual around housing issues, including ½ hour with a lawyer and other resources the following Saturday. She heard from parents that a lot of dust was being created at the Bowtie parcel and she noted some kids were back in school, and that LAUSD special education would be in-person in January, adding that children were spending more time outdoors due to COVID-19 concerns. She requested Kelsey Jessup to address.
- 3.4. Ms. Montes said there were additional issues to bring up with an LAPD representative besides what Ms. Roman had reported at the October, 2020 meeting. Mr. Birdsong said LAPD was unable to attend due to shift changes. He asked Mr. Flores to find someone besides Ofc. Reyes to attend the December meeting.
- 3.5. Juan Corral said community members were monitoring Taylor G2 and Bowtie G1, and there were reports of dust being produced at Bowtie next to schools. He said the area was a brownfield site that was full of lead and arsenic. He encouraged stakeholders to file reports of dust with the Air Resources Board. He requested that Kelsey Jessup provide an update at the next meeting? Mr. Birdsong agreed to post about the issue.
- 3.6. Alejandra Huerta said she was a health educator at Children's Hospital Los Angeles. She referred to a 2019 survey at Cypress Park Rec Center, and said "a couple of" no smoking/no vaping signs would be installed that would be more visible. Mr. Birdsong said he would agendaize the item for the December meeting so the community could provide input on the signs' verbiage.

4. Chairperson's Report

- 4.1. Mr. Birdsong reported that Ms. Kramer, Ms. Rivas, Ms. Rodriguez, and Ms. Teran were ineligible to vote. Ms. Roman reported she also had trainings to complete, and that she was having issues accessing funding training in translation.

5. Treasurer's Report

5.1. Approval of the October 2020 Monthly Expenditure Reports

Ms. Kramer reported \$19,350.93 remained available.

Mr. Birdsong moved to approve as above. Ms. Barajas seconded.

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

6. Consent Calendar

- Approve October Regular Meeting Minutes

Ms. Barajas moved to approve the consent calendar. **Ms. Montes** seconded. The motion passed unanimously by a roll-call vote with 8 yes; Ms. Teran was absent.

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**

Ms. Kramer said the Council File (CF) sought to create greater transparency in how developers speak with City Council so as to avoid corruption.

Ms. Kramer moved to submit a CIS in support of the CF. **Ms. Barajas** seconded.

Mr. Birdsong spoke in favor, saying the CF would provide transparency and protocols to where secret meetings were concerned.

In public comment, Ms. Rocha said she would like an EIR to be required when a church installs a sound system and blasts noise through the neighborhood.

Mr. Corral requested that hyperlinks for Council Files be included on agendas.

The motion passed unanimously by a roll-call vote with 8 yes; Ms. Teran was absent.

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

Ms. Kramer explained that the committee recommended to oppose because the CF provided a way to speed up development process to get high value projects directly in front of City Council instead of in front of the Planning and Land Use Management Committee, without taking the time needed to understand project implications.

Ms. Kramer moved to submit a CIS in opposition of the CF. **Ms. Barajas** seconded.

Ms. Barajas said City Council did not have a good record [on land use] at this time.

In public comment, Ms. Rocha advocated for an EIR and a building permit for amplified sound coming from churches.

The motion passed unanimously by a roll-call vote with 8 yes; Ms. Teran was absent.

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.**

Ms. Kramer noted the agenda items should have listed the CF as 20-1042. The committee did not reach a recommendation for GCPNC to support or oppose the CF motion.

Ms. Kramer moved that the GCPNC file a CIS as above, as corrected.

Mr. Birdsong argued that putting the item before voters was a bad idea, and he expressed concern over "a giveaway to developers or others."

After some discussion and still with no second, **Ms. Kramer withdrew the motion.**

Ms. Kramer moved that the GCPNC oppose CF 20-1042 as above and to insert the following language at the end: "and (3) this should not be placed on a ballot because of the increased potential for unfair campaign advantages by developers." **Ms. Barajas** seconded.

In discussion, board members cited inadequate low income housing, excessive market and luxury housing in TOC developments, reduced parking requirements, and negative impacts on public schools due to a reduction in required fees.

Ms. Kramer invited Ms. Rodriguez to learn more at the December Land Use Committee meeting, when a Planning Department staff might be in attendance.

In public comment, Mr. Corral spoke in support, saying TOCs were a great idea but that the law was poorly applied and was not doing well to address the housing crisis. He was also concerned about the impacts from 10-year and other covenants, when housing would return to market rate [from low-income].

Ms. Rocha stated she was offended by Mr. Birdsong's remark about old, white, male voters.

The motion passed unanimously by a roll-call vote with 8 yes; Ms. Teran was absent.

7.1.4. Support: Substitute Motion for CF 20-1376 LA Alliance v City and County of Los Angeles / Martin v City of Boise / Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals / Los Angeles Municipal Code / Amendment... see https://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2020/20-1376_misc_sub%20mo_Bonin_Ryu_10-28-20.pdf.

Mr. Birdsong explained that the original motion sought to allow the resumption of homeless sweeps, which had been put on hold at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. This substitute motion from Councilmembers Ryu and Bonin was about not criminalizing homelessness; and that offering shelter only to then remove a person's belongings was the wrong approach.

Ms. Kramer moved to file a CIS in support as above. Mr. Kramer seconded, noting it was "as clear a thing as [he had] ever read."

Ms. Barajas spoke in favor, noting "sweeps" had the effect of shifting populations from one area or municipality to the next. Finding housing was more important. She said she had seen families and elderly becoming homeless at increasing rates.

In public comment, Ms. Rocha noted homeless individuals sleeping at the Church of the Divine Savior and at the IHOP Restaurant, and that trashcans at bus stops were overflowing.

The motion passed unanimously by a roll-call vote with 8 yes; Ms. Teran was absent.

7.2. Discussion and Possible Action: Review Neighborhood Purpose Grants

- **Friends of Cypress Park: up to \$3,000 – Grant to support maintenance of the Veteran's Memorial**

Mr. Birdsong noted the application was for \$2,000 and was downloadable via the GCPNC website.

Guillermo Reyes spoke on behalf of the applicant. The funds would cover one year of maintenance, to include gardening (\$450/year), watering, replacement of lighting, payment of the electricity bill, changing of flags, and new plants and landscaping, starting in December, 2020.

Board members spoke in support. In public comment, Ms. Rocha spoke in support.

Mr. Birdsong moved to approve the NPG for Friends of Cypress Park for up to \$2,000 to support maintenance of the Veteran's Memorial. Ms. Montes seconded.

The motion passed by a vote of 4 yes (Barajas, Birdsong, B. Kramer, Montes), 0 no, 0 abstentions, 4 ineligible (A. Kramer, Rivas, Rodriguez, Roman), with 1 absent (Teran).

Mr. Reyes agreed to send itemized budget to Ms. Kramer.

7.3. Discussion and Possible Action: 2021 Neighborhood Council 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**

No action was taken on this item. During the discussion, Mr. Birdsong noted Ms. Roman could take up the topic as Chair of the Elections Committee.

Ms. Kramer noted a budget of \$5,000 for election expenses.

Suggestions for outreach included:

- Lawn signs
- “Slow down” signs with election information
- Billboard at the corner of “Cypress Best”
- Bus benches
- Cardboard signs at eateries such as Starbucks.
- Asking businesses to pass out flyers
- Encouraging schools to create civics projects around the elections; creating a Google Doc to share with schools like Sotomayor
- Asking businesses like Dollar Tree to advertise the election
- Ad placements in *the Eastsider*
- Updating the GCPNC pamphlet
- Flyering in mailboxes
- Social media
- Outreach at events already scheduled

Ms. Roman raised the issue of outreach to stakeholders without literacy skills.

In public comment, Veronica Polanco said she represented the Mayor’s Office, which was creating a working group for NC Region 8 to collaborate on candidate recruitment starting and pool outreach efforts (website URLs, flyers, advertisements, use of the Remo app for virtual candidate forums, leveraging of nonprofits).

Ms. Polanco noted Region 8 candidate filing was to begin 12/12/2020.

She said the City was asking nonprofits to help with advertising. She suggested a principals’ coffee hour with parents and extra credit incentives for students to get involved. She noted the City receives a discount for billboards. She suggested infographics for people who don’t read and write. She suggested past board members not running for reelection could share their stories with non-citizens in the area.

She said the US Postal Service could deliver flyers within a certain radius without postage – called the “mailman service.”

Ms. Rocha stated that it was illegal to “put anything in anybody’s mailbox” or “put any sign on a City pole.” She said involving schools outside Cypress Park would be “inviting voter fraud.”

Ms. Huerta spoke to the obstacle of rising rates of COVID-19 and stress among students, suggesting it could be helpful to them to give them an opportunity to get involved.

Mr. Birdsong agreed to notify Ms. Huerta about upcoming Outreach Committee meetings.

Mr. Birdsong noted that students who live in the neighborhood but whose schools are outside Cypress Park would still be eligible to vote.

7.4. Discussion and Possible Action: Community Cleanup Events

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

This item was addressed during Item 2.1.

7.5. Discussion and Possible Action: Authorize up to \$1,000 for purchasing “Slow Down” Yard Signs.

No action was taken on this item.

During discussion, Ms. Barajas suggested locations near Divine Savior Church and Nightingale Middle School.

On the subject of potholes, Ms. Polanco said the NC Pothole Blitz form could be submitted anytime and that she could escalate 3-1-1 requests to fix potholes.

Ms. Roman said apartment owners had killed City trees by burning or through the use of chemicals because the roots were damaging their pipes, and now the trees were about to fall on people or on houses. Ms. Polanco agreed to try to send a team to investigate once GCPNC provided the addresses in question.

Ms. Barajas requested the GCPNC's website and social media profile pages include links to City services related to potholes and trees. Ms. Roman suggested creating a flyer that explains the difference between 3-1-1 and 2-1-1, and whom to call for which services, and which services are offered to residents at no charge. Ms. Barajas said a two-sided flyer could include election information.

8. New Business and ideas for future meetings

Ms. Rocha spoke against Slow Streets. She suggested Street Services could pick up broken signs.

Ms. Polanco said the Mattel Corporation was donating toys to nonprofits through the Mayor's Office, and that nonprofits could request up to 150 toys. Multiple nonprofits serving the same area could coordinate their requests to get more for their areas. Nonprofits were asked to make requests on official letterhead identifying the ages and number of toys needed, and to email the requests to veronica.polanco@lacity.org.

Ms. Roman said she would distribute toys through her food distribution. Mr. Birdsong mentioned day laborers.

Erika Miramon from Unidos por Nela asked for information about the program.

9. Upcoming Meetings and Events:

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

Mr. Birdsong noted the above and encouraged stakeholders to subscribe to the Early Notification System to receive all GCPNC agendas in their email inboxes.

Ms. Kramer said she was working on a social media policy and the budget would be partially dependent on size and on need.

Ms. Roman thanked Mr. Kramer for helping with chairs, tents, and tables at the weekly food giveaways.

10. Adjournment

Mr. Birdsong adjourned the meeting at 9:33 p.m. without objection.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Conrad Starr, Minutes Writer*