

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA



GOVERNING BOARD

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ROMANA BARAJAS
VICE-CHAIR

ASH KRAMER
TREASURER

MACK HILL
BRYAN KRAMER
JAVIER LOPEZ
LIZETTE MONTES
TERESA ROMAN
REBECCA TROTZKY-
SIRR

GREATER CYPRESS PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

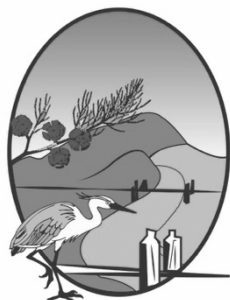
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GREATER CYPRESS PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, March 8, 2021 – 7:00 P.M.

Online/Telephonic Meeting via Zoom # 868 4239 6909



DRAFT MINUTES

Board Members	Roll Call
Romana Barajas	Present
Clint Birdsong	Absent
Mack Hill	Present
Ash Kramer	Present
Bryan Kramer	Present
Javier Lopez	Absent
Lizette Montes	Present
Teresa Roman	Present
Rebecca Trotzky-Sirr	Present from 7:10 p.m.

1. Call to Order

- 1.1. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Greater Cypress Park Neighborhood Council (GCPNC) Treasurer, Ash Kramer. The minutes writer, Mr. Starr, called the roll. Six (6) board members were present at roll call: Mack Hill, Ms. Kramer, Bryan Kramer, Lizette Montes, Teresa Roman, and Romana Barajas (Vice-Chair). Quorum (5) was met. Rebecca Trotzky-Sirr joined later. Clint Birdsong (Chair) and Javier Lopez were absent. Simultaneous Spanish-English interpretation was provided by Sthefanie García and Erinn Calderon. Supporting documents were available at <https://cypressparknc.com/march-board-meeting/>.
- 1.2. Ms. Kramer provided instructions on making public comment and accessing interpretation features. She acknowledged that Cypress Park sits on land formerly inhabited by the Tongva people. Ms. Barajas then took over as meeting chair.

2. Comments from Public Officials

- 2.1. **Erica Gatica** (erica.gatica@lacity.org) Empowerment Advocate, Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE), provided the usual reminders about consulting with the City Attorney's office regarding possible conflicts of interest. She then reported. A virtual town hall workshop on hosting candidate forums held previously had been recorded for review. On March 31, a town hall on Community Impact Statements was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Ms. Gatica would schedule

individualized election planning sessions with outreach chairs. NC Funding trainings would be held virtually in March and April. Bylaws amendments were due by 4/1/22.

Ms. Kramer said the GCPNC had already submitted a bylaws amendment to include a youth board seat. She asked Ms. Gatica to follow up.

- 2.2. Miguel Paredes** (mparedes@leeandrewsgroup.com), Senior Outreach Specialist, Lee Andrews Group, reported on the 100-Acre Partnership and the Paseo del Rio project. The Community Advisory Committee member positions and the Community Organizer position were still open. Paredes encouraged the community to spread the word and refer applicants. The Paseo del Rio G2 parcel design had been submitted to the City and would be presented to the Bureau of Public Works (BPW). The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) demonstration project team would be onboard in mid- to late March. They would collect soil samples on March 9 and 10. The TNC had conducted soil sampling back in 2019. A work notice had been shared with several NCs in an email which included details on their outreach measures and the safety plan. Toxic substances Control and the additional sampling by TNC would influence the 2023 project. Paredes instructed stakeholders to contact Sarai Jimenez by email at sarai.jimenez@tnc.org for more information. The Bureau of Engineering (BOE) presented the Integrated Feasibility Report for the G2 Project to the Municipal Facilities Committee on February 24; however, any action on the report had been deferred until March when the BOE would be back in session. The City continued to design the "city component" of the Rio de Los Angeles State Park, which included the sports fields, and a meeting was planned for mid-March. The City and the Army Corps of Engineers were drafting an agreement for the LA River Engineering Project.

Ms. Barajas said vendors at the park and other users of the park reported that bathrooms did not work, and people were concerned about safety at the park. How would the considerable matching grant the City had received be spent.

Mr. Paredes said he was unable to answer Ms. Barajas' question in detail. Since the process for the design of the park would be open to the community, he encouraged community members to share their thoughts. Paredes agreed to relay her concerns "to the team" and he would share additional information "maybe no later than next month."

Ms. Barajas asked who was in charge so she could contact them. She said the "last time they did something on the river," a lot of contamination had been released by moving rocks around on the dirt. Were the project leads aware?

Paredes said he would ask about "that specific question."

Ms. Barajas referred to reports that the "Casitas project" was not moving forward, and the land was being sold. Would that sale affect the rest of the plan?

- 2.3. Brian Baldauf** (info@100acrepartnership.org) said he had heard the Casitas project land had been sold to an industrial property owner who planned to keep it within the current "land use" and that it was no longer planned to be redeveloped "at this point."

3. Public Comments

- 3.1.** "Richard" said he lived on Idell near Avenue 27. He reported that during the previous week, an individual had broken into his property and spent hours in his yard, which he had ransacked, going through his daughter's toys and leaving trash and dirty clothes behind which were infested with maggots. The individual, who Richard believed was likely tied in some way to the nearby encampment, had also tried to come into the house. Richard said he understood the encampment was located in a new "no encampment zone." Many residents on Idell had belongings taken and other similar experiences. Richard recognized that many of his neighbors were unable to join the meeting because of technology challenges or because they were "pressed for time."

Mr. Kramer said the Land Use and Housing/Homelessness Committee had discussed the issue in depth the night before. He felt the residents on Idell and Avenue 27 should reach out to CD1 to ask what the Council Office was doing to get people into housing. LAMC 41.18 was simply going to move people "a block away." He said he had met "a lot of folks in this neighborhood who are unhoused" who reported to him they were not being offered anything.

Richard said he had participated in neighborhood cleanup with Ricardo [Flores, CD1 Field Deputy] who told Richard he had personally offered services to a woman living on Avenue 27.

Mr. Kramer invited Richard to participate in a weekend outreach effort.

- 3.2. **Elizabeth Lashley-Haynes** said she was running for a County judicial seat in the June election with a slate of 3 women (<http://thedefendersofjustice2022.com>). A public defender had never been elected to a County judicial seat before. Lashley-Haynes described her platform.
- 3.3. **Michelle Carr** said she and “Bryan” owned Golden Poppy Market on Cypress Ave and wished to introduce themselves to the community.
- 3.4. **Carlos Arce** said he was Cypress Park’s new field representative for Assemblymember Wendy Carrillo’s district. Arce said he attended Sotomayor School.

4. **Chair and Vice Chair Report**

This section was taken up at 8:01 p.m. after Section 2.

4.1. Update on member eligibility to vote.

Ms. Gatica said all board members were eligible to vote. The ABLE training required of board members was mandatory; however, not completing the training did not affect a member’s eligibility to vote. She agreed to find out if the ABLE training was currently being offered in Spanish.

4.2. Discussion and Possible Action: Resignation and/or removal of At-large Board member Lizette Montes (she has missed more than 3 regularly scheduled meetings in the last 12-month period)

Ms. Barajas asked Ms. Montes for an update. Ms. Montes explained that she had transitioned to another job, and she anticipated an end to the schedule conflicts that had prevented her from attending board meetings. There was no board action taken on this item.

5. **Land Use and Housing/Homelessness Committee Action Items**

5.1. Discussion and Possible Action: Bus Shelters/STAP Program

<https://streetsla.lacity.org/stap> | Map: <https://bit.ly/3Bts30k> | Search: Ave 26

The 4 bus stops at Ave 26/Figueroa are all Priority Category 1 for New Furniture as of October 2021. Consider drafting a letter for board approval to send to Bureau of Street Services & CD1 (Draft Letter: <https://bit.ly/3Ck8XMw>).

Ms. Kramer shared the draft letter (linked above) on her screen, as pictured below:

Dear CD1 and BSS Staff,

The Greater Cypress Park Neighborhood Council requests information on the timeline for receiving the benefits of the BSS Sidewalk and Transit Amenities Program (<https://streetsla.lacity.org/stap>)

According to the data presented on your map (<https://bit.ly/3lJyktl>) Cypress Park contains many level 1 priority stops for new furniture. In particular, there are 5 stop clustered at Ave 26 and Figueroa—stops # 2,773, 4,255, 10,433, 15,866, and 3,534—that collectively have an average weekday activity of 3,592 riders. That’s a lot of people boarding and alighting buses with no shade or street furniture.

Cypress Park’s community deserves more attention, particularly when it comes to street improvements. Given our position as tier 1 priority, we respectfully request regular updates on when we can expect the improvements outlined by the program.

Ms. Kramer moved to send the letter to CD1 staff and to the Bureau of Street Services (BSS). Before there was a second, Mr. Hill suggested striking “Cypress Park’s community deserves more attention, particularly when it comes to street improvements.” **Ms. Kramer** restated her motion. She moved “to submit the letter with the sentence deleted that Mack suggested.” **Mr. Kramer** seconded. There was no public comment.

By this time (7:54 p.m.), Ms. Trozky-Sirr had arrived. She said she had been present at the meeting since 7:10 p.m.

The motion **passed** with all 7 present in favor (Barajas, Hill, A. Kramer, B. Kramer, Montes, Roman, Trozky-Sirr). Two were absent (Birdsong, Lopez).

6. Treasurer’s Report

- Approval of the February 2022 Monthly Expenditure Report

Ms. Kramer said the board had “a lot of money” and that it had until the first week of June to get the money out the door. It could carry \$10,000 into the next fiscal year. There was \$17,573 unspent, which included \$3,000 in Community Improvement Projects (CIP), \$7,900 in Neighborhood Purposes Grants (NPG), and \$5,000 in outreach—which had been intended for cosponsoring events with the Recreation Center and for food and drink. Approximately \$4,000 was expected to be refunded to GCPNC for translation/interpretation expenses.

Board members discussed possible uses for the unspent budget.

Ms. Kramer moved to approve the February 2022 MER. **Ms. Barajas** seconded. The motion passed with all 7 present voting in favor. Two were absent (Birdsong, Lopez).

7. Consent Calendar

- Approve February Regular Meeting Minutes

Approval of the minutes was taken from the consent calendar. It was noted that Ms. Kramer seconded the motion in Item 8.3.

Ms. Kramer moved to approve the February 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes as corrected. **Ms. Barajas** seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent. Two members were absent (Birdsong, Lopez).

8. Action Items

- 8.1. Discussion and Possible Action: Community Impact Statement for Council File 20-0963: Neighborhood Council Elections / Fiscal Year 2020-21 / COVID-19 Pandemic.

https://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2020/20-0963_CIS_01252022083042_01-25-2022.pdf

Ms. Kramer provided a brief explanation. Ms. Barajas said she needed more information. Ms. Gatica said she had shared additional information in February about why certain vendors were selected and how they aligned with DONE’s strategic plan. She offered to resend supplemental documents and added that DONE had identified a few things that could be changed.

No motions were made.

- 8.2. Discussion and Possible Action: Consider drafting and approving Neighborhood Purpose Grant procedures documents and/or additions to Standing Rules

Ms. Kramer explained that in years past, NPGs would be taken up throughout the year; more recently, they were at regular intervals every three meetings; but the pandemic had interrupted the schedule, and Mr. Hill as the new NPG chair would be proposing a “good, transparent process” going forward.

Mr. Hill said he had reviewed resources from other NCs and from DONE. The main question to be answered for parties interested in submitting a grant application was “how to apply,” and for the committee and board it was how to use a “scorecard” to put everyone on the same playing field, to maximize the impact of NPG awards being mindful of the benefit to the immediate community.

Hill highlighted that more committee members were needed. He proposed the 4th Tuesday of each month for regular meetings.

Ms. Kramer suggested to announce that NPG applications would be accepted in April and in May; there was general agreement.

9. Business and ideas for future meetings

The minutes writer reminded the board to agendaize January 2022 minutes for approval.

Mr. Hill requested to agendaize the NPG discussion again.

It was noted that the Taylor Yard Bridge would be opening on Monday.

Ms. Barajas requested another CD1 safety meeting, this time with an interpreter this time and with adequate publicity.

10. Upcoming Meetings and Events

- Governing Board Meeting: Tuesday, April 12, 7:00PM
- Land Use and Housing/Homelessness Committee: Monday, April 4, 6:00PM

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 p.m. without objection.

Respectfully submitted by Conrad Starr.