

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA



GOVERNING BOARD

ROMANA BARAJAS
CHAIR

LIZETTE MONTES
VICE-CHAIR

ASH KRAMER
TREASURER

MACK HILL
BRYAN KRAMER
JAVIER LOPEZ
ERIKA MIRAMON
TERESA ROMAN
REBECCA TROTZKY-
SIRR

GREATER CYPRESS PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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GREATER CYPRESS PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, January 10, 2023 – 7:00 P.M
Online/Telephonic Meeting via Zoom # 868 4239 6909



DRAFT MINUTES

Board Members	Roll Call
Romana Barajas	Present
Mack Hill	Present
Ash Kramer	Present
Bryan Kramer	Present
Javier Lopez	Absent
Erika Miramon	Present
Lizette Montes	Present
Teresa Roman	Present
Rebecca Trotzky-Sirr	Present

1. Call to Order

- 1.1. The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Greater Cypress Park Neighborhood Council (GCPNC) Chair, Romana Barajas. The minutes taker, Mr. Starr, called the roll. Eight (8) board members were present at roll call: Ms. Barajas, Mack Hill, Ash Kramer (Treasurer), Bryan Kramer, Erika Miramon, Lizette Montes (Vice Chair), Teresa Roman, and Rebecca Trotzky-Sirr. Quorum (5) was met. Javier Lopez was absent. Simultaneous Spanish-English interpretation was provided by Julia Lopez and Juan Aldana. Supporting documents were available at <https://cypressparknc.com/gcpnc-governing-board-meeting-jan-10-2023/>.
- 1.2. Ms. Barajas provided instructions on making public comment and accessing interpretation features. She acknowledged that Cypress Park sits on land formerly inhabited by the Tongva people.

2. Chair and Vice Chair Report

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

2.1. Update on member eligibility to vote.

It was determined that Ms. Miramon, Ms. Montes, Ms. Kramer, and Ms. Roman were ineligible to vote on funding items due to incomplete or expired trainings.

2.2. Nomination of Julian Bermudez to the board and accept any other nominees to fill vacant seats on the board.

This item was not taken up due to Mr. Bermudez' absence at the meeting.

2.3. Resignation of Romana Barajas as co-chair and the board.

Ms. Barajas expressed her intention to resign as chair at the February meeting. She intended to delegate presiding officers' responsibilities to Ms. Montes.

2.4. Resignation of Mack Hill from the board and NPG committee.

Mr. Hill said he was resigning effective immediately.

Mr. Hill moved to accept the resignation of Mack Hill from the board. Ms. Barajas seconded. The motion carried with all 8 members present voting in favor (Hill, A. Kramer, B. Kramer, Miramon, Montes, Roman, Trotzky-Sirr, Barajas). Mr. Lopez was absent.

There were now seven (7) members present. Quorum was maintained. Ms. Barajas agreed to include the Chairpersonship of the NPG Committee on the next agenda.

3. Comments from Public Officials

3.1. Erica Gatica (erica.gatica@lacity.org) Empowerment Advocate, Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE), reported. DONE pushed out the Monthly Profile. She highlighted the candidate information sessions—a session that shows anyone interested in running for a seat on the Neighborhood council how to connect with voters, file as a candidate, and more. Candidate filing would open on January 20th. She described Department efforts with the CIS dashboard.

3.2. Wendy Castro (wendy.castro@lacity.org) from Mayor Karen Bass' office gave a report. Mayor Bass had declared an emergency on homelessness as her Executive Directive 1, which would lower the cost of building affordable housing. Executive Directive 2 would launch the "Inside Safe" program. Its first location was at the 101 Freeway off Cahuenga Bl. The second was in Venice. The goal was to bring 17,000 individuals indoors in Bass' first year of office. Castro encouraged stakeholders to visit <https://mayor.lacity.gov/newsletter>. Office staff would be held over until April, and Ms. Castro would know later whether she would be staying on. The Bass Administration was hiring. LAHSA opened registration for 2023 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count from Jan 24 to 26.

Castro reported that the City Council voted to end the eviction moratorium as of January 31, 2023. Tenants must pay rent in full to avoid eviction for non-payment of rent. Information was available at <https://housing.lacity.org/highlights/renterprotections> and <https://stayhousedla.org>.

3.3. Jaime Lesinski introduced herself as Chief of LAFD and provided a report. During rainstorms, sand was available at Fire Station 44, and sandbags at FS 55.

4. 100 Acre Partnership Update

Sarai Jimenez, TNC; Joey Legaspi, Lee Andrews Group, Inc.; Miguel Paredes, Lee Andrews Group, Inc.; Brian Baldauf, MRCA

Miguel Paredes (mparedes@leeandrewsgroup.com), Senior Outreach Specialist, Lee Andrews Group, reported. *See Appendix.*

He shared a link to the survey open until 2/3 in [English](#) & [Spanish](#). A workshop would be held on Jan 18th. More info was available at 100acrepartnership.org.

5. Freddy Cupen & Lanira Murphy – Evg-h Workgroup

Empaneled by the Neighborhood Commissioners and working closely with EmpowerLA to discuss GCPNC participation in their pilot program in having both in-person & Zoom attendance at General Board Meetings.

Ms. Gatica said Mr. Cupen and Ms. Murphy were unable to join due to competing meetings. She said the Evg-h Workgroup had picked 21 Neighborhood Councils as part of the pilot with 7 or 9 backups. GCPNC

was one of the 21 NCs selected. She requested that GCPNC vote on whether to participate in the program. Noting that Ms. Kramer had asked if the lack of a confirmed location with full ADA compliance would prevent GCPNC from participating in the program. Gatica recommended thinking about the two items separately. She said concern about not having a location was something the Department could work on with GCPNC. If GCPNC were willing to participate in the program, the Department would try to schedule another evaluation for another location.

Ms. Gatica said the City Council had approved the removal of the local Emergency Order starting Feb 1. Governor Newsom planned to remove the State of Emergency on February 28th. Given those two actions, come March, NCs would have to meet in person or in a hybrid arrangement.

In public comment, **Susan Rocha** said she had been raising her hand and had not been unmuted.

6. **Joe Ibarra - Muralist** (10 minutes)

Request to support repainting the mural “Vistas of Harmony” facing the Cypress Park Recreational Center.

Joe Ibarra provided an update. He has spoken with the Council representative, Louie Leva. Cultural Affairs had to review the matter, then Wendy Carrillo’s office was going to get back to him. Ibarra had called the Metro facility twice and was transferred from the location office to the MTA building downtown where he left a message with somebody in charge of the arts. He was still trying to connect with a person. Ms. Barajas asked for suggestions to add to the agenda. Ms. Kramer suggested a blanket letter statement saying the GCPNC requested from the City Council Office and Arts Department to have the mural restored. Ibarra (or another) could offer services as the restorer. In public comment, Ms. Rocha said it was “pure bullshit” she had to stay for an hour waiting to make a comment. She said she was allowed to make comments to public officials.

7. **Giovanna Escalera – LAANE** (15 minutes)

Speaking on behalf of LAANE (Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy) to share how they are working to reform LAUSD (LA Unified School District).

Ms. Barajas said she did not believe Ms. Escalera was present.

8. **Public Comments**

8.1. Ms. Rocha said the Divine Savior Catholic Church and Priest Albert Protesac accused her of a crime she did not commit. She was found not guilty by a jury.

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

There was no report and there were no action items.

10. **Treasurer’s Report**

- Approval of the December 2022 Monthly Expenditure Report

Ms. Kramer encouraged a motion to amend the item to read “approval of November and December 2022 Monthly Expenditure Reports”

Ms. Barajas moved to amend the item to read “approval of November and December 2022 Monthly Expenditure Reports. **Mr. Kramer** seconded. In public comment Ms. Rocha encouraged the board not to give money to illegal aliens.

The motion **passed** with three voting in favor (B. Kramer, Trotzky-Sirr, Barajas), four ineligible (A. Kramer, Miramon, Montes, Roman) and one absent (Lopez).

Ms. Barajas moved to approve the November and December 2022 MERs. **Mr. Kramer** seconded.

The motion **passed** with three voting in favor (B. Kramer, Trotzky-Sirr, Barajas), four ineligible (A. Kramer, Miramon, Montes, Roman) and one absent (Lopez).

11. Consent Calendar

- Approve November 2022 Regular Minutes

Ms. Barajas requested to remove the item from the consent calendar.

Ms. Barajas moved to amend the draft minutes by listing the seconder of the motion in Item 8.3 as Ms. Kramer. **Mr. Kramer** seconded.

In public comment, Ms. Rocha said it would be helpful to say what the letter was about. Ms. Barajas explained it was just about capturing the correct second for the minutes.

The motion to amend passed with all seven present voting in favor. Mr. Lopez was absent.

Barajas moved to approve the November 2022 Regular Minutes as amended. **Mr. Kramer** seconded. The motion **passed** with all seven present voting in favor. Mr. Lopez was absent.

12. Action Items

12.1. Discussion and Possible Action: Discussion: MOTION to approve our GPNC selection in the EVG-h Pilot Program

Ms. Kramer said it takes a lot of work to put such a meeting on virtually. To imagine putting it on in a hybrid fashion would take 2-3 times as much work. She said she didn't personally have the bandwidth to take it on. Mr. Kramer said the board should be focusing on reducing its load and refining what we it does as a Neighborhood Council, not expanding its workload. Ms. Barajas noted the board didn't yet have a location for in-person meetings. She agreed with Mr. Kramer and Ms. Kramer.

Ms. Barajas opened the floor for public comment.

In Public Comment, Ms. Rocha said it should be in person. For people who are not techie or challenged, she said, there should be in-person meetings. It was unfair to the neighborhood to hold virtual meetings because "people are not tech-savvy."

Ms. Roman said she agreed in-person meetings were good. Virtual meetings were not successful. There were a lot of people, especially seniors, with technology issues, and they had expressed a preference for in-person meetings to her.

Gatica said the Department would confirm the changes in February, and much was still unknown.

Ms. Kramer asked, if GCPNC were not to join the pilot, and given issues with ADA compliance, what was DONE's position on where GCPNC should meet? Gatica responded that such a determination would be made by the City Clerk and City Attorney. The Department would do its best to find an ADA-compliant location for the NC; however, NCs participating in the pilot program would get "first dibs" at help finding a location.

Ms. Kramer said she understood the board's mandate, if it did not agree to participate in the pilot, was to select as its location the "Rio" or the River Center. She asked Gatica if the GCPNC would need to have a consultant come out for ADA compliance at those locations, or should GCPNC just use one of the locations and "hope for the best." Gatica said "specifics [had] not been provided." Originally it was stated there was one inspection [provided] per NC. The checklist was not to be seen as a pass or fail but simply a checklist to send to the City Clerk and City Attorney to determine if it passed or did not. The inspector did make a notation to the effect that significant improvements were needed at [the Recreation Center] and had advised the GCPNC to explore other locations.

She suggested that if the River Center or the other location were being considered, to reach out to them to agree to have consultant visit.

Ms. Roman suggested the "blue house" on Pepper as a possible location for meetings.

Ms. Barajas moved that the GCPNC not participate in the city's pilot program. **Mr. Kramer** seconded. There was no additional board or public comment.

The motion **carried** with all seven present voting in favor. Mr. Lopez was absent.

- 12.2.** Discussion and Possible Action: MOTION to approve a CIS on [CF 22-1070](#) with the following statement
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1NvZBhMBhmz0Z2IUgKkanHNNDTCtsfUTD9u5UcdGZMAE/edit?usp=sharing>

This item was not taken up.

- 12.3.** Discussion and Possible Action: February meeting possibly requiring going back in person and make final decision on location..

It was mentioned to include discussion of meeting locations, including the River Center, the State Park, and the old library/Cypress Park clubhouse.

Ms. Rocha suggested considering the old firehouse community center.

Mr. Ibarra suggested the Sotomayor complex. Barajas said the school would have to be willing to stay open that late.

13. New Business and ideas for future meetings

It was mentioned to include on the future agenda appointing a new NPG Committee Chair and designating signers and cardholders.

Ms. Gatica said she planned to meet with Ms. Roman on Thursday to help her complete her ethics training – she would be in the area to pass out flyers to spread general awareness about the election. She invited suggestions for other locations to pass out flyers and do the legwork.

14. Upcoming Meetings and Events

- Governing Board Meeting: Tuesday, February 14, 7:00PM
- Land Use and Housing/Homelessness Committee: Monday, February 6, 6:00pm

15. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m. without objection.

Respectfully submitted by Conrad Starr.

DRAFT

Appendix

	Agency	January 2023
Paseo del Rio Community Engagement	MRCA	<p>The 100 Acre Partnership would like to thank you for the opportunity to join you tonight to share our January 2023 updates.</p> <p>We hope that everyone enjoyed a safe and happy holiday season! We are excited to kick off 2023 with two opportunities for the community.</p> <p>First, we are continuing to solicit feedback on the Paseo del Río at Taylor Yard project through our Community Questionnaire. The questionnaire will be open until Friday, January 20th. It can be accessed via our website. We will also make sure to send your Neighborhood Council the link to the questionnaire. In the questionnaire, you will have the opportunity to share your thoughts on the three proposed design alternatives.</p> <p>We are also pleased to share that the 100 Acre Partnership will host a Virtual Community Workshop for the Paseo del Río at Taylor Yard. on Wednesday, January 18th from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM on Zoom. Those interested are encouraged to register for the workshop via our website. This will serve as an additional opportunity to learn about the project, engage in discussion with our project team and your neighbors and share your feedback.</p> <p>We invite you to stay in touch via our website and social media. Please do keep us apprised if you will be hosting an event this month!</p>
Paseo del Rio Bowtie Design	State Parks	
Paseo del Rio G2 Design	City	<p>We need to hear from the community about elements of the three conceptual designs we presented at workshop #2 in November. Please visit 100acrepartnership.org to view the presentation and access the questionnaire, which is open until January 20th.</p>

TNC Demonstration Project	State Parks & TNC	No updates for 1/2023. Folks are always welcome to reach out to Sarai Jimenez at sarai.jimenez@tnc.org.
Prop O Water Quality Project	City	(see above)
Bowtie (non-PdR, non-TNC)	State Parks	
G2 (non-PdR, non-WQ)	City	No update
Equity Strategy	City	Public engagement will begin in the new year.
Rio de Los Angeles State Park	State Parks	
Rio de Los Angeles State Park Fields	City	Recreation and Parks is reviewing the 90% construction documents. A public meeting will be held in early 2023.
Misc. Community Engagement	MRCA	
Misc. Community Engagement	State Parks & TNC	
Misc. Community Engagement	City	
LARER Project		The Corps of Engineers has initiated design on their first element at Pollywog Park, Reach 1 Phase A. The City and Corps are continuing to develop a Project Partnership Agreement, reviewing Habitat Criteria and Hydraulic Models for the 11-mile project area.
UC Riverside Phyto & Myco Research Project at G2	City	UCR wants to discuss budget revision with FOLAR. MOU between the City and FoLAR is needed.

100 AP Meetings

- Virtual Community Workshop – Wednesday, January 18th

Neighborhood Council Meetings

- Cypress Park – January 10, 2023
- Elysian Valley Riverside – January 11, 2023
- Atwater Village – January 12, 2023
- Glassell Park – January 17, 2023