

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA



GOVERNING BOARD

LIZETTE MONTES
CHAIR
ASH KRAMER
TREASURER

BRYAN KRAMER
JAVIER LOPEZ
TERESA ROMAN
REBECCA TROTZKY-
SIRR
ROMANA BARAJAS
ERIKA MIRAMON

GREATER CYPRESS PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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GREATER CYPRESS PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, March 14, 2023 – 7:00 P.M

Online/Telephonic Meeting via Zoom # 868 4239 6909



DRAFT MINUTES

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

1. Call to Order

- 1.1. The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Greater Cypress Park Neighborhood Council (GCPNC) Treasurer, Ash Kramer. Ms. Kramer noted that Ms. Montes was no longer a member of the board. The minutes taker, Mr. Starr, called the roll. Six (6) board members were present at roll call: Ms. Kramer, Bryan Kramer, Javier Lopez, Teresa Roman, Rebecca Trotzky-Sirr, and Romana Barajas. Quorum (5) was met. Erika Miramon absent. Simultaneous Spanish-English interpretation was provided by Juan Aldana and Diana Garcia. Supporting documents were available at <https://cypressparknc.com/governing-board-meeting-tuesday-3-14/>.
- 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.

2. Comments from Public Officials

- 2.1. **Carlos Arce** from State Assembly Member Wendy Carrillo's office reported on available tax credits. He discussed various bills as well.
- 2.2. **Jorge Plascencia** (jorge.plascencia@lacity.org), Field Deputy from Council District 1, gave a report. He explained he covered Cypress Park, Lincoln Heights, and Echo Park. He was temporarily covering other areas. He provided some background information. Prior to working at CD1, he worked two years in city government, including for Councilmember Raman. He had lived in Lincoln Heights for 17 years. He noted that Councilmember Hernandez with Cms. Raman and Soto-Martinez had sponsored a motion to making Los Angeles a sanctuary city, and he described the motion. He

encouraged stakeholders to share requests for street light repairs with him. There was an application window currently open for Safe Streets, with applications due Friday, March 24.

Ms. Roman said she lived in Cypress Park for 10 years. She asked how much longer the sidewalks would be used for businesses. On Alice there were always tables and chairs and older people had to “go under” next to the sidewalks because the local businesses “have them in their powers.” “For everybody, the pandemic has finished but for the businesspeople,” she said. She advocated for removing the tables and chairs from the sidewalks. Mr. Plascencia said it was the “al fresco” program. He encouraged Ms. Roman to send him an email and then they could connect in person to take a look at the businesses at issue and find solutions for the problem.

Ms. Barajas asked if the al fresco program would continue. She said she had been without electricity for an entire weekend because a tree had fallen. What were the updates with tree trimming, she asked, noting many trees had been previously identified as needing attention.

Mr. Plascencia said he would consult the Mayor’s Office to learn whether the al fresco program had a known end date. He encouraged sending a list of service request numbers for tree trimming. He said there had been a lot of negligence before in Cypress Park. He said he had a commitment to rectifying the situation.

2.3. Erica Gatica (erica.gatica@lacity.org) Empowerment Advocate, Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE), reported. General Manager Raquel Beltrán had resigned as General Manager, and her interim replacement was Vanessa Serrano. Virtual meetings could legally continue through March 29. Come March 30, meetings needed to be in-person. She described the possibility of teleconferencing meetings, which had requirements she would share with the board. She noted candidate filing for GCPNC elections was closed. Six candidates had been confirmed, so instead of an election, there would be “board affirmation” since there were no competitive seats. Ms. Roman said she had reached out to Erica for help to complete the election application but had not received a response from Ms. Gatica. Ms. Gatica said she had responded but had not heard back from Ms. Roman. She added that she had contacted all board members with information regarding submitting candidate applications. At this time, it was too late to be a candidate, but the board could vote to appoint her to a seat in the new term.

2.4. Miguel Paredes (mparedes@leeandrewsgroup.com), Senior Outreach Specialist, Lee Andrews Group, reported on the 100 Acre Partnership. They closed the community questionnaire period after receiving over 1,200 responses to the survey. Since July of 2021, they participated in over 40 community events, attended over 70 NC meetings, and held focus discussions with the community. He encouraged the community to invite him to events and meetings. 90% of the planned design would be available in the spring. DTSC would soon provide a removal action workplan (RAW). He encouraged stakeholders to reach out to sarai.jimenez@tnc.org. State Parks patrolled the Bowtie site weekly along with weekly visits for maintenance. G2 maintenance crews visited weekly to replace locks, repair and clean up fences, address security concerns, etc. Holes were mended and replaced at 13 locations during the previous week. There were always folks on the site for mycoremediation projects. Regarding the Rio de Los Angeles, State Parks were developing plans for the playing fields, and permits were being finalized. The Army Corps of Engineers was completing their design for Polliwog Park and reviewing the habitat criteria and design with the City. Regarding the UC Riverside phyto and mycoremediation project, they were requesting funds from Friends of the Los Angeles River (FOLAR) to complete the work.

Ms. Barajas said community members were reaching out to the 100 Acre Partnership regarding activities at Bowtie. Dances and rituals were being held at Bowtie and participants were being told it had been remediated to commercial standards. What was the partnership doing about that? Nobody had yet to address how they were going to decontaminate the land. Designs were coming up, but what happened to the decontamination process? Bowtie should not have any activities until it is decontaminated, she told Paredes. Children were seen in photos lying on the ground at the site. Paredes said this was the first he was hearing about that particular type of activity. DTSC was the agency that would help determine when and how it would be cleaned up. The 100 Acre Partnership didn’t get to tell them how that was to happen. Regarding the design, he said, there might be some

“parallels,” but before anything was built out, there would be some kind of report from the DTSC that would help to decide what the best course of action would be. Barajas said she wasn’t sure if it was Clockshop, but there were large group activities such as dances. Ms. Kramer said she had just sent Mr. Paredes the email chain, and Paredes said he would follow up with Brian [Baldauf] and another colleague. Barajas said Clockshop had previously asked people to sign a waiver acknowledging they were aware of the risk. Who would be informing the GCPNC how and when the remediation process would be taking place? Paredes said he would try to get her this information and would follow up. He then said Brian Baldauf had just texted him that he was not aware of the activities just raised. Paredes said maybe Stephanie [Campbell] was aware.

3. Public Comments

- 3.1. **Daniel Barrientos** reported that NPG funds had purchased 100 jackets and other clothing items. They had divided the items 60/40 to share with the Downtown Center. They provided items to 42 day laborers and their families in Cypress Park. Comprehensive Health Care Clinic added a toy drive.

4. Chair and Vice Chair Report.

- 4.1. Update on member eligibility to vote.

Ms. Kramer said all board members were eligible to vote on financial matters.

Ms. Gatica said the board might be seated prior to July 1st since it was a matter of affirmations.

Ms. Barajas confirmed she was Vice Chair.

5. Land Use and Housing/Homelessness Committee Action Items

- 5.1. Discussion and Possible Action: Resignation of Ash & Bryan Kramer from chair positions; disbanding of Land Use Committee unless someone else would like to take over.

There were no volunteers.

Ms. Kramer moved to dissolve the Land Use and Homelessness Housing Committee. **Mr. Kramer** seconded. There was no public or board comment. The motion carried with all six members present voting in favor. Ms. Miramon was absent.

6. Treasurer’s Report

1. Approval of the January 2023 & February 2023 Monthly Expenditure Reports; status of funding

Ms. Kramer noted there was more than \$27,000 available, and that \$17,000 could not be rolled over to the new fiscal year.

Ms. Trotzky-Sirr inquired about Community Improvement Projects. Ms. Kramer said it was possible, but that it required a time investment, and she encouraged any effort. Ms. Trotzky-Sirr noted the need for trash cans. Mr. Plascencia offered to canvass the area to identify locations where trash cans were needed.

Ms. Barajas suggested having GCPNC advertisements on the trash cans.

Ms. Roman asked about dog waste bag dispensers. She described issues with dog waste collecting on the street and sidewalk. She encouraged efforts to support the tree canopy.

Ms. Kramer said trash cans would be added to a future agenda.

Ms. Kramer moved to approve the January 2023 and February 2023 MER. **Mr. Kramer** seconded. The motion carried with six (6) voting in favor (B. Kramer, Lopez, Roman, Trotzky-Sirr, Barajas, A. Kramer). Ms. Miramon was absent.

At this time, Section 8 was taken up.

7. Consent Calendar

- Approve January Regular Minutes

This section was taken up after Item 9.

Ash moved to approve the Consent Calendar. **Romana** seconded. The motion carried with five (5) voting in favor (B. Kramer, Lopez, Roman, Trotzky-Sirr, Barajas, A. Kramer). Ms. Trotzky-Sirr was momentarily absent. Ms. Miramon was absent.

8. Action Items

- 8.1. Discussion and Possible Action: Neighborhood Purpose Grant Request: Youth Film Productions for up to \$5000 for the 1st annual Eagle Rock Film Festival, which “will give student film makers a chance to shine a spotlight on their film! With the belief that cinematic storytelling can make a difference in our world, the Eagle Rock Film Festival is dedicated to shining a spotlight on films that make a difference.”

Gilbert Arevalo said he was standing in for the applicant who was not available to attend the meeting. Ms. Kramer noted there was past participation from Cypress Park students. Mr. Arevalo said many local schools participated. The GCPNC could have a table at the festival. Mr. Kramer asked about other NC contributions, to which Mr. Arevalo said Lincoln Heights had contributed. They were asking for support from Eagle Rock as well. Arevalo said the event’s budget was approximately \$12,000. Ms. Roman asked how many schools were participating and where the festival would be. Mr. Arevalo said usually 50-60 students were involved. It would take place at Eagle Rock High School. Ms. Roman asked why the festival was taking place far from Cypress Park. Mr. Arevalo said it was open to all high schools in the Los Angeles area, and kids came from great distances to participate.

Mr. Lopez asked how much Eagle Rock would contribute, and he asked if there would be promotion to the Cypress Park neighborhood. Arevalo said there was an NPG application currently with Eagle Rock NC and there was a budget for marketing.

Mr. Kramer moved to provide an NPG in the amount of \$3,000. **Ms. Barajas** seconded. There was no public comment or board discussion.

The motion carried with four (4) voting in favor (B. Kramer, Lopez, Barajas, A. Kramer); one (1) opposed (Roman), and one abstention (Trotzky-Sirr). Ms. Roman was absent.

- 8.2. Discussion and Possible Action: Neighborhood Purpose Grant Request: Manos Que Sobreviven for up to \$3000 for the International Children’s Day event, “This grant will be used to support an annual event that will benefit the communities of Northeast LA. It will help MQS provide a free space for families to get together and celebrate ICD, which is a very important holiday for our kids in the world.”

Ms. Kramer read the above. Lenni described a past event that had received support from GCPNC and was held at the Cypress Park Recreation Center. The organization would not hold their annual wellness fair in order to focus on this event. Schools had been invited to share resources at the event. Manos has been evolving, she said, doing more than just weekly food distributions. Had served 31,000 individuals over the past year. The name had become something they trust. This event was the 6th. This year’s theme was “the dinosaurs.” GCPNC was invited to host a table and reach out to the local community. \$3,000 was being sought to cover canopies and food. The event was to be held at the Cypress Park Recreation Center this year.

Ms. Barajas moved to approve the NPG grant for 3,000. **Mr. Lopez** seconded. There was no public comment or board discussion. The motion carried with six (6) voting in favor (B. Kramer, Lopez, Roman, Trotzky-Sirr, Barajas, A. Kramer). Ms. Miramon was absent.

- 8.3. Discussion and Possible Action: See-Change Institute Presentation and solicitation of feedback from Angelenos about the possibility of creating a COVID-19 Memorial in our city.

Ms. Gaby Lamm spoke about See Change. The project was about whether to create a memorial for the COVID-19 pandemic and what it should look like. It could be a physical statue or something less traditional such as videos, annual events, multimedia events, or quilts. She was gathering feedback from Angelenos. She encouraged ideas. The survey link was bit.ly/CPRLAsurvey.

Ms. Barajas said the City used to have angels in the past. She suggested a somber angel or a walls memorial like in Lincoln Park with the names of those who died. Ms. Kramer said an aspect worth memorializing was the extent to which communities came together to support one another, such as what Ms. Roman had started in the Cypress Park community.

Ms. Roman said to support the people who needed us the most. She didn't know if she wanted to honor COVID. Should honor the survivors.

Lenni gave public comment.

8.4. Discussion and Possible Action: Discussion of the future of the board and executive roles.

Ms. Kramer said the current status was that they were waiting for Ms. Gatica to let them know when the new board would be seated. Mr. Kramer advocated streamlining the NC and ensuring the budget was spent in the community and not returned to the City. He offered to be the interim Chair. He was open to any configuration to ensure everybody stuck around and quorum could be achieved.

Ms. Gatica said the board agenda was broad enough to appoint a chair, though best practices were to provide greater specificity in future agendas.

Ms. Barajas agreed to be the chair in name if agenda assistance could be guaranteed.

Ms. Kramer moved to reinstate Ms. Barajas as chair. **Mr. Kramer** seconded. The motion carried with five (5) in favor (B. Kramer, Lopez, Roman, Barajas, A. Kramer). Ms. Trotzky-Sirr was absent by this time (8:39 p.m.) and Ms. Miramon was absent.

Ms. Kramer moved to make Bryan [Kramer] be the Vice Chair. **Ms. Barajas** seconded. The motion carried with five (5) in favor (B. Kramer, Lopez, Roman, Barajas, A. Kramer). Ms. Trotzky-Sirr and Ms. Miramon were absent.

8.5. Discussion and Possible Action: Location for the April GCPNC Governing Board Meeting.

The Cypress Park Recreation Center was the only available location. An application was in process.

Ms. Kramer moved to hold the regular board meeting at 7pm on the 2nd Tuesday at the Cypress Park Recreation Center. **Mr. Kramer** seconded.

Ms. Gatica said if there were a secondary location, there could be a second round of ADA surveying.

Ms. Kramer said the Rio De Los Angeles State Park was being occupied when GCPNC wanted to use it. Another location being considered, the Clubhouse, closed at 5 p.m. and had said no. The River Center was still a possibility.

In board discussion, Ms. Roman asked, if there was no second place, could they use the Cypress Park Library? Like at the Rec Center, Kids could play there and parents could see them from inside the building.

The motion carried with five (5) in favor (B. Kramer, Lopez, Roman, Barajas, A. Kramer). Ms. Trotzky-Sirr and Ms. Miramon were absent.

9. New Business and ideas for future meetings

Trash cans, a second meeting location, refreshments money, and the alternate signer would be agendized.

At this time (8:53 p.m.), Item 7 was taken up.

10. Upcoming Meetings and Events

- Governing Board Meeting: Tuesday, April 11, 7:00PM

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 p.m. without objection.

Respectfully submitted by Conrad Starr.