

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA



GOVERNING BOARD

ROMANA BARAJAS
CHAIR

BRYAN KRAMER
VICE-CHAIR

ASH KRAMER
TREASURER

JAVIER LOPEZ
TERESA ROMAN
REBECCA TROTZKY-
SIRR
ERIKA MIRAMON

GREATER CYPRESS PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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GREATER CYPRESS PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL GOVERNING BOARD MEETING Tuesday, May 9, 2023 – 7:00 PM In Person Meeting

DRAFT MINUTES

Board Members	Roll Call
Ash Kramer	Present
Bryan Kramer	Present
Javier Lopez	Present
Erika Miramon	Absent
Teresa Roman	Present
Rebecca Trotzky-Sirr	Absent
Romana Barajas	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) member **Romana Barajas**. The minutes taker, Mr. Pozo, called the roll. Five (5) board members were present at roll call: Ms. Kramer, Bryan Kramer, Javier Lopez, Teresa Roman, and Romana Barajas. Quorum (5) was met. Erika Miramon and Rebecca Trotzky-Sirr were absent.
- 1.2. **Romana 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. Romana Barajas asked if the Spanish Translation was working properly.

2. Comments from Public Officials

- 2.1. **Jaime Lesinski Battalion Chief** gave a presentation about the excess water in the area due to heavy rains. Mentioned Fire Service Day on May 13, Fire station #44. Exhibits, food and education. Applications to join the Fire Department opened on May 2nd. Mentioned a program beginning in Mt. Washington and then in Cypress Park regarding evaluation of single family homes for emergencies; evacuation plans.
Officer Reyes of LAPD spoke on recent shootings on Division St. Arrests as well as gun confiscation are occurring. Mentioned the issues of stolen cars especially on San Fernando Rd. Would love to garner support for their project regarding VIN numbers for catalytic converters. Event to be held to promote; on social media perhaps at River Garden. Mentioned the need for community involvement/witnesses in crime prevention.

2.2. Council-member Eunisses Hernandez mentioned they are in the process of doing a tour of neighborhood city council meetings. CD 1, 22 neighborhoods. Her focus has been on cost of living issues having built a team of 20 people in 6 months. Her priorities remain on keeping people housed, stopping evictions; forming a homelessness team of 4 involved in engaging homeless encampments and housing solutions. Discussed how implementation on re-doing our streets is a priority to her due to the extensive time it takes to fix sidewalks or that there are only 1 ½ people assigned to installing speed bumps for the city, for example. Discussed alternatives to 9-11 services with regards to mental health issues. Mentioned the Denver Star Team as a successful example of an alternative crisis response team.

Romana Barajas asked if Council Member Hernandez can put out more education and information on 9-88 services.

Ash Kramer said the number one thing in the area is street safety; many sidewalks in Cypress Park are in bad conditions.

Council Member Hernandez said to get them exact street addresses. Her team does district drives at night and in the day. Mentioned they just became fully staffed a month ago. They are working on parking lane projects with engineers, and a bulky item pick up team.

Teresa Roman thanked the Council Member for being here and mentioned that she hope she does not abandon them the way the last Council member did.

2.3. Jacqueline Garcia LAUSD May 15 meeting to bring educators and board members together. The meeting will be held at Luther Burbank Middle School. All are welcome.

2.4. Erica Gatica (erica.gatica@lacity.org) Empowerment Advocate, Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE), reported. Mentioned the audience that the board members are doing their best behind the scenes. If you are interested in ideas or changes please join our board, there will be new board seats on this council in July. Mentioned an event on September 23 at City Hall. There will be workshops and speakers. Mentioned SD 411 Bill, the option to opt in to virtual meetings for neighborhood city council meetings or hybrid online/in person meetings.

2.5. Sarah Roscon, promoted the Los Angeles River Center and Gardens. Discussed the 100 acre partnership and the Taylor Yard's 100 acres plus 40 acres at Rio de Los Angeles, the 42 acres behind this and the 100 acres along the L.A. River.

2.6. Miguel Paredes (mparedes@leeandrewsgroup.com), mentioned the May 20 event at the River Center as well as the May 13 Kite Festival at Rio de Los Angeles. Mentioned State Conservancy meeting.

Romana Barajas mentioned all these meetings can be found on our own site plus in Libraries and schools. She added, we want to be kept informed of decontamination. Keep us informed of this process.

Public Comments

Public Comment Speaker 1-

7. Action Items

7.2 Discussion and possible action to approve up to \$12,000 for a community Improvement Project of placing 20-24 trash cans along Cypress Avenue and submit any required documents to the city.

Bryan Kramer mentioned this was a good way to get money out of our accounts to avoid the city from taking it. Trash cans cost \$500. We need to spend \$10,000 and can buy 20 trash cans.

Bryan Kramer motioned to spend \$10,000 on trash cans for the community; **Ash Kramer** seconded.

Ash Kramer stated we should earmark money now.

Erica Gatica mentioned if we show we are making progress they might allow us.

Ash Kramer stated if we do not pass motion we won't have another chance. By June 1st any earmark funds get sucked up by the city except for \$10,000. We need to make sure it gets spent tonight.

Public Comment

Public Comment Speaker 1-

Public Comment Speaker 2-

Public Comment Speaker 3-

Public Comment Speaker 4-

Teresa Roman mentioned that it took 5 years to get trash cans from the city. This money is to help the community. We need to teach the community to throw trash away, and to tell us where the trash cans are needed.

Public Comment Speaker 5-

Public Comment Speaker 6-

Bryan Kramer said if we are successful we can expand to other areas of the community.

Roll Call: Ash Kramer-Yes, Bryan Kramer-Yes, Javier Lopez-Yes, Teresa Roman-Yes, Romana Barajas-Yes.

5-Yes 0-No Motion Passes

4. Chair and Vice Chair Report

Romana Barajas mentioned we have 3 vacancies, please reach out.

7.1 Consider a Neighborhood purpose grant for up to \$1200 for the EL RIO DE LOS ANGELES VETERANS COLLABORATIVE to maintain Veterans memorial site at El Rio De Los Angeles State Park.

Javier Lopez motioned and **Romana Barajas** seconded.

Romana Barajas asked how much they will spend on each.

Public mentioned they would have a breakdown on each

Ash Kramer said it would be spent mainly on flags and maintenance.

Public said 3 flag poles and grounds needed to be maintained.

Roll Call: Ash Kramer-Yes, Bryan Kramer-Yes, Javier Lopez-Yes, Teresa Roman-Yes, Romana Barajas-Yes.

5-Yes 0-No Motion Passes

7.3 Discussion and Possible Action: LA DOT to install Slow Streets Program

Claire Everly of LA DOT slow streets program gave report. Mentioned this program was in response to the pandemic. They developed a tool kit identifying 30 slow streets. Biggest challenges have been testing the improvements to see if they work. Our plan consists of treatments for each area. Two locations for traffic circles. For major streets bollards or plastic posts will be included in the center of the street. All of our treatments designed to slow traffic down were found to be successful. Traffic circles in neighborhoods are not the same as roundabouts.

Ash Kramer stated it is more about reducing the cutting through areas in neighborhoods with many households. We could be ahead of the city in slowing down traffic near schools.

Teresa Roman asked if it was too late to add this to the list of areas?

Claire Everly said she would ask her engineering team if there was anything they could do.

Ash Kramer asked if they could give a letter of support.

Claire Everly said yes, they have limited funds so anything to help get the program off the ground.

Teresa Roman mentioned Merced and Cypress, people need that area to pass; she thought they would have placed a light in that area to be able to see pedestrians.

Romana Barajas mentioned it could be added to next week's agenda, the light issue.

Ash Kramer motioned to submit a letter, in particular we would like Roseview to be added if possible.

Ash Kramer motioned and **Javier Lopez** seconded.

Public Comment

Public Comment Speaker 1-

Public Comment Speaker 2-

Public Comment Speaker 3-

Roll Call: Ash Kramer-Yes, Bryan Kramer-Yes, Javier Lopez-Yes, Teresa Roman-Yes, Romana Barajas-Yes.

5-Yes 0-No Motion Passes

7.4 Consider a Neighborhood Purpose Grant of to \$5,000 to PESA

Jesus Gonzalez presented on what a \$5,000 grant would be provide including college readiness; financial literacy; office skills; currently used at Leadership Academy Franklin High School.

Teresa Roman asked how many students has this program helped?

Jesus Gonzalez mentioned it has helped 400 students with college prep classes?

Teresa Roman question if schools did not already have these? Which schools are you in?

Jesus Gonzalez said no. Their program helps families where parents never attended high school. They have no way to practice these skills at home so our services help them. It is currently used at Leadership Academy Franklin High School.

Romana Barajas mentioned that is a lot of money for schools not in our area.

Teresa Roman said she believes these problems are already in our community.

Bryan Kramer mentioned it is better to get this money out even if it is not to our community.

Ash Kramer mentioned the last time to use the credit card is June 20. We could fund a small amount and come back and ask how the money has served Cypress Park residents (banners, outreach material)? If the trashcans are not approved we can fund a small amount to Jesus' program.

Javier Lopez motions to use \$2500 and **Teresa Roman** seconded.

Roll Call: Ash Kramer-Yes, Bryan Kramer-Yes, Javier Lopez-Yes, Teresa Roman-No, Romana Barajas-Yes.

4-Yes 1-No Motion Passes

5.1 Approval of Bank Card Missing Receipt Affidavit for spending \$101.40

Javier Lopez motioned and **Romana Barajas** seconded.

Roll Call: Ash Kramer-Yes, Bryan Kramer-Yes, Javier Lopez-Yes, Teresa Roman-Yes, Romana Barajas-Yes.

5-Yes 0-No Motion Passes

5.2 Approval of the March 2023 Monthly Expenditure Report

Ash Kramer motioned, **Teresa Roman** seconded.

Roll Call: Ash Kramer-Yes, Bryan Kramer-Yes, Javier Lopez-Yes, Teresa Roman-Yes, Romana Barajas-Yes.

5-Yes 0-No Motion Passes

6. Consent Calendar

Romana Barajas motions and Javier Lopez seconded.

Roll Call: Ash Kramer-Yes, Bryan Kramer-Yes, Javier Lopez-Yes, Teresa Roman-Yes, Romana Barajas-Yes.

5-Yes 0-No Motion Passes

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by **Romana Barajas** at 9:30 PM.