

# CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA



## GOVERNING BOARD

CARMEN MORALES  
CHAIR

BRYAN KRAMER  
VICE-CHAIR

ASH KRAMER  
TREASURER

TERESA ROMAN  
DOLORES BERNAL  
BRENDA WONG  
MYRA DUQUE

## GREATER CYPRESS PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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## GREATER CYPRESS PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, February 13, 2023 – 7:00 PM

In Person Meeting

### DRAFT MINUTES

Board Members	Roll Call
Ash Kramer	Present
Bryan Kramer	Present
Carmen Morales	Present
Dolores Bernal	Present
Teresa Roman	Absent
Brenda Wong	Present
Mayra Duque	Present

### Call to Order

- 1.1. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm. by Chair Carmen Morales. Six (6) board members were present at roll call: Ash Kramer, Bryan Kramer, Carmen Morales, Dolores Bernal, Brenda Wong, and Mayra Duque. Teresa Roman was absent. Quorum (6) was met.

### 2. Comments from Public Officials

#### 2.1 Public Safety

LAPD and Officer Reyes discussed Community Safety and traffic. Anthony Hardaway Fire department Fire Station 55 was also present.

Mayra Duque mentioned the graffiti on Avenue 43. Officer Reyes mentioned that people coming out of jail do graffiti as a way to earn reputation. Officer Reyes mentioned reports could be made on myla311 app.

Mayra Duque mentioned to Officer Reyes about the abandoned area at 3559 Figueroa and that a street light was taken out as well.

- 2.2 Elena Chavez, Field Deputy for Councilmember Eunisses Hernandez. Elena Chavez introduced herself to the council and mentioned she could be reached at [elena.chavez@lacity.org](mailto:elena.chavez@lacity.org)**
- 2.3 Erica Gatica Doughty, Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate, Department of Neighborhood Empowerment.**  
**Discussed women and neighborhood council system plus a virtual Brown Act training. Also mentioned that there is a call for Neighborhood councils to apply for homelessness liaisons.**  
**She mentioned the youth seat board member can be from the ages of 14-17 years of age and the deadline to nominate is in April; mentioned to subscribe at [empowerla.org](http://empowerla.org)**
- 2.4 Carlos Arce, Field Representative CA 52<sup>nd</sup> State Assemblymember Wendy Carrillo Not Present.**
- 2.5 100-Acre Partnership**  
**Miguel Paredes discussed the Paseo de Rio and thanked everyone who has participated in the process and that they were finalizing a pre-design report. Reiterated that the project would be a green space from the 110 freeway to the 2 freeway; mentioned there was a February 8<sup>th</sup> meeting about bidding on projects. Another representative discussed the Bowtie Demonstration Project would develop 18 acres into a state park and that construction was expected this summer.**
- 2.6 Cheryl Morris representative from North East New Beginnings to discuss project. Not present. Carmen Morales did mention they are accepting applications for people looking for housing.**

### **3.0 Public Comments**

**Public Comment 1-**

**Public Comment 2-**

**Public Comment 3-**

**Public Comment 4-**

**Brenda Wong added a comment, thanking the community for coming out. She stated that individuals do not have power that is what the council is for and that we are all part of a community. She mentioned someone on the train approached her aggressively, someone**

**who had been at an NC meeting; Brenda Wong further stated that people should bring up issues at board meetings and not on personal time or in public.**

### **4.0 Community Outreach Discussion**

**4.1 Update community on Christmas Event at Cypress Park. Carmen Morales mentioned the board contributed to the Christmas event; she also encouraged the community to share pics of the event on Facebook or Instagram.**

## **5.0 Chair and Vice Chair Report**

### **5.1 Discussion and Possible Action: Community Outreach**

Carmen Morales mentioned the Cypress Park Rec. Center will be offering classes in Guitar and Ukulele. Guitar classes will be held Friday 5:30-6:30 and Ukulele from 4:30-5:30. Schedules for the sport's season are also up.

## **6.0 Treasurer's Report**

Ash Kramer noted the expenditure report was online; she also mentioned the check that was originally stolen from the Veteran's group was finally reimbursed for \$1200.

Ash Kramer motioned to approve Dec 2023/Jan 2024 budget; Carmen Morales seconded.

Carmen Morales Roll Call;

Bryan Kramer Yes, Ash Kramer Yes, Carmen Morales Yes, Dolores Bernal Yes, Brenda Wong Yes, and Mayra Duque Yes. Motion approved.

## **7.0 Consent Calendar**

## **8.0 Action Items**

**8.1 Presentation by Friends of the LA River CEO Candice Dickens Russell. Not Present.**

**8.2 Javier Rodriguez from Community Nature Connection (CNC) to present regarding nature guided trips into the Santa Monica mountains. Current project date May 18<sup>th</sup>. Two additional trips to be calendared.**

Presentation mentioned that the CNC provides programs for youth and families impacted by social, racial issues. They provide programs to bring local communities onto to trails towards the coast or beaches. They take schools on these trips; involving working class people and nature.

Mayra Duque said they would help fund these trips if the organization applies to the neighborhood council.

Carmen Morales said first would be for May 18? She asked if this was a definite date. Javier Rodriguez said it would take place then or anytime after.

**Mayra Duque said the trips would have up to 30 participants and run from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm and would be guided. She mentioned she believed it would be great to make the Santa Monica mountains and the beach accessible to the community.**

**No Public Comment.**

### **8.3 Discussion and possible action surrounding traffic safety measures for Cypress Avenue, Avenue 28, and other connected streets along this corridor.**

**Ash Kramer said there was no motion yet but that they may return to it later.**

### **8.4 Elsa Flores, CD 1, one of three representatives, spoke on how the speeding issue has been catastrophic on Cypress, Adele and Pepper. Mentioned working with Ed Reyes since 2012 but nothing had been done until Ricardo Flores changed the timing on the lights, installing reflectors but that they were ultimately removed when the streets were paved. Mentioned they had been asking since 2021 to reinstall reflectors. Since January 2024 there had been 3 car accidents in which 2 cars were totaled and 1 was damaged. Mentioned that residents were in danger; the elderly, children, bicyclists and local businesses. They are asking the community to take responsibility in order to make a change; to help get the trees trimmed, bring in reflectors and timers.**

#### **Public Comment 1-**

**Representative 2 mentioned they were a member of an HOA and had been in the community for 2 years. Mentioned that most of them have children; that there had been 6 accidents in his area; mentioned that his car had been totaled; said that he was committed to the area to bring in new condos and improving the area; stated there had been 5,000 home insurance claims due to car accidents.**

**Representative 3 mentioned they were looking at things like lane reductions; treating one way sections as a pilot program, narrowing lanes down from Merced to Pepper to Figueroa and on to Avenue 28; Huron to Jeffries; mentioned that there are 52% less car accidents with less lanes and that less lanes will not impact emergency vehicles; mentioned they are asking for lane reductions, tree trimming, and reflectors.**

**Bryan Kramer mentioned that they submitted a letter about everything the representatives were speaking on; he said he was glad others felt the same way. Bryan Kramer asked if the council should vote on a new letter.**

**Brian Gallagher of DOT did data connection, roadway classifications for Cypress and Avenue**

28. Ave 28 had a speed limit of 43 mph, mentioned that 85% of drivers went at 43mph or slower. On Cypress there was no posted speed limit; in 2019 it was 30 mph. Also mentioned if speeding continues in certain areas that they would recommend installing speed feedback signs and as far as speed bumps, they are self regulating. Also mentioned that Councilmember Hernandez was interested in funding speed bumps on Cypress; that these would slow traffic from 5-10 mph. Also mentioned that speed tables have been helpful in reducing speed. Brian Gallagher said their studies showed there were not a lot of crashes on Cypress, most seemed to be sideswipes or crashes into parked cars. He stated that they felt that the streets in the area should be given back to the community by having more stop signs; this will slow people down; signs are good starts and that they have targeted Cypress and Gay and Jeffries. Furthermore, he mentioned that All Way Stop Signs would be installed by late April/May and as far as the tree trimming he said Urban forestry had been notified. Mentioned that the leading pedestrian interval at Cypress allows the walk signal to come on before driver's get the green light; the standard being 4 seconds and a longer time on wider curb lanes. He said they would consider one in road but that there have been issues raised by emergency vehicles. Also mentioned they will start looking at the needs of Avenue 26.

Public Comment 1-

Public Comment 2-

Public Comment 3-

Officer Reyes of LAPD encouraged the community to use [lapdonline.org](http://lapdonline.org) both for crime information and to report on severe fatal accidents. He read off some statistics: in 2019 there were 2 sever accidents on 28<sup>th</sup> and Jeffries/Huron. In 2021-2024 there were 4 severes, 1 fatal last year. As for speeding on Cypress, in 2021 there were 102 citations, 37 on Cypress. In 2022 there were 103 citations, 49 on Cypress. In 2023 there were 96 citations, 72 on Cypress and 11 speeding and 13 other on Avenue 28. In 2024 there have been 13 citations, 11 on Cypress. Mentioned they will be doing sobriety check this year in the area.

Elena Chavez mentioned that mobility was a concern for the councilmember; mentioned that car collusion deaths were higher than homicides.

Collective Comments were taken for Items 8.3-8.4

Public Comment 1-

Public Comment 2-

Public Comment 3-

Public Comment 4-

Ash Kramer thanked everyone for coming out; asked LAPD is there was a way as a community to get the information on these accidents into the data records; how can the data reflect the lived experiences of the community.

Officer Reyes said it was up to the parties involved to do their reports.

**Public Comment 5-**

**Public Comment 6-**

**Public Comment 7-**

**Public Comment 8-**

**Public Comment 9-**

**Public Comment 10-**

**8.5 Brenda Wong discussed the pedestrian signals at the intersection of Future Street and Cypress Avenue to be re-programmed to allow for a 10 second pedestrian only signal. Brenda Wong mentioned she crosses there regularly and that the signal needs to be longer than 4 seconds; so many cars are lined up that 8 seconds would be more ideal.**

**Carmen Morales mentioned that 8.5 was continued from 8.4**

**No Public Comment.**

**8.6 Ash Kramer strongly recommend Neighborhood Purpose Grant; Ash Kramer motioned to approve. Carmen Morales tabled this item for the following month.**

**8.7 Javier Rodriguez mentioned that advertising is a way to get communities into nature. Ash Kramer mentioned this was part of the Neighborhood Purpose Grant. Mayra Duque mentioned there would be an event on May 18 but that there would be two more events. She asked if this had to be part of the neighborhood council budget? Erica Gatica Doughty said it was not certain.**

**Ash Kramer said she would reach out to the city clerk.**

**Mayra Duque mentioned it takes two months to get approval; that it might be too late to get the advertisements up if they wait until March.**

**Ash Kramer mentioned any events funded have to happen by the end of June; mentioned the board will rally to address a specific issue.**

**Carmen Morales tabled Item 8.7**

**8.8 Vote on drafting a Community Impact Statement (CIS). Carmen Morales stated the board could write a letter requesting additional funding so that the following year's budget could be higher in order to help the community.**

**No public comment.**

**Ash Kramer asked if the board would be drafting the letter.**

**Mayra Duque said she would draft the letter.**

**Public Comment 1-**

**Erica Gatica Doughty mentioned the board could write more than one letter; stated that right way is to first write a request for action.**

**Mayra Duque reiterated she would write the letter; collaborate on it.**

**Carmen Morales tabled Item 8.8 until the next month.**

#### **9.0 New Business and Ideas for Future Meeting**

**Ash Kramer mentioned that representative from New Beginnings would be at the meeting next month.**

**Cheryl Morris was present briefly discussed the program funded by LASA and Wesley. Cheryl Morris mentioned the program consisted of 95 beds for interim housing located at 500 N. Ave 19.**

**Ash Kramer asked how people could reach out.**

**Cheryl Morris mentioned people could call 323-622-5966; and that they were taking donations and were hoping to have church services, AA meetings and were in general looking for the local community to help them out. Gave the website JWCH.org**

**Public Comment 1-**

**Public Comment 2-**

**Public Comment 3-**

**Public Comment 4-**

**Mayra Duque asked what percentage of people from the local community was represented in this community.**

**Cheryl Morris said there were a lot of people from different areas; some from the area and from around Olympic, Figueroa and Alameda.**

#### **10.0 Committee Update/Reports**

**Myra Duque asked to be added to the Alliance of River Communities.**

**Carmen Morales mentioned the next meeting would be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 7pm.**

**11.0 The meeting was adjourned by Carmen Morales at 9:24 pm.**