

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA



GREATER CYPRESS PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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GOVERNING BOARD

CARMEN MORALES
CHAIR

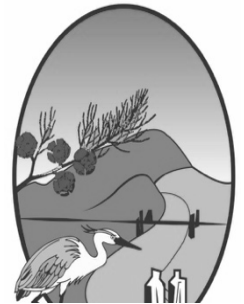
BRYAN KRAMER
VICE-CHAIR

ASH KRAMER
TREASURER

TERESA ROMAN
DOLORES BERNAL
MYRA DUQUE



GREATER CYPRESS PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL GOVERNING BOARD MEETING Tuesday, May 14, 2024 – 7:00 PM In Person Meeting



DRAFT MINUTES

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

Call to Order

1.1 Roll Call. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 P.M. by Bryan Kramer. Five (5) board members were present at roll call: Ash Kramer, Bryan Kramer, Mayra Duque, Teresa Roman and Dolores Bernal. Carmen Morales was absent. Mayra Duque entered the meeting at 7:08 P.M. Quorum (5) was met.

2. Comments from Public Officials

2.1 Public Safety

Battalion 2 Command team mentioned it was nice seeing all the new stop signs in the community as an outcome of the previous Neighborhood council meeting; discussed fire service day and mentioned how the Fire Department was getting ready for Brush season; directed attendees to LAFD.org for more information; Mentioned the Battalion 2 office can be reached at 213-485-6272; discussed fire preparedness; routes of escape.

Public Comment 1-

Public Comment 2-

**Dolores Bernal asked if there was any fire safety literature in Spanish.
The fire department said no but Spanish language information was available on the website.
Dolores Bernal reiterated she did not see any displays in Spanish at the station.
The Fire Department mentioned that was due mainly to budget cuts.**

Public Comment 3-

2.2 Elena Chavez, Field Deputy for Councilmember Eunisses Hernandez introduced herself and then mentioned that budget season had arrived; she encouraged attendees to stay up to date with social media for upcoming meetings; she discussed the food distribution today at Casa Salazar and then went on to mention the re-opening of the commissary this coming Thursday; a space for street vendors; she also discussed groundbreaking events for 2 soccer fields at Rio State Park n May 21 at 8:00 AM; she mentioned the space would have more walkways, water fountains and places to sit. Also mentioned was the Veterans Memorial day event at Rio State Park as well as the Dia de Los Niños presented by Manos Que Sobreviven.

Ash Kramer brought up the restrooms at Rio State Park as an ongoing issue and asked Field Deputy Chavez to please improve them.

**2.3 Deion Barrientos, Northeast Area Representative from Office of Mayor Karen Bass.
Not Present.**

2.4 Erica Gatica Doughty, Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate, Department of Neighborhood Empowerment. Mentioned the Congress of Neighborhoods Event happening at LA City Hall; an opportunity to learn about neighborhood city councils; free and open to the public; though they are asking neighborhood councils to make donations to the event; Erica Gatica Doughty also noted the board has current openings.

**2.5 Carlos Arce, Field Representative CA 52nd State Assemblymember Wendy Carrillo
Not present.**

2.6 100 Acre Partnership – Bryan Kramer mentioned this would be discussed later in the agenda.

3.0 Public Comments

3.1 Public Comment 1-

Public Comment 2-

Bryan Kramer suggested writing a letter in support of local low income apartment in the area pending demolition.

Public Comment 3-

Public Comment 4-

4.0 Community Outreach Discussion

4.1 Bryan Kramer mentioned to check out the Cypress Park Rec Center website for upcoming classes and sports.

5.0 Chair and Vice Chair Report

5.1 Discussion and Possible Action: Community Outreach.

No Report. Chair was not present.

6.0 Treasurer's Report

- 6.1 Ash Kramer reported that the fiscal year ends at the end of June, no checks will be issued after June 1st; credit cards can be used until June 20th; stated that the current amount available is \$12,807; Ash Kramer mentioned \$1600 needed for interpretation; \$1600 for Veteran's Day Event at Rio Park, \$600 for dinner and storage which leaves \$9000. Ash Kramer mentioned in the previous meeting \$4000 was set aside for items with the NC's logo leaving the council with \$5,000 free and clear for today; it was also mentioned that \$10,000 would be allowed to roll over to the next year. It was mentioned that the neighborhood council would no longer be reimbursed for interpretation. Ash Kramer motioned to approve the March/April expenditures. Myra Duque seconded.**

No Public Comment.

Bryan Kramer roll call;

Ash Kramer-Yes. Dolores Bernal- Yes. Teresa Roman-Yes. Myra Duque- Yes. Bryan Kramer- Yes. 5 Yes. 0 No. Motion Passes.

7.0 Consent Calendar

- 7.1 Ash Kramer motioned to amend to consent calendar for January and April.**

Bryan Kramer; Roll call:

Ash Kramer-Yes. Dolores Bernal- Yes. Teresa Roman-Yes. Myra Duque- Yes. Bryan Kramer- Yes. 5 Yes. 0 No. Motion Passes.

8.0 Action Items

- 8.1 The Nature Conservancy, presentation and Q & A. Maggie Jenkins of the Bowtie Project is a parcel of land owned by State Parks alongside the LA. river. Some of their goals include improving water quality, public access, education; she mentioned that they spoke with the community's desire for nature based solutions; she mentioned that bidding documents are publicly available. The presentation mentioned how untreated water would be cleaned up and pumped back onto the wetlands and the remaining water would be released back into the LA River as clean water. The presenters reiterated that the site has been investigated multiple times; the soil would be cleaned, the top feet of soil would be removed and monitored for dust; also assured that effective, safe practices would be used during soil removal; with a plan to minimize dust, a plan to deal with the dust; also mentioned they would be transparent on how the data would be handled.**

Public Comment 1-

Ash Kramer asked if there would be a fence between the 3 acres and the rest of the Bowtie project.

Presenters confirmed there would be a fence.

Public Comment 2-

8.2 Discussion and Possible Action: Neighborhood Purpose Grant Buried Under the Blue Presentation. Presenter discussed the creation of an independent project to educate and inform the community on the native bird Least Bell's Vireo being evicted by the Bowtie Project. Mentioned The Nature Conservancy's lack of cooperation with his efforts. Funding would be used to create a scientific study using night cameras in order to protect the bird by monitoring it; presenters intend for this project to be done via community engagement through events and presentations as well as contributing to and conserving this species by collaborating with local and federal agencies to ensure this species habitat.

Ash Kramer posed the question as to how the cameras would be set up if the sites where the birds are located belonged to the State.

Bryan Kramer voiced concern that there was a conflict between the presenters and the entities he needs to collaborate with.

Presenter discussed that the section of the park designated for people takes over the habitat of the endangered bird which is being allowed 3 acres but according to the present it needs 4 acres; and if the effect of the park is to endanger the species then that is not right.

Ash Kramer asked about future events to learn about the endangered bird and asked for specific locations.

The presenter mentioned locations had not be determined.

Public Comment 1-

Ash Kramer asked if the grant being requested was for 3 events plus the night cameras?

The presenter explained that the cameras were for surveying and mapping migratory routes of the bird in order to protect the areas that are left for it.

Bryan Kramer mentioned that it seemed the Buried Under the Blue presenter needed to work with The Nature Conservancy.

The presenter claimed the TNC had not been helpful.

Bryan Kramer said he was not interested in villainizing this conservancy group.

The presenter said they were willing to work with them if they were willing to work with his group.

Public Comment 2-

Dolores Bernal asked the presenter when did he find out about what was going on in the park?

Teresa Roman asked what have you been doing about this situation?

The presenter said he had been working with this issue for 15 years; after work and during his spare time.

Teresa Roman said in reality this project bought off members of the community when doing surveys with \$50 dollar gift cards. Many people in the community were not agreeing with the impact the project would have but not many were involved. Teresa Roman mentioned a prior member of the board who opened the eyes of others with regards to projects in the community like the Bowtie project.

Presenter mentioned his project would help educate this community.

Teresa Roman said she understood but the Bowtie project was here; already underway. She mentioned the presenter should have attended other meetings when these agencies were present. She mentioned that the board just needs to know what is really happening.

The presenter added that most of their comments were ignored and had not been included by the local and Federal agencies.

Public Comment 3-

Public Comment4-

Representative Stefanie Campbell of California State Parks and Taylor Yard mentioned that they had cooperated with the presenter; and they had not ignored him. She went on to state that the these projects intended to improve sites while working with agencies to ensure current projects do not negatively impact species; developing plans to limit the impact on species; reduce noise disturbance; creating a buffer zone; no hand-pulling of weeds during nesting periods; adding appropriate signage and fencing had also been placed. Furthermore, she concluded that the site would be cleaned to residential standards and that the use of a sound wall would be implemented during construction.

8.3 Discussion and Possible Action: Neighborhood Purpose Grant to PESA.

Presenters discussed their High School internship program helping 40-50 students at a time mostly from Lincoln Heights; last week in June these students participated in a conference at Cal State Merced where they gained knowledge on state, local and federal governments; the program also offers certification to students.

Ash Kramer asked if any Cypress Park students would be impacted.

Presenter was not sure.

Dolores Bernal mentioned there seemed to be nothing involving their community when it came to this program. Furthermore, she asked presenter how he obtains funding.

Presenter replied through grants and donations.

Dolores Bernal asked if this was a charter school or LAUSD?

Presenter said it was the Los Angeles Leadership Academy a free charter school.

Public Comment 1-

Presenter mentioned the program is in person and virtual.

Mayra Duque asked how long the program was.

Presenter said it was all summer long, twice a week.

Mayra Duque followed up by asking what the process of getting started involved.

The presenter said they would need email and home address of student.

Myra Duque asked how would the certificate course work.

The present said he would handle the proctor software for the certification program.

Teresa Roman commented that if the office is in Lincoln Heights she assumes the presenter went to the Lincoln Heights city council to ask for money.

Presenter said yes, they told them to come here, to this council.

Teresa Roman said she never heard of anyone from this community going to that school or having benefited from this program. Told the presenter he should have brought the council a list of students from Cypress Park; she asked again who benefits from your program, and that the presenter most assuredly had the records to know.

Presenter agreed.

Public Comment 1-

Bryan Kramer commented as far as the motion for Buried in the Blue that he would feel better if he knew that they could work with the TNC and other agencies, if they did receive the financial support of the neighborhood council. As for voting on this motion Bryan Kramer motion to table it.

Erica Gatica Doughty mentioned that the board could add stipulations to the motion.

Mayra Duque said she believed there could be a chance that the two parties could work together; she proposed offering \$2,450 to cater events, or offer brochures, fliers, stickers; with the hope that Buried under the Blue could connect with other entities.

Erica Gatica Doughty asked therefore if this would be changed to an amendment.

Bryan Kramer said yes motion to amend; the project needs to be in collaboration with the other entities.

Erica Gatica Doughty suggested letting it sit and allow groups to talk and see if there can be a collaboration.

There was no second. Bryan Kramer's motion failed.

Myra Duque volunteered to be the mediator between the parties.

Erica Gatica Doughty said the stipulation must be confirmed by June 1st in order to receive funds.

Ash Kramer said she was concerned about offering funding for events with no details of time and place.

Teresa Roman asked what happens if the parties involved do not agree on working together.

Ash Kramer said if they do not agree on working together then the check cannot be sent. If in the next fiscal year there is a new request the board can look at it again.

No second. Motion Fails.

Dolores Bernal said she was not sure how this small agency of Buried Under the Blue would necessarily fail but that she too wanted dates and location; that it was too ambiguous. Dolores motioned to consider the \$5000 grant if they get dates and location; the stipulation being location and date.

No second. Motion fails.

Myra Duque motioned to offer \$2450 with the stipulation of collaboration plus dates and location of future events. Bryan Kramer seconded.

Public Comment 1-

Public Comment 2-

Bryan Kramer; Roll Call:

Ash Kramer- Abstain. Dolores Bernal- No. Teresa Roman-No. Myra Duque- Yes. Bryan Kramer- Yes.

2 Yes, 2 No, 1 Abstain. Motion Fails.

Ash Kramer said she would motion for \$2000 to PESA but would like to know how many Cypress Park students would benefit; agree to grant the money in good faith after a report of how many Cypress Park students got into the program. Bryan Kramer seconded.

Public Comment 1-

Public Comment 2-

Ash Kramer apologized for using the word faith in reference to granting funds to PESA; said it was not a question of faith.

Bryan Kramer; Roll Call:

Ash Kramer- Yes. Dolores Bernal- Abstain. Teresa Roman-Abstain. Myra Duque- No. Bryan Kramer- Yes.

2 Yes, 1 No, 2 Abstain. Motion fails.

Bryan Kramer said the \$5000 would roll over.

8.4 Discussion and Possible Action Amend approval of \$1600 to \$1563 to El Rio de Los Angeles Veterans Collaborative.

Ash Kramer motioned to approve \$1563. Dolores Bernal seconded.

Public Comment 1-

Bryan Kramer; Roll Call:

Ash Kramer- Yes. Dolores Bernal- Yes. Teresa Roman-Yes. Myra Duque- Yes. Bryan Kramer- Yes. 5 Yes, 0 No. Motion Passes.

8.5 Discussion and Possible Action: Request for Action to increase the amount of funding provided to neighborhood councils to be sent to CD 1 in anticipation of the 24-25 city budget. Tabled.

9.0 New Business and Ideas for future meeting

Dolores Bernal suggested changing the pizza situation; that is, the food option at meetings.

Public Comment 1-

Ash Kramer asked if someone on the board could make name tags for everyone.

Bryan Kramer volunteered.

12.0 The meeting was adjourned by Bryan Kramer at 9:14 PM.