

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, September 10, 2024 – 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	Present
Mayra Duque	Absent

Call to Order

1.1 **Roll Call.** The meeting was called to order at 7: 06 P.M. by Carmen Morales. Five (5) board members were present at roll call: Ash Kramer, Bryan Kramer, Dolores Bernal, Teresa Roman and Carmen Morales. Mayra Duque was absent. Quorum (5) was met.

2. Comments from Public Officials

2.1 Public Safety

Officer Reyes of the LAPD discussed an uptick in stolen cars in the area of Figueroa and San Fernando. Officer Reyes advised residents to hide their items, not to leave keys in the ignition. Also mentioned there was a spike in graffiti and referred everyone to the myla311 app to send in pictures of graffiti in the local area.

Carmen Morales asked about the homeless encampment near Carlota and Pasadena; she mentioned how it gets cleaned up only for the same people to return once again.

Officer Reyes mentioned that unfortunately there was not much that could get resolved, that they basically just move these people around.

Teresa Roman mentioned that bike riders in the area are not following the rules of the road and that they have caused accidents in the neighborhood. She mentioned a skateboarder that almost caused an accident recently. She also mentioned an incident at a nearby liquor store; mentioned how some kids broke the window; one had a rifle; another incident occurred with teen gang-members trying to steal a man's bike.

Officer Reyes said they were looking into these incidents; he mentioned how he spends his entire shift in the neighborhood.

Dolores Bernal brought up the subject of local businesses Shins Pizza and Barra Santos; that these businesses are taking over sidewalk space with people waiting for tables, drinking, not leaving room for people in the community to walk by.

Officer Reyes mentioned that the Vice office could be called to check on permits regarding alcohol being drunk on the sidewalks.

Carmen Morales reminded everyone that Libraries are operating as cooling centers during the heat wave and advised everyone to stay hydrated.

2.2 Elena Chavez, Field Deputy for Councilmember Eunisses Hernandez. Not Present.

2.3 Alfredo Rodriguez, Northeast Area Representative from Office of Mayor Karen Bass. Not Present.

2.4 Erica Gatica Doughty, Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate, Department of Neighborhood Empowerment. Mentioned that an email was sent out to the board about the Congress of Neighborhoods event.

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

2.6 100 Acre Partnership –Not Present.

3.0 Public Comments

3.1 Public Comment 1-

Public Comment 2-

4.0 Community Outreach Discussion

4.1-4.5 Carmen Morales reminded attendees to check out the Cypress Park website for upcoming events in the area as well as the Cypress Park Rec Center at laparks.org for upcoming sports and classes. She mentioned additional events with Controller Kenneth Mejia on September 12th and a Pet Wellness Day hosted by the Office of Councilmember Eunisses Hernandez and the Better

Neighborhood Project on September 14th.

Dolores Bernal invited the community to join their Instagram page which has links and connections to other resources such as battery disposal.

5.0 Chair and Vice Chair Report

No report.

6.0 Treasurer's Report

6.1 Ash Kramer reported that the City Clerk's office has been slow with the Credit Card Receipts. There was no monthly expense report yet.

7.0 Consent Calendar

7.1 Ash Kramer motioned to approve minutes for August; Carmen Morales seconded.

Carmen Morales; Roll Call:

Ash Kramer- Yes. Teresa Roman-Yes. Bryan

Kramer- Yes, Carmen Morales-Yes. Dolores Bernal- Yes.

5-Yes, 0- No. Motion passes.

8.0 Action Items

8.1 Discussion and action: Carmen Morales mentioned there was an opening for a new board member. Invited anyone interested to join.

8.2 Discussion and possible action: Ash Kramer motioned to put \$10, 229.54 in the Neighborhood Purpose Grant; Carmen Morales seconded.

Carmen Morales; Roll Call:

Ash Kramer- Yes. Teresa Roman-Yes. Bryan

Kramer- Yes, Carmen Morales-Yes. Dolores Bernal- Yes.

5-Yes, 0- No. Motion passes.

8.3 Neighborhood Purpose Grant for up to \$5,000 for Friends of the L.A. River clean up day. Item was tabled but Ash Kramer mentioned it needs to be decided on today; Carmen Morales said the item would be returned to later. Representative from FOLAR gave presentation; said there would be an L.A. River clean up day on October 5th which would be the 34th such event over the years; mentioned 4 sites along the river would be cleaned up and they were approaching city councils for funding. For more information the community could go to FOLAR.org

Carmen Morales asked if there was an age limit for participating in the event.

Representative said there was no age limit, and that different activities were available for families

and people with limited mobility.

Bryan Kramer asked if the proposed cleaning of the upper section of the river would benefit Cypress Park.

Representative agreed, said there would be less trash and materials collecting along the Cypress Park section of the river.

Carmen Morales asked what they were seeking from the board.

Representative said they would send the board an updated budget but basically they needed funds for supplies for the volunteers, as well as story telling materials such as photos and videos.

Bryan Kramer asked where the other funding was coming from.

Representative said it was coming from a mix of different grants. They also invited the board to participate by having a table or booth at the event.

Ash Kramer mentioned that the \$5,000 needs to make it until the end of June.

Bryan Kramer motioned to grant \$3,500. Dolores Bernal seconded.

Teresa Roman asked who else is helping with this clean up; any other organizations, are they just relying on members of the public?

Representative said they had different partnerships with council districts, organizations and LAUSD, private schools and UCLA to name a few.

Ash Kramer mentioned that cleaning up the LA River was one part but that the other part was public education.

Representative agreed and that they had a goal to bring in more people via social media and their end goal was an engaged public.

Carmen Morales; Roll Call:

Ash Kramer- Yes. Teresa Roman-Yes. Bryan Kramer- Yes, Carmen Morales-Yes. Dolores Bernal-Yes.

5-Yes, 0- No. Motion passes.

8.4 Meet & Greet: Rosa Salcedo introduced herself and the non-Profit Friends of Aragon Elementary. Ms. Salcedo mentioned she was deeply connected to the community and she wanted to introduce the public to the Friends of Aragon Elementary School. They are interested in raising funds, building partnerships and boosting physical and mental well-being; invited the community to visit the school and donate if possible towards busses, field trips etc. She

invited the community to follow them on Instagram and she expressed her gratitude to the council for the opportunity to introduce herself and her non-profit.

8.5 Presentation by Derek Ryder. Carmen Morales mentioned this item involving ASNC PLUC and the CHIP ordinance was on hold.

8.6 Luis Rincon, Community Engagement Coordinator on Rio de LA State Park gave a presentation on the timeline and projects in support of habitat (LBVI). The basis of their work he mentioned was to preserve California's biological diversity; mentioned California has 280 State Parks; and that California led the way in preserving the land for future generations. Discussed the history of Taylor Yard and mentioned that they were still developing the last four acres of L.A. Historic Park. Also mentioned the 100 acre development and discussed community engagement such as conducting listening sessions and responses including topics on safety and security, sports, festivals, and community engagement among others. Mr. Rincon also discussed the G1 Parcel (18 acres) known as the Bowtie Project as it entered Phase two of the Rio de Los Angeles project as well as concerns over the Least Bells Vireo endangered species. Mr. Rincon then went on to show slides of the area from the mid 90's until now showing the development of the land along the L.A. River. Mr. Rincon gave out his email in case anyone wished to contact him at luis.rincon@parks.ca.gov

Public Comment 1-

8.7 Discussion and Possible Action: Request for action to address Community concerns regarding restaurants blocking the sidewalks on Cypress. Ash Kramer suggested writing a letter to the manager or owners of the restaurant about the community's concerns on the sidewalk accessibility before sending in Vice; mentioned if the letter could include the city logo.

Erica Gatica Doughty said she could ask about city logos being used.

Teresa Roman said this was a problem that has existed in the community for a long time; elderly issues, parking issues; it is sad time has been taken to fix this situation and do something about these problems.

Erica Gatica Doughty said ideally it would be better to have a draft letter in order to review it before sending it out and that the council should discuss it as a whole.

Dolores Bernal asked to clarify if this was a parking issue regarding people living in nearby housing.

Ash Kramer said the issue was sidewalks were being blocked and that there was drinking of alcohol on the street; she mentioned that perhaps it can be suggested to patrons to be more considerate of the sidewalks.

Carmen Morales clarified the issue was around public drinking, sidewalk accessibility and parking. Carmen Morales motioned that Dolores Bernal write the letter, then the council would review it and

**send it to Erica Gatica Doughty with regards to the use of the City of Los Angeles logo.
Carmen Morales motioned; Ash Kramer seconded.**

Carmen Morales; Roll Call:

**Ash Kramer- Yes. Teresa Roman-Yes. Bryan Kramer- Yes, Carmen Morales-Yes. Dolores Bernal-
Yes.**

5-Yes, 0- No. Motion passes.

**10.0 Carmen Morales reminded everyone that meetings are held the second Tuesday of every month at
7PM.**

The meeting was adjourned by Carmen Morales at 8:57 PM.