

# CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA



## GOVERNING BOARD

CARMEN MORALES  
CHAIR

BRYAN KRAMER  
VICE-CHAIR

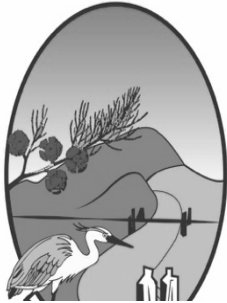
ASH KRAMER  
TREASURER

TERESA ROMAN  
DOLORES BERNAL  
MAYRA DUQUE  
GLADYS ASCENCIO

## GREATER CYPRESS PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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## GREATER CYPRESS PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL GOVERNING BOARD MEETING Tuesday, January 14, 2025 – 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	Present
Gladys Ascencio	Present

### Call to Order

1.1 Roll Call. The meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM. by Carmen Morales. Seven (7) board members were present at roll call: Ash Kramer, Bryan Kramer, Dolores Bernal, Carmen Morales, Teresa Roman, Mayra Duque and Gladys Ascencio. Quorum was met.

### 2. Comments from Public Officials

#### 2.1 Public Safety

LAPD Officer Reyes gave a report updating the recent wildfires; mentioned that LAPD staff is currently at 50% because many are taking turns at the Palisades; Officer Reyes advised the community to stay vigilant and call 9-11 if they see any suspicious people starting fires; also mentioned there had been an uptick in graffiti in the area with Cypress Park gangs pitted against the Avenues gangs.

Public Comment 1-

Public Comment 2-

**Public Comment 3-  
Public Comment 4-**

**2.2 Elena Chavez, Field Deputy for Councilmember Eunisses Hernandez. Ms. Chavez reported on their office and the neighborhood in relation to the recent fires; Ms. Chavez said there had been no forced evacuations in CD 1; described their office's work in collecting donations, volunteering; mentioned that many of the Councilmember's staff were going the Palisades to help field phone calls; Ms. Chavez advised the community to contact 3-11 if they see down power-lines; also mentioned that the donations collected in Glassell Park had already been sent to the Pasadena area; mentioned that councilmembers want to put a pause on rent hikes; recommended people wear masks due to the fires having burned many old homes built with toxic substances.**

**Mayra Duque asked if the Air Quality Relief Center was still open in Chinatown?**

**Ms. Chavez said it had closed yesterday.**

**Carmen Morales asked for an update on Earth day events.**

**Ms. Chavez said the event was to be held on March 15<sup>th</sup> from 10-1 pm at the Rio de Los Angeles site. In addition, Ms. Chavez said there would be food distribution this Friday at 10 am in the community, mainly perishables and also that there would be an upcoming Know Your Rights workshop on January 30<sup>th</sup> aimed at the immigrant community.**

**Public Comment 1-**

**2.4 Erica Gatica Doughty, Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate, Department of Neighborhood Empowerment. Mrs. Gatica Doughty mentioned the email sent out to all board members that given the state of emergency purchases of up to \$1000.00 can be made without board approval. Mrs. Gatica Doughty mentioned that some city councils bought water, Gatorade, masks; said that the Greater Cypress Park Neighborhood council could make these kinds of purchases as well; the city however also said that funds could be given to schools as seen fit and added that the city is trying to make it easier for people to support communities. Lastly, Ms. Gatica Doughty that the upcoming elections would be by mail-in only; she mentioned there were fliers with election info and that the city clerk also provided postcards providing more information on the election by mail process.**

**Bryan Kramer felt it was important to use the money to buy products that the community needed.**

**Carmen Morales agreed with Bryan Kramer that the council should buy products for the community.**

**2.5 Field Representative CA 52<sup>nd</sup> State Assemblymember Jessica Caloza Update. Not Present.**

**2.6 100 Acre Partnership – Not Present.**

**3.0 Public Comments**

**Public Comment 1-**

**Public Comment 2-**

**Carmen Morales addressed a public comment regarding a homeless man in the neighborhood causing disturbances; she mentioned how every time he was moved out of the neighborhood he would eventually return and that has occurred many times.**

**Public Comment 3-**

**Carmen Morales followed up on her previous statement and directed her question to LAPD as to what else could be done.**

**Officer Reyes of LAPD said it was a social issue unless they are breaking the law; for instance if he lights fires call 9-11; if he is lighting the fire or feeding the fire.**

**Public Comment-4**

**Public Comment-5**

**Public Comment-6**

**Public Comment-7**

**Public Comment-8**

**Public Comment-9**

**Public Comment-10**

**Dolores Bernal asked one of the public commentator's about the name of his organization which was IDEPSCA.**

**Ash Kramer informed the public commentator, Jorge, that he could apply for a grant from the board.**

**4.0 Community Outreach Discussion**

**4.1-4.2 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 as well as the Council website to see the upcoming agenda.**

**4.3 Carmen Morales gave an update on the Cypress Park Library; the library had a soft re-opening**

this past week.

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

**5.2 Carmen Morales gave an update on fire containment throughout the Los Angeles area.**

## **6.0 Treasurer's Report**

**6.1 Ash Kramer reminded the board that Amazon expenditures in the budget were due to the holiday events; she stated she is seeking approval of \$16,793.95 available funds for the fiscal year that ends in June; she mentioned the money has to be spent by May. Ash Kramer motioned to approve monthly expenditures; Seconded by Carmen Morales.**

### **Public Comment 1-**

**Ash Kramer informed the audience that the city clerk neighborhood council portal showed what the budget is spent on such as outreach budget, storage, community improvement budgets, neighborhood purpose grants and so on.**

### **Roll Call; Carmen Morales**

**Bryan Kramer- Yes, Ash Kramer- Yes, Carmen Morales- Yes, Dolores Bernal- Yes, Mayra Duque- Yes, Gladys Ascencio- Yes and Teresa Roman- Yes. Motion Passes 7-0.**

## **7.0 Consent Calendar**

**7.1 Approve the Minutes From Regular and Special Board meetings in November and December 2024. Ash Kramer motioned to approve; Seconded by Carmen Morales. Ash Kramer mentioned there were no notes provided for December because there had been no quorum.**

### **Roll Call; Carmen Morales**

**Bryan Kramer- Yes, Ash Kramer- Yes, Carmen Morales- Yes, Dolores Bernal- Yes, Mayra Duque- Yes, Gladys Ascencio- Yes and Teresa Roman- Yes. Motion Passes 7-0.**

## **8.0 Action Items**

**8.1 Discussion and Action: Submit CIS in opposition to Council File 24-0867**

**Mayra Duque stated that term limits would make our system weaker; having people on the board that have been here for a while and have done this before helps as it takes time to learn everything.**

**Erica Gatica Doughty clarified saying that the council motion asks if we should do an analysis and draft a report.**

**Ash Kramer said momentum is important, she felt some Neighborhood councils could benefit from term limits but felt DONE could spend its time better.**

**Bryan Kramer said this council has its own experiences and should proceed accordingly.**

**Carmen Morales motioned to send the letter; Seconded by Bryan Kramer.**

**Public Comment 1-**

**Bryan Kramer added that term limits are generally a good thing.**

**Ash Kramer clarified that this was a question of should the city prepare a report to see if it even needs to be undertaken.**

**Erica Gatica said this motion was brought about by Councilwoman Rodriguez wanting to see if the Neighborhood council is thoroughly reflected in the community.**

**Carmen Morales said larger neighborhoods would skew the data as compared to smaller communities like Cypress Park.**

**Bryan Kramer addressed his long tenure on the board as being very much for quorum purposes because money cannot be spent on the community without the board having quorum at each meeting.**

**Myra Duque shared that it was important to have autonomy and to see what works best for our community.**

**Dolores Bernal asked for more clarification on the motion.**

**Teresa Roman added that there needs to be better outreach in order to have more people present at meetings, she asked if there was a better way to get more people involved.**

**Roll Call; Carmen Morales**

**Bryan Kramer- Yes, Ash Kramer- Yes, Carmen Morales- Yes, Dolores Bernal- Yes, Mayra Duque- Yes, Gladys Ascencio- Yes and Teresa Roman- Yes. Motion Passes 7-0.**

**Dolores Bernal said that if we have term limits of 2 years it would not be enough time to bring on new members and for them to get acclimated.**

**Public Comment 1-**

## **8.2 Discussion and Possible Action: Neighborhood Purpose Grant for up to \$4,999 for World Harvest Food Bank in assisting them to buy a Sprinter van.**

**Ash Kramer related that they had once approved a van purchase in the past but they were not allowed to purchase a van; she mentioned that she went back to the city clerk office to inquire if they would approve this time and they said that they could not tell us in advance but that grants**

cannot be used for administration purposes.

Teresa Roman said the council should help them more.

Carmen Morales tabled this item until the next meeting.

**8.3 Discussion and Possible Action: Neighborhood Purpose Grant for up to \$3650 for LA River Arts for “Poet Laureates on Wheels.”**

Ash Kramer said this group had been in touch that they would not be able to attend tonight’s meetings because of the fires. Their full request amount is \$4150.

Bryan Kramer asked if the poets would be from Cypress Park.

Ash Kramer read the press release.

Teresa Roman said many events happen and the people do not know about it; she said she was not sure how beneficial it would be.

Public Comment 1-

Public Comment 2-

Jorge from IDEPSCA who had commented was asked by Teresa Roman if he had a register of the people his organization helped from the Cypress Park area.

Jorge said he did.

Gladys Ascencio asked if a flier would be included.

Ash Kramer said if they fund the “Poet Laureates on Wheels” event they would include the NC’s logo on the flier once it was printed.

Gladys Ascencio asked how this event would benefit the community.

Ash Kramer mentioned they would stop at three parks along the river reading poetry about the community.

Carmen Morales mentioned the event had a website with more information.

Bryan Kramer motioned not to offer the money but instead invite them to do something in our area; Seconded by Gladys Ascencio.

Public Comment 1-

Public Comment 2-

**Roll Call; Carmen Morales**

**Bryan Kramer- Yes, Ash Kramer- Yes, Carmen Morales- Yes, Dolores Bernal- Yes, Mayra Duque- Yes, Gladys Ascencio- Yes and Teresa Roman- Yes. Motion Passes 7-0.**

**8.4 Discussion and Possible Action: Neighborhood Purpose Grant for up to \$5,000 for Beautify L.A. Ash Kramer said they need to have an itemized budget, it had not been provided. Ash Kramer tabled the item until the next meeting.**

**8.5 Discussion and Possible Action: Send letter to CD1 regarding resident noise concerns. Ash Kramer tabled the item until the next meeting.**

**Bryan Kramer said the available \$1000 should go to Jorge the representative from IDEPSCA.**

**Teresa Roman agreed that the council should help him but we should divide the \$1000; mentioned the elderly in the community could benefit from masks and other supplies.**

**Public Comment 1-**

**Ash Kramer said the money is only to be used for emergency services items.**

**Carmen Morales asked how was the money to be distributed.**

**Erica Gatica Doughty said the money can be given or the money can be used to buy the actual supplies.**

**Public Comment 1-**

**Ash Kramer added that the chair can decide on how money is spent without voting.**

**Mayra Duque told Jorge of IDEPSCA that he should apply for a Neighborhood Purpose Grant; she felt L.A. Fire Department would benefit from emergency aide; also added the Red Cross would be a great organization to donate to.**

**Bryan Kramer said he felt it was better to distribute to an organization that knew how to distribute.**

**Public Comment 2-**

**Carmen Morales she would work on this matter and have a decision by Friday.**

**11. Carmen Morales reminded everyone the next meeting was the second Tuesday of next month.**

**12. Carmen Morales adjourned the meeting at 9:09 pm.**