

# 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, March 11, 2025 – 7:00 PM

In Person Meeting



### DRAFT MINUTES

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

### Call to Order

- 1.1 **Roll Call.** The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM. by Carmen Morales. Five (5) board members were present at roll call: Ash Kramer, Bryan Kramer, Carmen Morales, Gladys Ascencio and Teresa Roman. Mayra Duque and Dolores Bernal were absent. Quorum was met.

### 2. Comments from Public Officials

#### 2.1 Public Safety

Officer Reyes of the LAPD went over some of the current crime statistics in the community including 1 rape, 5 robberies, 3 aggravated assaults, 4 thefts (from a yard or car), 1 burglary and 4 stolen cars. Officer Reyes reminded the community to report crimes so the statistics come out and become available. Officer Reyes invited the community to the Northeast Los Angeles Police Academy, every Thursday starting April 3<sup>rd</sup> with presentations and information on the bomb squad, K-9 units, the coroners office, and detectives to learn more about what the police does and what cops go through; he concluded by inviting the

community to the 5K run at Griffith Park on April 27<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 am.

LAFD Anthony Hardaway Battalion Chief said the LAFD mission had not changed; said when the community calls we will respond; he mentioned the coming rains but did not foresee too much debris flow; Mr. Hardaway also reminded the community the NotifyLA system which is responsible for sending things like evacuation notices in case of emergencies via text, phone messages and emails; lastly Mr. Hardaway gave out his personal number (213) 485-6272 as a direct line for any questions or comments directed to the Battalion Chief.

- 2.2 Elena Chavez, Field Deputy for Councilmember Eunisses Hernandez. Ms. Chavez mentioned a food distribution event that took place at Lincoln Heights Senior Center; said her office continues to work with CD14 and is working with Recreation and Parks centers for an Easter egg hunt with a photo booth, refreshments and games to be held on April 12<sup>th</sup>; Ms. Chavez also mentioned that today was 3-11 day for the MyLA311 hot-line and encouraged all community members to report trash, graffiti, issues with DOT services as it offers an opportunity for the community to voice their concerns about what is going on in their area; lastly she mentioned the Earth day celebration being held March 15<sup>th</sup> at Rio de Los Angeles State Park where 100 trees will be given away, plus a bird walk at the Audubon Center.

**Public Comment 1-**

- 2.3 Susan Cervantes, Northeast Area Representative from Office of Mayor Karen Bass. Susan Cervantes mentioned some of the things her office has been working including helping impacted workers with resources, job training as well as know your rights cards which she offered to the community; she also mentioned the Service Day L.A. Community Clean Up on Saturday March 15<sup>th</sup>.
- 2.4 Erica Gatica Doughty, Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate, Department of Neighborhood Empowerment. Mrs. Gatica Doughty mentioned the upcoming elections for Neighborhood Council board elections and that the openings for GCPNC were 1 board staff as well as 1 vacant seat; next Mrs. Gatica Doughty discussed community concerns over ICE and reminded the attendees that there were Know your rights workshops happening throughout the city and pointed out that Know your rights cards were available at the back tables at tonight's meeting; she mentioned it is her second year creating a strategic plan supporting this N.C. in order to help them reach their goals; she encouraged the board and the community to reach out to her if there were any particular issues they were concerned about. Lastly, Mrs. Gatica Doughty mentioned it was the 25<sup>th</sup> year of the existence of the Neighborhood Council and she presented a certificate to the board members.

**Public Comment 1-**

- 2.5 Hector Rodriguez, Field Representative CA 52<sup>nd</sup> State Assemblymember Jessica Caloza Update. Mr. Rodriguez mentioned that it had been a busy year introducing a legislation package of 15 bills; also mentioned the idea of making 3-11 services a statewide service; the work continues

despite a small staff of 7-8 people; Mr. Rodriguez gave an update on the abandoned courthouse on San Fernando Rd.; said the structure was 40% demolished but that they were working on ensuring that no contaminants were leaking or escaping into the nearby community, but he added the exterior of the courthouse had already been knocked down; the rest will be done by hand to avoid dust and chemicals being released into the environment; lastly Mr. Rodriguez mentioned the Know your rights pamphlets being offered at the tables at the back of the room.

**2.6 100 Acre Partnership – Not Present.** Carmen Morales mentioned representatives would be attending meetings every other month.

### **3.0 Public Comments**

**3.1 Public Comment 1-  
Public Comment 2-  
Public Comment 3-  
Public Comment 4-**

### **4.0 Community Outreach Discussion**

**4.1-4.3** 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](http://laparks.org) for upcoming sports and classes as well as the Council website to see the upcoming agenda; she also reiterated what Officer Reyes had mentioned about the LAPD's Northeast Division 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual 5K on Saturday April 27<sup>th</sup> at Griffith Park.

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

**5.1** Carmen Morales reminded the meeting of the Earth Day event happening at Rio de Los Angeles Park on March 15<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm; she also gave updates on the letter to CD 1 regarding homeless encampments in the ares and the machete-wielding man who despite being moved is still in the area.

### **6.0 Treasurer's Report**

**6.1** Ash Kramer reported that due to issues with the City Clerk Office there was no monthly expenditure report for February; mentioned that currently from now until the end of the fiscal year in June there was \$15,270.78 available with \$4,000 being used for regular NC operations like food for meetings, translation and note taking and she gave the final updated available funds for Neighborhood Purpose grants at \$11, 270.78.

### **7.0 Consent Calendar**

**7.1 Approve the Minutes From Regular meeting in January 2025.**  
Ash Kramer motioned to approve; Seconded by Bryan Kramer.

**Roll Call; Ash Kramer-Yes, Bryan Kramer-Yes, Carmen Morales- Yes, Gladys Ascencio- Yes, and Teresa Roman- Yes.**

**Motion Passes 5- Yes, 0- No.**

## **8.0 Action Items**

**8.1 Discussion and Possible Action: Neighborhood Purpose Grant for up to \$5000 for LA Mas/Accion Comunitaria. Teresa Roman recused herself. However, as Carmen Morales pointed out this action led to only 4 board members being available for this item thus losing quorum. Carmen Morales tabled item 8.1 to the next meeting.**

**8.2 Discussion and Possible Action: Neighborhood Purpose Grant for up to \$3000 to Victory Resources for 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Hood Olympics.**

**Delia Zevala from Victory Resources said they hoped to have a successful event emphasizing on issues affecting the community including human trafficking where they hope to offer options and resources to get out of being exploited; she also mentioned part of the need to funding is because permits for the event are expensive.**

**Ash Kramer asked what exactly the requested \$3000 would be spent on?**

**Ms. Zevala mentioned that the licensing permit alone is \$8000 plus equipment rental; the total cost to put on the event is \$30,000; they added they were hoping to get donations and grants.**

**Carmen Morales asked what the target date was? And what the location was?**

**Ms. Zevala said June 21<sup>st</sup> and that it was going to be held at Irving Middle School.**

**Teresa Roman asked what the \$3000 would be used for? She further elaborated by saying that the event was far from the community of Cypress Park and many residents would not be able to attend and so she wondered how would Cypress Park benefit?**

**Delia Zevala mentioned that the event attracted many people from all over the North East Los Angeles area; close to 1,000 people have attended in the past.**

**Bryan Kramer asked if Victory Resources had asked Glassell Park for money.**

**Delia Zevala said they had.**

**Carmen Morales motioned to approve \$3000 for the Hood Olympics.**

**Bryan Kramer motioned for \$1500 because Glassell Park gave \$2000; Carmen Morales seconded.**

**Public Comment 1-**

**Roll Call; Ash Kramer-Yes, Bryan Kramer-Yes, Carmen Morales- Yes, Gladys Ascencio- Yes, and Teresa Roman- Yes. Motion Passes 5- Yes, 0- No.**

- 8.3 Discussion and Possible Action: Neighborhood purpose grant for up to \$4,750 for Beautify L.A. Representatives gave presentation on their aims to support homelessness by offering temporary housing as well as cleaning up neighborhoods by planting flowers, bushes and trees as well as planning educational events.**

**Ash Kramer reviewed the proposed spending items as homeless outreach at \$2,000, outreach events at \$900 and an additional \$1800 for beautifying projects; Ash Kramer asked where the community garden would be.**

**Representative from Beautify L.A. said the community garden would be decided in collaboration with the Neighborhood Council, as a reward to the board for their support.**

**Ash Kramer said they would have to check with the city where the garden would go and that they do not have volunteers to do this kind of legwork.**

**Representative from Beautify L.A. said he would do the legwork himself by going to the city and posing these questions; mentioned they had partnerships with a lot of organizations.**

**Teresa Roman asked for clarification on temporary housing.**

**Representative from Beautify L.A. said temporary housing was meant to get the homeless off the streets ASAP; that they would provide them with transport to immediately get them to temporary shelter and then help them get permanent housing.**

**Ash Kramer asked where would these people go.**

**Representative from Beautify L.A. said they would go to shelters; temporary housing until they could transition to permanent housing.**

**Bryan Kramer said he felt people would be reluctant to jump in a car and go to a shelter, it seemed unlikely.**

**Representative from Beautify L.A. said their organization had teams of 2 that would go out to talk with the homeless and then CIRCLE would step in with peace officers and escort them to a shelter; he added that they could help move encampments and even store items (for 24hrs).**

**Carmen Morales added that it seemed too abstract; asked where does this group succeed where others fail?**

**Representative from Beautify L.A. said the problem would be better served by multiple groups**

**working together on homelessness.**

**Ash Kramer asked what kind of art event would be planned with outreach.**

**Representative from Beautify L.A. said an educator from one of your schools could be involved to teach others how to paint.**

**Teresa Roman asked about Beautify L.A.'s proposal to do graffiti clean up and trash clean up in Cypress Park; she asked can't the city just help us with this; don't they already do this and so now we would have to pay you?**

**Ash Kramer asked if the board had given Beautify L.A. funds before.**

**The representative from Beautify L.A. said no, he mentioned they had gotten funds from Olympic Park Neighborhood Council in Central L.A. in the area of 6<sup>th</sup> and Venice.**

**Bryan Kramer asked why ask Cypress Park.**

**Representative from Beautify L.A. said that we should all take back our community and help our neighborhoods while providing services for the homeless with events and projects to help the community.**

**Bryan Kramer said he was uncomfortable with the language about taking back our neighborhoods; said he thinks of the homeless as our neighbors; he added that he was reluctant to vote on any of these projects.**

**Bryan Kramer motioned to not fund these projects; Seconded by Carmen Morales.**

**Roll Call; Ash Kramer-Yes, Bryan Kramer-Yes, Carmen Morales- Yes, Gladys Ascencio- Yes, and Teresa Roman- Yes. Motion to not fund project passes 5- Yes, 0- No.**

#### **8.4 Discussion and Possible Action: Submit CIS regarding Council File 19-1235 AB 857/ California Law/ Municipal Bank of Los Angeles (MBLA)/Establishment/Public Bank License**

**Ash Kramer explained submitting a CIS was to simply state our support for exploring options for a public bank.**

**Ash Kramer motioned to submit a Community Impact Statement; Seconded by Carmen Morales.**

**Public Comment 1-**

**Public Comment 2-**

**Ash Kramer added this kind of bank would keep the money in the city of Los Angeles rather than banks making money off interest etc.**

**Public Comment 3-**

**Roll Call; Ash Kramer-Yes, Bryan Kramer-Yes, Carmen Morales- Yes, Gladys Ascencio- Yes, and Teresa Roman- Yes. Motion to submit CIS passes 5- Yes, 0- No.**

- 9. Carmen Morales reminded the audience to reach out to the board for new business or suggestions.**
- 10. Carmen Morales adjourned the meeting at 8:52 pm.**