

CITY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA



ELYSIAN VALLEY RIVERSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL  
GENERAL BOARD MEETING Minutes for March 2016  
Thursday, March 17, 2016, 6:30 PM-9:35PM  
Allesandro Elementary School  
2210 Riverside Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90039

1. **Meeting was called to order by Andy Chung at 6:34PM**

**Roll Call**

**Present:**

Daniel Torres  
Allen Anderson  
Robert Leyland  
Ed Colacion  
Joseph Lovelis  
Lupe Fletes  
Elena Gutierrez  
Andy Chung

Quorum was met

Roman Gomez (arrived at 6:40PM)  
Arturo Gomez (arrived at 6:45PM)

**Absent:**

Marie Gurule  
Becky Lee

2. **Chair's message to Neighborhood Council and Community regarding Neighborhood Council. Addressing: NC plans for remainder of term, clarification on trainings (up to 3 minutes).**

Andy reminded everyone that they have funds that need to be spent and that today's agenda encompassed many items that would need to be moved through expeditiously. He added that all board members have been trained and that all certifications have been met. This was an issue in the last meeting and he wanted to address the fact that the requirements had been met by all board members.

3. **Community Announcements (including upcoming opportunities and events for Elysian Valley residences)**

- a. A member of the public, Tracy Stone, announced that she was sponsoring a project in which she would like to mentor local youth to put together a photographic documentation of life in Elysian Valley. She was looking for students who would be interested, ages 9 to 14. She has reached out to principals in the area but she was there to ask for others to spread the word. Students will be taught portraiture photography and other skills. She can be reached at info@tracystonearchitect.com or after the meeting.
- b. Andy announced that there would be a job fair on Saturday 10am to 1pm at Dodger's Stadium. Everyone was encouraged to attend. He reminded those interested to come with resumes.
- c. There would also be a Spring Eggstravaganza co-sponsored by the Riverside Neighborhood Council at the Elysian Valley Recreation Center, Saturday March 26<sup>th</sup> from 1pm to 3pm. There will be face painting and an egg hunt.
- d. Andy mentioned the EVNC Candidate Forum that will be held on April 16, 2016. He said details will follow in the meeting as will details about the EVRNC Elections that will be held on May 14, 2016 at Elysian Valley Recreation Center.

4. **Government Officials Reports/Updates (Representatives have a standing place on the agenda and present a report on all relevant issues in Elysian Valley)**

Andy mentioned that City Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell, Field Deputy, Hector Vega will not be back until next month but that the Councilmember's monthly report is available online.

A D.O.N.E spokesperson, Thomas Sung, announced that elections were closed and that there were 25 candidates running for election in Elysian Valley. He said that 5 of the candidates were present at the meeting. Elysian Valley was one of 96 neighborhood council and is a part of region 7, the Northeast area of the city. He briefly gave some information about the role of NCs. The spokesperson mentioned that every seat was being contested in the election and he congratulated the current board on their outreach. He also mentioned that elected members are required to have ethics training of about 2 hours. 2 different trainings are required so that board members can vote on money items. Tests are required for both funding and ethics. Thomas added a note about funding. Previously if a board member's child attended a school or if he/she was involved in a nonprofit, the member was required to withdraw from the process. They have changed things now so that board members can take action but they must still recuse themselves from voting. He offered the example of if Elena's child attended Allesandro Elementary, she could now propose action for the

school, but she could not vote. Previously, she could not have even proposed the action.

Lupe asked if she can now propose action for Doris Day, a school attended by her granddaughter. Thomas replied in the affirmative but cautioned her from putting her name on forms. He reminded them that NCs have access to a legal advice division.

Officer Gina Chavon then spoke. She did not have her latest crime maps with her so she spoke from memory. She mentioned that there was a great deal of auto theft in the area. Hondas were currently the hot vehicles. Please park your cars in garages or in your driveways. She also mentioned that catalytic converter theft was up. Priuses have been the number one car targeted for this particular theft because the thieves get more money. A car such as a Camry or other similar model offer a \$150 to \$170 payout for the metals contained in the converters, but those for the Prius can be worth between \$200 and \$280. She reminded the neighborhood that these thieves were able to steal the converters in under a minute. This has been an issue throughout the region, including Glendale, Burbank, and throughout the Valley.

Officer Chavon also mentioned that there will be a conversation about homelessness at the Verdugo Recreation Center on March 31<sup>st</sup> from 6pm to 7:30pm. They will discuss the protocol for when you should call about an encampment. Law enforcement should be the last step.

Joseph Lovelis asked about the protocol for motor home vehicles parked in neighborhoods that are being lived in by the homeless. Officer Chavon said that when LE was called, the owners often readily comply with the request to move.

A member of the audience asked why Riverside Drive was now clear of the trailers and RVs. Officer Chavon replied that it was because parking regulations had changed so that there was no parking on the street from 2pm to 6pm. The officer accompanying her said that the neighborhood could also try to get permit parking.

Another audience member asked about a shooting that had occurred on Coolidge. Officer Chavon reassured those in attendance that the victim had survived but that she was not at liberty to speak further because it was an ongoing investigation.

Another audience member asked the officers what it takes to get the police to respond to homeless issues. They are currently having a lot of trouble on Rosanna Street where there has been theft. He said that he called the police but that no one came.

Another audience member disagreed and said that the police arrived very quickly when she called them. Officer Davis reiterated that if it was a crime in progress, the police would respond quickly. Make sure to clarify that the crime was in progress. Officer Chavon gave her cell number and email address: (213) 793-0760 and

[30347@lapd.lacity.org](mailto:30347@lapd.lacity.org) Members of the community should feel free to contact her if they had concerns.

Another member of the audience said that a car had been parked on his street for almost 3 months. He said that he had called a few times but nothing has been done. Officer Chavon asked for details. He said he lived at 2259 Glower Place. The vehicle was a white truck, no license plate, model from the 60's or 70's.

Lupe mentioned that they were having an event in April and they would love to have a police presence there. Robert mentioned that he would like to have a police presence because there were tensions last year. Officer Chavon said they can't just monitor an event. Robert said that the last board received more police presence and protection at their events.

## 5. **Board Member Attendance/Training Review (discussion and possible action)**

### 5.1 **Review attendance of all board members: Daniel Torres is at 4 or more absences.**

Their current membership as board members will be considered. (discussion and possible action).

Roman Gomez began the discussion. He wanted to specifically address the attendance record of Daniel Torres. He noted that Daniel has had 6 absences, which was over the allowed number. Andy Chung asked for clarification and Roman passed a document around.

Allen Anderson said that this was already discussed at the previous meeting and that they had decided that as long as he continued to attend, that it would be ok. Ed Colacion concurred.

Robert Leyland said that they should stick to the rules. His wife has been in the hospital but he has still been attending meetings.

*Robert Leyland motioned to dismiss Daniel Torres and Roman Gomez, seconded the motion.*

Ed Colacion reminded the board that they had already voted on this so it would break the rules to vote again on a passed action.

Andy asked if a motion had been called. Minute taker responded in the affirmative. Andy continued that he thought it was wrong to do this when the board only had 2 months left.

Allen Anderson interjected that Daniel Torres was the guy behind the scenes working closely with the treasurer. With only two meetings left for this board, this was wrong.

Roman Gomez said that he recently broke his leg but he still makes it to the meeting. Looking the other way would set a bad precedent and that this behavior should not be tolerated.

Allen said that the recriminatory aspect of the motion showed an ill-intention on Daniel's behalf that was not there.

Lupe Fletes mentioned that Daniel was there now and he was there last month. She has been in touch with him most recently about receipts for the elections. He has been constantly involved regarding issues related to money.

Andy closed the discussion for the board and opened up discussion to comments from the audience.

The first audience member said that they should follow the by-laws. If rules have been violated that they should follow what has been stated there.

Andy clarified the by-laws. After 4 absences the board can consider action, and as he sees it, they have already done that.

Second speaker said she would like to hear from Daniel. She also asked where the minutes are for the last meeting so that they could see what action had been taken. That would greatly clarify the issue at hand.

Third speaker mentioned that Daniel had given so much to the NC. He was a head down kind of guy who gets work done. With only 2 months left it seemed odd to take this action when they would lose a valuable member.

Fourth speaker again asked where the minutes were for the previous meeting. It would clarify the issue. They may want to consider setting a rule for the future.

Fifth Speaker said that there were no minutes because "the board does what it does." He mentioned that they drove the last note taker away because they wanted unreasonable turnaround on the notes. Likewise, the website guy quit because of similar differences. He then spoke with sarcasm, urging the board to get rid of the treasurer and hurt themselves.

Andy said that there was a whole other process to remove a member from the board. Roman said that it would go to the city attorney as they cannot remove a member themselves.

**Motion fails 5-4**

**Yes (4):**

Robert Leyland  
Elena Gutierrez  
Roman Gomez  
Arturo Gomez

**No (5):**

Andy Chung  
Joseph Lovelis  
Ed Colacion  
Allen Anderson  
Lupe Fletes

**6. Standing Committee Reports**

**Before discussion on the agenda items begins. Roman asked Ed Colacion if he had completed his ethics certification. Ed said yes, and that he had now completed it 2 times. The last time he was short by 2 minutes. His completion is on record.**

**6.1 Finance**

**a. February 2016 Monthly Expenditure Report (discussion and action)**

Andy mentioned that the expense report was attached to agenda. He then asked if there was anything that needed to be discussed.

Lupe Fletes said that she would like to discuss the receipts as she would need to sign off on them and show that they had been verified. She asked Daniel if any receipts were missing. He responded that none were missing. He had emailed Lupe all the receipts except for March's. Lupe responded that she did not receive them. Daniel said that he sent them and that he cc'ed others. Andy said that he received the email with the receipts. Receipts were not submitted at that time, according to Lupe.

Joseph Lovelis asked about \$53.30 that had been spent at Juan's Liquor Market. Daniel said that Marie got water, sodas, snacks, and paper goods at Juan's. They don't itemize receipts which was why the purchases are not listed.

*Daniel motioned to approve the 2016 February expenditure report and Andy seconded the motion.*

Elena added that she was concerned about what was being done with the leftover supplies.

Lupe said she had further questions about why two different receipts were submitted for donuts. Daniel clarified that each receipt was for a different event. Andy added that one of the expenditures was for 2/1 from Yum Yum Donuts. Lupe would like to table voting on this.

Comments are opened to the public:

Speaker 1 asked if the numbers are sent out in advance to the board? She wanted to know why the board had not already discussed these expenditures: “Why are we talking about donuts here? It is a waste of time.” She requested that they send the information out before the meetings.

Speaker 2 asked why there was not an agenda translated into Spanish. He mentioned that the EVNC pays for a translator. Andy said that that was not what the motion was currently about. Speaker reiterated his concern and said that the lack of a translation might be a violation and that the meeting could be illegal.

Speaker 3 wanted to address the meetings mood. She said there was a lot of negativity, “Where is the love?”

Andy apologized that there was not an agenda in Spanish.

Speaker 4 said that she understood where Lupe was coming from. Some people think donuts are not a big deal but if Lupe was going to be held accountable, then we need to discuss these issues. She mentioned Elena’s comment about leftover supplies. She said that the NC needed to tighten their belts.

Speaker 5 said that it comes down to accountability. They must remember that this is taxpayer money and they were hopeful that the board was mindful of that. Why won’t the board share the receipts?

### **Motion to approve the February expenditures report passes 9-1**

#### **Yes (9):**

Daniel Torres  
Allen Anderson  
Robert Leyland  
Ed Colacion  
Joseph Lovelis  
Elena Gutierrez

Andy Chung  
Roman Gomez  
Arturo Gomez

**No (1):**

Lupe Fletes

- b. **March 2016 Monthly Expenditure Report (discussion and action) was skipped**
- c. **Board Member Funding Reimbursement to Roman Gomez in the amount of \$268.11 for the purchase of posting board materials at Home Depot. (discussion and action)**

*Daniel motioned to reimburse Roman Gomez for posting board materials and Joseph Lovelis seconded.*

Andy open up discussion to the public after no comments are made by the board.

Speaker 1 said that it was odd that she had never seen the design for the board. She asked if anyone had seen it. Andy said that he had. Andy asked Roman to explain the project and Roman said that it would be about 30x36 in dimensions. Speaker said that they had not seen this and money had already been allocated. This was troubling if they are trying to be more transparent.

**Motion to reimburse Roman passed 9-0-1**

**Yes (9):**

Daniel Torres  
Allen Anderson  
Robert Leyland  
Ed Colacion  
Joseph Lovelis  
Elena Gutierrez  
Andy Chung  
Arturo Gomez  
Lupe Fletes

**No (0)**

**Abstain (1):**

Roman Gomez



d. **Funding Item: Storage Unit for EVRNC to store equipment and materials for month to month up to \$200/month (including deposit) (discussion and action)**

Andy described the motion: it was about getting a storage place on Blake at the Public Storage.

*Roman motioned to approve the amount and Andy seconded the motion.*

Board discussion followed:

Lupe Fletes requested that the unit not be on a lower floor and that it be close to an elevator. Joseph Lovelis asked what size it would be. Andy was not sure about the dimensions but that it would be a medium size space. Joseph asked if they offer a discount to NCs. And Andy responded no.

Allen Anderson mentioned that at Doris Day they had a storage container on site. Perhaps the NC could share some space or get their own space.

Andy said that D.O.N.E required that the storage be in a neutral space and that liability insurance be purchased. Ed said that when he was a principal in Koreatown, they used In Kind Storage. Said they should consider it.

Robert Leyland said that he had a problem with this item. Maybe he was biased but he wanted to share his concerns, "Public Storage is a stake in the heart of Elysian Valley." He said that it was out of scale and out of place with the neighborhood. He said they can't fight Bimbo because it was there. They should boycott it.

Roman said that he had looked into getting a container but they cost around \$1,900 to purchase. Andy asked, should we table this or move to a vote? He then opened the discussion to the public.

Speaker 1 asked, didn't they negotiate a \$1 rent on a space from Bimbo? Wanted to know if that was still on the table. Andy thanked her for reminding them.

Speaker 2 said that they should ask Doris Day if they could borrow some space. Andy reminded the speaker that they are bound to purchase liability insurance.

Speaker 3 added that it might be a problem to use a school because it would limit access because of hours, and of course the issue of liability.

Speaker 4 asked if this could be part of the office that the NC has discussed getting. Andy said that they are in the midst of paperwork for that but the storage space would not replace office space. When asked for clarification on what would be stored there, he said such items as a projector, merchandise, paper, ink, etc.

Speaker 5 wanted to know why they needed a \$200 space. What were their actual space requirements and why hadn't other options been presented?

**Motion to approve \$200 for storage fails 8-2**

**No (8):**

Daniel Torres  
Robert Leyland  
Ed Colacion  
Joseph Lovelis  
Elena Gutierrez  
Andy Chung  
Roman Gomez  
Lupe Fletes

**Yes (2):**

Arturo Gomez  
Allen Anderson

Andy added that he would get some quotes for next time.

**6.2 Environment and Land Use**

**a. Updates**

Ed Colacion announced that there were 103 participants at the last election event. There are 25 registered candidates. The Land Use Committee passed a motion 4-0 to get a PO Box.

- b. RECOMMENDATION that and/or MOTION to adopt the statement: The Elysian Valley Riverside Neighborhood Council does not and will not support or approve any new development within the bounds of Elysian Valley unless and until the City of Los Angeles comes up with an acceptable, comprehensive neighborhood-wide plan to analyze and, where deemed necessary, to upgrade the various infrastructure systems (environmental, traffic, utilities) required to support the anticipated neighborhood-wide increase in demand on those systems.**

*Robert Leyland motioned to table the item until later and Elena seconded it.*

Robert said it was unclear what they want in terms of infrastructure. We should be firm on the matter. Elysian Valley should preserve the neighborhood.

Andy said that they do not have a particular stance and currently don't have a position.

Arturo added that he does not think the statement goes far enough. Added infrastructure was good, but socioeconomic impact needs to be discussed.

Roman agreed that this was a step in the right direction about the infrastructure issues but that they also need to address other issues including environmental impact.

Andy open discussion to the public.

Speaker 1 said that it was good for a neighborhood to have a vision but they needed to be open-minded about development. Leave the statement a bit open.

Speaker 2 emphatically added "No large buildings."

Speaker 3 said that if these things are too broad, then we can't take them back. We need to be specific. Said that there are some steps that can be taken concerning some issues like those relating to the sewage department.

Speaker 4 wanted to remind everyone that there are all kinds of development: good versus invasive. Who will pay for these issues. Doesn't like that this statement was all against it.

Speaker 5 said that she was not in agreement. If these developers have money, then they should go elsewhere. She has a business. We don't have money but we need to be united against these developers and we will be stronger for it. We should continue opposing developments.

Speaker 6 said that other communities were told to bend a little; it cost them much. These things will cost the community and we should oppose.

Speaker 7 said that they were here about the new development of about 29 homes being built on Coolidge. This was a key issue. The speaker has lived in this neighborhood for 35 years. She can't imagine that many more homes can be built because of density and height restrictions. From what she understands, the development received expedited permits for construction.

Lupe asked if there have been any hearings on these issues? Allen said that they need to firm up their response on this issue. He said 2 notices were sent to the NC but they did not see them until too late because their mail is sent to the civic center. He appreciated Ed's efforts in procuring a P.O. Box.

**Vote was taken to table the item, and the motion passed 9-1**

Andy pointed to ZIMAS and another resource for the community if they were interested in issues of development. Robert Leyland also added another online resource.

**6.3 Outreach**

**a. Updates:**

They have been working with the elections committee, something that Lupe discussed. She thanked outreach for their work. They will have Elysian Valley bags soon. Andy asked when the poster boards would be going up and Roman answered next week.

**7. Ad Hoc Committee Reports:**

**7.1 Elections**

Gary Wong, public works liaison spoke on this item. Andy introduced him and passed out a sheet of emergency contacts for the sewer system. Different numbers are listed for different issues. Gary said that he attended a meeting held by the sewage department. They will be expanding trash pick-up. He was not sure how they are choosing which areas to give more attention but that the community should call the appropriate number and request more clean up in their areas if they have concerns. Because of the recent rains, the cisterns systems have been overrun.

a. Report of the March 12, 2016 event.

Lupe spoke on the event; thanked those who attended and for making it a success, and thanked Pat, Cecily, Gloria, Gary, Sandy, and others in particular.

b. Upcoming event: Candidate Forum April 16, 2016

They will hold an event where candidates will be asked questions about gentrification, density, health and safety issues. Lupe thanked Marie and Ed for their work.

Elena asked if everyone got paid for the March event. Daniel said, yes that everyone had been reimbursed for the band, food, deejay; only the payment for the graphics work on the flyer was still pending.

From the audience someone asked what time the event would be held and Lupe answered that it would be held from 11AM to 2PM. She had a flyer that she then distributed.

Elena asked if the audience could ask questions during the forum and Andy said that he was not sure what the format was but that those interested should attend the Elections Committee meeting to discuss.

**c. Updates**

**7.2 Neighborhood Purpose Grants**

**a. Announcement of current grants received and deadline to submit.**

Joseph Lovelis mentioned 4 grants and reminded everyone that the last day to submit an NPG was April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Andy chimed in that applications were available on the website. Cecily, in the audience, asked how one could become a committee member. Andy said that anyone could be a committee member. Joe added that committee members do not vote but they can present.

Audience member asked if earlier submissions are being remembered (that were submitted to Marie) such as those for Lummi Day, the Clock Stop, or LA Community Gardens. Joe requested that those that have been submitted be resubmitted to him. Audience member also asked, will the board be able to vote on these submitted NPGs. Joe said that since the next Board meeting would be on April 21<sup>st</sup>, it would give the board 1 week to read and review requests.

An audience member added that they should talk to D.O.N.E. to make sure that applications are submitted properly, so that applications approved by the board would not get rejected because of a small thing such as a clerical error. Allen added that they got busted on 2 proposals because of an error such as putting the wrong date on a form. An audience member added that it would be difficult to fix later.

**b. Upcoming meetings/Updates**

**7.3 Bimbo/Developments CIS Committee**

**a. Updates**

Robert Leyland talked about Bimbo's 100 condo project next to the LA River. He said that 17 condos were being added next to the Elysian Valley Community Center. Robert

makes a rape analogy to describe development and Andy and Ed ask for sensitivity with regards to the discussion.

Robert said that they had to be careful because once things are done, it would change the nature of the community.

**8. FUNDING ITEM: Bids for Neighborhood Council advertisement: EVRNC will hear two bids for advertising space and decide which to fund (discussion and action):**

**a. Community Beacon advertisement space for \$3,900.00**

**What we get:**

**+1-page advertising in 6 issues**

**+5,000 copies, 4,000 delivered door to door and 1,000 bulk drop**

**+publication print dates: 03/20/2016, 05/10/2016, 7/10/2016\*,**

**09/05/2016\*, 11/05/2016\*, and 01/01/2017\***

**\*outside of 2015-2016 Fiscal Year**

**b. Elysian Valley Riverside Newsletter by EVRNC for up to \$4,600.00/5,000copies**

**What we get:**

**+MARCH, APRIL, MAY, JUNE editions (all within '15-'16 fiscal year) +4 pages of EVRNC and local information/news direct from committees, important contact information plus advertising page for Elections**

**+up to \$500.00 for 5,000 copies**

**+up to \$520.00 for door to door delivery service for four thousand copies**

**(2,319 households in EV)**

**+publication print dates MARCH (can be done immediately), APRIL 1, MAY 1, JUNE 1.**

Andy introduces item 8a. Contract would have to be month to month because the fiscal year is ending and they cannot make decisions for following board.

Robert recused himself from voting on the Community Beacon. He wanted to explain why he had to recuse himself but Andy said that it mitigated the recusal's effect for him to speak on it. An audience member said that she would like to know why and Robert explained that he was not paid for an article written for the Community Beacon.

Roman said that last year they spent \$2,100 on 6 issues at the Community Beacon, and it will be the same amount this year. Adding distribution will add \$1,800 bringing the total cost to \$3,900. Roman has created a flow chart to show how this newsletter was created. He wanted Andy to explain the newsletter he was proposing.

Andy clarified what they meant by the newsletter. He said that the document would look like the agenda sheets but there would also be ad space. Goal would be to have it delivered to 2,319 homes in EV. He clarified that the handout that they passed out had some incorrect data as they do not need 10,000 copies. The ad space/newsletter would be delivered door to door. Remaining copies would be left at the park and the recreation center. He said that for those who cannot come to meetings, the newsletter would be a place for committee heads to give reports, and would help keep board members accountable.

Elena asked who would be writing for this newsletter and Andy said the board. Ed asked who would take this on and Andy answered for now him and then the next chair when elections happened in May.

Roman asked if Andy should recuse himself from voting on this item since he was the editor. Lupe clarified the rules, and Andy added that he was doing it on the behalf of the neighborhood council. Arturo added that there was no conflict of interest since Andy was doing it for them.

Ed asked if they are voting on two different items not the full item and Roman said yes. Allen asked a question about the advertisements (earlier it had been explained that the back fold would have an advertisement). Andy said that it would be an advertisement for the NC not someone else. Lupe said that it would be for things like the eggstravaganza.

Lupe said that she liked the Community Beacon and she liked that they were being included in larger city-wide issues and Andy concurred.

Roman asked why they could not do both since it was cheaper to advertise in 8b.

Andy said that he sees NCs using advertising to great effect. If they had to choose between the 2 or do both, it would only effect 2 months of the fiscal year.

Ed asked why they could not do it for a year and Andy explained that they could not enter into an agreement for the next neighborhood council.

Arturo said that it would be cost-effective to do the Community Beacon as everything in the newsletter could be combined in the ad.

*Ed makes a motion to pay for 2 months of advertising in the Community Beacon, and Elena seconded it.*

Daniel said that they needed an amount and Roman suggested they change the motion to include the cost of \$1,300.

Some discussion occurred about deadlines as it would not be possible to submit material for the March 20<sup>th</sup> CB issue. The next issue would come out on May 15<sup>th</sup> which could be a problem if they were advertising the elections.

*The motion was amended to pay \$650 for one month.*

Andy opened discussion to the public.

Speaker 1 asked if there would be room for community interest articles. Roman said that the Outreach committee would take input from the community. Ed also added that people could send articles directly to the Community Beacon.

Roman clarified that even though the Community Beacon edition would be dated May 15<sup>th</sup>, it would be distributed on May 10<sup>th</sup> which meant they could advertise for the elections.

Speaker 2 said that the amount seemed like a lot and others reminded her that the cost included distribution.

Speaker 3 asked that the board be mindful and make sure everything was properly set up and that they make everything count.

Speaker 4 thought that it was important that they know who was writing the articles. He said he was a fan of community papers, but biased articles needed to make authorship clear. He also wanted some clarification about the number of ads done last year. Are they sure they did 6 because he remembered 5?

Roman said yes, they did 6.

**Motion to spend \$650 on an ad in the Community Beacon passed 9-0-1**

**Yes (9):**

Daniel Torres

Ed Colacion

Joseph Lovelis

Elena Gutierrez

Andy Chung

Roman Gomez

Lupe Fletes

Arturo Gomez

Allen Anderson

**No (0)**



**Recused (1):**  
Robert Leyland

9. **MOTION submitted by Lupe Fletes (see attached) (discussion and action): “motion that a letter be written opposing the Spoke Bicycle Cafe Beer and wine permit (ZA-2015-4549-cub) and be accepted by the EVRNC and sent to various Los Angeles Agencies.**

Allen mentioned that he was sent a letter by Spoke Café’s Lori Winston and Vincent Latronica who saw item 9 on a posted agenda. They were not happy that they were not informed about the motion and it was too late for them to come to the meeting because they did not get advance notification. They said that at their request their application files were opened up to the public and that they have tried to be transparent. Since this issue has already been voted on, it was not fair to bring it back up.

Lupe then read the letter she composed and asked the EVNC to endorse it. She said that Spoke Café was on a bike path that is frequented by children and adults. It was a green space and she was against the commercialization of our public spaces. She was also concerned about the danger posed by bicyclists who have been drinking. In addition to being a danger to the community, the location would encourage public drunkenness. She did not think they did proper outreach. She said that the petition Spoke Café brought to the EVNC was mostly signed by people who lived outside of Elysian Valley. This was a community health and safety issue.

*Lupe proposed that the board support the letter and Robert seconded the motion.*

Andy asked if it was ok to vote on this without hearing from the Spoke people. Elena said that they had responded by providing the letter that Allen read, so was that not them speaking?

Daniel asked if they had other sites with similar issues, and Andy said there was a wine bar in the neighborhood. Elena said she thought that was different because it was actually in the community.

Ed said that they need to differentiate between anti-drinking and pro-following the process. It may be better to wait on the issue. Allen said that Lupe’s letter was too broad. Lupe added that they would be serving alcohol starting at 7AM. Roman said that he had concerns about the location. He was concerned about parking and that the location was not community friendly. Robert said that he favored the motion because this was next to the bike path, and biking and drinking is dangerous. He himself has patronized Spoke and he had never seen anything about the hearing or permit process.

Roman reminded the board that Spoke Café came to the board to get a letter of support and that they did not pass the motion.

Lupe said that many had approached her concerned about Spoke Café's hours. She hoped that they would vote for it and that those who support the letter would sign it tonight as well.

Andy opened the matter to public discussion.

Speaker 1, Cecily, asked why this had not been worked on by the land use committee. She took offense that someone could tell her whether she could or could not handle having a drink. She was flummoxed by the process and frustrated that they were not shown a copy of Lupe's letter in advance.

Speaker 2, Tracy, said there was no harm in waiting for the next meeting so that they could hear from the Spoke café people. She strongly recommended that they postpone the decision and work with them.

Speaker 3 said that they had a problem with the café serving alcohol at 7AM. Also reminded everyone that two dogs died recently after being hit by bicyclists.

Speaker 4 said that she lived near there and that the river was becoming a destination. She is an urban planner and wanted to know why the land use committee had not been aware of hearings and deadlines.

Speaker 5 said that they did not need to be so considerate of the Spoke people as the Spoke people were not considerate of them. She also wanted to know why Spoke Café was responding to the board but not to the community.

Speaker 6 said that they were afraid that this would set precedent and that they would have to write a letter for every alcohol-permit seeking group. He thought it was exploitation of a public asset and that it was a bad use of the land which was technically a flood stop for the river, and a green space. He said that alcohol is an issue particularly in the Latino community. Why isn't Spoke Café here tonight he asked.

Speaker 7 said that they had to negotiate like they did with Bimbo. They are really not happy about alcohol being served at 7AM. He does worry that if they approve this letter that other groups looking to get alcohol permits will not be forthcoming and open with the NC.

Speaker 8 said that there are existing sites where people can drink.

Lupe added that she has been an alcohol counselor and that she was speaking from knowledge about this issue. Robert addressed the concern about this setting a precedent; he said this was very site-specific so that should not be a problem.

**Motion to approve Lupe's letter passes 6-4**

**Yes (6):**

Robert Leyland  
Joseph Lovelis  
Elena Gutierrez  
Roman Gomez  
Lupe Fletes  
Arturo Gomez

**No (4):**

Allen Anderson  
Daniel Torres  
Andy Chung  
Ed Colacion

Daniel left the meeting at 9:10PM

**10. Public Comment on non-agenda items**

Speaker 1 said that he wanted to address the issue raised by another stakeholder about people writing articles in the Community Beacon but not putting their names on them. He said that to his recollection that person had done the same thing. (Person who spoke on the issue said that he had not). He also asked that people be considerate and silence their phones during the meeting.

Speaker 2 said she was glad about the letter. Wanted to discuss development on Coolidge. Said that because the developer was making allowances for low-income residents, that the city was giving them a density bonus. She was concerned about this.

Speaker 3 introduced herself (Carrie Sutkins). She is running for Elysian Valley NC Board. She said she was surprised by how unorganized things were. She said she was an urban planner and had connections within the government.

A member of the audience was upset that a phone had been set up to record the meeting in front of her without her knowledge. A stakeholder in the back who was also recording video on another phone, said that he put it there.

11. **Creation of Ad Hoc Committee for Community Impact Statement (discussion and possible action): City Council File 16-0093 to amend the Los Angeles City Charter and Administrative Code to restructure the governance of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power(DWP). The board's ultimate decision will be submitted via a Community Impact Statement to the City Clerk to be placed on the City Council Agenda for this Council File.**

Andy motioned to table the item.

12. **California High-Speed Rail Authority presentation (up to 15 minutes)**

The project manager for the high speed rail introduced herself (Melissa de la Pena). They were there to keep the community informed about the progress on the rail that would eventually pass through the EV on its way to downtown. She projected a map and showed the route. Said that the high-speed rail would definitely move slower through urban areas. They are working with local agencies as their intent was to seal the corridor so there will be no interruption to either the rail or the communities. They were in the environmental documentation phase.

Ed asked if the rail would be protected and Melissa said yes. Joe asked who would be maintaining the rail and Melissa said that it would be outside agencies.

Robert left the meeting at 9:20PM

Audience member asked what the anticipated frequency of trains would be. Melissa said -4-8 trains per hour. Melissa said that they would be accepting comments on the frequency of the trains (April 18).

Ed asked what the timeline was and Melissa said phase one would be complete in 2029.

Allen asked about grade separation and Melissa said there were 4 crossings in the area and that they would be separated.

An audience member asked if it was a private-public partnership and Melissa said some parts were. Another audience member asked how the project interacted with Metrolink. Melissa said that they were in talks and that Metrolink was involved with the process.

Another audience member asked if the hearings would be open. He had an issue with private companies benefitting from publically funded projects. Melissa said that the draft documents for their section will be provided in 2017 and they will invite public comment.

Another audience member asked when outreach would start and Melissa said it was ongoing and that there would be a lot more of it in 2017. She understood that access to the river was important they are considering the impact the rail will have on portals.

An audience member asked if they could clarify where the train would run—and Melissa said it would run on the same path that trains run into downtown.

Audience member asked when scoping would start and the representatives from the rail said it had already started in 2014. EIR and EIS will follow.

Another stakeholder asked for more clarification on how they would be protected from the train. Melissa said that the path would be walled and there would be sensors to detect if anyone had breached walls and/or was on tracks.

Another audience member asked how much land would need to be acquired; he mentioned the farm owners in central CA who are having land taken. Melissa said that the path south of Bakersfield was still in the planning stage, the Central Valley was the only place where they have started construction. Joe mentioned that he knew someone in Acton, CA who had their land seized. Melissa said they would work with the NC to make sure there was awareness.

Another audience member asked how much land had been attained through the use of eminent domain. Melissa said they have not used it yet but that they can.

### **13. Adjournment, Andy Chung adjourned the meeting at 9:35PM**

As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and upon request will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services, and activities. Sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability of services, please make your request at least 3 business days (72 hours) prior to the meeting by contacting the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, at (213) 978-1551, toll-free at 311, or e-mail [ncsupport@lacity.org](mailto:ncsupport@lacity.org). In compliance with Government Code section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the board in advance of a meeting, may be viewed at the scheduled meeting. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please contact (213)978-1551.