

CITY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA



ELYSIAN VALLEY RIVERSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
GENERAL BOARD MEETING Minutes for April 2016
Thursday, April 21, 2016, 6:30 PM-9:55PM
Allesandro Elementary School
2210 Riverside Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90039

1. **Meeting was called to order by Andy Chung at 6:40PM**

Roll Call

Present:

Joseph Lovelis
Robert Leyland
Elena Gutierrez
Lupe Fletes
Becky Lee
Andy Chung
Marie Gurule
Daniel Torres
Roman Gomez
Arturo Gomez
Ed Colacion (late 6:58PM)

There was some discussion about whether an agenda item had been approved to be presented tonight. It was decided that 6.2 would not be discussed at the April 21st meeting.

Arturo motioned to move agenda item 7.2 before item 4. Roman seconded the motion.

Andy said that agenda item 6.1 budget allocations needed to be dealt with. Andy opened up the discussion for public comment.

Motion was Approved 6-4

Yes (6):

Joseph Lovelis
Elena Gutierrez
Lupe Fletes
Becky Lee
Roman Gomez
Arturo Gomez

No (4):

Robert Leyland
Andy Chung
Marie Gurule
Daniel Torres

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

a. LA River Ride Sunday June 12

A representative for a bike advocacy group shared that the LA River Ride would be happening on Sunday June 12. Representative wanted the community to be aware as part of their ride went through Elysian Valley. There would be multiple rides coming through the area, in the earlier part of the day.

first Five LA youth bike clinic during River Ride

Representative added that a free kids biking clinic would be held in the parking lot of the Autry that same day from 8-11AM. Kids ride for free at 9AM. There would be trained safety instructors to help kids. More information could be found at LA-bike.org.

c. Elysian Valley Recreation Center Senior Event April 26, 11AM

Representative for the Rec Center added his support for the bike event. He said that 5 bikes have been given away at Elysian Valley schools for youths. He gave details to the event that would be held that coming Tuesday at the Rec Center.

d. Clean-up Protest 9AM, April 23rd

Alejandro, the representative of Citizens Opposing Gentrification in Elysian Valley, said that they would be protesting a clean-up that was occurring during the hatching season of marsh birds.

e. EVRNC Elections May 14, 2016 10am-- 2pm at the Elysian Valley Recreation Center

Andy encouraged everyone to vote; Lupe gave details.

f. Elysian Valley Arts Collective

Tracy Stone said that the Elysian Valley Arts Collective was looking to document the history of Elysian Valley. They wanted to interview people who had grown up in Elysian Valley.

g. 2971 N. Hartbridge green space converted to manufacturing

Robert Leyland said that the City of LA was in the process of rezoning a 1.3-acre parcel of land at 2971 N. Hartbridge. It would be changed from open space to commercial manufacturing use. He said that the board had not weighed in, and he encouraged people to email Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell.

h. Davis Place Water Processing Plant in EV

Robert also mentioned a water processing plant that was being brought into area. Said LADWP was having a meeting at City Hall on May 3rd at 11AM.

I. Grand LA River clean-up April 23

Representative said that this was the second phase. Many years the clean-up did not include Elysian Valley. Meeting at 9AM at Rich & Blake.

j. Grand Neighborhood Clean-up April 30th

Along with CD 14, Mitch O'Farrell's office, they will be picking up bulky items as well.

k. A candidate for City Council District 1, Miguel (?) introduced himself.

I. NE Community Event Saturday May 14th

Marie Gurule said that there would be an event in which the Captain of the LAPD would be walking through the neighborhood. They would meet at Doris Place, and there would be music, food, and activities after.

Lupe motioned that the NC add a motion to allow the board to use up to \$4,000 to purchase scanner, projector, computer, etc. Andy said that an agenda item encompassed those requests, and that it would go against Brown Act to vote on this motion in this way.

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

Jay Handel was there from DONE to talk about elections. Asked candidates to raise their hands and was happy to see 6-7 in the audience. Said that in Elysian Valley, you vote based on self-affirmation. No proof required, you just present yourself, say you live there and vote. Asked if there were election events, and Marie said yes. He asked her to give him the list because DONE wanted to help.

Robert asked what the last day was to create a statement. And Jay said that date had passed for the DONE page. Andy said that they had their own site and candidates could still submit to it.

Ed had a question for Jay, he asked if MPGs were just for Elysian Valley-based organizations or for outside organizations as well. Jay said they can be awarded if they serve your area, even if they are outside of it.

7.2 Neighborhood Purpose Grants - EVRNC will review and decide on the disbursement of NPG funds for the following applicants (discussion and action):

Before discussion began, board members conferred on how much was available. Andy said that even though they technically have \$19,000, he thought they should reduce the amount disbursed to \$12,000 because he wants to make sure that they have money allocated for regular expenses. Roman said that if they had a balance they could apply it to NPGs next month. Andy said that NPGs take time and so it was unlikely they could do that at the next meeting. Ed asked that they consider focusing on the requests based in their neighborhood.

The coach from Belmont whose request was agenda item 7.2.h. said that they can withdraw their request. He understood why they wanted to focus on local areas, and mentioned that Echo

Park just rejected their request for funding on that basis. Some board members encouraged him to stay on the agenda.

The board discussed how each NPG will be discussed and voted on. There were concerns about voting on all the items at once since two members had to recuse themselves for specific items. There were also concerns about voting on items as they go as well because there was only \$12,000 and that amount would be significantly reduced as they worked through the items. It was decided that they would hear all of them at once but then confer and vote on each one separately. Those who needed to recuse themselves could at the appropriate time.

a. Lummis Day - Community Event \$1,500.00

Representative from Lummis day, Ms. Gomez, spoke briefly about importance of Lummis to city and about how the event has grown from a 1-day event to a 3-day event.

b. Native American Art -Music Concert and Youth Talent Show \$2,500.00

Not here yet but will speak later. (See below.)

c. Elysian Valley Arts Collective

i. Art Classes \$1,500.00

ii. Art Walk Program \$3,500.00

Andy said that he had to disclose that he was a non-salaried worker for EVAC but added that he did not need to recuse himself. Tracy Stone spoke about the uses for the money. The requested Art Walk funds were to transport people around the event. They wanted Pedi cabs and shuttles to help people get around. Event would be held on August 3rd 4PM to 10PM. The other funds were for free art classes. Pat chimed in regarding the classes.

d. LA Garden Council - Emergency Equipment \$6,549.89

David de la Torre spoke as a representative of the Garden Council but for the Elysian Valley Neighborhood Watch which wanted to keep a container full of emergency goods, including a regenerator, on a community church's lot.

e. Clock Shop -Student Program \$2,500.00

No representative present

f. Farm LA- Program Materials/Equipment and Volunteer Food \$5,000.00

No representative present

g. John Marshall High -Sports Equipment \$5,000.00

Wanda Wade, Track and Field coach at Marshall, asked for money to buy new equipment (hurdles).

h. Belmont High -Extracurricular Equipment and Materials \$5,000.00

John Zenino, Track and Field Coach at Belmont asked for money to buy new equipment as well. He said that they had not been funded for 12 years.

i. Allesandro Elementary Computer Equipment \$4,500.00

Aida Salazar, kindergarten teacher, asked for money for smart boards and Apple computers.

7.2.b representative Ian Scorada was present and he was requesting help in funding LA Kids fest. The location, the Frog Spot, had been donated and it would be a free event. FOLAR and Mitch O'Farrell's Office were also supporting the event. O'Farrell's representative clarified that they supported the event but were not funding it.

Andy read the descriptions provided on the applications for Clock Shop and Farm LA. Ed said he would need to recuse himself because he was a principal at a school and the Clock Shop will help 6-12th graders.

Board discussion on NPGs:

h. Belmont High - Extracurricular Equipment and Materials \$5,000.00

Roman recused himself while they discussed Belmont's funding request. Elena spoke in support of it; Marie and Becky questioned the appropriateness of EV being asked for money. The coach said about 25 students were from EV. Robert said it was a sad commentary on how schools are underfunded. Arturo agreed and said they should put their schools first and replenish those public funds before funding private events. Stakeholders had questions about available funds and Andy re-listed why out of the \$22,000 they could only spend \$12,000.

a. Lummis Day - Community Event \$1,500.00

Ms. Gomez responded to questions from the board about the event

b. Native American Art - Music Concert and Youth Talent Show \$2,500.00

Elena has questions about why they chose the Frog Spot. How many people would attend (500-600)? Robert asked if there was some conflict of interest since a former member of the NC owned the Frog Spot. Ed asked if they were reaching out to schools (yes). And Elena asked if they would consider performing at the Election Day event.

c. Elysian Valley Arts Collective

i. Art Classes \$1,500.00

ii. Art Walk Program \$3,500.00

Elena asked Tracy why they should fund the transport of outsiders who would be visiting EV during the Art Walk. Tracy said it would alleviate traffic. Ed asked how many art classes and how many kids would be served. There would be 6-10 kids per instructor. Lupe had a question about the shuttle buses (Tracy: funded by CD14). Robert asked if the attendants and artists were from EV. Ed asked if they had asked schools for work by student artists. Tracy responded, yes, and that she exhibited local student art in her own gallery as well.

d. LA Garden Council - Emergency Equipment \$6,549.89

Joe and Marie had questions about the generator. Marie asked if the NC could use it for events (yes but with reservations). Robert asked why it was located in a church and not the community center (the church had offered the space). Lupe asked why this was going through Garden and not Neighborhood Watch. De la Torre said he was the rep for Gardens.

e. Clock Shop - Student Program \$2,500.00

f. Farm LA - Program Materials/Equipment and Volunteer Food \$5,000.00

Elena made a motion to dismiss absent representatives' NPG requests. Andy discussed Clock Shop briefly, but others had questions that could not be answered without a rep present. Elena said she had reservations about Farm LA, Lupe does not support the NPG, Marie said she did. Ed commented about them being in a food desert. Arturo asked them to keep comments to a minimal since they had a lot to get through.

An audience member asked why they did all the funding at the end of the year. Andy said the next NC should consider doing it another way.

Board members discussed how they should vote. Lupe thought they should vote on schools first.

Arturo motioned to approve the amended amount of \$4000 to Allesandro Elementary School, Robert seconded the motion.

Motion to fund Allesandro Elementary -NPG request for \$4,000.00 for computer equipment passed.

Yes (9):

Joseph Lovelis
Elena Gutierrez
Lupe Fletes
Becky Lee
Arturo Gomez
Robert Leyland
Andy Chung
Marie Gurule
Daniel Torres

No (0)

Recused (2):

Roman Gomez
Ed Colacion

Arturo motioned to approve the amended amount of \$4000 to Belmont High School for extracurricular equipment and materials, Robert seconded the motion.

Motion to Approve Belmont High NPG request in the amount of \$4,000.00 for extracurricular equipment and materials passed.

Yes (5):

Joseph Lovelis
Elena Gutierrez
Lupe Fletes
Arturo Gomez
Robert Leyland

No (4):

Andy Chung
Becky Lee
Marie Gurule
Daniel Torres

Recused (2):

Roman Gomez
Ed Colacion

Andy suggested that they move to another request. He motioned to vote on 7.2.ii (EVNC art classes). Arturo and Lupe said that they should vote on schools first. Andy withdrew his motion.

Arturo motioned to approve the amended amount of \$4000 to Belmont High School for Extracurricular Equipment and Materials, Lupe seconded the motion.

John Marshall High -School NPG request in the amount of \$4,000.00 for sports equipment passed.

Yes (6):

Joseph Lovelis
Elena Gutierrez
Lupe Fletes
Arturo Gomez
Robert Leyland
Becky Lee

No (3):

Andy Chung
Marie Gurule
Daniel Torres

Recused (2):
Roman Gomez
Ed Colacion

Voting for NPGs was completed because they had expended all of the allocated \$12,000 for NPGs.

- 4. Approval of Minutes for the following month's (discussion and action):**
- a. December 2015
 - b. January 2016
 - c. February 2016

Andy motioned to table item 4 and Elena seconded the motion.

Motion Passed 8-2

Hector Vega, the representative from Councilmember O'Farrell's office discussed the Elysian Valley and Glassell Park clean-up on Saturday. Said they were expecting many volunteers. Frog Spot would be the meeting place. Mentioned upcoming elections.

Said that on May 14th they are also teaming up with a few others to do a neighborhood walk. They would be walking from Steelhead Park to Doris Park. Discussed the Elysian Valley Phase 4 street lighting. The mayor's office had partially funded it. They were still waiting to hear back on when the barriers would be removed in the LA River. Added that gates had been installed near river access points. (Ripple & Gilroy). Said that DOT was supportive of their DASH proposal but was running into hurdles.

5. Request for funding: LAPD Captain's Community Walk on May 14, 2016 10am--11am - Request for funding for light refreshments up to \$200.00 (discussion and action).

There was discussion about why additional funding needed to be allocated for this expenditure since there would be refreshments available at the elections event that was being held where the walk ended. Marie spoke in strong favor of it. Many others questioned why the LAPD could not cover the cost of water for those walking.

Ed Colacion motioned to approve and Marie seconded the motion.

Motion Failed 6-5

Yes (5):
Andy Chung
Marie Gurule
Daniel Torres
Becky Lee

Ed Colacion

No (6):

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

6. Standing Committee Reports

6.1 Finance

a. March 2016 Monthly Expenditure Report (discussion and action)

Daniel motioned to approve the MER for March and Ed seconded the motion

Motion Passed Unanimously

Yes (11):

Joseph Lovelis
Elena Gutierrez
Lupe Fletes
Becky Lee
Arturo Gomez
Robert Leyland
Andy Chung
Marie Gurule
Daniel Torres
Roman Gomez
Ed Colacion

No (0)

b. Funding Item: Storage Unit for EVRNC to store equipment and materials for month to month up to \$200/month (5x10 unit ~\$131.00 or 5x15 unit ~\$196.00) at Public Storage (discussion and action).

Andy motioned to approve the expenditure and Joe seconded the motion

Motion Passed Unanimously

Yes (11):

Joseph Lovelis
Elena Gutierrez

Lupe Fletes
Becky Lee
Arturo Gomez
Robert Leyland
Andy Chung
Marie Gurule
Daniel Torres
Roman Gomez
Ed Colacion

No (0)

c. Budget Allocation Modifications (discussion and action).

Daniel explained the breakdown, and reiterated the basic costs of operations.

Daniel motioned that they approve the allocations of funds and Andy seconded the motion.

Motion Passed Unanimously

Yes (11):

Joseph Lovelis
Elena Gutierrez
Lupe Fletes
Becky Lee
Arturo Gomez
Robert Leyland
Andy Chung
Marie Gurule
Daniel Torres
Roman Gomez
Ed Colacion

No (0)

Andy said that a speaker card had been filled out, introduced Maker Place:

They are developers who are building 30-unit single family homes on a lot on Coolidge and Denby. They will sell 28 houses at market rate, 2 will be set aside as affordable housing (will be offered for \$160,000 each). The spaces are live/work artist studios and homes.

6.2 Environment and Land Use

a. Updates

Not discussed

b. Motion to adopt the following statement for the EVRNC board from the March 2016 General Board meeting: “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 (traffic, utilities) required to support the anticipated neighborhood-wide increase in demand on those systems.” (discussion and action)

This agenda item was agreed to have been added without proper process. Was not addressed at meeting.

6.3 Outreach

a. Updates

b. Community Beacon Advertisement update (discussion and action)

Not discussed

7. Ad Hoc Committee Reports:

7.1 Elections

a. Request/Call for ELECTION DAY Volunteers - Sign up today!

b. Request for funding: Flyer with all candidate information to be printed and sent to each household (up to \$2,000.00) (discussion and action)

Andy motioned to approve funding and Roman seconded the motion.

Motion Passed 10-1

Yes (10):

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

No (1):

Marie Gurule

Meeting was adjourned by Andy at 9:47pm