



CITY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
ELYSIAN VALLEY RIVERSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
REGULAR GENERAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, August 10, 2016, 6:30p.m.
Dorris Place Elementary School
2225 Dorris Place, Los Angeles, CA 90031

Meeting started at 6:36pm

1. Roll Call/Call to Order

- a. Present: Roman Gomez, Arturo Gomez, Lupe Fletes, Joseph Lovelis, Gary Rogokos, Adrienne Benitez, Luis Rosales, Andrew Wang. Robert Leyland, Frank Mendoza (arrived at 7:15p.m.), Gloria Mora (Arrived at 7:05p.m.).
Absent: Leticia Saldana, Denise Herrera, Elsa Palomino

2. Community Announcements

- a. Roman: This is Hector Vega, a Representative from Councilman Mitch O'Farrell's Office. If you are here regarding the lease please wait. Heal The Bay will speak when kayaking comes up, item 8 and recreational use of Los Angeles River, as well as item 9 stop the housing ban.
- b. Hector Vega: I am the Deputy for the Elysian Valley and responsible for the Orange Heed Monthly Report. In reference to the Home Ordinance regarding Airbnb. O'Farrell's office generated two surveys. What do you think about the websites for the surveys? On Saturday, August 13, 2016 from 4p.m. to 10p.m. Mitch O'Farrell and Assemblyman Gomez will be present at this event. The Street Lighting Project is on phase four. We are still working on it. There are three thousand streets, \$6 per light a year. I will follow up with Street Lighting form with more details. On August 1, 2016, the Army Corp of Engineers will talk about plans to remove the sand bags for flood control. They are waiting to clear a lot of sediment and brush. They will not start until late September to remove the bags. Gilroy and Ripple are dangerous intersections. We are working on getting funding to install a gate. We are redoing the entire street. The Gilroy gate was open and the lock was mission – I went there and put the lock on the gate myself. Please contact me if you have any information on how the lock was cut. The Department of Transportation will install a DASH line that will go through Cyprus Park and Elysian Park. I will have more information regarding the DASH line in late August, 2016. If you want to be place on the list for the DASH line,

please contact him. Marta is going to talk about the water quality in the Los Angeles River.

c. Question:

Stakeholder: Metro Link is responsible for a lot of noise and pollution coming from their trains?

d. Vega: I had a short tour with them at their facility. I am speaking to Metro Link regarding the noise and pollution from the trains. If you have any other complaints and comments, please contact me.

e. Stakeholder: The trains are going off at 9pm.

f. Board Member: Salazar is dropping people off on Ripple Street causing traffic to back up from Ripple to Fletcher Streets. What if you put cops there and hand out tickets?

g. Vega: A metal rail will be installed. The funds are coming from the Mayor's office. We got \$275,000, but it will cost \$1.5 million.

h. Board Member: On August 24, 2016, you will get your emails. On September 1, we will get quarterly funds. We spent \$359 for public storage.

i. Stakeholder: We are giving stuffs to kids at Highland Park and Figueroa

3. **Approval of General Meeting Minutes**

Robert Leyland: Give the board members more time to review the minutes. We had months to review February, but it was tabled.

Roman Gomez: I checked with DONE to read and approve the minutes. You can approve minutes.

a. Board Meeting Minutes 2/18/16

i. Arturo Gomez: I believe we should correct all grammar errors before we publish the minutes.

1. Motion: Arturo moves to correct minutes before voting. Adrienne 2nd the motion.

Vote: 7-0-2

ii. Arturo Gomez: Moves to correct misspelled names. Roman Gomez 2nd the motion.

1. Vote on Motion as Amended, Joseph 2nd the motion.

Vote: 8-0-1.

b. Board Meeting Minutes 3/17/16

i. Joe moves to amend item 9 amend and correct vote to reflect a "no" vote. Adrian 2nd the motion.

Vote: 7-1-1

ii. Lupe makes a motion to show that Item 6 on page 3 – Going to city hall, monthly expenditure reports have not been turned in. I never received the

receipts. Section 6.1A should reflect that receipts were not submitted at the time. Roman 2nd the motion.

Vote: 7-1-1

- iii. Robert: item 8 should reflect *recuse* not *no*.

Arturo Gomez moves to approve the minutes as amended.

Adrian 2nd the motion.

Vote: 7-1-1

- iv. Arturo moves to approve March minutes. Adrian 2nd the motion.

Vote: 7-1-1

c. Board Meeting Minutes 4/21/16

- i. Arturo Gomez moves correct Ramon to Roman Gomez. Joseph 2nd the motion.

Vote: 8-1-0

- ii. Arturo moves that minutes should reflect what actually occurred at the meeting. Joe 2nd the motion.

Vote: 8-1-0

- iii. Ceci (Stakeholder): Elysian representative at the event was a “he” not a “she”. What bike event?

1. Roman: The Los Angeles Community Bike Coalition. Moves that minutes should reflect Ceci’s correction.

Vote: All in Favor

- iv. Arturo moves to approve April minutes. Joe 2nd the motion.

Vote: 6-1-2

d. Board Meeting Minutes 6/28/16

- i. Robert Leyland: The minutes for June 28th include only ½ of the minutes; does not include Environment and Land Use Committee items. The agenda says 6:30p.m., minutes say 7:30p.m. The first ELUC raised 7 items for board agenda. Only 3 included in the minutes. Robert move to table the minutes.

- ii. Roman: Subsequent to the meeting were the ELUC. We never come to a general board meeting to approve ELUC or any other committee meeting agenda items/minutes.

- iii. Luis: The minutes are to show who vote.

- iv. Robert: The roll call shows that Robert is absent, but I was here.

- v. Arturo: Meetings of committee minutes don’t pertain to minutes of board meetings. Each committee is responsible for their own minutes. The board does not approve or disapprove of those minutes.

- vi. Robery moves to the table the June meeting minutes. 2nd by Arturo

Vote: Unanimous.

4. Senior Club Sponsorship, \$900 for Senior Club Events held during Thanksgiving, Halloween, and Christmas (Discussion and Possible Action)
 - a. Ms. Dominguez: the funds will be used to allow seniors at the community center to have events: 20-40 people, open to the public, invite speakers, looking for other events, seniors play bingo and go on trips.
 - b. Public comment:
 - i. Stakeholder: Seniors are members of the Los Angeles Association of Senior Citizens. They have not paid their dues.
 - ii. Stakeholder (opposing request): The trips are far and few. The money is either to revamp or get more members.
 - iii. Stakeholder: What is Giving Music?
 - iv. Stakeholder: Giving Music is an organization. They have been paid.
 - v. Roman: It's a new fiscal year. You need to resubmit your request. We must table the item.
 - vi. Ms. Dominguez: We can clarify for the treasurer and show 3 different invoices.
 - vii. Arturo moves to table item 4 to the next general board meeting. Adrienne 2nd the motion.
Vote: Unanimous
Item is tabled.

Arturo moves item 12 before item 5. Adrienne 2nd the motion. Vote: 7-4-0

5. Budgetary and Inventory Audit for 2015-2016 Fiscal Year for the purpose of inquiring upon missing laptop and other EVRNC-owned items (Discussion and Possible Action).
 - a. Roman: Contact Jeff Brill from EmpowerLA . We need to submit a list of EVRNC purchases. The treasurer must get receipts and invoices from the bank.
 - b. Roman moves to table item 5. Adrienne 2nd the motion. Vote: Unanimous
Item 5 is tabled.
6. Community Beacon Proposal For \$4200 for full page advertisement for 12 months (6 issues for one year). (Discussion and Possible Action).
 - a. Robert Leyland recuses himself.
 - b. Lupe: Request to table, pay per issue and not in one lump sum.
 - c. David Delatorre: I oppose any funds be given to the Beacon. The paper is biased. Use the funds for the community not on the paper.
 - d. Christine Rodriguez: I suggest you get half a page ad in Spanish and English.
Alejandro: Beacon should publish an ad from EVRNC
- \$4200/year for 6 issues. A full page ad is too much, cut the price.
 - e. Board Members:
 - i. Arturo: The size of the Ad we tried is smaller. We require a full page to see the information. We have a high turnout rate attributed to the Beacon.

This is a tool to make community more aware; only purchase and space.
We have \$37,000/year and \$4,200 year is a good deal for outreach.

- ii. Roman: We cannot control the editor's opinion or articles. The paper is providing information. 500 people came to vote, because we advertised in the Beacon. We could reduce the size of it.
- iii. Adrienne: I believe in the freedom of the press.
- iv. Lupe: Last year, I was in the outreach committee.
- f. Lupe moves to table item 5 so it goes back to the Outreach Committee. Gloria 2nd the motion.
 - i. Arturo: The Outreach Committee can approve or deny the Ad after funding. Last time it took 3 months for Outreach to approve funding for the Ad. I'm opposed.
 - ii. Gary: I don't agree. Examine different ways that the Ad could be design. Gary moves to table the item 6.
Vote: 3-5-0
- g. Andrew: Should the Ad be in the Beacon. There are other ways to promote the Neighborhood Council. It will be better the funds in other services.
- h. Luis: Good idea for promoting the NC.
- i. Arturo moves to approve original motion. Luis 2nd the motion.
Vote: 8-2-0

7. Discussion SB 734 Proposal (Discussion and possible action)

- a. (Robert returns to the meeting at 8:08p.m.) Robert: I am interested to get the board's approval to have a presentation about the sending it to her. The offer was by Jerry Brown. So that we can't in the decision making process, must ask someone at DeLeon's and Jimmy Gomez's office to speak about it to the NC.
- b. Adrian 2nd the motion.
- c. Christine: I looked it up – voting by end of August.
- d. Robert: Call them up and send them an email. We need more environmental controls, not less.
- e. Stakeholder: State bill?
- f. Roman: Yes.
- g. Stakeholder: This bill will fast track a lot of big developments without considering the effect on animals and river. Opening up for developers to come in because it's a sustainable development. We will not have a voice to oppose it. Is this sustainable?
- h. Stakeholder: We must streamline this. We will have drain problems. We will need to read and comment on it, email constituents.

- i. Mickey Jackson: SB 743 is not an initiative. It's a bill originated by Governor Brown. It will be voted by the California State Senate. Ronald Reagan voted CEQA into effect.
 - j. Roman: Send letters to Senator Kevin DeLeon.
8. Discussion and possible action on potential opposition to kayaking within the LA River
- Open recreational zone for 6 years.
- a. Park Ranger: Heal the Bay study did survey last year. It issued study Rec 1 bench mark. REC 1 applies to scuba, swimming, full immersion activities. The river water does not meet standards. At joint press conference, Heal the Bay scientist, Mayor Garcetti "City of LA Heal the Bay" stated that the river can be used for kayaking with precautions, no swimming, no face to hand water contact. Only five years ago was there a report of an unknown rash and on person fell ill. For over five and half years, we have not gotten those reports. It was never the intention of Heal the Bay to halt the program or stop kayaking. They want to test the water for Ecoli to see the source. Sepulveda Basin is a national wildlife refuge. Vendors offer 8 kayaking trips. Involved with Homeless Outreach Program. I suggest we meet over winter. A wildlife an earth survey was done – Denver is included. LA River is deemed a navigable waterway. The constitution states that the use of boating is a protected right. There are regulations. It's a constitutional right to use the Los Angeles River.
 - b. Roman: Navigable waterway. What is the wildlife impact?
 - c. Ranger: At the Sepulveda Basin, we close it during nesting season and kayaking goes on. We prohibit fishing while nesting season. The US Army Corp of Engineers fine no impact on wildlife nesting and kayaking. We don't believe there is an impact.
 - d. Melissa: I echo what's been said about the river's water quality. We have a presentation on Friday at 8a.m. at the Noteur Conservancy, research study on wildlife
 - e. Stakeholder: When the program was originally proposed. The Army Corp of Engineers had to sign off on 2 signs a. Enter at your own risk and b. Waiver – an organize strips waiver must be signed, minors not allowed in the water/ 4 legal departments created the waiver.
 - f. Stakeholder: A private meeting is going to be held at Steve Appleton's private business, a kayaking business. Liability, wildlife, water quality.
 - The LA River is the run-off for the city of Los Angeles. They were doing studies. The public holds them accountable. Where do they get their funding?
 - We lost 2 people. Lake Isabella has a sign
 - It's so developers can have access to the LA River
 - What is the purpose of making it navigable?

- This is the reason you have a liability clause.
 - We need to have a government agency to speak for the EVRNC.
- g. Christine – The concern is not about kayaking. We must educate people about the river.
- MRCA – Santa Monica Conservancy (state agency)
- The study was conducted by ___
- Heal the Bay released a study together with the city and county regarding what Heal the Bay scientist said about kayaking in the river. Friends of Los Angeles River it's a non-profit.
 - There is a difference between being able to have rec in the river / liability does put issue on public
 - 2 young boys drowned in the river
 - how is the community benefiting
- h. The Question:
- how good is kayaking? What benefits and opportunities does it have? People have the opportunity to learn more about nature around the river.
- i. Robert: Gentrification, developer uses tools to make areas hip and bring people from outside and displace people inside. The population of birds have decline. We should set aside areas for wildlife. I was a park ranger. Kayaking distracts children from learning about nature.
- j. Gloria: You are having a meeting at Steve Appleton's business – it is not for the community.
- k. Gary: The Los Angeles River is a death trap for kids.
- l. Lupe: I went in the river when I was 7. Police picked me up because it was dangerous. It's a flood control channel area, not a river. When you know children who have died there. They have found dead bodies in the river.
- m. Adrienne: There is fecal matter in the river. Lots of homeless shower and defecate in the river. The fishing has to end. Ducks have been found with fishing line wire around their feet. Who is going to feed the wildlife. The river smells and stinks.
- n. Andrew: Kayaking could be an opportunity to learn more about the river. We could enjoy the river more safely.
- o. Luis: You could connect with nature via kayaking. Suggest we do another study on the water quality.
- p. Arturo: We must take measures.
- q. Roman: I am concern with the health and safety of the community and wildlife – respecting their habitat and learn to co-exist. I understand the educational aspects. When I was a teacher. We would take kids to the river and show them the wildlife and nature. Some of the birds that were there, I have not seen lately. I am not saying kayaking affects them – just that we should be mindful of the wildlife.

- r. Steve: Safety – I learned a lot about the river and the water pressure. I think there should be more studies. I am concerned about nature and amphibians / carefully and regulate way for people and kids to have a connection to water –it’s a good thing. This place has spring water, learn to live with nature.
 - s. Robert moves that EVRNC General Board opposes the use of private boating along the Los Angeles River, an activity that based on anecdotal evidence contributes to the disturbance of wildlife and decline its population. Adrienne 2nd the motion.
Vote: 8-2-0
9. Presentation by Preserve Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative presentation by preserve la
- a. Mark V.: Abundant Housing Los Angeles – General housing is needed in LA. We have a housing crisis.
 - How and where units will be rebuild
 - 1. Buy a building/ demolish it and building new one/ 5 to one
 - 2. NC Integrity Initiative
 - 20 general developments in 2015/ demolish 6 housing units
 - 100 to 1 ratio
 - ban general plan amendments – if the initiative passes will hurt housing supply
 - encourage board to oppose it
 - b. Mark Edwards – Coalition To Protect Neighborhood and Jobs
 - 1. Housing 2. Homelessness
 - works for La Homeless Coalition.
 - if this initiative passes, it will increase homelessness
 - we need more homes for homeless
 - we need to solve homelessness – this initiative goes too far
 - I request the board table this item and take to it to ELUC
 - c. Jacqui: Coalition To Preserve LA
 - Our initiative would affect 5% of all the buildings and developments that occur in LA
 - Exempts affordable housing – moratorium will not affect it
 - I’m speaking about the high quantity of developers
 - We cannot afford all the new housing
 - New luxury housing does not have a profit ratio
 - The vacancy rate is 2-5% / healthy is 5%
 - Luxury housing vacancy is 12.5% - speculation is dangerous
 - It is illegal to grant general plan amendments
 - Since 1965, LA prohibits general plan amendments. There is a lot of money in LA city hall
 - Lots of money coming from overseas

- Demolishing units – look at the number in the city records, on how many units were demolished – more than 6 / - not many vacant lots in city. People were expelled. There is a big project at Sunset Junction. They're going to tear down 6 units, and rebuild affordable units – now about 58,000 affordable units have been demolished, rebuilt. The incentive is to get rid of old buildings with new buildings. Follow the zoning laws - if the city updates general construction laws.

- d. Stakeholder: A developer and investor are both for profit. Hollywood, Silverlake, and Echo Park affordable housing have been destroyed. The luxury apartments are not affordable for most people. The infrastructure has changed, not existing for single family homes. Mitch O'Farrell bill - tax payers money will help it. You must get on the board The Coalition to Preserve LA - 70% of people in here are affected by it.
- e. Andrew: The initiative does not impact single family homes.
- f. Jacqui: Large projects will benefit.
- g. Board Comments:
 - i. Robert: This is not a cure all. Moving in right direction. We must sent a message to city hall and Gerry Brown. We are not happy with the direction development is going. Zoning might be changed by Mitch O'Farrell.
 - ii. Gary: New apartments are not affordable housing.
 - iii. Adrienne: What happen to low income housing?
 - iv. Lupe: There are only 3 exits out of the Elysian Valley. It's good to stop this initiative, and study the environmental impact. It's good to stop development.
 - v. Luis: There is lots of information given from both sides. I would like to wait to hear more.
 - vi. Gloria: I'm tired of building and construction. It's terrible. I'm oppose to it. There is no safety study
 - vii. Roman: One year ago, there should be some kind of moratorium. The average home in LA \$600K. I was able to purchase 2 homes when I was a teacher 20 years ago. Your kids will not be able to afford a house – affordable housing does not apply to the working class. It applies to individuals who can make a good salary. We must send message to developers that we need to stop development – neighbors have been displaced. Alejandro Elementary has reduced population. Who will be able to afford that - regular Joe will not be able to afford to buy a house. Think about future generations – it's about the profit margin. Mickey - Deadline for signatures.
- h. Robert motions that the EVRNC General Board support the neighborhood integrity initiative sponsored by the Coalition to Preserve Los Angeles. We are

specially supportive of :

1. A two year moratorium on development, 2) Banning developers from preparing their own self-serving California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Document. It is a step in the right direction. We urge our community to support the Initiative. Gary 2nd the motion.

Vote: 9-0-1

9:40 – break

9:44 back – Call to Order

10. Announcement of Board Vacancy

a. Roman: Go to EVRNC.ORG. It has a link to DONE and download application.

11. Update on Spoke Café Hearing at Romana Hall. Spoke Café is applying for a liquor license. (Discussion and Possible Action)

a. Roman: Some where there – we already passed the resolution that opposes the sale of beer and wine - Individual form Comm – Spoke. We will hear results.

b. Board member: The results grant permission to sell beer and wine from 7am in morning

c. Comment

i. Stakeholder: Cortez filed appealed against Spoke

ii. Gary: They rigged it.

iii. Robert: I know Rick Cortez. I spoke with him. They attracted people from LA River. Now they want to attract people from Riverside and other areas. They are not concerned with drinking and biking.

iv. Lupe: The board must send a letter opposing it. It's good to have a paper trail.

v. Stakeholder: It has already been approved by the city and Mitch O'Farrell.

12. Discussion on ways through which EVRNC may promote the inclusion of DASH bus route within the community. (Discussion and possible action)

a. The public hearings for DOT to present findings and recommendations for DASH will be on:

i. Monday, August 22 from 12p.m. to 1p.m. at Caltrans, 100 S. Main Street, Suite 01.037;

ii. Tuesday, August 23 from 6p.m. to 7p.m. at Glassell Park Senior Center on 3750 Verdugo Road;

iii. Tuesday, August 30 from 6p.m. to 7p.m. at the Hollywood Recreational Center, 1122 Pale Ave.

b. Stakeholder: It's wrong to have meetings outside the valley. Its inconvenient for us.

c. Ms. Dominguez: We need the DASH.

d. If you can't make it, send an email to ideas@ladottransit.com or hearingofficer@ladto.com or

send call 215.995.4545 or send a letter to 201 N Los Angeles Street, #16, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

e. Board Member: This neighborhood has nothing. This is one of our priorities. Deadline for public comments to LADOT is approaching; send an email to Vega at Mitch O'Farrell's office.

f. Laura Ugalde: I would like to see the board support DASH and send a supporting letter.

g. Stakeholder: Before you guys support the DASH – research that it will benefit the Valley.

Laurie Baldy: There have been several meeting at NC Watch. The proposal says that Elysian Valley is being considered.

h. Board Members:

i. Lupe: I heard from NC Watch that they had a plan of where DASH will service

ii. Board Member: We should have the community have a say.

iii. Gloria: It should go through Riverside Drive to pick-up the seniors.

iv. Adrienne: The DASH would be crazy not to go down Riverside Dr. Let's get some benches. Seniors have nowhere to sit.

v. Robert: I would like to introduce three ELUC members – Frank, Lupe, and Adrienne. Frank and I are the co-chairs. This issue should go through ELUC first, then through the board. This requires an environmental impact report. Many people support DASH and don't use public transportation. It will damage rather than improve. It will push to widen streets. I suggest we table the item.

vi. Gary: Instead of waiting 6 moths, ask the driver to take him to Smart and Final from Monday through Friday. Gary moves to look into Enterprise rent-a-car and get a quote for pubic rides to Smart & Final and Big Saver. Arturo 2nd the motion. Vote: 8-1-0

i. Arturo moves to defer item 12 to ELUC. Roman 2nd the motion. Vote: Unanimous.

13. Assignment of Committee Co-Chairs and Members (maximum of four board members per committee): Outreach Committee, Ad-Hoc Committee on Bylaws Reform (Discussion and possible action).

a. Outreach Committee – Andrew, Luis, Lupe, Adrienne

Roman appoints Lupe and Andrew as Co-Chairs.

Arturo moves to appoint Lupe and Andrew as Co-Chairs and Luis as a member.

Joe 2nd the motion.

Vote: Unanimous

b. Bylaws Reform Committee – Robert, Frank, Roman, Arturo

Arturo moves to appoint himself and Roman as Co-Chairs and Frank and Robert

as members. Gloria 2nd the motion.

Vote: Unanimous

- c. Include agenda item to invite stakeholders to committee meetings
14. Addressing Traffic Concerns on Ripple and Fletcher (Discussion and possible action)
15. Public Comment On Non-Agenda Items (One minute per person)
- a. Dominguez: There is an event on Earthquake Preparedness by Mujeres de La Tierra. There will be 25 Fire captains and people will be trained.
 - b. Address Metrolink at next ELUC Meeting – running on tier 3/ area turn to tier 4.
 - c. Christine: The minutes of Land Use Committee were published in an article in the Beacon, and signed by Robert Leyland co-chair ELUC, EVRNC. He needs the chair of the board approval to publish minutes – EVRNC email gives him authority as EVRNC member.
 - d. Roman: I don't see problem.
 - e. Stakeholder: The previous corrupt board – why is DONE accusing this board of not having mic, pc etc.?
 - f. Stakeholder – Exposing children to non-profits
 - g. Dominguez: 2 boys that drown – if they were educated and new how to swim.
16. Adjournment
- a. Roman moves to adjourn the meeting. Joe 2nd the motion.
Meeting adjourns at 10:05