
*Meeting Minutes of the Elysian Valley Riverside Neighborhood Council Meeting—
Wednesday March 8th, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.*

1. Roll call/Call to Order at 6:36 p.m.

Roman Gomez	Present
Arturo Gomez	Present
Lupe Fletes	Present
Joe Lovelis	Present
Frank Mendoza	Absent
Gloria Mora	Left early at 8:19 p.m.
Adrienne Benitez	Present
Robert Leyland	Absent
Gary Rogokos	Absent
Luis Rosales	Present
Jesus Garcia	Arrived late at 6:39 p.m.
Vincent Montalvo	Arrived late at 6:42 p.m.
Alejandro Palomino	Arrived late at 6:42 p.m.
Elsa Palomino	Absent
Alvaro Mora	Present

2. Community Announcements (1 min per person)

- a. Jose Navarro: Elysian Valley resident, Adrian Morales in the community as park director. He's being moved soon. Asking for support keeping him here.
- b. Jessica Salans: Thanked the NC for being available to listen to her and her campaign. Stated her team is continuing to organize, will be present for community moving forward. Would love to discuss goals moving forward.
- c. Frogtown Brewery—There is an open house on Thursday March 23rd from 5-7 p.m. Working on getting parking figured out at Gilroy Street.

3. Government Officials' Reports (2-5 min per person)

- a. Officer Paialii
 - i. LAPD has been working on immigration forums. Some have been successful, some have not. Asked the community and NC to reach out to LAPD if they have questions. Captain very willing to set up forums to keep the population informed. City officials will be helping to clear up any questions and facts that may be sensationalized in the news.
 - ii. Left contact information with Roman.
 - iii. Salans: How can LA avoid complying with ICE?
 1. Asked her to bring these questions to a forum
 - iv. Joe: Asked the officer to elaborate on the shooting on Gilroy
 1. Cannot elaborate at the moment

- v. Joe: Traffic on Irving is an issue near schools.
 - 1. Trying to be more of a face with the LAPD
- vi. Alejandro: LAPD officers were not arresting the man in Highland Park.
 - 1. Asked him to bring these questions to a forum
- 4. Filling of Board Vacancy (1 position)
 - a. No interest
- 5. Approval of minutes for the month of February 2017
 - a. Motion made by Joe, seconded by Lupe
 - b. Unanimous vote at 6:51 p.m.
- 6. Monthly expenditure reports for February 2017
 - a. Lupe reviewed attached document
 - b. Motion made by Arturo, seconded by Gloria
 - c. Public comment: Clarification on what the \$36,000 ends up going toward
 - i. The budget for the year is on the website and it should be available on the website. Roman will double check to make sure.
 - d. Board discussion: Vincent, what is the \$5000 for?
 - ii. Lupe: we received an additional \$5000 this year that we hadn't anticipated.
 - e. Vote:

Roman Gomez	Yay
Arturo Gomez	Yay
Lupe Fletes	Yay
Joe Lovelis	Yay
Frank Mendoza	Absent
Gloria Mora	Yay
Adrienne Benitez	Yay
Robert Leyland	Absent
Gary Rogokos	Absent
Luis Rosales	Yay
Jesus Garcia	Yay
Vincent Montalvo	Yay
Alejandro Palomino	Yay
Elsa Palomino	Absent
Alvaro Mora	Yay
	Motion passes at 6:58 p.m. 11y-0n-0 abstain-4 absent

- 7. Committee Reports ELUC, Outreach, Bylaws (discussion) (3 min/person)
 - a. ELUC: did not meet this month. Vincent will bring up other items later in the agenda
 - b. Outreach: Alvaro will discuss Community Appreciation event
 - i. Camphor trees—City is planning to uproot trees that are breaking sidewalks. Will be discussing as agenda item number 9.

- c. Bylaws committee: Arturo stated that the committee was dissolved last Saturday. Will be discussing the rest of the bylaws amendments which the committee has approved.
- 8. Bylaws Amendments to Article V (discussion and possible action) (1 min/person)
 - a. Roman apologizes for last month's confusion for bringing the wrong copies last month
 - b. Arturo: Article V is fixing processes that slow the board down
 - i. If someone wants to resign they should have that right
 - ii. It takes a simple majority—update to 2/3 for board member removal
 - iii. Censure was discussed at the committee and everyone found it to be good.
 - iv. Luis Motion, Joe Second
 - v. Public comment: shouldn't someone be able to keep them from being the only person to vote and keep themselves on the board?
 - 2. Response: they would be required to recuse themselves and not vote
 - vi. Alejandro—next time, please present it in color so it would be easier to read
 - vii. Passed unanimously at 7:08 p.m.
- 9. Opposition to the removal of mature Camphor Trees from the Elysian Valley Recreation Center (discussion and possible action) (1 min/person)
 - a. Rosa Giannopolis asked to comment
 - b. Rosa has been in the community 40 years. The trees they are looking to remove near the Elysian Recreation Center are 80 years old. They say they will replant trees, but it will take a long time for them to grow. If they want to fix the sidewalk, there is another way to get that done. She feels this is important for our environment.
 - c. Public comment:
 - i. (Commenter didn't give name): Councilman sent Deputy. There was a lawsuit against the city because they lost a lawsuit about It affects the trees on Ripple. Cannot go as high as the wires. The ones on Queen Street are not going to be drawn. They will plant smaller trees on Ripple, but more big trees
 - ii. Loveless: Weather and trees that need to be replaced; it could be for safety reasons
 - iii. Mr. Rodriguez: Safety of a handicapped person. It's hard to walk, easy to lose balance. Wouldn't want to sue the city for impeding access to the Rec Center
 - iv. Frogtown Brewery: Is there an arbiters report?
 - 3. Adrian will send it to the board tomorrow.
 - v. Planting trees on the inside of the park, it might shorten the field space. It will
 - d. Board comment:
 - i. Gloria: trees are vital for our children because they take out pollutants, and they take generations to go
 - ii. Joe: City of L.A. spends millions/year for trip and falls each year. Told of a similar instance where the city removed four trees that were breaking sidewalks and even breaking into the sewer system. In that case, they put 6 trees in that had non-invasive root systems. He anticipates that in this case, they would double up and put trees in that would cause less damage going

forward. It's important to save trees, but also to protect people with disabilities and make sure they have access. The city is required to have a 30 day posting. Public hearing to discuss with the opposition. Court dates will be available from Mitch O'Farrell's office.

- iii. Adrienne: Told a story of how she lost two trees in front of her house. The city put in a tree at an angle, and it looks like it's going to fall. The new trees cause allergies. We need to make sure the trees are put in correctly and not harmful to the population.
- iv. Alejandro: They have to wait until the end of Spring because of nesting. Endangered species will be nesting in the trees. Why kill the tree instead of moving the sidewalk for the ADA accessibility? Why is this higher priority than the fact that there are no sidewalks and no streetlamps in other parts of town? They should be looking into both of these issues at the same level.
- v. Alvaro: Queen Street sidewalk was bad, so they tore it up and replaced the sidewalk. This should be an option for these trees.
- vi. Lupe: We need to figure out where the hearing, so we can bring all these various concerns to that hearing.
- vii. Motion made by Gloria to oppose the removal of camphor trees, seconded by Alejandro

Roman Gomez	Yay
Arturo Gomez	No
Lupe Fletes	Abstain
Joe Lovelis	No
Frank Mendoza	Absent
Gloria Mora	Yay
Adrienne Benitez	Abstain
Robert Leyland	Absent
Gary Rogokos	Absent
Luis Rosales	No
Jesus Garcia	No
Vincent Montalvo	Yay
Alejandro Palomino	Yay
Elsa Palomino	Absent
Alvaro Mora	Yay
	Motion passes at 7:31 p.m. 5y-4n-2 abstain-4 absent

- 10. Funding, Community Appreciation Event-Activities, refreshments, May, car show, street closure, flyers, government agencies, up to (a) \$2500 inflatable obstacle course, (b) banners up to \$300.
 - a. Motion by Gloria, second by Alejandro
 - b. David Kane, CEO of America's Healthy kids asked to comment—this event is designed to get kids moving. It's a fun event for families that includes an obstacle course. If we get them going, they'll keep going and be healthier than now.

- c. Public comment:
 - i. Rosa: is \$2500 the best you can do?
 - 4. Response: Yes.
- d. Board comment:
 - i. Gloria: Could there be two bounce houses?
 - 5. Response: There's one specific bouncy tent for kids 6 and under.
 - ii. Lupe: How many staff members?
 - 6. Response: 5. Insurance is included and so is workman comp.
 - iii. Alejandro: The name of the company is not on the agenda. Is this the only company that we have this available to choose from?
 - iv. Jesus: Did the city check other vendors? Are there better deals?
 - v. Vince: clarification: prior to the \$2500 being approved, there was already \$5000 approved for the event. The total comes out to \$7500 if this is approved. He spoke with a previous company; it came out to \$1562. In total, this costs a lot from his perception. In addition, he anticipates the food exceeding the \$5000 budget.
 - vi. Lupe: Outreach meets on Wednesday. For timing, we can use the \$5000 that has been approved at the Outreach meeting.
 - vii. Joe: Clarification--this event is 4 hours.
 - viii. Alejandro: We should table this item and plan it properly through Outreach. We don't have to rush.
- e. Vote for (a):

Roman Gomez	Yay
Arturo Gomez	Yay
Lupe Fletes	Yay
Joe Lovelis	Yay
Frank Mendoza	Absent
Gloria Mora	Yay
Adrienne Benitez	Yay
Robert Leyland	Absent
Gary Rogokos	Absent
Luis Rosales	Yay
Jesus Garcia	Abstain
Vincent Montalvo	Abstain
Alejandro Palomino	Nay
Elsa Palomino	Absent
Alvaro Mora	Ineligible
	Motion passes at 7:49 p.m. 11y-0n-0 abstain-1 ineligible-4 absent

- f. Vote for (b):

Roman Gomez	Yay
Arturo Gomez	Yay
Lupe Fletes	Yay
Joe Lovelis	Yay
Frank Mendoza	Absent
Gloria Mora	Yay
Adrienne Benitez	Yay
Robert Leyland	Absent
Gary Rogokos	Absent
Luis Rosales	Abstain
Jesus Garcia	Abstain
Vincent Montalvo	Abstain
Alejandro Palomino	Abstain
Elsa Palomino	Absent
Alvaro Mora	Ineligible
	Motion passes at 7:50 p.m. 6y-0n-4 abstain-4 absent-1 ineligible

11. Community Beacon Content including dates for Outreach for 3rd Wednesday of the month, and Environment Land Use Committee 4th Wednesday or Thursday of the month (discussion and possible action)

- a. Total of 8000 copies, and distribution is included.
- b. Arturo, Motion to determine the date of the ELUC to be on the 4th Wednesday of the month. Seconded by Alejandro
- c. Public comment: none
- d. Board discussion:
 - i. The three here were in agreement that this should be on the 4th Wed.
 - ii. Vote and approved unanimously at 7:54 p.m.

12. Business Cards and Name Plates (discussion and possible action)

- a. Lupe: The public needs information regarding who we are and where we meet
- b. Vince: Should these be personalized or general? The cheapest vendor will be VistaPrint. It's important to please submit ideas to Outreach committee. When it goes to the general board, it will be when we have final copies.
- c. Roman: this will send back to committee since we don't have finalization
- d. Joe: We need to know the difference in cost between personal and general

13. Invitation to Council member O'Farrell to discuss public concerns on the following: public safety of L.A River flood control channel.

- a. Vincent: We need to have a list of what we need to request of this councilmember. We need to bring a list to a townhall, and please send it to Vincent and Alvaro.
- b. This will be brought up to the general board when it was
- c. Public comment:

- i. Could we ask him to bring people who are knowledgeable about the types of things we will be discussing
- ii. Rosa: Send him with an email that says that he didn't show up and CC his supervisor
- d. Board comment:
 - i. Alejandro: I think this is an important issue and we can't allow him to be absent in the face of the tragic death of three young boys. We shouldn't be asking. We should be demanding, because he works for us.

14. Expository Composition Contest K-12 on the Beacon

- a. Alvaro:
- b. Roman: Incentive is that the writing would be published in the Beacon.
- c. Public comment:
 - i. Frogtown: how much is the ad?
 - 7. Roman: \$4200 for 8000 copies delivered to every home in Elysian Park.
 - ii. Salans: Empower the Youth
 - iii. Videographer: Could we add an 18+ group?
- d. Board comment
 - i. Vincent: One point of order is to not call it a contest
 - ii. Alejandro: I support it, but make sure we are within the law requirements. You can already submit articles directly to the Beacon as well.
 - iii. Lupe: Could we have articles that are important to them?
 - iv. Sent back to committee at 8:11 p.m.

15. Spring Eggtravaganza

- a. Lupe introducing: missed deadlines for outreach. Need a table there that says that we are here, we have dates. It's required because we're co-sponsoring the event. There is a flyer that was already approved.
- b. Motion Lupe, Adrienne second
- c. Introduced again by Adrian, April 8th, 2017, 11-2. Food from Portos, utensils, plates, cups, decorations, and a face painter
- d. Public comment:
 - i. Loveless: I support it
- e. Board comment
 - i. Luis: Had a lot of fun for the Halloween event and is in favor of this one.
 - ii. Lupe: Last year was really excellent. This is exactly 30 days from today
- f. Vote:

Roman Gomez	Yay
Arturo Gomez	Yay
Lupe Fletes	Yay
Joe Lovelis	Yay
Frank Mendoza	Absent
Gloria Mora	Yay
Adrienne Benitez	Yay

Robert Leyland	Absent
Gary Rogokos	Absent
Luis Rosales	Yay
Jesus Garcia	Yay
Vincent Montalvo	Yay
Alejandro Palomino	Yay
Elsa Palomino	Absent
Alvaro Mora	Ineligible
	Motion passes at 8:17 p.m. 10y-0n-0 abstain-4 absent-1 ineligible

16. Funding up to \$200 for a table skirt for EVRNC events—TABLED for being written incorrectly in the agenda.

17. Funding up to \$150 for refreshments for April General Meeting (discussion and possible action) (1 min/person)

- a. Public comment
 - i. Jose Navarro: Please support local businesses when we buy food
- b. Board comment
 - i. Lupe: To clarify, this is UP TO \$150. We don't always spend the whole amount
- c. Motion made by Arturo, seconded by Joe
- d. Vote:

Roman Gomez	Yay
Arturo Gomez	Yay
Lupe Fletes	Yay
Joe Lovelis	Yay
Frank Mendoza	Absent
Gloria Mora	Absent
Adrienne Benitez	Yay
Robert Leyland	Absent
Gary Rogokos	Absent
Luis Rosales	Yay
Jesus Garcia	Yay
Vincent Montalvo	Yay
Alejandro Palomino	Yay
Elsa Palomino	Absent
Alvaro Mora	Ineligible
	Motion passes at 8:21 p.m. 9y-0n-0 abstain-5 absent-1 ineligible

18. Emergency Storage Shed. Emergency Preparedness ad-hoc committee (discussion and possible action) (1 min/person)

- a. City attorney has concerns regarding liability. However, may be opportunities in the future

- b. Joe: Seeing as how we got the letter from Empower L.A., could we have an educational day so that our emergency responders can help us.
- c. Videographer: Fire Dept does CERT it's free. They do it in multiple languages. Please see attached flyer. Cost to the board would possibly be printing information.

19. Public Comment on non-agenda item (1 minute per person.)

- a. Frogtown Brewery: Yvette Gonzalez, Gustavo Rojas, Michael
 - i. Hearing is in April for the Open House; they sell t-shirts and brewing kits
 - ii. See attached flyer
 - iii. Loveless question: It's not considered a bar because they only sell the beer that they brew there.
 - iv. Jose Navarro: How are the prices? We're a working-class neighborhood
 - 1. Try to keep the prices down. Pint \$6, Taster \$2
 - v. What are you doing to give back to the community?
 - 1. Want to support community events. Have donated to schools.
 - vi. Rosa: How are you doing well for business?
 - 1. A lot of positive feedback.
 - vii. Alejandro: How does selling alcohol help our community? Latinos (majority in this community) can have issues with addiction.
 - 1. The benefit is to make it a place that people would want to go and hang out and
 - 2. There are people that he has seen outside the brewery. If you've seen pictures, please send them.
 - viii. Lupe: When is the exact date? Please contact us when you have the exact date. How do you cut people off?
 - 1. Serve only appropriate amount. Won't serve people who are already clearly intoxicated.
 - ix. Roman: We try to watch out for the community.
 - 1. We close at 10 p.m. Sat and 7 p.m. on Sunday
 - x. Joe: Are you going to sell food?
 - 1. Not in the plan. There are food trucks that parked outside.
 - xi. Joe: Frogtown is a gang name. We just want to make sure that this is not seeming like we're associating with gangs.
 - 1. Sir, I'm not a gang member, I'm a small-business owner.
 - xii. Mr. Gonzalez: Frogtown Boys became the gang name. I think it's a good thing to use the name and change perspective.
 - xiii. Roman: worried about Health and Safety. It has a certain concerning history for the town.
 - 1. Trying to make good from the bad.
 - xiv. Lupe: It's a strange thing that brings up pain from the killings and deaths that people might associate.
 - xv. Vincent: What are you required to have for parking? Do you plan to have entertainment? How close are you to the river? Recreation areas draw a lot of youth. Has concerns that the public will eventually resent it from the area because it's taking up a lot of public parking.

1. The food trucks are allowed by the Parking police. No parking required or currently provided. We have signed a petition to get parking on this side of the street.

2. We're here to listen to the community.

xvi. Alejandro: Please come to the next ELUC meeting.

a. Jose Navarro: Adrian is Cabet reincarnated, and we're so upset to lose someone so crucial to the community. We need to address Sophia Pena-Cortez, Superintendent for Parks and Rec, moving on March 20.

- i. Roman: all we could do is hold a special meeting to address this one special issue.

- ii. Gave email so he can be contacted: Jose.navarro@goodwillsocal.org

- iii. Rosa: Lives across the street from the park and agrees that Adrian has really changed everything for the better. If you need signatures, reach out

- iv. Elena Loveless: Online petition started tonight to keep Adrian in his position.

- v. Joe: to Frogtown Brewery please support Elysian Park, by writing to your representatives.

b. Lupe: Outreach needs to discuss beautification for Elysian Valley. \$3000 is already approved. Need an event for the kids in the park in June to celebrate the end of the school year.

c. Adrienne: It's been a long time

20. Adjournment.

a. Arturo motion, Joe seconded. Motion passed unanimously; meeting adjourned 9:01 p.m.