



General Board Meeting Minutes

November 9, 2021

6:30 PM PST

Conducted via webinar/teleconference

Minutes Submitted by Amanda Sonnenschein

Approved by the Board on December 14, 2021

A link to the video recording of this meeting can be found [here](#).

1. Call to order and roll call. (5 minutes)

Call to Order: 6:32 PM by LAUREN NICHOLS.

Present: Melissa Algaze, Thomas Bailey, Cindy Bitterman, Shem Bitterman, Lyndsey Bonomolo (left at 8:24 PM), Lauren Borchard, Isack Fadlon, Amy Goldenberg, Sara Griebel, Andrea Guttag, Will Hackner, Ashkaan Hassan, Linda Ignarro Smith, Nasim Kablan, Dale Kendall, Benjamin Kram, Christian La Mont, Lynda La Rose, Madeline Liebreich (elected this meeting), Maria Malbas, Ava Marinelli, Lauren Nichols, Michael Schneider, Daniel Schoorl (left at 8:30 PM), Thao Tran, J. Keith van Straaten, Valerie Washburn, Andrew Werner, Don Whitehead, Xander Wikstrom

Absent: Lindsey Chase, Tyler Lambert-Perkins, David Mann

Excused: Taylor Holland, Ryan Weisert

30 present, 3 absent, 2 excused.

2. General public comment (5 minutes)

Shelby Blecker makes public comment about CISes that Mid City West are passing and his perceived lack of public outreach.

James Panozzo (stakeholder) and executive director of Launch LA and Tarfest makes public comment about Tarfest.

Raissa White makes public comment and outreach as a pro-public education candidate for LAUSD CD4.

Shem Bitterman makes public comment advocating for changing back to in person meetings.

Christian La Mont makes public comment about emergency preparedness and getting COVID vaccines for younger newly approved groups.

Lynda La Rose makes public comment about how we will be meeting on zoom for the foreseeable future.

3. **Announcements from government agencies and elected officials (20 minutes)**
Announcements may include but are not limited to the following offices: City Council District 4 (Nithya Raman), City Council District 5 (Paul Koretz), LAPD, LAFD, Metro LA, County Supervisorial District 3 (Sheila Kuehl), County Supervisorial District 2 (Holly Mitchell), State Assembly District 50 (Richard Bloom), State Senate District 26 (Ben Allen), 33rd Congressional District (Ted Lieu), 28th Congressional District (Adam Schiff), and the 37th Congressional District (Karen Bass).

Davis Han, District Rep for Senator Ben Allen, discusses a state level program for renter's assistance.

Ned Racine, LADOT/Metro, discusses changes in Metro fares effective Jan 10, 2022 and discount programs for lower income riders. Also offers updates on Metro Purple Line progress.

Jill Kline (CD5) discusses upcoming meetings related to Redistricting. LAPL is holding a Stop Senior Scams seminar. LASAN is hosting a blanket and sock drive.

Kevin Sanchez (CD4) discusses current motions and events out of the CD4 office. CD4 has a volunteer corps and they encourage NCWNC and stakeholders to get involved.

Sebastian Lozano (Office of Assemblymember Richard Bloom, 50th District) discusses the "State of Hate" hearing on the state of hate crimes in California. He encourages submission of proposals for state legislation.

Daniel Park with Supervisor Mitchell's office (SD2) provides update on vaccination availability, county expanding lifeguard and swimming programs (parks@lacounty.gov), Metro's Youth Council (metro.net/youthcouncil),

SLO Ian O'Brien (LAPD) can be contacted at 38916@lapd.online or 213-590-5410. Encourages stakeholders to reach out to SLO's instead of Citizen or Nextdoor apps.

4. Message from Chair

Will start making land acknowledgement of Tongva ancestral land at the beginning of every meeting. AB361 update: Came into effect on October 1 that amends the Brown Act to help with virtual meetings.

5. Consent calendar

- a. Motion to approve October 12, 2021 General Board Meeting Minutes**
- b. Motion to approve October 15, 2021 Special General Board Meeting Minutes**
- c. Motion for MCWNC to support LAHSA's 2022 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count by serving as a deployment site for our area on January 27, 2022**

MOTION: Mid City West Neighborhood Council approves the consent calendar (items 5A-5C).

LAUREN NICHOLS makes the motion, **SARA GRIEBE** seconds.

YEAS: Melissa Algaze, Thomas Bailey, Cindy Bitterman, Shem Bitterman, Lyndsey Bonomolo, Lauren Borchard, Isack Fadlon, Amy Goldenberg, Sara Griebel, Andrea Guttag, Will Hackner, Ashkaan Hassan, Linda Ignarro Smith, Nasim Kablan, Dale Kendall, Benjamin Kram, Christian La Mont, Lynda La Rose, Maria Malbas, Ava Marinelli, Lauren Nichols, Michael Schneider, Daniel Schoorl, Thao Tran, Valerie Washburn, Andrew Werner, Don Whitehead, Xander Wikstrom

NAYS: --

ABSTENTIONS: --

INELIGIBLE: J. Keith van Straaten

Motion passes with 28 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstentions and 1 ineligible.

6. Appointment of a new board member to fill vacant Renters Representative seat

Hunter Burgarella: Grew up in the Bay Area and went to USC then worked for CNN. Worked in entertainment and then moved into realty. Has lived in the neighborhood for over 5 years and has been renting his whole life. Door knocks through the neighborhood for work. Volunteers for Project Angel Food and wants to become more involved in the community with his newly found spare time.

Charles Lindenblatt: Long term resident of Zone 5 since 1975. Trained in economic and public policy analysis. Has been a statistician, research assistant and economist. Has been on the board as first vice chair, secretary, bylaws chair, election committee chair, member of PLUC.

Madeline Liebreich: Has lived in LA for six years. Worked for the Democratic party in Oregon, a lawyer for tenant laws, and a renter herself. Wants to help educate tenants, spread knowledge of their rights and also to landlords about government relief.

VOTE #1

HUNTER BURGARELLA (9): Melissa Algaze, Thomas Bailey, Sara Griebe, Andrea Gutttag, Will Hackner, Dale Kendall, Lauren Nichols, Michael Schneider, Xander Wikstrom

CHARLES LINDENBLATT (2): Christian La Mont, Daniel Schoorl

MADELINE LIEBREICH (17): Cindy Bitterman, Shem Bitterman, Lyndsey Bonomolo, Lauren Borchard, Isack Fadlon, Amy Goldenberg, Ashkaan Hassan, Linda Ignarro Smith, Nasim Kablan, Benjamin Kram, Lynda La Rose, Maria Malbas, Ava Marinelli, Thao Tran, Valerie Washburn, Andrew Werner, Don Whitehead

Madeline Liebreich wins the majority.

MOTION: Mid City West Neighborhood Council appoints **MADELINE LIEBREICH** to the Renters Representative seat on the board.

LAUREN NICHOLS makes the motion, **MICHAEL SCHNEIDER** seconds.

YEAS: Melissa Algaze, Thomas Bailey, Cindy Bitterman, Shem Bitterman, Lyndsey Bonomolo, Lauren Borchard, Isack Fadlon, Amy Goldenberg, Sara Griebe, Andrea Guttag, Will Hackner, Ashkaan Hassan, Linda Ignarro Smith, Nasim Kablan, Dale Kendall, Benjamin Kram, Christian La Mont, Lynda La Rose, Maria Malbas, Ava Marinelli, Lauren Nichols, Michael Schneider, Daniel Schoorl, Thao Tran, Valerie Washburn, Andrew Werner, Don Whitehead, Xander Wikstrom

NAYS: --

ABSTENTIONS: --

INELIGIBLE: J. Keith van Straaten

Motion passes with 29 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstentions and 1 ineligible.

7. Policy Motions

- a. Discussion and possible action to pass a Community Impact Statement in response to Council File 21-1243 regarding map K2.5 which was approved by the City of LA's Redistricting Commission. Approved at Special Social & Racial Equity Committee Meeting; Committee voted 6 yay's; 0 nay; 0 abstention. The motion passed.**

The Board discusses not acting on this CIS and combining some of the information with the CIS in 7c.

Not voted on, folded into 7C

- b. Discussion and possible action to pass a Community Impact Statement in response to Council File 20-0668-S7 regarding map K2.5 which was approved by the City of LA's Redistricting Commission. Approved at Special Social & Racial Equity Committee Meeting; Committee voted 6 yay's; 0 nay; 0 abstention. The motion passed.

Not voted on, folded into 7C

- c. Discussion and possible action on a Community Impact Statement in support of Mid City West remaining whole in CD5. Approved at Executive Council Meeting; Committee voted 5 yay's; 0 nay; 0 abstention. The motion passed.

TWICE AMENDED MOTION: Mid City West Neighborhood Council approves the sending of a Community Impact Statement **in response to Council File 20-0668-S7** in support of Mid City West remaining whole in CD5.

MICHAEL SCHNEIDER makes the motion, **ANDREA GUTTAG** seconds.

YEAS: Melissa Algaze, Thomas Bailey, Cindy Bitterman, Lyndsey Bonomolo, Lauren Borchard, Isack Fadlon, Amy Goldenberg, Sara Griebel, Andrea Guttag, Will Hackner, Ashkaan Hassan, Linda Ignarro Smith, Dale Kendall, Benjamin Kram, Christian La Mont, Lynda La Rose, Madeline Liebreich, Maria Malbas, Ava Marinelli, Lauren Nichols, Michael Schneider, Daniel Schoorl, Thao Tran, Valerie Washburn, Andrew Werner, Don Whitehead, Xander Wikstrom

NAYS: Nasim Kablan, Shem Bitterman

ABSTENTIONS: --

INELIGIBLE: J. Keith van Straaten

Twice Amended Motion passes with 27 yeas, 2 nays, 0 abstentions and 1 ineligible.

AMENDMENT #1: Add CF 20-668-S7 to this letter, in addition to the language "We are

concerned that despite the creation of map K2.5 by the...in the future.”

MICHAEL SCHNEIDER makes Amendment #1, ISACK FADLON seconds.

YEAS: Melissa Algaze, Thomas Bailey, Cindy Bitterman, Lyndsey Bonomolo, Lauren Borchard, Isack Fadlon, Amy Goldenberg, Sara Griebel, Andrea Guttag, Will Hackner, Ashkaan Hassan, Dale Kendall, Benjamin Kram, Christian La Mont, Lynda La Rose, Madeline Liebreich, Maria Malbas, Ava Marinelli, Lauren Nichols, Michael Schneider, Daniel Schoorl, Thao Tran, Valerie Washburn, Andrew Werner, Don Whitehead, Xander Wikstrom

NAYS: Shem Bitterman, Linda Ignarro Smith, Nasim Kablan

ABSTENTIONS: --

INELIGIBLE: J. Keith van Straaten

Amendment #1 passes with 26 yeas, 3 nays, 0 abstentions and 1 ineligible.

AMENDMENT #2: Strike “political games” and “in a nonpartisan manner in the future” and add “now and in the future.”

MICHAEL SCHNEIDER makes Amendment #2, WILL HACKNER seconds.

YEAS: Melissa Algaze, Thomas Bailey, Cindy Bitterman, Shem Bitterman, Lyndsey Bonomolo, Lauren Borchard, Isack Fadlon, Amy Goldenberg, Sara Griebel, Andrea Guttag, Will Hackner, Ashkaan Hassan, Linda Ignarro Smith, Dale Kendall, Benjamin Kram, Christian La Mont, Lynda La Rose, Madeline Liebreich, Maria Malbas, Ava Marinelli, Lauren Nichols, Michael Schneider, Daniel Schoorl, Thao Tran, Valerie Washburn, Andrew Werner, Don Whitehead, Xander Wikstrom

NAYS: Nasim Kablan

ABSTENTIONS: --

INELIGIBLE: J. Keith van Straaten

Amendment #2 passes with 28 yeas, 1 nay, 0 abstentions and 1 ineligible.

- d. Discussion and possible action Motion to pass a Community Impact Statement in opposition of Council File: 19-0603 (Fire District 1 Expansion). Approved at Planning & Land Use Committee October Meeting; Committee voted 6 yay's; 0 nay; 0 abstention. The motion passed

MOTION: Mid City West Neighborhood Council approves the sending of a Community Impact Statement in opposition of Council File: 19-0603 (Fire District 1 Expansion).

XANDER WIKSTROM makes the motion, **DANIEL SCHOORL** seconds.

YEAS: Melissa Algaze, Thomas Bailey, Cindy Bitterman, Shem Bitterman, Lyndsey Bonomolo, Lauren Borchard, Isack Fadlon, Amy Goldenberg, Sara Griebe, Andrea Guttag, Will Hackner, Ashkaan Hassan, Linda Ignarro Smith, Nasim Kablan, Dale Kendall, Benjamin Kram, Christian La Mont, Lynda La Rose, Madeline Liebreich, Maria Malbas, Ava Marinelli, Lauren Nichols, Michael Schneider, Daniel Schoorl, Thao Tran, Valerie Washburn, Andrew Werner, Don Whitehead, Xander Wikstrom

NAYS: --

ABSTENTIONS: --

INELIGIBLE: J. Keith van Straaten

Motion passes with 29 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstentions and 1 ineligible.

- e. Discussion and possible action on a letter to Councilmember Raman's office regarding protected bike lanes on 6th St. between Fairfax and Cochran. Approved at Transportation & Sustainability Committee October Meeting; Committee voted 5 yay's; 0 nay; 0 abstention. The motion passed.

TABLED

- f. Discussion and possible action on a support letter for Metro's planned bus lanes on La Brea. Approved at Executive Council Meeting; Committee voted 5 yay's; 0 nay; 0 abstention. The motion passed.

AMENDED MOTION: Mid City West Neighborhood Council approves the sending of a support letter for Metro's planned bus lanes on La Brea.

MICHAEL SCHNEIDER makes the motion, **AVA MARINELLI** seconds.

YEAS: Melissa Algaze, Thomas Bailey, Cindy Bitterman, Shem Bitterman, Lauren Borchard, Isack Fadlon, Amy Goldenberg, Sara Griebbe, Andrea Guttag, Will Hackner, Ashkaan Hassan, Linda Ignarro Smith, Nasim Kablan, Dale Kendall, Benjamin Kram, Christian La Mont, Lynda La Rose, Madeline Liebreich, Maria Malbas, Ava Marinelli, Lauren Nichols, Michael Schneider, Thao Tran, Valerie Washburn, Andrew Werner, Don Whitehead, Xander Wikstrom

NAYS: --

ABSTENTIONS: --

INELIGIBLE: J. Keith van Straaten

Amended Motion passes with 27 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstentions and 1 ineligible.

Amendment #1: Remove the language about "24/7" bus lanes.

NASIM KABLAN makes the amendment, **WILL HACKNER** seconds.

YEAS: Melissa Algaze, Thomas Bailey, Isack Fadlon, Will Hackner, Ashkaan Hassan, Linda Ignarro Smith, Nasim Kablan, Dale Kendall, Benjamin Kram, Lynda La Rose, Madeline Liebreich, Maria Malbas, Valerie Washburn, Don Whitehead

NAYS: Cindy Bitterman, Shem Bitterman, Lauren Borchard, Amy Goldenberg, Sara Griebbe, Andrea Guttag, Christian La Mont, Ava Marinelli, Lauren Nichols, Michael Schneider, Thao Tran, Andrew Werner, Xander Wikstrom

ABSTENTIONS: --

INELIGIBLE: J. Keith van Straaten

Amendment #1 passes with 14 yeas, 13 nays, 0 abstentions and 1 ineligible.

P

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

“Owner” Matt Tomer? - walked the neighborhood and spoke with owners along LaBrea who were opposed to the proposed 24/7 bus lane.

Doris Raymond is a longtime business owner along La Brea and believes her business would be devastated because there aren’t other parking options available.

Shelby Blecker questions how this came to the attention of the Transportation Committee and complains that the Transportation Committee didn’t do Outreach to the community and businesses.

Adr2 iPad (Aaron) believes taking away parking along La Brea is bad for businesses and the residential streets.

Chris Dower is in support of the expanded bus lanes along La Brea.

Caller ending in *305 is a salon manager along La Brea with current customers who complain already that they don't have anywhere to park. She is concerned about the impact on her business.

Caller ending in *212 is a business owner on La Brea who states there is already a noticeable business interruption between 4-7pm when there are current parking restrictions. He is concerned that businesses will close if additional parking restrictions are implemented.

Barbara Gallen states drafting a letter on behalf of the community isn’t appropriate when you haven’t done the appropriate community engagement. She believes the impact on parking for the neighboring streets will be significant.

David Shafer questions where additional parking would come from.

Anna Dower supports the bus lanes along La Brea. She is a disabled person who depends on the efficiency of the bus.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Ava Marinelli supports the bus lanes along La Brea. She is a bus rider and encourages the Board to vote yes.

Nasim Kablan suggests an amendment to the letter to remove the suggestion of the 24/7 operation of the lanes

Xander supports the letter as is.

Isaac Fadlon supports an amendment to the letter to remove the suggestion of the 24/7 operation of the lanes.

Will Hackner supports an amendment to the letter to remove the suggestion of the 24/7 operation of the lanes.

Christian La Mont supports the letter as is.

Cindy Bitterman supports amending the letter to remove the 24/7 language.

Michael Schneider shares data about speeds along La Brea.

8. Treasurer's Report and Funding Motions

- a. **Treasurer's report, including funds allocated, encumbered, and available by budget category.**
- b. **Motion to approve October 2021 monthly expenditure report.**

MOTION: Mid City West Neighborhood Council approves the October 2021 Monthly Expenditure Report.

BEN KRAM makes the motion, LAUREN NICHOLS seconds.

YEAS: Melissa Algaze, Thomas Bailey, Cindy Bitterman, Shem Bitterman, Lauren Borchard, Isack Fadlon, Amy Goldenberg, Sara Griebbe, Andrea Guttag, Will Hackner, Ashkaan Hassan, Linda Ignarro Smith, Nasim Kablan, Dale Kendall, Benjamin Kram, Christian La Mont, Lynda La Rose, Maria Malbas, Lauren Nichols, Michael Schneider, Thao Tran, Valerie Washburn, Andrew Werner, Don Whitehead, Xander Wikstrom

NAYS: --

ABSTENTIONS: --

INELIGIBLE: Madeline Liebreich, Ava Marinelli, J. Keith van Straaten

Motion passes with 25 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstentions and 3 ineligible.

- c. **Motion to approve spending up to \$750 on MCWNC t-shirts. Approved at Outreach & Civic Engagement Committee meeting; Committee voted 5 yay's; 0 nay; 2 abstentions. The motion passed.**

MOTION: Mid City West Neighborhood Council approves spending up to \$750 on MCWNC t-shirts.

ANDREA GUTTAG makes the motion, MELISSA ALGAZE seconds.

YEAS: Melissa Algaze, Thomas Bailey, Cindy Bitterman, Shem Bitterman, Lauren Borchard, Isack Fadlon, Amy Goldenberg, Sara Griebel, Andrea Guttag, Will Hackner, Ashkaan Hassan, Linda Ignarro Smith, Nasim Kablan, Dale Kendall, Benjamin Kram, Christian La Mont, Lynda La Rose, Maria Malbas, Lauren Nichols, Michael Schneider, Thao Tran, Valerie Washburn, Andrew Werner, Don Whitehead, Xander Wikstrom

NAYS: --

ABSTENTIONS: --

INELIGIBLE: Madeline Liebreich, Ava Marinelli, J. Keith van Straaten

Motion passes with 25 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstentions and 3 ineligible.

- d. **Motion to approve spending up to \$200 on MCWNC business cards. Approved at Outreach & Civic Engagement Committee meeting; Committee voted 5 yay's; 0 nay; 2 abstentions. The motion passed.**

MOTION: Mid City West Neighborhood Council approves spending up to \$200 on MCWNC business cards.

ANDREA GUTTAG makes the motion, **J. KEITH VAN STRAATEN** seconds.

YEAS: Melissa Algaze, Thomas Bailey, Cindy Bitterman, Shem Bitterman, Lauren Borchard, Isack Fadlon, Amy Goldenberg, Sara Griebel, Andrea Guttag, Will Hackner, Linda Ignarro Smith, Nasim Kablan, Dale Kendall, Lynda La Rose, Maria Malbas, Lauren Nichols, Thao Tran, Valerie Washburn, Andrew Werner, Don Whitehead, Xander Wikstrom

NAYS: Ashkaan Hassan, Benjamin Kram, Christian La Mont, Michael Schneider

ABSTENTIONS: --

INELIGIBLE: Madeline Liebreich, Ava Marinelli, J. Keith van Straaten

Motion passes with 21 yeas, 4 nays, 0 abstentions and 3 ineligible.

- e. **Motion to reimburse Board Member Lauren Nichols \$500 for Beverly Press 75th Anniversary Ad payment. Approved at August General Board Meeting; Board voted 18 yeas; 7 nays; 0 abstentions (and 4 ineligible).**

MOTION: Mid City West Neighborhood Council approves the reimbursement of Board Member Lauren Nichols \$500 for Beverly Press 75th Anniversary Ad payment.

DON WHITEHEAD makes the motion, **ASHKAAN HASSAN** seconds.

YEAS: Melissa Algaze, Thomas Bailey, Cindy Bitterman, Shem Bitterman, Lauren Borchard, Isack Fadlon, Amy Goldenberg, Sara Griebel, Andrea Guttag, Will Hackner, Ashkaan Hassan, Linda Ignarro Smith, Nasim Kablan, Dale Kendall, Benjamin Kram, Christian La Mont, Lynda La Rose, Maria Malbas, Lauren Nichols, Michael Schneider, Thao Tran, Valerie Washburn, Andrew Werner, Don Whitehead, Xander Wikstrom

NAYS: --

ABSTENTIONS: --

INELIGIBLE: Madeline Liebreich, Ava Marinelli, J. Keith van Straaten

Motion passes with 25 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstentions and 3 ineligible.

9. Report from standing committees (*10 minutes*)

10. Motion to adjourn at 9:26 PM by Lauren Nichols.