

**Minutes of the General Board Meeting of the  
RESEDA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (RNC)  
Monday, December 21, 2009**

American Legion Hall, 7338 Canby Street, Reseda, CA 91335

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Cary Iaccino called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Merlin.

**3. Roll Call**

Roll Call was taken by Secretary Chaparyan. Board Members present:

Cary Iaccino, Chair, Business  
Lee Smith, Treasurer, At-Large  
Vahan Chaparyan, Secretary, Residential  
Magdy Abdalla, Sergeant-At-Arms, Residential  
Garth Carlson, Board Member, At-Large  
Daryt J. Frank, Board Member, Business  
Noell Guzman, Board Member, Business  
Ann Kinzle, Board Member, Business  
Anna Measles, Parliamentarian, At-Large  
Phil Merlin, Board Member, Residential  
Faye Nia, Board Member, Business

Board Members absent: Jerry Hill, Board Member, At-Large; Jim Luis, Board Member, At-Large; and Timothy Mulholland, Board Member, At-Large.

Eleven of the 14 Board Members were present at the beginning of the Meeting, which is a quorum, so the Board could make Motions and take votes. Also attending were 23 Stakeholders and Guests.

**4. Introduction of City Employees and other Visitors**

Sandra Gonzalez, Community Relations Mgr. (Cell 213-300-8005, Office 818-593-5490; SGonzalez@cra.lacity.org), and Brian Pendleton, Project Mgr., West Valley Region (818-593-5490) of the Community Redevelopment Agency (www.crala.net); and Darryl Ford, L.A. City Recreation and Parks Dept., Planning and Development Division (213-202-2682; Darryl.Ford@lacity.org) introduced themselves.

[The following introductions occurred after Item #7.] Jose M. Martinez, Field Deputy for L.A. City District Three Councilman Dennis Zine (818-756-8848; Jose.M.Martinez@lacity.gov), distributed "The Zine Line" Newsletter and reported that clean-ups and other City work is ongoing despite limited resources.

Jay Virata, Regional Administrator, Community Redevelopment Agency (818-593-5490; JVirata@cra.lacity.org; www.crala.net), introduced himself.

**5. Public Comment and Announcements**

Stakeholder Haim Linder announced a DWP (L.A. Dept. of Water and Power) grass removal program. The DWP pays one dollar per square foot of grass removed; a

permit to do it costs \$540, though the City is considering “removing the permit.” He’ll update on this at the next General Board Meeting.

Mr. Carlson reported that 175 blocks of Reseda streets have been resurfaced since 2004 and 144 more blocks are scheduled for resurfacing.

- 6. Reseda Neighborhood Council Board Seat Election:** We are currently accepting applications to fill one vacant Board Seat. Any qualified Stakeholder may apply, and there may be a vote for the seat (if necessary) held at the General Meeting January 4, 2010, should more than one eligible Stakeholder choose to run for the open seat. All Stakeholders in attendance at the January 4th meeting may vote.

Ms. Measles clarified and Mr. Iaccino agreed that the vacancy is in the Business Representative category and that the person must be a business owner.

- 7. Review and Approval of RNC Minutes** from General Meetings of September 21, October 5, October 19, November 2, November 16, and December 7, 2009.

**MOTION** (by Mrs. Kinzle, seconded by Mr. Abdalla): to approve the Minutes of the September 21, October 5, October 19, November 2, November 16, and December 7, 2009 General Board Meetings as written.

**DISCUSSION:** Ms. Measles observed and it was agreed that the September 21 and October 5, 2009 General Board Meeting Minutes were already approved [on October 19<sup>th</sup>]. She was concerned about the Minutes showing Board Members’ representation categories, the number of Board Members present, whether there was a quorum, and speakers’ identify information; Mr. Merlin liked it, Ms. Nia believed that it is “irrelevant and unnecessary.”

**MOTION** (by Mr. Merlin, seconded by Mrs. Measles): to **TABLE** approval of the November 16, 2009 General Board Meeting Minutes.

**FURTHER DISCUSSION:** There was extensive discussion regarding the November 16, 2009 Minutes content and the specificity and intention of the Item 8) f) Motion to allocate \$18,000 for a Town Hall Meeting. Mr. Abdalla pointed out that the information in the Minutes is “part of the service that [the NC] provides.” Ms. Nia was concerned regarding the privacy of General Meeting speakers. Mr. Merlin explained that when speakers give out their business cards they want to be available.

Mr. Merlin **MOVED to WITHDRAW the MOTION to TABLE** approval of the November 16, 2009 General Board Meeting Minutes.

**MAIN MOTION PASSED** by a hand vote; Mr. Frank and Ms. Kinzle abstained.

**8. RNC Board Administrative Matters**

Nomination and Board approval process of Vice-Chair. {Tabled item 7 (a) from December 7, 2009}.

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #4.] Mr. Iaccino nominated and Mr. Frank accepted the nomination to be the RNC Vice-Chair.

**MOTION** (by Ms. Nia, seconded by Ms. Kinzle): to approve the nomination of D.J. Frank as the Reseda Neighborhood Council Vice-Chair.

**MOTION PASSED** by a hand vote; Mr. Frank abstained.

**9. PRESENTATION:** Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Reseda project area and Reseda Theater update.

Mr. Pendleton reported that the alley projects between Reseda Blvd. and Canby Ave. on the north side of Sherman Way (behind the Reseda Theatre), and on the east side of Reseda Blvd. from Vanowen Blvd. to Basset St., are complete at a cost of more than \$700,000 in CRA funds. Also, \$600,000 in conditional grants is available to business and property owners.

He regretted to announce that the Reseda Theatre Project Agreement with the developer CIM has been terminated because the CRA was not confident that CIM could "secure" a suitable tenant. The CRA is "looking at potential uses for the Theater." So far, Theater work has been "soft demolition" and structural evaluation; the interior is "basically empty." Mr. Pendleton described and there was extensive discussion regarding process and project possibilities and timelines. He related that "many companies have dramatically or completely scaled back their development plans" and there are "a lot of stagnant projects around the City."

The proposal process began for the 18128 and 18210 Sherman Way properties. The 72-unit Sherman Village, at Wilber Ave., and the 98-unit Canby Woods (seniors housing) around the corner from the American Legion Hall, are estimated to cost \$10 million; the City Housing Dept. is considering funding assistance.

**10. PRESENTATION:** City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks presentation of proposed new park on the corner of Wilbur Ave and Strathern St. Mr. Ford distributed a "Proposed Park at Strathern St. & Wilbur Ave." photo/map and announced that Proposition 84 made \$368 million available "to acquire new park sites . . . and provide recreational improvements." It's a "competitive grant program . . . with two funding rounds"; the first applications due date is March 1, 2010. His Department works closely with the CRA, the City Engineering Dept. and other agencies, and they're proposing a new park at the northeast corner of Strathern St. and Wilbur Ave., across from Cleveland High School, on 1.8 acres of DWP-owned land divided by the Aliso Creek into two lots; it "can be considered a pocket park" and "it's up to the Stakeholders what [it] would look like." They want to "set up community meetings" by January. "If the community doesn't want the park, then the [Recreation and Parks Dept.] doesn't want it."

Mr. Abdalla was concerned that there's no access between the two lots. CD3's Mr. Martinez reported that they're "looking at having a skate park" and it could be at this site. Mr. Merlin was concerned about park maintenance with declining funds and staff. Mr. Ford clarified that they're avoiding "high maintenance" amenities "such as swimming pools," and that this kind of funding won't be available again soon, so the Department wanted to take advantage of the opportunity. Ms. Kinzle appealed, "let's concentrate on [maintaining] the parks that are open." Mr. Pendleton reported that the CRA, through the City, just allocated \$2.2 million to help maintain Reseda Park. Stakeholder Juan Guzman believed that "there's a lot of potential here."

Stakeholder Larry Bowman was concerned that a park would give people another opportunity to do drugs and more. Mr. Frank voiced that “it is necessary to have a park in that area.” Other Stakeholders were concerned that “that parcel is too small . . . students will hang out there” and about what may happen there at night, while another Stakeholder counseled that the area needs more sports fields. Mr. Ford responded that “when space is not being used, that’s when there are problems.” Stakeholder Mark Reed indicated that the City “could put a community sub-station there for bicycle [police] . . . to help the kids,” seniors and others. Ms. Kinzle responded that “there’re no [police] Officers to spare for a sub-station” and the Police Dept. wouldn’t be able to anyway. Mr. Frank announced that the issue will be discussed at the next RNC Planning and Zoning Committee Meeting.

## **11. RNC Officer – Action/Reports**

### Chair

Mr. Iaccino yielded his time to Mr. Carlson, who made the General Announcement in Item #5.

### Secretary

Mr. Chaparyan yielded his time.

### Treasurer: Treasury and Finance Committee

Mr. Smith distributed an “[RNC] Account Balances as of 12/20/2009” worksheet and an “[RNC] Voted/Approved Allocations” chart, and reported that the General Account started with (approximately) \$106,282; Petty Cash was \$765; and Credit Card Stored Value was \$1,047, making the Overall Total \$108,075; Allocations were \$61,031, leaving a Balance of \$47,043.

Mr. Smith explained that the figures were based upon the allocation of the DONE (L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment) rollover funds; “to date, [he has] not received that figure . . . These numbers are undocumented, but [he] believes them to be reasonably accurate.” Mr. Smith stated that the chart’s page two third-to-last allocation “11/16/2009 \$18,000 . . . should be stricken from the report.” That made the Allocations total \$61,031 minus \$18,000, or \$43,031. He would like it to be agendaized “for the Board to review all these allocations . . . [of] the last 18-24 months.” He described recent allocations of “up to \$8,500 to renew the RNC Office lease” [approved December 7<sup>th</sup>]; \$1,000 for newsletter paper [approved December 7<sup>th</sup>]; and \$5,000 for the January 31<sup>st</sup> Red Cross CPR – First Aid Training Program [approved October 19<sup>th</sup>]. There was extensive discussion regarding the specificity and intention of the \$18,000 allocation; Mr. Smith affirmed that the funds were allocated [at the November 16<sup>th</sup> General Meeting.] The Minutes of that Meeting were consulted and agreed to be accurate.

## **12. Old Business**

a) Possible establishment of Ad Hoc Committee for upcoming Town Hall.

**MOTION** (by Ms. Kinzle, seconded by Mr. Abdalla): to **TABLE** the establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee for a Town Hall Meeting.

**MOTION PASSED** by acclamation without any objections.

- b) RNC Board Member Handbook. All Board Members should have one. Included in this handbook would be the RNC Bylaws, Brown Act, Secretary Handbook, list of adopted RNC procedures such as Rosenberg's Rules, Minute time requirements, and RNC Budget basics.

Mr. Iaccino showed a sample and explained that the Handbook "would be nice for the incoming Board [after the May 27, 2010 NC election] to have." Ms. Nia volunteered to assist with Handbook preparation.

### **13. New Agenda Items**

- a) Request by stakeholder to host discussion on trailer signage.

Mr. Iaccino explained that City representatives could speak regarding unhitched trailers and that he'd received an e-mail from [Bruce Boyer, Owner of an unhitched trailer company]. Ms. Kinzle encouraged calling Mr. Martinez to have illegal unhitched trailers towed. Mr. Bowman pointed out that this "trailer owner . . . generates a lot of taxes" and is a big Reseda employer, as well as a Veterans supporter. Mr. Abdalla stated that it is the NC's "obligation to allow this Stakeholder" to present [at a General Board Meeting]. Mr. Iaccino agreed to e-mail Mr. Boyer for his consideration to speak. Mr. Frank noted that Mr. Boyer's e-mail request "sounds like a reconsideration request."

**MOTION to RECONSIDER** (by Mr. Frank, seconded by Mr. Merlin): for the RNC to RECONSIDER its vote at the November 16<sup>th</sup> General Board Meeting "for the RNC to oppose unhitched trailers on Reseda streets and recommend that proper signage be installed on any streets where such trailers are a problem."

**DISCUSSION:** Ms. Measles noted that it was now past the time for a reconsideration vote, which must be made at the same or next Meeting.

Mr. Frank and Mr. Merlin agreed to **WITHDRAW** the **MOTION to RECONSIDER**.

- b) Other possible agenda items  
No other Agenda Items were mentioned.

### **14. General Announcements and Upcoming Events**

Mr. Carlson noted that the free January 31<sup>st</sup> Red Cross CPR – First Aid Training Program will be all day and at the American Legion Hall; continental breakfast and lunch will be provided and attendees who complete the Program will be Certified. There're probably only 50 spaces available. Also, RNC Emergency Disaster and Community Safety Committee positions are available. Mr. Bowman announced a Toys for Tots collection for needy children at the American Legion Hall.

### **15. Adjournment**

Mr. Iaccino declared and it was agreed to **ADJOURN** the Meeting at 8:56 p.m.

Minutes written by DL.