



Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council
3516 North Broadway
Los Angeles, CA 90031
FACEBOOK: "www.facebook.com/LHNCLA31"
WEB: "www.LincolnHeightsNC.org"
GILBERT AREVALO, President; BEN WADSWORTH, Vice President;
PETER TANG, Secretary; MARIA PALACIO, Treasurer



**MOTION TO APPROVE: MINUTES of the
LINCOLN HEIGHTS General Board meeting
Thursday, May 21, 2020 at 6:00 pm
A Virtual Meeting**

I. Welcome, Call to Order - Meeting called to Order by Gil Arevalo at 6:18 pm

II. Roll Call – In attendance: 14 (14 voting) Gil Arevalo, Ben Wadsworth, Mary Palacio, William M Rodriguez, Sheri Fierro, Benny Madera, Sevin Riley, Richard Larsen, Theresa Velasquez, Michael Merced, Vincente Gonzales-Reyes Jr (withdrew after start of meeting, could not be counted), Armida Marrufo, Vince Rosiles, Tameka Flowers, and Selena Ortega. Richard Larsen (Recorder-Secretary), Jackie Kim (DONE NEA).

III. Public Comment – none

IV. Committee and Board Announcements – The President reported that the Council was given \$5000 in Emergency Funding for our community which will be submitted by the Treasurer thru drawing a Plan of Action and sending it to Mike Fong. On April 8th we reported a number of community organizations of which \$4000 was distributed including funds given to Healing Urban Barrios \$2000, meals for LAFD Station #1 for \$250, a group from Lincoln Heights received \$250 for games and crafts.

City Clerk acknowledged funding for three of the groups, Healing Urban Barrios for \$2000, and Athletes in the Making for \$1000 plus another \$1000. The President reported that we did receive other requests but the period for funding had lapsed. The President said we must initiate and record a Board Action Certification to dispense \$5000 Emergency Funds, not an approval, only a recognition that the President notified the Board. **MOTION to Approve: Arevalo/unknown 2nd, 10-1-3, Motion without 2nd is not determined as Approved**

V. The President asked Benny Madera to make his Presentation. Benny Madera said the reason this is on the Agenda is that on January 16th he was approached by Richard Larsen and was notified that he was removed from the Planning and Land Use Committee (PLUC).

Benny Madera stated he believed his removal was in retaliation by the Chair because he reported the PLUC Chair to the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) on January 9th at 1:30 am, that just a few hours earlier a PLUC meeting was conducted without quorum.

Benny Madera presented, via Host screen-sharing to the public and board members present, an email he sent to Mario Hernandez, the Neighborhood Empowerment Adviser (NEA), informing him the PLUC meeting had taken place on January 8th and that it did not have quorum.

Benny Madera said the Chair was not submitting Rosters of the committee to the Board. He stated Chair Richard Larsen was bringing in people and removing people at will.

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YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES Amanda Martinez, Hugo Hernandez;
AREA REPRESENTATIVES: Richard Larsen, Theresa Vasquez, Michael Merced, Vicente Gonzalez-Reyes Jr., Vacant,
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Benny Madera asked to make a Motion on this item listed under Committee Reports, Executive Committee, President Comments, item 7.a.i.2 on the Agenda.

The President agreed Benny Madera could make such a Motion, and that a Discussion would follow. Benny Madera said his Motion is to be voted for his reinstatement to the Planning and Land Use Committee. A Discussion ensued where another member reported that this member was known to have voted No on the Minutes, which is Out of Order.

Richard Larsen, the Chair, responded that he no prior knowledge of this complaint from Benny Madera to Mario Hernandez DONE NEA, contained in a private email accusing him of holding an illegal meeting. When the Chair later received a lengthy accusation from the NEA, he responded to DONE that a PLUC member had resigned, that it had been announced at the beginning of the meeting, and so the claim that there wasn't a valid quorum was untrue. There was no result or action taken by DONE or the City Attorney who was also involved in the false claim.

The PLUC Chair stated the Executive Committee was always duly notified of the PLUC Roster, noting Benny Madera did not bring his quorum claim forward at any time to any LHNC member.

Richard Larsen noted that Benny Madera was tardy several times, found to be Out of Order and put on notice on October 10th of 2019, and was duly removed after further lapses. The Chair noted that he gave reasons and remedies to Benny Madera for this removal action in the notification email which was also copied to the President Gil Arevalo.

The Chairman thanked Benny Madera for his years of service to the PLUC, but said he preferred serious and committed members on the PLUC in this new era of challenging large-scale luxury housing projects.

The President asked the Vice President for a point of information if something like this could go to the Grievance process. The Vice President said yes it could. The Vice President reported that the PLUC Chair regularly reports the PLUC Roster to the Executive Committee. The President added that the Chair makes decisions for membership on Committee Rosters.

The President then called for a vote on Benny Madera's Motion to be reinstated on the PLUC, Benny Madera Motioned First, and asked for a Second on the Motion, and was Seconded by Selena Ortega. The President then called for a vote on Benny Madera's Motion.

Benny Madera then asked if he could go to the Grievance Committee and the President said personally he would recommend doing that, to go to the Grievance Committee. The Vice President was also asked by Benny Madera if he could go through the Grievance Committee process, and the Vice President responded affirmatively saying, yes, he could always go to a Grievance Committee for being removed for what was previously characterized as retaliation.

VI. The President asked for a vote on the January General Board meeting Minutes. Richard Larsen noted the Minutes were not in evidence for voting, saying they were not included in the Agenda. **MOTION to Approve Minutes of January 16: Arevalo/Wadsworth 2nd, 7-0-7, Motion Approved**

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VIII. Executive Committee announced resignation of Mario Marrufo, but might relocate to Lincoln Heights and serve in the future.

Motion to Approve Stefan Acheson as Area 5 Resident, term ending in 2021 **MOTION to Approve: Arevalo/Wadsworth 2nd, 13-0-1 MOTION Approved**

Motion to Approve Youth Representative Erika Xu, term ending in 2023. **MOTION to Approve: Arevalo/Wadsworth 2nd, 13-0-1 MOTION Approved**

Motion to Approve Peter Tang as Secretary, term ending in 2021 **MOTION to Approve: Arevalo/Wadsworth 2nd, 13-0-1 MOTION Approved**

The Vice President said it was up to DONE to contact them as all the training now requires a password. They are required to receive Ethics, Funding and Code of Conduct Certificates after completing training.

IX. Treasurers Report: The President reported the money that is going to be given to NC's next year will be reduced from \$42,000 to \$32,000. Due to the pandemic many NC were not able to put on events and thus money not been spent, approximately half of it not spent. The City Council voted to roll over all the money that has not been spent will be rolled over to the next year. The President asked the Treasurer to report.

The Treasurer reported that some of the items might have to be Tabled as an Encumbrance form needs filled out and be provided to the Board.

The Vice President requested to proceed to approve the MER's. Motion to Approve the January 2020 Monthly Expenditure Reports. **MOTION to Approve: Palacio/Wadsworth 2nd, 11-0-3 MOTION Approved**

The President noted that Richard Larsen is the Recorder and is taking the Minutes. The Treasurer needs the voting has to be documented, Richard responded affirmatively, but that it would take several days to produce the vote documents.

A member asked if they were absent would they have to vote no, the Treasurer responded the member is simply acknowledging the expenses that are on the MER report.

Motion to Approve the February 2020 Monthly Expenditure Reports. **MOTION to Approve: Palacio/Wadsworth 2nd, 11-0-3 MOTION Approved**

Motion to Approve the March 2020 Monthly Expenditure Reports. **MOTION to Approve: Palacio/Fierro 2nd, 11-0-3 MOTION Approved**

Motion to Approve the April 2020 Monthly Expenditure Reports, mostly Emergency Fund. **MOTION to Approve: Arevalo/Wadsworth 2nd, 11-0-3 MOTION Approved**

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Discussion and Motion to amend the Budget to move \$2000 from Community Improvement Projects to Outreach expenditures category. No Discussion occurred, no public comment occurred. **MOTION to Approve: Palacio/Wadsworth 2nd, 12-0-2 MOTION Approved**

Discussion and Motion to amend Budget allocating funds of \$4,869 to outreach expenditures category. Treasurer reported that back in November we allocated funds thru a Motion into certain areas, that she discussed this with the City rep, and was advised we needed to redo this Motion due to the pandemic and put more money, but we're not currently doing that type of activity. No public comment occurred. **MOTION to Approve: Palacio/Morrison 2nd, 12-0-2 MOTION Approved.**

Discussion and Motion to approve \$200 for expenses for flyers to outreach meetings taking place on zoom. Treasurer noted that this was proposed by Richard Larsen, that the flyers could be provided at Famers Market. No public comment occurred. **MOTION to Approve: Palacio/Wadsworth 2nd, 12-0-2 MOTION Approved**

Discussion and Motion on Agenda items 8, 9, and 10 could not be voted on, suggested to be tabled, as the Funding Rep as they involve a 501(c) will help us distribute these items at the end of the physical year. Therefore a Special Budget Meeting, a Special Executive Committee meeting and a Special General Board meeting with filled out Encumbrance Forms is necessary, then we are sure we have the rest of the money we need to allocate funds. **MOTION to Table: Wadsworth/Arevalo 2nd, 11-0-2 MOTION Approved** A board member didn't respond to the vote for this item, hence the change in number of voters.

Discussion and Motion to approve \$3,000 to purchase marketing items such as banners, t-shirts, post cards, magnets and bags, purchased from Mayan Print located at 2905 North Main Street, Los Angeles. **MOTION to Approve: Palacio/Wadsworth 2nd, 8-1-2 MOTION Approved** Another board member didn't respond to the vote for this item, hence the change in voters.

X. Planning and Land Use Committee: None of the previously PLUC approved Motions for several Entitlements provided to the Executive Committee were added to this Agenda, so no Board Action could be taken. The Chair asks that all Entitlements voted on by the PLUC and sent on to the Executive Committee be listed as requested on the General Board Agenda.

XI. Troy Carbajal representative from the Office of Assemblymember Wendy Carillo reported that of the new legislation, the CA House postponed 21 bills due to the corona virus pandemic. 12 other bills are still ongoing.

XII. Adjournment - **MOTION to Adjourn: Arevalo/Palacio 2nd, 11-0-0, Motion Approved**
Meeting adjourned at 7:37 pm.

Meetings held the second Thursday of each month - next meeting Thursday, June 11, 2020, 6:00 pm, at a virtual meeting appearing on our website with zoom links

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