

Minutes of the Regular General Board Meeting of the

Reseda Neighborhood Council

Monday, November 19, 2018

Reseda Neighborhood Council Community Space, 18118 Sherman Way, Reseda, CA 91335

- I. **Meeting called to order** by Board President AM at 7:00 PM.
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance** was led by Pris.
- III. **Roll Call – In attendance**, making a quorum: Anna Measles, Jeffrey Minter, Gilbert Juarez, Sarah Williams, Priscilla Anchondo, Sharon Brewer, Martin Buonora, Maggi Espada-Hernandez, Yassmin Flores, Cameron Lambert, Rob Vogel and Joe Phillips. **Not in attendance:** CR Cochrane, J. Benjamin Johnson, Anthony Contreras.
- IV. **Introduction of City Employees and other visitors:**
 - A. **J.D. Carrere from SpectrumNewsOne**, addressed the meeting to talk about the new news channel. He's here to get involved with the spectrumnewsone.com, it's a community service of Spectrum.
 - B. **Denise Vasquez, Senior Lead Officer LAPD**, Thanked the council for support at officer support day. No Neighborhood Watch meeting for Reseda in December, one in January could be a potluck, bring something. Will still have CPAD meeting, Wednesday, 12/12 at 7pm, meeting which they work w/community to come up with solutions for various areas of town. Officer Bocanegra will be back 11/26, if you have concerns in the meantime, call her. North Reseda had a decrease of crime this year, 11.5% for a total 619 crimes so far this year, 702 last year at this point. If you don't report it, it doesn't make it on the map and resources aren't allocated. She encourages communication, lots of ways to do it, Lead Officers all have Facebook pages, they'll be posting stats on the pages along with other community oriented material.
 - C. **Vanessa Serrano, DONE Representative** addressed the meeting. On 11/29 Dept of Aging is teaming up with neighborhood councils about how to make neighborhood councils more age-friendly. The City plan from 2018-21 will be presented. Downtown at ?? Auditorium (popcorn noise overlapped). Neighborhood Councils need to be aware of ASL interpretation requests when they happen. There's a link in the profile so RNC can send in the request. They need at least 48 hours, but can work out 24 hour notice, hopefully. She mentioned a Funding Dept email about August MER's which are delinquent. If approved tonight, make sure it gets sent in, don't need more consequences, they want to keep all events going smoothly. Joe Phillips noted he did some training recently and asked about when training certifications get updated in the system, she said check it takes a little time, she will follow up.
- V. **Public Comment and Announcements:**
 - A. **Elizabeth and Sean from Dignity Health Northridge Hospital Center for Healthier Communities** addressed the council, (at this time Maggi Espada-Hernandez left the

meeting due to a potential conflict). They're planning an event, supporting victims of sexual assault and domestic violence. In folders distributed, there's more info on Center for Social Services, open 24 hours, focuses on providing support for victims. Throughout 2018 they had 1106 cases reported, there are graphs in the folder distributed showing breakdowns. They have discounts for students. Victory for Victims event in April, a 5-10k dog walk. Info requested for the newsletter by Garth. (At this time Espada-Hernandez returned)

- B. **Bruce Abram, 27 year resident**, addressed the council about dwindling parking as people convert homes for extra renters. It's becoming a problem. He had spoken to his councilman's office, who suggested he address the council. Two-story apartment conversions are happening in his neighborhood. He was told about the PLUM meeting, said he had emailed but got no response. He also asked about when an ice rink was going to be built on Sherman Way, Anna Measles said construction would start next year. Development will be discussed at the next RNC meeting.
- C. **Colin Crews, representative for Councilman Englander**, addressed the meeting with several announcements.
 - a. Last week there was a successful turkey giveaway w/YMNCA, with veggies, 10-12 year tradition, over entire valley, schools and other neighborhood 3000 turkeys. Very Successful.
 - b. 12/13, from 8-11am annual holiday breakfast at Devonshire palace, staff preps breakfast email rsvp councilman.englisher@lacouncil.org, also his farewell breakfast.

VI. **Officer Reports:**

- A. **President Anna Measles:**
Combined report w/VP. She reported about the Officer Appreciation Day meal and gave thanks to the LAPD folks.
- B. **Vice President:**
- C. **Secretary Jeffrey Minter:**
He's trying to move more stuff online, agendas, etc. documents so that they're easier to access.
- D. **Treasurer Gilbert Juarez:**
He is resigning as Treasurer, doesn't agree with what happened at the last meeting, kind of sad, he can't continue. He tried to help but his account has been blocked, not sure why. He can show folks if they don't believe him. This has not been a great experience for him, hopes going forward that the board values each individual and works harder to be more transparent about themselves. He didn't have much help, feels that people talked only about what he did wrong. Measles asked if he was resigning from the board rather than just as Treasurer he said he had said Treasurer only.
- E. **Parliamentarian Sarah Williams:**
During cleanup, they found old signs, she'll hold them up for time usage. Asked if, over the holidays, people could review bylaws, parliamentary procedure, etc. Hopefully we can all move forward together, down the line it will improve efficiency, will ensure all have a voice and keep us on task and keep us accountable to the community.
- F. **Sergeant-at-Arms J. Benjamin Johnson:** Not Present.

VII. Committee Reports:

- A. Outreach and Public Relations – Sarah Williams
The main focus has been holiday lights, usually they go up around this time, ironing out the situation, waiting for a formal quote from the installer and a plot plan, allowing the board to make a decision, getting a lot of support. She supports the idea of having a holiday party on 12/17, instead of a second meeting of the month. Garth Carlson spoke about the newsletter, as usual this time of year, they're looking for articles and if anyone has good pictures of local displays, he'd appreciate them sent his way. He will get copies of what he has tomorrow hopefully for editing/approval.
- B. Planning and Land Use Management (PLUM) – D.J. Frank
Nothing new, except what he said last time, next meeting will 1st Thursday of December 12/6 at 6pm.
- C. By-laws & Standing Rules – D.J. Frank
Next meeting will be just after Thanksgiving, standing rules will be discussed, he has added to what's been approved, recommending passing on for board approval. Meeting will be 11/27 at 5:30 pm.
- D. Youth & Senior Advocacy – Carmen Winston
Not present.
- E. Community Space – Robert Vogel
Planning special meeting on 11/29, to approve a few things need doing, like replacing lightbulbs, new fire extinguishers, etc. Also talking about holiday party, 7pm, following party at Bob Blumenfield's office.
- F. Disaster & Emergency Services/Community Safety – Larry Bowman
Garth Carlson, speaking for Larry – they had a meeting last Tuesday, will continue to work on getting CPR classes. A First Aid class was held here, but not well attended or promoted. they're working on other things with the Emergency Mgt. Dept.
- G. Economic Development – Garth Carlson
Meeting also on the 29th, working on getting the Reseda business directory updated and other things. All are welcome to come.
- H. Finance – Gilbert Juarez
There was a meeting, he was wasn't invited or advised, as far as items, he suggests going to Jeffrey Minter. He also recommends someone other than Yassmin hold the P Card, she stressed him out. Issues with receipts discussed. Good luck with finances, he hopes Sharon Brewer succeeds him. He will be available to her if she has questions.
- I. Health & Wellness – Maggi Espada-Hernandez
We were attempting to do an event this last weekend, had to postpone, aiming for January. The two main people involved with the event were coming from Calabasas and Agora Hills, but the wildfires made that impossible. Third Wednesdays of each month are for committee meetings, for anyone interested. This Wednesday she's out of town, a special meeting might happen 11/28 at 5:30.
- J. Homelessness Advocacy – Anthony Contreras
Vacant, looking for a chairman.
- K. Mobility & Environment – Joe Phillips
Reiterated what Garth mentioned about the First Aid class yesterday, it was sparsely attended, despite efforts to promote. They'll be trying again on 12/15, Saturday, from 1-4:00. Next meeting will be mid-week in December, 12/10. He also tries to supervise cleanups, aiming for a January cleanup and for an orientation cleanup, with a focus on 311 app and other services. He'd like to do cleanups on a quarterly basis.

L. Ad Hoc Election – Priscilla Anchondo

Next meeting will be next Monday, 11/26. They had a joint meeting with Outreach. County Clerk's office will be responsible for supervising and handling the elections. Asked who is up for re-election in 2019, half of the board is up. Trying to get more candidates, County Clerk's office would like more community outreach, bring in fresh blood. There will be signups, then a chance to run a campaign, etc. Discussion of a flyer and other promotional options will happen at the 12/3 meeting.

VIII. Presentations: None

IX. Administrative Matters:

1. The Reseda Neighborhood Council to discuss and possible action to approve the resignation of the office of Treasurer, which is currently held by Board Member Gilberto Juarez. There was confusion over the procedure and if a motion was necessary or if written notification needed to sent by Juarez, Vanessa Serrano suggested he send it to the presiding officer. No action was taken.
2. The Reseda Neighborhood Council to discuss and possible action to approve the resignation of Mr. Jeffrey Girten which is effective October 18, 2018. In accordance with the bylaws, any qualified "residential stakeholder" may choose to run for the newly vacant seat after November 17, 2018 (should be from when it was first put on agenda), and there will be a vote if necessary, at the general meeting. Eligibility for the position is defined as a "residential stakeholder", who lives within the Reseda Neighborhood Council boundaries as defined in Article III of the bylaws, and who is at least 18 years of age. Sharon Brewer suggested before adding people, the council should get its act together. Sarah Williams noted that if a seat is vacant and candidates appear, we can't stop them. She noted it has to be announced, has to be on the agenda. This item will be on the next agenda. No action was taken.

At this time there was a public comment from a Speaker Card. The comment came from a man with a puppet who identified himself as Black Puppet. He thanked Gilbert Juarez for speaking and for resigning as Treasurer, saying that it proves corruption in the city government and people such as Juarez don't have a chance to make change in that environment.

3. The Reseda Neighborhood Council to discuss and possible action to approve the resignation Mr. Anthony Contreras, both as a Board Member and committee Chair and member of the Homeless Advocacy Committee, which is effective November 13, 2018. In accordance with the bylaws any qualified "at large stakeholder" may choose to run for the newly vacant seat any time after December 19, 2018, and if there will be a vote, if necessary, at the general meeting. Eligibility for the position is defined as an "at large stakeholder" who has an ongoing participation within the Reseda Neighborhood Council boundaries and who is at least 18 years of age. There was clarification of that board members Joe Phillips and Martin Buonora will remain on the committee. Phillips will consider taking on the chair. There was confusion and discussion about the how this works in terms of the rules, Sarah Williams discussed how this isn't covered in the standing rules or bylaws, committee heads. Williams moved to remove Contreras as committee chair of the Homeless Advocacy Committee and any other committees, Gilbert Juarez seconded. After discussion about his resignation letter and the current state of the council, another public comment from

Black Puppet supporting any NC resignations anywhere, a show of hands vote was taken, and the motion passed.

Vote Count: Yes 8, No 1 (Juarez), Abstain 2 (Buonora, Williams) Absent 2

4. The Reseda Neighborhood Council will discussion and possible action to authorize the acting President to contact the city attorney for advice on the procedure regarding Board Member removal for excessive absences pursuant to Bylaws.
Joe Phillips moved to approve this action, Priscilla Anchondo seconded. After discussion about how the procedure will work, and Gilbert Juarez asking if it will be transparent so as to avoid bias in reviewing the absences, a show of hands vote was taken and the motion passed.
Vote Count: Yes 11, No 1 (Juarez), Abstain 0, Absent 2

5. The Reseda Neighborhood Council to discuss appointment of a new Youth Board Member. Outreach and Public Relations should communicate to the high schools, the open position and the Board will accept application, vote on an applicant at the December 3, 2018 meeting.

Rob Vogel moved to approve the appointment, Yassmin Flores seconded. There was extensive discussion about how this process is supposed to work. Cameron Lambert is on the Outreach Committee, she supports this. Schools are out this week, so only 1 week to outreach to them, if it's on the 12/3 agenda. Date change was discussed, making the process fair to all the schools was discussed. Sarah Williams believes outreach should happen as soon as possible. A show of hands vote was taken and the motion passed.

Vote Count: Yes 9, No 1 (Juarez) Abstain 2 (Buonora, Williams) Absent 2

THIS ITEM WAS THEN REFERRED BACK TO OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Next meeting is Tuesday the 27th at 7:30 pm. DJ Frank thought 12/3 is not tenable, much more realistic to determine a date near end of January or later, spend more time outreaching, find someone who is a soph or junior, then they'll be here a couple years and can shepherd the next candidate as they matriculate. Lambert felt postponing to January is a good idea. Jeffrey Minter called to end discussion, Sarah Williams seconded, and after a show of hands vote discussion was ended.

Vote Count: Yes 10, No 2 (Juarez, Buonora), Abstain 0, Absent 2

Priscilla Anchondo moved to refer to Outreach, Yassmin Flores seconded, after a show of hands vote the motion passed.

Vote Count: Yes 11, No 0, Abstain 1 (Juarez) Absent 2

6. The Reseda Neighborhood Council to discuss possible action to approve the resignation of Pricilla Anchondo from Emergency, Disaster and Safety Committee.
This item has been done before, no action taken.

7. The Reseda Neighborhood Council to discuss and possible removal of Larry Bowman from the Emergency, Disaster & Safety Committee and as Chair for excessive absences. Gilbert Juarez moved to approve the removal, Priscilla Anchondo seconded. After discussion, including Garth Carlson describing Bowman's severe medical problems, Anchondo moved to amend the motion to remove as chair but still keep him on the committee, Rob Vogel seconded and after a show of hands vote, the motion to amend the motion passed.

Vote Count: Yes 11, No 1 (Brewer), Abstain 0, Absent 2.

Voting followed on the amended motion and after a show of hands vote, the motion passed.

Vote Count: Yes 10, No 1 (Brewer) Abstain 1 (Williams), Absent 2

8. In the event of a permanent vacancy, in the office of the Treasurer, the presiding officer shall nominate a replacement who shall be seated after a majority of the Board present. The replacement shall serve for the remainder of the term of the office being filled (Bylaws, Art. VI, Sect. 3, D).

Vanessa Serrano stated that the wording is a statement of a procedure, not asking for an action today. Anna Measles asked if she should nominate someone now, Serrano said that would be for next meeting's agenda. A lengthy discussion followed trying to untangle confusion about the process and how to word agenda items to properly notify the public in a timely fashion before actions get taken. This item will be reworded and added to the next agenda.

9. Finance Committee recommendations:

- A. Discussion and possible action to approve September 2018 MER.

After reviewing the MER, a roll call vote was taken, the item passed.

Vote Count: Yes 7, No 2 (Brewer, Juarez), Abstain 2 (Vogel, Williams), Ineligible 1 (Lambert), Absent 2.

- B. Discussion and possible action to approve moving money from RNC Budget Category General Operations (Outreach) to Category Elections in the amount of \$6,000.

The purpose of this item was discussed, including that in order to do the \$8000 requested, some money has to be moved around. Whether or not it needs to be done before the next agenda item or after was debated. Sarah Williams suggested tabling this item and then returning after Item C below. There were no objections.

After returning from Item C below, a roll call vote was taken, and the item passed.

Vote Count: Yes 8, No 2 (Brewer, Juarez), Abstain 1 (Vogel), Ineligible 1 (Lambert), Absent 2

- C. Discussion and possible action to approve funds of up to \$8,000 for the upcoming election.

The reason for the amount was discussed, that other NC's have spent up to this amount, and since it's only 'up to,' it doesn't have to be all of it. Priscilla Anchondo noted that Reseda as population around 65k, one of the biggest NC's, so for outreach we need the money. Many NC's spend a lot on mailers. Old elections and how they were done were discussed. Sarah Williams said other NC's put a quarter of their budget to elections, as it helps teach community partners and community engagement about the process. After extended discussion and confusion over bylaws, wording of the item and procedure, Martin Buonora called for a vote to close discussion, Williams seconded, and after a show of hands, the motion to close discussion failed to get a 2/3 majority and discussion continued.

Vote Count: Yes 6, No 5, Abstain 0, Ineligible 1 (Lambert), Absent 2.

DJ Frank noted that without a payee in the agenda item, rules the motion irrelevant. Suggests coming back when amounts and payees are clearer. Martin Buonora

moved to withdraw due to vague wording, Priscilla Anchondo seconded. A show of hands vote was taken and the recommendation passed.

Vote Count: Yes 8, No 0, Abstain 3 (Juarez, Vogel, Williams), Ineligible 1 (Lambert), Absent 2.

At this time, Williams moved to pick up Item b from the table, Jeffrey Minter seconded. No objections.

- D. Discussion and possible action to approve funds of up to \$750.00 for the RNC Holiday Party on December 17th, 2018.

After discussion, a roll call vote was taken, and the recommendation passed.

Vote Count: Yes 10, No 1 (Juarez), Abstain 0, Ineligible 1 (Lambert), Absent 2.

- E. Discussion and possible action to approve funds of up to \$18,000.00 for the lease of the RNC Community Space.

This item was voted on back on 8/20/18, so this item was already done.

- X. **Upcoming Agenda Items:** Possible future agenda items that Board Members or stakeholders would like to include on upcoming agendas should be directed to Reseda NC President, Anna Measles
- XI. **Tentative -Next Meeting:** 7:00pm, Mon. December 3, 2018 at Reseda NC Community Space 18118 Sherman Way, Reseda, CA 91335 (front half of Bank of America building).
- XII. **Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 10:33 PM.