

Minutes of the General Board Meeting of the

Reseda Neighborhood Council

Monday, July 16, 2018

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

I. **Meeting called to order** by Board President C.R. Cochrane at 7:02 PM.

**Pledge of Allegiance** was led by CR Cochrane.

II. **In attendance**, making a quorum: CR Cochrane, Anna Measles, J. Benjamin Johnson, Martin Buonora, Maggi Espada-Hernandez, Sharon Brewer, Joe Phillips, Priscilla Anchondo, Yassmin Flores, Narguess Noohi (arrived at 7:07 PM), and Jeffrey Minter. **Not in attendance:** Anthony Contreras, Gilbert Juarez, Cameron Lambert and Sarah Williams. All four submitted an explanation in writing and have been formally excused from the meeting.

III. **Introduction of City Employees and other visitors:**

a. **Denise E. Vargas**, LAPD Senior Lead Officer for the West Valley addressed the meeting. She is back from vacation, several things to share.

i. No Neighborhood Watch meeting in August due to the National Night Out with the LAPD West Valley Division on Tuesday, August 7 at Randall Simmons Park, 6pm-11pm. Flyers for the event are available on the table, there will be games, snacks and a raffle as well as discussions to address any and all concerns people might have, as would take place at a Neighborhood Watch meeting. The movie to be screened is Coco.

ii. Officer Vargas also announced another event, Coffee With a Cop, taking place on Wednesday, July 25 from 10am-12pm at the Starbucks at 6840 Reseda Blvd. (at Vanowen), open to all. It's a low key environment where people can discuss concerns.

iii. July 4<sup>th</sup> was very busy and fireworks concerns continue. She stated that if you know of folks setting off fireworks illegally, please continue to share that information with LAPD, they'll take action. LAPD is very active on Nextdoor.com, citizens can send concerns there.

b. **Cecilia Luna**, from the Victim Assistance program, she's the advocate assigned to LAPD West Valley, they offer victim services to victims of crimes (assault, domestic violence, robbery, etc.), they assist with court support, offer assistance to victims with out of pocket expenses, people can go into a police station and ask for help or contact the program directly via their web site [www.help4crimevictims.org](http://www.help4crimevictims.org) or calling at 213-978-4537. She also put out flyers on the table by the door.

IV. **Public Comment and Announcements:**

a. **Gisella**, a community organizer with Food and Water Watch addressed the meeting. She noted that in the past year there was a presentation at an RNC meeting by one of her

colleagues regarding motion 17-0447, and whether or not the council would submit a community impact statement. This passed the RNC, but the impact statement hasn't been sent in and the issue will be coming up soon, so she said she hoped to move forward with that process forward and have the council's support. Secretary Jeffrey Minter gave her his business card for following up.

V. **Executive Officer Reports:**

(a) **President – CR Cochrane** – Deferred her time to Vice President Anna Measles to speak.

(b) **Vice President – Anna Measles** – She was at the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners meeting today at City Hall, she distributed paperwork regarding the RNC Bylaws changes that were on the agenda. She noted that commissioners discussed community-interested stakeholders, and were talking about the eligibility of certain kinds of business owners to be on Neighborhood Councils, but this item was postponed to their next meeting.

Commissioner David Rue, spoke of changes to City Charter, with 12 agenda items he wanted changed, but sent a letter to the board saying he doesn't want a motion by the commissioners because he's still holding community meetings, once these meetings are done they'll discuss adding to the agenda.

Measles noted that the RNC has resubmitted the changes to the RNC bylaws a little late, and the bylaw election count was incorrect, plus there was no explanation about changing the age for the Youth members. Multiple commissioners voiced issues with the proposals. Measles noted earlier BONC meetings where help was asked for but not received. Measles noted requests from the commissioners regarding election results from the RNC May 2 meeting, there's missing information and certification. BONC will add these issues as agenda items for the next BONC meeting on August 20, so this issues and the items it covers needs to be on the next RNC meeting's agenda.

Measles also noted that If anyone isn't serving on a committee and wants to be, to please sign up on a sheet she passed.

(c) **Secretary – Jeffrey Minter** – He thanked everyone for their patience since he's new to the role and there hasn't been a Secretary for a while. He said the council needs to start a review of its standing rules so that agendas and items for meetings can run smoothly. He also noted that event planning needs to be improved going forward, planning further out in the future to give enough time for paperwork to get in, etc. Anna Measles noted that if DJ Frank (Bylaws Committee) doesn't have the standing rules set by mid-August, she'll follow up.

(d) **Treasurer – Gilbert Juarez** – Not present.

(e) **Sergeant-At-Arms – H. Benjamin Johnson** – Property crime, especially involving parked cars in the summertime, is ramping up, he advised people to keep items in cars out of sight to minimize temptation. As the seasons advance, he noted that people check car doors looking for places to sleep, so people need to remain vigilant. He will continue to update with crime statistics as information becomes available.

(f) **Parliamentarian – Sarah Williams** – Not present.

VI. **RNC Committee Reports:**

a. **Beautifying Reseda (ad hoc) – Yassmin Flores**

Flores spoke of the upcoming event on September 1 called Jump-Start Reseda. She asked anyone involved with a nonprofit and/or just interested in helping and wants to participate, contact her. More information to come, there will be things at the event regarding wellness, city resources, child ID efforts, lots of things going planned with more being added, she's working to make it a great event.

**b. Bylaws & Stand. Rules – DJ Frank**

Not present.

**c. Community Space – J. Benjamin Johnson**

Things are happening in the space that have a positive impact on the events happening there, the AC is working, bathroom being worked on, things are coming together. WIFI is planned to happen soon. He asked people to keep in mind the space is open to the public. He's planning a special meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup>, discussing what the RNC and the community want in this space, he wants to encourage more people to come and make use of the space.

He got an extension for the inventory, will be on the August 2 agenda for voting, so he asked the board members to keep an eye out for that.

**d. Disaster & Emergency Services – Larry Bowman**

**Garth Carlson** (reporting for Bowman) The committee's been working on CPR training class for August 4, hoping to have final approvals soon. They have a translator for Spanish and headphones, so it'll be a simultaneous class in both English and Spanish. If anyone is interested, contact him at [newsletter@resedacouncil.org](mailto:newsletter@resedacouncil.org), he can get people signed up.

**e. Economic Development – Garth Carlson**

Been working on multiple things, next meeting is Thursday, July 26, working on the agenda now.

**f. Finance – Gilbert Juarez**

Anna Measles spoke on behalf of Juarez, who wasn't present. She noted that the RNC is behind on our MERS, June's came out late and per Sharon Brewer the BAC for May hasn't been uploaded, hopefully funds won't be frozen. CR Cochrane noted that if Juarez can't do it, someone needs to step in, Measles says she can do it if need be and Vanessa Serrano will be here as a resource to help as well.

**g. Health & Wellness – Maggie Espada-Hernandez**

Espada-Hernandez noted that she's new to this role, so she's going through the protocol of bringing programs here. She stated that she'll work with Anna Measles. Espada-Hernandez brought up a program she's hoping to bring to the council, Learn to Live a Healthy Life, in conjunction with Northridge Hospital. It's a high-end course with professionals helping out, if anyone is interested let her know she'll update you. The

program is about managing ongoing health problems and health education. She's hoping to establish continuity so that the community gets used to these events and makes use of them.

**h. Homelessness Advocacy – Anthony Contreras**

Not present.

**i. Mobility & Environment – Joe Phillips**

Phillips stated that he thinks every day about ways to reduce consumption, hopes everyone else can too. He's looking to expand bike paths and other ways to make Reseda and the Valley safer for cyclists, pedestrians, everyone.

The next committee meeting will be August 13, all are welcome to attend.

He also reminded the council and stakeholders about the Clean-up event with the RNC and Victory Outreach West Valley, taking place on August 4, from 8am-10am. A flyer for the event is on the table near the door.

He also noted that the alley near the community site is overgrown, will need attention sooner or later.

**j. Newsletter – Garth Carlson**

The print deadline for the August newsletter is July 18, if anyone has anything to include, please send it. The newsletter gets put together, translated and printed by first of each month, but if a submission doesn't make it by the print deadline it'll go into the electronic edition. If anyone has events you may be associated with, anything appropriate to Reseda, send to him along with a flyer. Send whatever you can – there was some discussion about image conversion, Jeffrey Minter stated he can help.

**k. Outreach – H. Benjamin Johnson**

Johnson reported on the outreach workshop in downtown LA he attended to observe other committees and how they operate. He also would like to hear new ideas. Los Angeles is changing, things are becoming more digitized, city is using data more and more, as time goes on, he wants Reseda to be part of that future.

CR Cochrane reported on an outreach activity that took place this weekend regarding Fire Station 73, which had some renovations and added a new fire truck for less-pressing emergencies. She noted that Anna Measles and Yassmin made appearances. If there are other events such as this, please let the council know, it's good to make appearance and be a visible presence. We need to appear at all of these activities. She also committed to having a presence at the upcoming National Night Out and the upcoming Disaster Preparedness event.

**l. PLUM – D.J. Frank**

Frank was not present, but a related agenda item will be discussed in a presentation later in the meeting. Anna Measles noted at the next RNC meeting on August 2, on the

agenda will be discussion of the proposed Jewish Home Project of two new buildings for elder care.

VII. **Presentations/Announcements/ FYI:**

- a. The Reseda NC Committee on Mobility & Environment will introduce our guest speaker who will issue an update on the Aliso Canyon gas leak and consequential environmental community impact.

Joe Phillips introduced **Alexandra Nagy**, Senior Organizer from Food & Water Watch, who passed around some handouts and a petition regarding the Aliso Canyon/Porter Ranch gas leak from three years ago, which is still an issue.

News last week came out, regarding benzene exposure and gas leak lawsuits taking place. Expert testimony was given during a lawsuit that benzene levels are 9-10,000 times higher than acceptable standards. She noted that vents should be on when cooking with gas, as a lot of fumes are still present and dangerous.

She noted that pipelines are also a problem, and compared to pipeline repair statistics from around the world, the two-year timeline for repairs of pipelines in the Aliso Canyon/Porter Ranch area are far behind. People are getting sick. The Gas Company still doesn't have a report on the root cause of the leak. Regulators saying it's alright to re-open without that information, which is troubling.

She hopes to come back with reports of progress in September, and is pushing for an oversight hearing. She is hoping for a letter of support from the RNC.

She drew attention again to the petition she distributed to shut down the facility, and hopes people in attendance and council members will sign.

- b. Presentation: Spotlight on LA's homelessness crisis. Reseda residence and stakeholders will have the opportunity to hear more about one impressive agency whose approach to tackling homelessness is in high demand. Clean Streets Clean Start, by Diatra Greenaway is a nonprofit agency that has a unique success model to aid the homeless population towards employment and eventual housing. Board member, Diatra Greenaway will share the vision, goals and a few of the success stories of this dynamic agency.

Program Director Don Larson and Diatra Greenaway were unable to attend, so CR Cochrane described their program (which hires homeless people to help with neighborhood cleanups and pays them on the day of working). Cochrane noted that Larson wants to increase the area to include Reseda, and is hoping to partner in the future. They will submit an application for a grant from the RNC, more to come in the future.

- c. Vanessa Serrano spoke about the BONC update (which RNC Vice President Anna Measles spoke of earlier in the meeting), a handout was circulated. On June 18, BONC considered the RNC bylaw change, the item had been postponed and got tabled again today because the commissioners didn't feel comfortable due to incomplete information submitted by the RNC. Serrano detailed the plan for going forward. BONC will have a special meeting this coming Monday, so she'll need the meeting minutes from the April 2 meeting, a Board Action Certificate from the April 2 vote to change the bylaws, and a completed and signed application. Serrano also needs the May 7 meeting

minutes (where the packet was voted on and approved), BAC, and a completed and signed application. They need this by this special meeting this coming Monday, but the agenda setting meeting is tomorrow (7/17). A special RNC meeting needs to be set. Commissioners support adding youth members to the council, but also want set procedures to be followed. If this deadline isn't met, this is something that can happen for 2019 by May 2019. Serrano recommended having the documents prepared and ready for approval. Anna Measles stated she will email the meeting info to the RNC. A sample count was taken to see if a quorum can be met the coming Wednesday, with 7 members available. The absent members will be contacted and more notifications to the RNC on this will come. CR Cochrane highly recommended trying to make this happen and will email the council to confirm. Serrano noted that she is also available if anyone wants to talk to her about this issue, and encouraged anyone with questions to email her.

**VIII. Reseda Neighborhood Council Administrative Matters:**

- a. The Reseda Neighborhood Council Board has approved the resignation of Mr. David Garner, effective June 13, 2018. In accordance with the bylaws, any qualified "at-large stakeholder" may choose to run for the newly vacant seat any time after July 18th, 2018, and 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.

**Jeff Burton**, a new Reseda stakeholder, addressed the council and expressed interest in the vacant seat. He just purchased a house in Reseda, was a member of the Pico Neighborhood Council, in midtown. He was involved in multiple committees (including Land Use), organized CPR classes, and is a copywriter for a toy company. Council members encouraged him to return for the next meeting, as the election cannot happen until after July 18.

- b. The Reseda NC Board to discuss & consider approval of board General meeting minutes from 6/18/18 & 7/2/18.

After discussion, Jeffrey Minter moved to accept the minutes, Anna Measles seconded.

After a show of hands vote for the June 18 meeting minutes, the motion passed.

Vote count: Yes: 9, No: 1 (Brewer), Abstain: 1 (Buonora, who was not present at the June 18 meeting)

After a show of hands Vote for the July 2 meeting minutes, the motion passed.

Vote count: Yes: 9, No: 0, Abstain: 2 (Johnson, Noohi, who were not present at the Jul 2 meeting)

After a show of hands Vote for the July 2 special meeting minutes, the motion passed.

Vote count: Yes: 9, No: 1 (Brewer), Abstain: 1 (Johnson, who was not present at the Jul 2 meeting)

- c. The Reseda NC board to discuss and consider the following:
- i. approval of an appointment of an LA City Resiliency Liaison. CR Cochrane appointed Joe Phillips as the Resiliency Liaison and requested a board vote. Phillips described how he, CR Cochrane, Yassmin Flores & H. Benjamin Johnson attended a meeting at Mayor Garcetti's house where the Resiliency plan was rolled out. This is more than just disaster preparedness. He feels this is something the RNC needs to look at seriously and embrace. He referred to the upcoming Disaster Preparedness Fair in September, but said this kind of program and thinking goes further. This campaign is about preparing the city and establishing certain sites (CSUN has a site up and running), where in case of disaster, people can go there for communications and resources. The program is also trying to encourage Neighborhood Council's to have kits on site. Phillips will be the liaison and update the RNC on future developments. Discussion followed about rules of these sites being on public property, more to come as information becomes available and the program progresses.  
A show of hands vote to approve Joe Phillips as the LA City Resiliency Liaison for the RNC was taken and he was approved.  
Vote count: Yes: 10, No: 1 (Johnson)
  - ii. approval of chairs for the following committees: Outreach & PR, Youth & Senior Advocacy. CR Cochrane appointed H. Benjamin Johnson for the Outreach & PR position and requested a board vote.  
A show of hands to approve H. Benjamin Johnson as chair of the Outreach & PR, was taken and he was not approved.  
Vote count: Yes: 4 (Cochrane, Johnson, Narguess, Buonora), No 6 (Brewer, Anchondo, Espada-Hernandez, Flores, Measles and Phillips), Abstain 1 (Minter).
  - iii. approval of Anna Measles as member of the Economic Development committee, recommended by the committee.  
A show of hands vote to approve Anna Measles was taken and she was approved.  
Vote count: Yes: 10, No 1 (Johnson)
  - iv. approval of Cary Iacino's resignation from the Emergency Disaster Preparedness committee.  
A show of hands vote to approve Cary Iacino's resignation from the Emergency Disaster Preparedness committee was approved.  
Vote count: Unanimous (11)
  - v. approval of Arturo Galindo's removal from the Finance Committee for excessive absences.  
A show of hands vote to approve Arturo Galindo's removal from the Finance Committee was approved.  
Vote count: Unanimous (11)
  - vi. approval of David Garner's resignation from the Outreach Committee.  
A show of hands vote to approve David Garner's resignation from the Outreach Committee was approved.

Vote count: Unanimous (11)

Narguess Noohi left the meeting at 8:32.

- d. The Reseda NC board to discuss & consider the recommendation from PLUM to support the rehabilitation and reconstruction proposed for the McDonald's as presented to the PLUM committee, including the addition of an extra ordering kiosk, and enclosure of the play area. (Carlos Madrigal - McDonalds Area Construction Mgr.)

Summary: 18761 Sherman Way/7210 Geyser/18746 Cantlay. Improvement of existing Fast Food restaurant. McDonald's wishes to remodel existing restaurant (No Case# at this time).

**Carlos Madrigal**, McDonalds Area Construction Mgr. explained the planned work and showed elevations and architectural drawings. The restaurant will be closed for about five months, employees will be reassigned to other locations during construction. Joe Phillips asked about the parking situation on that site, noting how the alley gets blocked. Madrigal said new signage would be done, trying to minimize bother to the neighbors. Martin Buonora noted the distinction between franchisee and real estate, and expressed his opinion of the corporation. Priscilla Anchondo noted that this is the fifth McDonald's ever in California, there's something historic here, and a historic plaque has been promised. Anna Measles noted that the PLUM committee has approved this recommendation.

A show of hands was taken to approve the PLUM recommendation was taken.

Vote count: Yes: 9, No 1 (Buonora), the motion passes

- e. The Reseda NC board to discuss & consider the approval/denial of the annual payment of up to \$500.00 for our Outreach e-blast subscription: Constant Contact.

After discussion, a roll call vote was held to approve the annual payment of \$500.00 for the Outreach e-blast subscription to Constant Contact.

Vote count: Yes: 8, No 2 (Brewer, Minter), the motion passes.

- f. The Reseda NC board to discuss & consider the approval/denial of the Finance Committee's recommendation to approve funds up to \$175.00 for refreshments for the Jump-Start Reseda Event to be held on Saturday, September 1st, 2018, 9 AM to 1:30 PM (Yassmin Flores).

After discussion, a roll call vote was held to approve the Finance Committee's recommendation to approve funds up to \$175.00 for refreshments for the Jump-Start Reseda Event to be held on Saturday, September 1st, 2018, 9 AM to 1:30 PM.

Vote count: Yes: 9, No 1 (Brewer), the motion passes.

- g. The Reseda NC board to discuss & consider the approval/denial of the Finance Committee's recommendation to approve funds of up to \$100.00 for CPR/AED Class in Spanish and English scheduled for Saturday, August 4th, 2018 from 10 AM to 1 PM (Garth Carlson).

After discussion, a roll call vote was held to approve the Finance Committee's recommendation to approve funds of up to \$100.00 for CPR/AED Class in Spanish and English scheduled for Saturday, August 4th, 2018 from 10 AM to 1 PM.

Vote count: Yes: 9, No 1 (Brewer), the motion passes.

- h. The Reseda NC board to discuss & consider the approval/denial of the Finance Committee's recommendation to approve funds of up to \$100.00 for a Clean-up on August 4th, 2018, 8 AM to 10 AM (Joe Phillips).

After discussion, a roll call vote was held to approve the Finance Committee's recommendation to approve funds of up to \$100.00 for a Clean-up on August 4th, 2018, 8 AM to 10 AM.

Vote count: Yes: 9, No 1 (Brewer), the motion passes.

- i. The Reseda NC board to discuss & consider the approval/denial of the Finance Committee's recommendation to approve funds of up to \$25.00 to purchase hanging files for the office file cabinets (Jeffrey Minter).

After discussion, a roll call vote was held to approve the Finance Committee's recommendation to approve funds of up to \$25.00 to purchase hanging files for the office file cabinets.

Vote count: Unanimous (10), the motion passes.

- j. The Reseda NC board to discuss & consider the approval/denial of the Finance Committee's recommendation to approve funds of up to \$200.00 for the monthly WIFI and/or internet services/subscription for the RNC Community Space facility from Spectrum Cable Company.

After discussion, a roll call vote was held to approve the Finance Committee's recommendation to approve funds of up to \$200.00 for the monthly WIFI and/or internet services/subscription for the RNC Community Space facility from Spectrum Cable Company.

Vote count: Yes: 9, No 1 (Brewer), the motion passes.

- k. The Reseda NC Board to discuss and site a motion to review, approve, and certify the Reseda Neighborhoods Council's Inventory list as correct and complete, containing all items in the possession of Reseda NC, as reported to the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment during Fiscal Year 2017-2018.

This item is postponed at this time as an extension until August 15 has been granted.

- IX. **Upcoming Agenda Items:** Possible future agenda items that Board Members would like to include on upcoming agendas should be directed to the Reseda NC President, CR Cochrane or Vice President, Anna Measles.

- X. **Tentative -Next Meeting:** 7:00pm, Mon. August 6, 2018 . Reseda NC Community Space 18118 Sherman Way, Reseda, CA 91335 (front half of Bank of America building).

Note: Dates of Future Meetings: Tentative APPROVED General Board meeting dates are the first and third Monday of each month.

- XI. **Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.