

Minutes of the Regular General Board Meeting of the

Reseda Neighborhood Council

Monday, November 5, 2018

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

- I. **Meeting called to order** by Board President C.R. Cochrane at 7:09 PM.
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance** was led by Gilbert Juarez.
- III. **Roll Call – In attendance**, making a quorum: CR Cochrane, Anna Measles, Jeffrey Minter, Gilbert Juarez, , Sarah Williams, Priscilla Anchondo, Sharon Brewer, Martin Buonora, Anthony Contreras, Yassmin Flores, Cameron Lambert and Joe Phillips. **Not in attendance:** J. Benjamin Johnson, Jeff Girten, Maggi Espada-Hernandez (had emailed she would arrive late)
- IV. **Introduction of City Employees and other visitors:**  
No public officials in attendance.
- V. **Public Comment and Announcements:**
  - A. **Cricket Jones Halpern**, of the MARY Foundation addressed the council to thank the RNC for their donation for the event they had. It was a successful event, and they are grateful.
  - B. **Eric Tygo**, Outreach Mission Director and a Minister at the Reseda Church of Christ addressed the council. They are implementing plans for the neighborhood to encourage youth, also hoping to assist the poor, homeless with transitional shelters, caring for people sick in hospitals and facilities, also sober living homes, jail and prisons. This ministry is called Reach, their mission in Reseda is to help the community. This coming Sunday, they're recognizing service; LAPD, Fire Dept and all the businesses that have contributed, will be recognized with plaques, 11/11 at 10:15 am. He has handouts to pass around. He thanked council for having him, looking forward to doing great things for the Reseda area, make the community better, safer for all. He would like to have what they call a Great Day of Service on a Sunday TBD, starting at 8:00 am, to do cleanups, help out, etc. He and Joe Phillips have exchanged information. Priscilla Anchondo noted an upcoming Vision Zero open house event his organization would be interested in on the 15<sup>th</sup>, through Bob Blumenfield's office.
- VI. **Officer Reports:**
  - A. President C.R. Cochrane:  

Cochrane read a letter from H. Benjamin Johnson, requesting a leave of absence due to the class he's taking which has caused his absences. He will return when his schedule opens up. He said he would return by December 17. Gilbert Juarez has submitted a letter of resignation from the position of Treasurer, but that will be addressed later in the meeting. The RNC has a new funding representative effective 10/22, Pada Posada. She will be communicating with the RNC about funding. She has gotten quite a few

communications this week, and has referred them to appropriate committee heads. The resignation of Jeff Girtten and the legal issues inherent were noted. There is a process for releasing his letter, going through the RNC's attorney for redacting confidential information, and that process is being followed. Before the end of the night she will read his letter. The RNC received correspondence from AtoZ Printing, along with more correspondence from Janet Hernandez with the City Clerk's office. Paperwork was assembled and submitted, but there have been some issues to clarify, such as handwriting on an invoice incorrectly attributed to Cochrane (it was the vendor) and some confusion over two different amounts of the invoice, which Cochrane noted as \$226.72. These will be addressed when the item comes up on the agenda. Also there have been some concerns about how the agenda is assembled, the process was recommended by Vanessa Serrano; agendas are done by the President and VP, which are reflected in the bylaws, Secretary Jeffrey Minter disagreed. Some neighbors inquired about things going on in the neighborhood, who have been referred to the appropriate Committee heads. She referred to a resident named Bruce Abrams about lack of parking due to granny flats, referred to DJ Frank and the PLUM Committee. Also, a man named Kenny Navarro attended CPR classes and never got a certificate, this has been referred over to Garth Carlson on the Disaster Prep Committee. The RNC also received an inquiry from Dr. Gina Thornberg with one of the housing associations about transit neighborhood plans, she has been referred over to Joe Phillips on Mobility and Environment. Also, they received a referral from a film called 'The Advocate' dealing with homelessness, referred over to Anthony Contreras on the Homelessness Committee. Also, received a bill from Apple One, referred to Treasurer Juarez and the Finance Committee. Jeffrey Minter moved to call the order of the day, Cochrane said she was almost finished, Minter moved to appeal the chair's ruling and Cochrane asked for a second, Yassmin Flores seconded. Cochrane stated she would give the remainder of her report in writing, if there are no objections.

B. Vice President Anna Measles:

Measles distributed a hard copy of an email that she had received on a thread, she was disturbed by the wording of a threat in an email from CR. She asked who had contributed to the email, Gilbert Juarez said he had. Measles thinks his wording was incorrect and hurtful, she thinks Jeffrey Minter and Sarah Williams and the entire board is due an apology. Cochrane attempted to respond, Minter appealed the ruling, Williams seconded. Measles believes an apology is due. Yassmin Flores stated she believes that Cochrane was incorrectly speaking for everyone on the board (at this point there were many raised voices/constant crosstalk, very difficult to transcribe). Williams referred to "lies and disrespect," in the aforementioned email, Garth Carlson said this is not the place for this, Jeffrey Minter said he didn't care because this is destroying his life and left the building. (lots of crosstalk, shouting). Williams referred to statements in the email about Minter and drug use and volatility, a male voice says the letter is a lie, Cochrane disputed this statement. At some point Minter returned. Cochane said she would read Jeff Girtten's resignation letter, which she said reinforces some of her statements, but Williams referred to an instance after a prior meeting where Cochrane stayed after conferring with someone (hard to tell on recording) until midnight, and

Williams stated that she can't stand the lies anymore, it's crazy. Eric Tyco, the Minister who addressed the council before, spoke of peace and unity, apologizing (despite this being his first meeting) on behalf of whoever offended anyone. Cochrane noted that this is the VP's report and this issue should be addressed separately, not part of a report. Minter stated that he's lost sleep and missed classes due to this situation, which he called insane. He told Cochrane he wasn't listening to her. Cochrane stated that board needs to be mature and professional, sparking anger from Minter. (more crosstalk/shouting)

Measles returned to her report, noting that chairs of committees should seek more members from the community, and addressed Minter saying she wants him around. Minter asked why then, does he have to listen to criticisms of him by the board. (more crosstalk/raised voices) Cochrane said that she isn't used to the level of disrespect, which generated more outbursts from Minter, who said he didn't care about Cochrane's opinions and accused her of lying on agendas and stated he'd probably quit over this situation unless the officers are replaced. Robert Vogel noted that the wording in the email in question is the problem, creating confusion. There was more interrupting/crosstalk/yelling from various members of the board. Cochrane noted that the letter was in reference to Minter's behavior, Williams said the email was defamatory, there were heated exchanges and crosstalk over this, Juarez noted that this would all be better handled in a different time and place. More crosstalk/heated interruptions. No resolution was reached and Juarez began his Treasurer's report.

C. Treasurer Gilbert Juarez:

Finance Committee meeting is tomorrow at 6:00 pm. He'll discuss his resignation when the agenda item comes up.

D. Sergeant-at-Arms J. Benjamin Johnson:

Not present.

E. Secretary Jeffrey Minter:

He hasn't been able to do his duties, because he believes the president prevents him from doing his duties, assembling and posting agendas. Stress due to the letter discussed above has affected his life.

F. Parliamentarian Sarah Williams:

We should follow our bylaws, it's something we should be doing. We shouldn't beg our officers or members to follow the bylaws. We shouldn't be speaking on behalf of the board. She noted the difference between agenda setting and agenda drafting. Cochrane asked Anna Measles to read the bylaws regarding agendas, which she did. Minter disagreed with their interpretation. There was discussion over a conference call with Vanessa and Semee and disagreement over the content of the call and how procedures are being followed. Cochrane said the discussion is going off-topic and Minter used a point of order motion to appeal Cochrane's ruling. There was no second. Cochrane noted this matter is not on the agenda, there are people here to make presentations so let's move forward. Martin Buonora noted that there are methods in the bylaws to handle disagreements, rather than shouting over each other in meetings. Measles

referred to the agenda sections of the standing rules and there was more disordered (multiple people interrupting/speaking over each other) debate over the standing rules versus the bylaws, and if earlier statements by Serrano referred to by Cochrane were still valid because standing rules changing those procedures had been voted on by the board since Cochrane had spoken to Serrano. Cochrane and Minter accused each other of being part of the problem, with Cochrane referring to Minter's outbursts and level of disrespect and Minter saying he didn't care and that the majority of the board agreed with him.

VII. Committee Reports:

1. Planning and Land Use Management (PLUM) – D.J. Frank  
Met last week to discuss a development, but the developer wasn't able to meet, more to come on this in December. He referred to a planned elder care facility which will also be discussed. He invites anyone to attend the December meeting.
2. By-laws & Standing Rules – D.J. Frank  
Meeting later this month, and from what he's hearing, he thinks agenda-setting policy can be clarified and locked down. To be discussed at the meeting. Other suggestions for standing rules, send to him.
3. Youth & Senior Advocacy – Carmen Winston  
Not present
4. Community Space – Robert Vogel  
He referenced agenda items coming up later in the meeting. This weekend is a cleanup of the back room, anyone can help. 9:00 am this Saturday. Next meeting is on the 15<sup>th</sup>, send him any agenda items for that meeting if you have them.
5. Disaster & Emergency Services/Community Safety – Larry Bowman  
Not present.
6. Economic Development – Garth Carlson  
Not present.
7. Finance – Gilbert Juarez  
There's a meeting tomorrow at 6:00 pm.
8. Health & Wellness – Maggi Espada-Hernandez  
Yassmin Flores spoke on her behalf. On 11/17 from 1-4:00 pm there will be a health and wellness event, it will include lots of things of interest to all from youth to seniors, if anyone wants to participate/help out, let Espada-Hernandez or Flores know.
9. Homelessness Advocacy – Anthony Contreras  
Nothing to report.
10. Mobility & Environment – Joe Phillips  
Meeting next Monday, he doesn't have a full agenda, but primary item will be the problem he perceives about food trucks in Reseda. They don't provide toilets and he believes this is an issue for both environment and mobility (they block traffic, etc.), he wants to think and talk about. If you have opinions about food trucks, come to the meeting. Cochrane recommended talking to Garth Carlson about putting that item into the newsletter to attract more people to come talk about it.

11. Outreach – Sarah Williams

Main item they're working on is the holiday lights. A joint Outreach/Elections meeting will take place on the 13<sup>th</sup>, the regular meeting is on 11/27, at 7pm. Also, committee chairs are developing the website, if chairs of committees have goals, send to her.

12. Ad Hoc Election – Priscilla Anchondo

The elections are Sunday 5/19/19, half of the board is up for elections at that time. These are voted on by community, there's a special meeting next week with the goal of having more outreach to the community to get involved, change the flavor of how things work. Cochrane noted an email recently that stated more people were involved in 2014 than 2016, Anchondo says that's because of online voting, but goal is to double the numbers.

**VIII. Presentations and Announcements:**

**Presentation – Safe Parking:** Safe Parking is a Program designed to allow individuals friends and family members of those who are experiencing homelessness direction to an organized place to park safely and rest. Executive Director Dr. Scott Sale and Program Director Emily Kantrim will address concerns including costs, hours, City Government Support, and sanitation management **Emily Kantrim** addressed the council, she comes from a NC board of 35 so she understands conflicts. There are 8,900 people living in their vehicles right now. She noted that it's not legal to sleep inside a vehicle you yourself own. They try to acknowledge that people stay in the neighborhood where they work, or their kids go to school. She noted that from the last homeless count, more people living in cars than in tents or on the sidewalks. One thing Safe Parking does is to have a multiple stage vetting/application process, where they identify people seeking help. Her org is a front line in this situation and what they want to do is capture those at risk and find underutilized parking lots where people can be safe at night, and that's what she's here to talk about, looking for help identifying lots in Reseda and the Valley. Public spaces can be activated. Onsite sanitations can be provided, and also provide security guards, also becomes a benefit for the community. This also provides security for the community. Pre-school, day care, etc., provided. They run 5 of the 7 programs in LA, they work with LASA, lots of orgs, they work with the VA. Now people can sleep in vehicles at VA lots. She passed out a FAQ sheet. They have thus far had zero calls to LAPD or complaints where they've done lots, and have served approximately 90 people. She's happy to take emails, calls, questions, etc. Stipends are offered for private lots on a per-month basis. Changing the law was discussed. Joe Phillips noted at a meeting with Councilmember Blumenfield's staff, there were several lots proposed to be future housing, as well as other lots. Kantrim noted she'd reach out to Blumenfield's office. She fielded other questions about how her organization works and other details.

**Announcement – California Election Day is Tuesday, November 6, 2018.** The polls are open from 7am thru 8pm PST. For voting questions: [www.LAvote.net](http://www.LAvote.net) or call (800)815-2666 to learn about Voters registration, polling places, sample ballots, multilingual services, or finding other election information.

**Announcement – Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti's Office of Economic Development presents "LA Women's Entrepreneurship Day 2018, Pathways to Prosperity" Monday, November 19th 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. City Hall. Please RSVP for this free event (open to the public) at [LAWED2018.Eventbrite.com](http://LAWED2018.Eventbrite.com)**

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

1. The Reseda neighborhood Council will discuss the general board meeting agenda preparation process.

During the presentation prior, Anna Measles and DJ Frank were having a separate side discussion about how the process needs to be more specific, the language needs straightening out in the Standing Rules. Cochrane suggested that people should attend the next Standing Rules Committee meeting. She noted that the bylaw update goes in next May, and needs to be resubmitted. Cochrane noted that when preparing the agenda and Jeffrey Minter was involved, for her it became high-stress, which is when Vanessa Serrano recommended an easier way to do this. Minter said that due to bylaws being written in the same way as the LA Charter is, he doesn't understand why he isn't more involved in the drafting. It should be made clear. Minter moved that the Secretary drafts the agendas, Yassmin Flores seconded, however, as Sharon Brewer pointed out that the agenda item states discussion, there's no voting. Cochrane disagreed with the proposal due to the stressful nature of doing the agenda with Minter, with constant interruptions and disagreements. Martin Buonora said if the process defines the procedure, shouldn't that defray the stress? There was crosstalk/interruptions/difficult to transcribe. Cochrane said that when Minter is included, the process takes two stressful days, but when it's just Cochrane and Measles it takes about 5 hours. More crosstalk/interruptions. At this time Eric Tyco asked if he could be excused and left the meeting (despite not needing permission), and said he would pray for the council. Flores said she would like the process to start with Minter and then go to Cochrane and Anna Measles. More crosstalk/interruptions. There was discussion of how previous drafts went, with Measles speaking off microphone, difficult to hear.

2. The Reseda Neighborhood Council will discuss approve/deny the **resignation** of the office of **Treasurer**, which is currently held by Board member Gilbert Juarez. Juarez stated he first joined the board, he wanted to improve the community and help out. He became the Treasurer to learn and reflecting on his stress or the stress of others, he referred to his resignation letter, recommending Sharon Brewer replace him. Ideally, he'd like to serve on an ad hoc immigration committee or just help with events. The status of the RNC's funds and uploading was discussed, and he will upload the August MER. He will not be serving on the Finance Committee. There was discussion about pending Finance issues and the timing of his resignation. To make the transition easier, he will make his effective resignation date will be a month from today. More discussion followed and this item was then postponed.
3. The Reseda Neighborhood Council Board has approved the **resignation** of Ms. Narguess Noohi effective September 24, 2018. In accordance with the bylaws, any qualified "**at-large stakeholder**" may choose to run for the newly vacant seat anytime after **October 24, 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. An application was received by Robert Vogel. Priscilla Anchondo nominated Vogel, Gilbert Juarez seconded and after a show of hands vote was taken and he was voted in unanimously. He was sworn in.  
Vote Count: Yes 12, No 0, Abstain 0, Absent 2 (Girten, Espada-Hernandez)

4. The Reseda neighborhood Council Board will discuss, approve/deny the **resignation** of board member 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 anytime **after November 17, 2018**, 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, and who is 18 years of age.

CR Cochrane read Girten’s letter of resignation to the council. Cochrane noted the Brown Act, saying the digital component of that act requires caution in how the information is disseminated. Sharon Brewer noted that since it’s on today’s agenda, there should be time for outreach, therefore a replacement member should be elected after 30 days from this meeting. There was confusion about the 30 day window and when it begins. Cochrane said she will research it. Joe Phillips moved to accept Girten’s letter, Anthony Contreras seconded. After a show of hands vote, his resignation was approved by unanimous vote, including new member Rob Vogel.

Vote Count: Yes 13, No 0, Abstain 0, Absent 1 (Espada-Hernandez)

5. Per recommendation of **The NC Funding Division**: the Reseda NC board to discuss and consider the request of the submission of the April 2, 2018 invoice from A to Z Printing Company and the documents requested on the invoice. There was extensive discussion and attempted clarification of interactions with this vendor and getting written proof of what had taken place, including multiple instances of crosstalk and interruptions, and disputes over characterizations of the vendor interaction. Sarah Williams asked what the council was voting on, Cochrane clarified this item is for the sake of transparency and the documents for the Funding Division. Cardholder Flores believes the vendor had been told by Cochrane that the vendor didn’t need to show the work completely, but Cochrane disputed that statement. Sharon Brewer wanted to know what items were printed that the invoice refers to. Joe Phillips wants to figure out why there are different amounts referred to on different invoices, \$226 or \$187, he noted there are many disagreements of opinion, and he also stated that his past interactions with this vendor were problematic. Cochrane said tonight’s vote was verifying the information to send to Janet Hernandez (or whoever the rep is). There was more discussion and confusion over this issue and no vote was taken.
6. The Reseda NC Board to discuss & consider approval of board **General meeting minutes** from 9/17/18 & 10/01/18, & any prior (unapproved) minutes. (prev. postponed) This item was postponed as the 10/1 minutes were not yet available.
7. The Reseda NC board to discuss and consider the following **Finance Committee** recommendations:
  - a. Discussion and possible action to approve MERs (Monthly Expense Report), for August 2018, and any prior/unapproved MERS. (prev. postponed) After moving ahead on the agenda to give members time to look over the MERs and then discussion, a roll call vote was taken and the recommendation passed.  
Vote Count: Yes 7, No 3 (Brewer, Minter, Williams), Abstain 2 (Flores, Vogel), Absent 2 (Espada-Hernandez, Johnson). Note – at some point before this vote, Cameron Lambert left the meeting (unclear on recording).

- b. Discussion and possible action to approve payment of an invoice of Sierra Installation of \$593.55 for 10 “Toppers” (holiday lighters which connect to the lights to the poles and are part of the process of connecting the holiday lights) used for the 2017 holiday lights. (prev. postponed) After extensive discussion clarifying this item, the vendor’s non-City-approved status, how a vote has to take place approving or not approving invoices by the board, regardless of the circumstances and ancillary points not part of this item (whether or not these lights steal electricity), a roll call vote was taken and the recommendation was not approved.  
Vote Count: Yes 2, No 8 (Brewer, Buonora, Cochrane, Contreras, Flores, Measles, Minter, Vogel), Abstain 2 (Juarez, Williams), Ineligible 1 (Lambert – Note – this vote took place before the vote in item a above, but still unclear from the recording when Lambert left the meeting), Absent 2 (Espada-Hernandez, Johnson).
  - c. Discussion and possible action to approve \$4900. for MySafe: LA NPG (prev. postponed). This item was postponed.
  - d. Discussion and possible action to approve \$5000. for Clean Streets Clean Start NPG (prev. postponed). This item was postponed.
8. The Reseda NC board to discuss and consider the following **Community Space Committee** recommendations:
- a. Discussion and possible action to approve the American Red Cross to meet every 4th Wednesday of each month starting November 28, 2018.  
A show of hands vote was taken, and the recommendation passed unanimously.
  - b. Discussion and possible action to approve the AARP to conduct their Income tax preparation class and tax services beginning in January 2019.  
A show of hands vote was taken, and the recommendation passed.  
Vote Count: Yes 12, No 0, Abstain 1 (Williams), Absent 2 (Espada-Hernandez, Johnson)
  - c. Discussion and possible action to approve a Reseda NC Clean-Up of the Backroom of the Community Site on Saturday, November 10, 2018 at 10:00 am.  
A show of hands vote was taken, and the recommendation passed.  
Vote Count: Yes 12, No 0, Abstain 1 (Brewer), Absent 2 (Espada-Hernandez, Johnson)
9. The Reseda NC board to discuss & consider the recommendations from the **Emergency Disaster and Safety Committee**:
- a. Discussion and possible action to approve the resignation of Priscilla Anchondo from the Emergency, Disaster and Safety Committee  
After discussion a show of hands vote was taken, and the recommendation passed unanimously.
  - b. Discussion and possible action to approve the removal of Larry Bowman from the Emergency, Disaster & Safety Committee, and also as Chair, due to excessive absences. This item was postponed.

10. The Reseda NC board to discuss and consider the recommendation from the **Outreach and Public Relations Committee:**

- a. To continue to move forward with holiday lights installation, if permitting and installation preparations are resolved by the first November General board meeting.

After lengthy discussion (with a fair amount of crosstalk and separate conversations) and clarification, including the points that various city agencies are involved, the permitting issues, banners as opposed to lights, where old banners are being stored, the number of poles used and how to identify them, and that work on next year's display should begin as soon as possible, a show of hands vote was taken and the recommendation passed.

Vote Count: Yes 10, No 1 (Flores), Abstain 1 (Williams), Absent 3 (Espada-Hernandez, Johnson, Lambert)

11. The Reseda NC Board to discuss and consider the motion regarding discussion of the removal of Board Member J. Benjamin Johnson, for excessive absences. (previously postponed)

There was extended, heated discussion, including notation of how the board didn't get Johnson's letter earlier, a circumstance which led to this motion, where the onus of communication lies (with Johnson or a particular board member he had communicated with, in this case Cochrane), past board practices in similar circumstances, speculations as to his circumstances and motivations. Cochrane stated that censure before removal would be appropriate but is troubled with the push for removal. Joe Phillips referred to the damage the David Garner situation caused and said he'd address his upcoming absence for surgery ahead of it, rather than after the fact. There was dispute about the comparison between Johnson and Garner. Sharon Brewer provided data regarding everyone's missed meetings, including Johnson. There was a breakdown in decorum, with frequent crosstalk, interruptions, raised voices and disputes over procedures. The meeting devolved into chaos, with screaming, profanity and insults. At somewhere around, 10:30 (time not spoken), Cochrane rapped the gavel and adjourned the meeting. Minter and others can be heard on the recording trying to continue the meeting, and apparently (difficult to determine on the recording) enough members left that there was no longer a quorum.

12. The Reseda NC Board to discuss and consider the recommendation of a new Ad-Hoc Committee entitled "Immigration Reform and Advocacy"

Due to the meeting's adjournment above, this item was not addressed.

- X. **Upcoming Agenda Items:** Possible future agenda items that Board Members or stakeholders would like to include on upcoming agendas should be directed to the Reseda NC President, CR Cochrane or Vice President, Anna Measles.
- XI. **Tentative -Next Meeting:** 7:00pm, Mon. November 19<sup>th</sup>, 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 somewhere near 10:30 PM.