

Wilshire Center Koreatown Neighborhood Council
General Board Meeting Minutes
12/11/23 @ 5:30 pm
Pio Pico Library, 694 S. Oxford Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90005

Call to order.

1. **roll call:** At 5:35 quorum reached – meeting commenced.

Board Members	Present	Absent	Excused
Saidur Rahman			x
Nathan Kim	x		
Sandra Choi			x
Samuel Suh	x		
Shazia Hoq	x		
Jennifer Chung			x
Mark Lee	x		
Erica Chung	x		
Ryan Min			x
Nojan Haddadi	x		
Kyungho Hwang	x		
Hoyle Kang	x		
Un Ji Lee		x	
Hu Ki Ryu	x		
Becky Bae	x		
Bill Robinson	x		
Md Omar Faruque		x	
Audrey Han	x		
Claire Cannon		x	
Ko Eun Hwang Ssara	x		
Lillian Han	x		
Timothy Kwak			x

2. Community Reports & Announcements

- a. LAPD Senior Lead Officers in attendance:

Senior Lead Officer Harry Cho – Normandie to Western, San Marino to Pico between Western and Crenshaw Wilshire down to Pico.

Acting Senior Lead: Frank Guzman - Normandie to Vermont from Beverly to 5th is Guzman's main area for December and January

Senior Lead Officer - Albert Vazquez: south end 8th to Pico- Hoover to Vermont San Marino to Normandie.

Ofc. Cho commented that he is responsible for only a small portion of WCKNC so to inquire about a specific incident go to Olympic Community Police station online to locate lead officer for that area. Ofc. Cho explained that he and other senior police officers are there for the community NC's to reach out for questions or comments.

Ofc. Cho addresses concern regarding car theft. Kia and Hyundai have developed software that prevents thefts using a USB cable. The passport patch is only available at the dealership. Ofc Cho also addressed the citywide epidemic of smash and grab thefts (specifically in his area near Western and Pico (Shoe Warehouse). Alarms and surveillance cameras are imperative. They are the only way the perpetrators can be apprehended. It is almost impossible to track the thieves without visual identification.

Ofc. Cho also commented on the tandem parking thefts in the Wilshire Center/Koreatown residential area. These spaces are located one in front of the other, which means that the person in the back has to move their car if the person in the front space wants to pull out. If there is anything left in the car to attract attention there is a good chance the car will be burgled. If the thief finds the keys to the other car he will simply move on to the other car. It is imperative to spread the word to maintain vigilance.

Public comment.

Stakeholder who is researching drug addiction asked about current drug policy. Ofc. Cho responded that drug users are not receiving treatment because there are no resources. When drug use was a felony the user went in front of the judge and was given a choice of six months in rehab or three years in prison. Currently drug use is a misdemeanor which is the equivalent of a ticket with no consequences.

Public comment

Stakeholder Joseph Lee commented that his property has been vandalized many times and asked what could be done. **Ofc. Cho responded:** notify senior lead, contact council district and schedule outreach meeting. (Ofc. Cho offered his personal opinion that current policy is ineffective. "We have a drug problem not a homeless problem." More resources for drug rehab centers are needed. The majority of mental issues related to drugs.

. **Shazia commented:** A girl walking on a street at night, on her cellphone was hit in the back of her head. What can be done to prevent this kind of assault? Ofc. Cho responded by pointing out that there are simply not enough officers to effectively patrol all areas of the city. There are only eight thousand officers patrolling a very large area. He recommended not walking alone if possible and keeping in brightly lit areas. Also be attentive and alert when alone at any time.

b. City and Government Agencies

Alan Antonio for Council district 10 Latino Liaison reports that on **December 16, 2023**, Council District 10 is hosting the **Koreatown Snow Day**. There will be tons of snow, carnival rides and food. The event is from 3 pm to 9 pm at **(location?)**.

Mark Lee comments: There have been complaints about blocking the streets. The WCKNC was not informed about the event and was unable to comment on the inconvenience. He also pointed out that the WCKNC serves the community like the Council, he recommends a fluid open door policy of sharing important information such as large events like the Snow Day. President, Mark Lee officially commented that the WCKNC should be advised of and included in District 10 events.

Bill Robinson comments: There are also independent NGOs such as the YMCA and others that service the multilingual community that can be included in community events.

Public Comment: Rae, YMCA representative agrees that there are many community organizations that would be willing to be involved in District events like Snow Day. Involving the community strengthens the community.

No Public Comment

4. General Public Comments

Comments from the public on non-agenda items within the board’s subject matter jurisdiction.

Public comments are limited to two minutes per speaker (2 min.).

No Public Comments

5. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meetings for October 16th and November 13th.

First: Bill Robinson - Second: Nojan Haddadi. Minutes approved.

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Ineligible
Saidur Rahman				x	
Nathan Kim	x				
Sandra Choi				x	
Samuel Suh	x				
Shazia Hoq	x				
Jennifer Chung				x	
Mark Lee	x				
Erica Chung					x
Ryan Min				x	
Nojan Haddadi	x				
Kyungho Hwang	x				
Hoyle Kang	x				
Un Ji Lee				x	
Hu Ki Ryu	x				
Becky Bae					

Bill Robinson	X				
Md Omar Faruque				X	
Audrey Han	X				
Claire Cannon				X	
Ko Eun Hwang Ssara	X				
Lillian Han	X				
Timothy Kwak				X	

6. Discussion and possible action to approve of the Monthly Expenditure Reports (MER) from August, September, October and November 2023.

First: Bill Robinson - Second: Nojan Haddadi. MER for the mentioned months approved.

Ko Eun Hwang, Treasurer comment: MER should be submitted and approved monthly.

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Abstain
Saidur Rahman				X	
Nathan Kim	X				
Sandra Choi				X	
Samuel Suh	X				
Shazia Hoq	X				
Jennifer Chung				X	
Mark Lee	X				
Erica Chung					X
Ryan Min				X	
Nojan Haddadi	X				
Kyungho Hwang	X				
Hoyle Kang	X				
Un Ji Lee				X	
Hu Ki Ryu	X				
Becky Bae	X				
Bill Robinson	X				
Md Omar Faruque				X	
Audrey Han	X				
Claire Cannon				X	
Ko Eun Hwang Ssara	X				
Lillian Han	X				
Timothy Kwak				X	

7. Committee Reports

a. Executive

Meets first week of the month

b. Budget & Finance

No meeting

c. Rules & Bylaws

Will begin in February

d. Outreach, Communications & Elections

Per Becky Bae; committee needs one more board member to create recommendations

e. Planning & Land Use Management

K. Hwang needs help on many fronts.

f. Sustainability & Beautification

Will meet next month.

g. Homelessness, Tenant Rights, & Poverty

No meeting

h. Transportation & Public Safety

Will meet next month

i. Economic Development

No meeting

8. Discussion and possible action on the three website bids to select vendor. The budget is \$5000. This proposal has been on the table for six months but with no resolution. Nathan Kim and Samuel Suh are passionate about this topic and are eager to move forward. Board discussed it last month, and the proposal materials and bids were emailed to all board members.

First Bid:

James **Okendo**, local Korean vendor

Experience: software engineer:

Fifteen years of professional experience

Seven years **Name Company**

Contracted with UCLA

Four years with E-Commerce

Offering: Multi-lingual text, social media links, event pages, contact forms, google maps, video, document uploads. SEO and analytics. Proposing a four-week project with three design iterations. Then testing and deployment of final design. Add-on and plug-ins included in the total cost of \$2000. Also, a \$300 to \$600 hosting fee per year.

Nojan Haddadi asks: Will the Wordpress theme be customized. Also, when the Wordpress program becomes out of date will you update the site and can we use an independent host provider. **James Okendo:** The Wordpress theme will be customized, also the council can use independent hosting.

Samuel Suh asks: **Copyright.?** Is a cellphone editable app included in the proposed cost.

John Okendo answer: Access only is available on cellphones and included in the cost. Two apps would have to be designed, for android and iphone. **Mark Lees asks** if delivery could be reduced

to three and half weeks instead of four. **Okendo responds:** that it might be challenging but I will try.

No Public Comment

Bid #2: Local Korean vendor

Second bidder was not in attendance.

Shazia Hoq commented: If the vendor did not show up, he should not be considered.

Bid #3: Not local lives in Florida

Samuel Suh researched this vendor. It is a startup. The total cost is \$1800, \$200 less than the first bidder. Included in the cost is an editable mobile app.

Bill Robinson asks: Which vendors are local? Bids #1 and #2 are local #3 is in Florida.

Public Comment: KYCC representative recommends first bidder. Suspicious of the low price that includes an editable app which is usually much more expensive. Would pick experience over less experience.

Nojan Haddadi comments: Working with Disney which uses interactive apps is a great advantage.

Motion for bid #1

First: Nojan Haddadi – Second: Bill Robinson. Motion passed

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Abstain
Saidur Rahman				X	
Nathan Kim	X				
Sandra Choi				X	
Samuel Suh		X			
Shazia Hoq	X				
Jennifer Chung				X	
Mark Lee	X				
Erica Chung					X
Ryan Min				X	
Nojan Haddadi	X				
Kyungho Hwang	X				
Hoyle Kang	X				
Un Ji Lee					
Hu Ki Ryu	X				
Becky Bae	X				
Bill Robinson	X				
Md Omar Faruque				X	
Audrey Han	X				
Claire Cannon				X	
Ko Eun Hwang Ssara	X				
Lillian Han	X				
Timothy Kwak				X	

9. Discussion and possible action to approve an NPG (Neighborhood Purpose Grant) for YMCA food distribution program at Anderson Munger Family YMCA for \$2000.

Rae Linn Executive Director of Anderson Munger Family YMCA gives five-minute presentation:

Passes out outline of what the facility offers such as fitness equipment, showers for the homeless, vaccinations etc even during the pandemic. One of the most important outreach projects is food distribution for those in need, the homeless, seniors and low-income individuals and families. The program has been going on weekly for over three years. The food distribution program serves two hundred fifty to three hundred people a week, receiving fourteen thousand pounds of food weekly. Asking for a grant of \$2000 for transportation costs. Other organizations such as the Limited Able group are paid for their services and other organizations are volunteering services for distribution etc. There has been a lack of attention to needs and security which has impacted on the community. Food is distributed every Tuesday at 1:00 pm.

Rae adds that the WCKNC has granted financial aid in the past specifically a \$5000 grant for wi-fi.

Bill Robinson comments that the council budget has been cut and asks how much is available for NPG grants. **Mark Lee answers:** \$15,000. Spoke to council Treasurer and this quarter council has \$3000. There are plenty of funds to work with the YMCA. **Bill Robinson question:** What was the amount granted this year. **Mark Lee answers:** \$1000 each. **Bill Robinson:** Because budgets have been cut, the grant should be reduced to \$1000.

Public Comment: Rae states that it costs \$2500 a month for food to be transported and another \$2000 for staffing and maintenance support. The total monthly cost for the program approximately \$4000. Next year's budget will be cut in half. **Bill Robinson comments:** Because of the dense community there are many other organizations in need. Funds should be distributed accordingly.

Public Comment: KYCC representative will match \$2000 grant.

Additional comment from Mark Lee: The YMCA is a pillar of the community. As the holiday season is upon us everyone deserves food at their table. In his opinion, WCKNC should be a partner with the YMCA.

Bill Robinson Motions to reduce NPG grant to \$1000 because there are many other organizations offering food distribution.

First: Bill Robinson – Second: Audrey Han. Motion not passed.

New Motion for requested amount of \$2000.

First: Audrey Han - Second: Kyyungho Hwang. Motion passed

Bill Robinson final comment: the Bangladeshi community is the largest community in the WCKNC jurisdiction and has not been considered.

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Abstain
Saidur Rahman				x	
Nathan Kim		x			

Sandra Choi				X	
Samuel Suh		X			
Shazia Hoq	X				
Jennifer Chung				X	
Mark Lee		X			
Erica Chung					
Ryan Min				X	
Nojan Haddadi					
Kyungho Hwang		X			
Hoyle Kang		X			
Un Ji Lee				X	
Hu Ki Ryu		X			
Becky Bae		X			
Bill Robinson	X				
Md Omar Faruque				X	
Audrey Han		X			
Claire Cannon				X	
Ko Eun Hwang Ssara	X				
Lillian Han		X			
Timothy Kwak				X	

10. Discussion and possible action to file a Community Impact Statement (CIS) or board resolution to authorize the board the use of teleconferencing for Neighborhood Council meetings, including board meetings and committee meetings in accordance with the rules established by the Senate Bill 411 and the subsequent motion passed the City Council on November 1, 2023. Reasons for doing this are to help the community be safe from viruses, to help increase community participation and convenience for all to attend. Discussion only at this time. Vote tabled until next meeting in January.

11. Discussion and Possible Action to recommend to the board to file a Community Impact Statement (CIS) or letter with CD10 (Heather Hutt’s office) concerning the public safety and public health issues at Robert F. Kennedy Inspiration 3384 Wilshire Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90010.

Discussion: Mark Lee received a petition of one hundred and sixty signatures for action to be taken by the city to remove the homeless. Illegal and dangerous activities such as prostitution, drug use, shootings and stabbings have taken root in the park. This is a public safety and health issue.

Nojan Hadadi Comment: There is a similar problem at Mariposa. There is a homeless encampment. Tenants have complained about shootings. This activity takes place across the street from a school and a church.

Mark Lee comments: Per written agreement, the school is responsible for the care and safety of the park.

Shazia Hoq comments: Photos indicate a dangerous situation and action should be taken.

Mark Lee explained that the board has followed protocol and advised District 10 of the situation. For that reason, the representatives were in attendance.

Jung Lee Deputy for Korean American Affairs and Alan Antonio Explained that RFK Park is within 500 ft. of a school, consequently this city can enforce the Ordinance 41.18 (**sit, lie, sleep, or store, use, maintain, or place personal property, in or upon any street, sidewalk, or other public right-of-way within the distance stated on the posted signage (up to a maximum of 500 feet) of a property designated as a sensitive use. For a property to be designated as a "sensitive use", the property must be a Public Park, or Public Library, as those terms are defined in Section 105.01 of this Code; (Amended by Ord. No. 187,586, Eff. 9/18/22.)**). Furth After conducting an outreach survey, the district determined that Ordinance 41.18 will be enforced. Shelter and other resources are offered to those in the encampment.

Nojan Hadaddi asks: Why is community support needed when the ordinance is in effect?

Deputy replies: All citizens of the community must be considered.

Public Comment: What is the timeline for the removal.

Deputy replies: Removal will take place Wednesday morning or mid-day(12/13/23).

Mark Lee comments: This has been a two-month endeavor to find who is responsible for the clean-up. For this reason, the district representatives are present.

Motion to send a letter to District 10 office (Heather Hutt’s office).

First: Bill Robinson – Second: Nojan Haddadi. Motion passes.

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Abstain
Saidur Rahman				X	
Nathan Kim	X				
Sandra Choi				X	
Samuel Suh	X				
Shazia Hoq	X				
Jennifer Chung				X	
Mark Lee	X				
Erica Chung					
Ryan Min				X	
Nojan Haddadi	X				
Kyungho Hwang	X				
Hoyle Kang	X				
Un Ji Lee				X	
Hu Ki Ryu	X				
Becky Bae	X				
Bill Robinson	X				

Md Omar Faruque				X	
Audrey Han	X				
Claire Cannon				X	
Ko Eun Hwang Ssara	X				
Lillian Han	X				
Timothy Kwak				X	

12. Discussion and Possible Action to recommend to the board to file a Community Impact Statement (CIS) or letter with CD10 (Heather Hutt's office) concerning the public safety and public health issues at 3031 West Olympic Blvd.

Mark Lee comments: A citizen living in this area has contact #311 regarding the homeless encampment and the dangerous activities in and around 3031 Olympic Blvd. This has been going on for two years and no proactive action has been taken by the city.

Jung Lee responds: There are protocols that can sometimes cancel out complaints. But, at this time because it has come to the attention of the board the district department will look into it.

Alan Antonio responds: He has heard from the concerned citizen; we are in the process of relocating the homeless.

Motion to send a letter to District 10 office (Heather Hutt's office).

First: Bill Robinson – Second: Nojan Haddadi. Motion passes.

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Abstain
Saidur Rahman				X	
Nathan Kim	X				
Sandra Choi				X	
Samuel Suh	X				
Shazia Hoq	X				
Jennifer Chung				X	
Mark Lee	X				
Erica Chung			X		
Ryan Min				X	
Nojan Haddadi	X				
Kyungho Hwang	X				
Hoyle Kang	X				
Un Ji Lee				X	
Hu Ki Ryu	X				
Becky Bae	X				
Bill Robinson	X				
Md Omar Faruque				X	
Audrey Han	X				

Claire Cannon				X	
Ko Eun Hwang Ssara	X				
Lillian Han	X				
Timothy Kwak				X	

13. Discussion and possible action to recommend to the board to request tree trimming from the Bureau of Street Services, Urban Forestry Division for the address 664 S, Hobart, Los Angeles, CA 90005.

Petitioner, Mike Heeber , Partner of JJ Grande Hotel, 620 South Harvard Blvd., Los Angeles.

Request the pruning of trees at Harvard and Hobart. The area is very dark, the homeless are beginning to camp out. The trimming would make the sidewalk area safer.

Public Comment: Joseph Lee adds that the trees are close to his church and the tree overgrowth creates a safety issue.

Alan Antonio responds: The representative will contact the deputy for tree trimming; Motion to draft a letter of request to District 10 to trim the trees at Hobart and Harvard. First: Bill Robinson – Second: Audrey Han. Motion passed.

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Abstain
Saidur Rahman				X	
Nathan Kim	X				
Sandra Choi				X	
Samuel Suh	X				
Shazia Hoq	X				
Jennifer Chung				X	
Mark Lee	X				
Erica Chung			X		
Ryan Min				X	
Nojan Haddadi					X
Kyungho Hwang	X				
Hoyle Kang	X				
Un Ji Lee				X	
Hu Ki Ryu	X				
Becky Bae	X				
Bill Robinson	X				
Md Omar Faruque				X	
Audrey Han	X				
Claire Cannon				X	
Ko Eun Hwang Ssara	X				

Lillian Han	X				
Timothy Kwak				X	

14. Training for the board on the California Public Records Act.

John Darnell presented a brief explanation of the act; (he California Public Records Act (CPRA) was passed by the California Legislature in 1968 for government agencies and requires that government records be disclosed to the public, upon request, unless there are privacy and/or public safety exemptions which would prevent doing so. Please see the California Attorney General’s Office [Summary of the California Public Records Act](#).

If any board member receives a request for disclosure immediately forward to the President, Mark Lee who will work with city attorney’s office to honor the request. The Council has ten days to answer the request. Verbal request must also be acknowledged.

Bill Robinson asks: What if the request is a very old document.? There is no retention policy for neighborhood councils.

15. Committee member comments/announcements

No comments or announcements

16. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn

First: Bill Robinson – Second: Kyungho Hwang

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Abstain
Saidur Rahman				X	
Nathan Kim	X				
Sandra Choi				X	
Samuel Suh	X				
Shazia Hoq	X				
Jennifer Chung				X	
Mark Lee	X				
Erica Chung					
Ryan Min				X	
Nojan Haddadi	X				
Kyungho Hwang	X				
Hoyle Kang	X				
Un Ji Lee				X	
Hu Ki Ryu	X				

Becky Bae	x				
Bill Robinson	x				
Md Omar Faruque				x	
Audrey Han	x				
Claire Cannon				x	
Ko Eun Hwang Ssara	x				
Lillian Han	x				
Timothy Kwak				x	