



WATTS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

P.O. Box 72056 Los Angeles, CA 90002 ** 323-564-0260 ** Email: wattsnc@sbcglobal.net

General Meeting Minutes

August 9, 2005 @ 6:30 pm

The Watts Neighborhood Council (WNC) met for its monthly general meeting on Tuesday, August 9, 2005 at 6:30 pm, at the Watts Senior Citizen, 1657 East Century Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90002.

A quorum of 51% of the WNC Board was present. At 6:40 pm, Chair Jacquelyn Simms called the meeting to order.

1. Meeting was opened with a prayer by Rosalie Troupe.
2. Ms. Simms set some standing room ground rules for the format of the meeting. She indicated that she wants to enforce these rules tonight so everyone would have an opportunity to speak and no one will be interrupted. You will have an opportunity to speak for one minute on any agenda item. Please respect everyone and give them an opportunity to speak, no shouting, no loud conversation, no insulting members of the community or the WNC Board. You will be warned one time, if it continues you will be asked to leave and the LAPD will help to escort you out of the building. You could return if you behave yourself in a civil manner so that everyone could be heard.
3. Roll Call of WNC Board Members

Board Members Present:

Alice "Sweet" Harris	Arvella Grigsby	Cynthia "Sista" Mendenhall
Eleanor Hawkins	Erma Glover	Florence Atkins
Gregory Brown	Henry Broomfield	Jacquelyn Simms
Joe Banuelos	Maudine Clark	Ola Mae Toler
Sharron Haynes	Steven Swartz	

Board Member Excused:

Lydia Friend		
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Board Member Absent:

Cheryl Breveard	Clifton Dunlap	Linda Hawkins
Rev. Melvin Ashley		

DONE Staff Present:

Ron Macias, Project Coordinator	Gabriela Quintana, Project Coordinator
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Translation Service Provided/Utilized:

Translator was present. Spanish translation was provided to members of the community.

Guest Speakers/Presenters Present:

Douglas Nelson, Office of Mayor Villariagosa	Alix Stayton, Operation Hope
Brad Dunn & Greg Nuno, Dept of Public Works	

Number of Community Stakeholders who signed in on Sign-In Sheet:

Total number of names was 31 Community Stakeholders. This number does not represent total in attendance; it only represent the total of stakeholders who signed in.

- 4. Minutes from the last meeting on July 12, 2005 were read. Alice Harris made a MOTION to accept and approve Minutes as read, 2nd by Henry Broomfield. Minutes were approved. **WNC Board Vote: 14 yes, 0 no, 5 absent, 0 abstain.**

5. WNC BOARD REPORTS:

- a. **Treasurer Report: (Florence Atkins)**. From Dec 2003 to Jun 2005, WNC has received \$87,500. As of June 2005, the balance in the checking is \$4037.29. There was an audit initiated & completed by DONE and there was some discrepancies. Ms. Atkins requested that the WNC Board approve the expenditures as outlined in her report for the month of August 2005. The next WNC Budget & Finance Meeting is September 7, 2005 @ 7:30 pm at Bethel Missionary Baptist Church on Compton Avenue & 109th Street. Henry Broomfield made a MOTION to accept Treasurer Report; 2nd by Eleanor Hawkins. Treasurer Report Accepted and approved. **WNC Board Member Vote: 14 yes, 0 no, 5 absent, 0 abstain.**
- b. **Area 1-10 Representatives Report**
 - i. **Area 1: (Maudine Clark)**: Report was submitted via written documentation. Area 1 will be having a Pre-Hallow Neighborhood Get Together on October 15, 2005. Event will be open to everyone. Requested \$1300 for event. Area 1 monthly meetings are every 3rd Wednesday at 1:00 pm at Morning Star Church 10701 Juniper Street.
- c. **Special (Interest Representatives) Report**
 - i. No Reports Given
- d. **Committee Reports**
 - i. **Rules & Election Committee Report (Maudine Clark)**: Report was submitted via written documentation & given verbally. Brief Summary: Four WNC Board Members present; Agenda was to

Discuss petition for vacancy position: Recreation, Culture & The Arts and set date for that election November 12/19, 2005; the cost to run this election will be \$1500; each candidate will need to acquire 50 stakeholder signatures and will have 15 calendar days after receiving the package to submit candidate application by August 24, 2005; must have met a 3 meeting attendance requirement; discuss strategies for outreach for the vacant position. The WNC Rules & Election Committee officially declared a vacancy for Recreation, Culture & the Arts Board Seat. WNC Board will elect the next board member for this position. This position is only until the next election, at which time the seat will be vacant again. The next Rules & Election Meeting will be September 21, 2005.

6. BUSINESS

- a. **Letter of Support for Elder Michael Cummings, We Care Outreach Ministries.** The Chair indicated the letter was not forthcoming because the information requested from Elder Cummings was not given. In order for the board to give a letter of support, the board must know whom the letter is to be addressed. Elder Cummings declined the letter because of the time constraints, he asked for the letter 3 months ago. He said that he didn't think it was fair that others are getting a Letter of Support in a timely manner and he asked over 3 months ago. He no longer wants a Letter of Support. Therefore, no letter of support was given and no vote was needed because Elder Cummings no longer wanted the letter.
- b. **Letter of Support for Rodney L. Sheppard.** Alice Harris, gave a presentation regarding a signed petition by the community supporting Mr. Rodney Sheppard. According to the signed petition document presented there were at least two pages of signatures. There was discussion from the community regarding non-support of Mr. Sheppard's proposed project. There was further discussion about Mr. Sheppard had not organized a meeting for the community that is directly effected by this proposed project. Therefore, The WNC Board suggested that that criterion be completed by September 13, 2005. At which time, the WNC Board will make a final decision, without further discussion, regarding to give a Letter of Support for Rodney L. Sheppard.
- c. MOTION made by Gregory Brown to Accept Treasure Expenditure Report for August-September in the amount of \$6,655, 2nd by Alice Harris. **WNC Board Member Vote: 14 yes, 0 no, 5 absent, 0 abstain.**
- d. MOTION made by Steven Swartz and second by Gregory Brown to accept Vacancy by the Rules & Election Committee of the Board Vacancy

for the Recreation, Culture and the Arts Board position. **WNC Board Members Vote: 14 yes, 0 no, 5 absent, 0 abstain.**

- e. MOTION to give a Letter of Support to Mr. Wainwright of Weed & Seed by Jacquelyn Simms, 2nd by Eleanor Hawkins. **WNC Board Member Vote: 13 yes, 0 no, 5 absent, 1 abstain.**
- f. MOTION was made by Sharron Haynes, 2nd by Cynthia “Sista” Mendenhall, to table the voting on giving a Letter of Support to Rodney L. Sheppard until the September 13, 2005 meeting. Mr. Sheppard has been asked by the WNC Board to do the following: have a meeting with the community and have a sign-in roster to verify that community was in attendance. On September 13, 2005, provided all of the above has been completed, the WNC Board will only entertain a vote of Yes or No with regards to the Letter of Support. No further discussion will be on this matter. **WNC Board vote to table voting until next meeting: 12 yes, 1 no, 5 absent, 1 abstain.**

7. PRESENTATIONS/GUEST SPEAKERS:

- a. Douglas Nelson, Office of Mayor Villaraigosa: Mr. Nelson expressed, on behalf of Mayor Villaraigosa, how the Mayor wants to work with the community of Watts and the South Los Angeles area. In response to his 100 days of Service, the Mayor along with the City will have a Citywide Community Clean up Day, October 8, 2005. He encouraged everyone to sign up. Mr. Nelson indicated he looks forward to working with the Watts Neighborhood Council.
- b. Alix Stayton, Operation Hope: Ms. Stayton, stressed the importance of being prepared in a disaster. She presented packets that can give you assistance with assessing your financial first aid and personal disaster preparedness guide. These document indicted how to prepared financially and medically during a disaster.
- c. Brad Dunn & Gregory Nuno, Department of Public Works: Project at the Watts Bradley Milken Center. Creating Green space via a Parking Lot Design for 11 car spaces. 2007 is the prospective completion date. The funding is from Proposition 40. Once completed the Staff at Bradley Milken will maintain the parking lot.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS on Agenda Items or Non Agenda Items:

- a. Mr. Antoine aka Cartoon: He stated that Mr. Sheppard was to have met with the residence and organize a meeting to give a presentation regarding his project. Per Mr. Antoine, this has not been done. He opposes the project. He suggested that an environmental study had not been done. He

indicated he used his own monies to get this environmental study done and it indicated that if any disturbance will release more hazardous material. He also suggested that the 2.7 acres of land is designated as a park and not for housing.

- b. Mr. Sheppard indicated that he is not asking for a rezoning of the project. He indicated that he is only here to benefit his community and not hurt it. He has built other property in the community and he doesn't understand what he has to do to help his community know that he is only here to help. He reiterated that he wanted the WNC Board Support to built his project.
- c. Mr. Gregory Brown opposes Mr. Sheppard's Project.
- d. Community Stakeholder indicated she had a problem in the community and wanted the WNC to help her. She indicated that she had her parents own a home near 114th Street. There is a person who has a Mobile Home located near her parent home and it caught fire and needed the WNC helped to get this matter resolved by having the mobile home removed. She wanted to know what she could do because she has contacted City Council and called the CD15 Office and hasn't received a response. Woody, from the audience who works for Street Services Department said that he would get with her and see what he could do for her. Ms. Simms also suggested she give her contact information to Mr. Broomfield.
- e. Ms. Maudine Clark indicated that Mr. Sheppard indicated he was to have met with the community and the Board is to vote. She wanted clarity before she voted.
- f. Mr. Sheppard will put out a flyer to the community and coordinate with Mr. Joe Banelous regarding the project. Will have a meeting to explain his intentions.
- g. Community Stakeholder indicated wanted to report to the community that on 107th Street & Compton Ave there is a recycling center. It has become a hazard to the community. He felt that the recycling center should be removed. He has been complaining about this problem for the last 2-3 years and nothing as yet to be done. On 108th Street, there is an automobile repair shop and it is hazardous to the neighborhood. He felt that the Watts community needed to be cleaned up because other areas are being cleaned up. He just wanted the WNC to be aware of it.
- h. Samika Bowick of the Keck Foundation wanted to invite everyone to their Community Meeting on Thursday, August 26, 2005 from 5pm-730pm at the Watts Civic Center, Councilwoman Janice Hahn's conference room. They will be acquiring feedback & information from the community regarding issue on Diabetes and Nutrition.

- i. Wilma Haynes indicated she had been to a community meeting that informed the community that there were going to be two new schools, one elementary and one high school, forthcoming in the community. The boundaries were 84th North, 92nd South, Maie Ave on West and Mary Ave on the East. As a community stakeholder she encouraged the community to participate by getting involved in the planning, especially people of color.
 - j. James Smith indicated he was a member of subcommittee of Business & Commerce and working and planning at WLCAC on September 17, 2005. He asked the WNC for \$1500 funding support for Refreshments and to help co-sponsor and event.
 - k. Elder Cummings apologized for bring out of order but still declined the Letter of Support from WNC. He indicated he would still continue to help protect the kids in community through his organization.
 - l. Beverly Williams indicated that NAMI of Los Angeles is having a National Walk. NAMI is having a fundraiser and verbally asked the WNC to do a sponsorship of \$500. This walk would be in October 2005. Beverly also mentioned that there are classes being held at Bradley Milken Center that is sponsored by Compton College.
 - m. Ron Macias introduced our new project coordinator for the Watts Neighborhood Council and her name is Gabriella Quintalla. She will be working with the Watts Neighborhood Council and all other Council District 15 Neighborhood Councils.
9. Henry Broomfield, Second by Eleanor Hawkins, stated a Motion to Adjourn Meeting. **WNC Board Vote: 14 yes, 0 no, 5 absent, 0 abstain.** Meeting Adjourned at 9:19 pm.

Next Regular General Meeting will be on Tuesday, October 11, 2005, @ 6:30 pm @ Watts Senior Citizen Center 1657 East Century Blvd Los Angeles, CA 90002.

Minutes prepared by: Sharron Haynes, Watts Neighborhood Council Corresponding Secretary and Education Representative.