

Notice of Sustainability Committee Meeting and Agenda
October 8, 2019 at 7:30 pm
Avenue 50 Studio
131 N Avenue 50
Los Angeles, CA 90042

The public is requested to fill out a "Speaker Card" to address the Board on any agenda item prior to the Board taking action. Public comment is limited to 2 minutes per speaker but the Board has the discretion to modify the amount of time for any speaker.

When the Board considers the agenda item entitled "Public Comments," the public has a right to comment on any matter that is within the Board's jurisdiction. The public may also comment on a specific item listed on this agenda when the Board considers that item. In addition, the members of the public may request and receive copies without undue delay of any documents that are distributed to the Board, unless there is a specific exemption under the Public Records Act that prevents the disclosure of the record. (Govt. Code § 54957.5)

The Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council holds its regular meetings on the first Thursday of every month and may also call any additional required special meetings in accordance with its Bylaws and the Brown Act. The agenda for the regular and special meetings is posted for public review at: the Fire Station #12 located at 5921 North Figueroa Street and online at www.highlandparknc.com.

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SI REQUIERE SERVICIOS DE TRADUCCIÓN, FAVOR DE NOTIFICAR A LA OFICINA 3 DÍAS DE TRABAJO (72 horas) ANTES DEL EVENTO. SI NECESITA AYUDA CON ESTA AGENDA, POR FAVOR LLAME A NUESTRA OFICINA AL (213) 978-1551.

Agenda

1. Call to Order / Llamada al Orden
2. Roll Call / Llamada de rol
3. [5 min.] Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items Only (Limited to 5 minutes max.; 1 minute per speaker) / Comentarios públicos sólo sobre elementos que no pertenecen a la agenda (Limitado a 5 minutos máximo; 1 minuto por orador)

Action Items

1. [1 min.] Motion to adopt agenda. / Moción para adoptar agenda.
2. [5 min.] Discussion and motion to approve meeting minutes from September 10, 2019/ Discusión y moción para aprobar los minutos de la junta del 10 de Septiembre del 2019
4. [10 min] Creation of a Sustainability Committee budget for the rest of the fiscal year and possible motion to submit to the Board for review at the November 7th board meeting/ Crear un presupuesto para el resto del año fiscal para el comité de sostenibilidad y moción posible de entregarlo al Consejo para la junta general del 7 de Noviembre (Estrella)
5. [5 min] Discussion and possible motion to recommend to the board to purchase of reusable supplies as giveaways for community/ Discusión y moción posible para

recomendar al consejo la compra de materiales reusables para regalar a la comunidad (Gracie)

6. [15 min] Discussion regarding tree removals in the neighborhood and possible motion to act based on research and discussion, including draft a CIS/Discusión sobre el corte de árboles en el vecindario y moción posible de actuar basado en la investigación y discusión, incluyendo crear un borrador de un "CIS" (Chrissy)
7. [15 min] Discussion on York Park and motion to recommend to the board to send letters of support to different government agencies in support of investigating the possible contamination of the park grounds/ Discusión sobre York Park y moción de recomendar al consejo mandar cartas de apoyo a diferentes agencias gubernamentales en apoyo de investigar la contaminación posible de la propiedad del parque (Nancy)
8. [10 min] Presentation by guest speaker, Clara Solis, discussion, and possible motion regarding 616-620 N Ave 66 Development in Garvanza/ Presentación de visitante, Clara Solis, discusión, y moción posible sobre el proyecto de construcción en 616-620 N Ave 66 en Garvanza (Nancy)
9. [5 min] Discussion and possible motion regarding email received concerning LADOT North Figueroa Street Safety Improvements/ Discusión y moción posible sobre el correo recibido tratando los Aumentos en Seguridad de LADOT de la calle North Figueroa (Estrella)
10. [5 min] Review of action items, assigned committee members, and next committee meeting location, time, and date/ Revisión de puntos de acción, los miembros designados del comité, y la hora, sitio, y fecha para la siguiente junta del committee (Estrella)
11. New Business / Nuevos temas
12. Adjournment / Levantar la sesión

Call to Order - 7:34pm

Roll Call

Committee Members: Estrella, Jeff, Chrissy, Prissma, Nancy

CD1 - Bill Cody

Stakeholders: Clara Solis, Kelsea from San Pasquale, Tim Mellin

Public Comments

Tim - Make sure we all get on a common email list so that we can collaborate and contact each other and be up on what other Sustainability committees are doing

ACTION ITEMS

1. Motion to adopt agenda

Prissma moves, Jeff seconds

All in favor, no opposed or abstain.

2. Motion to to approve minutes

Chrissy motion, Nancy seconds

All in favor, Jeff abstains

3. Sustainability Budget

- brainstormed ideas at the last meeting, based on needs of the community. Doesn't reflect budget from clean street funds \$1417
- What we can do with clean streets, beautification or clean ups?
- Bill - not meant to be for movie nights? A beautification fair.
- Jeff - does it expire? Bill said no.
- Bill said CD1 councils won 5 out of 6 grants. NELA rocks.

6. Estrella explains proposed budget

3-4 events

Materials and printouts of things

Environmental Consulting if we want to have someone investigate environmental issues

Street cleaning - environmental supplies, could be out of clean street funds

\$4,500.00 total ask

Look for matching grants, repairing sidewalks

We can get other grants?? - Tim

Homeowners and businesses could get grants - Bill

Last committee Jeff said the board got things rolling and then the board fell apart. DWP gives us avenues to support workshops.

Nancy - we could collaborate with other Sustainability committees to save money on events and workshops.

Jeff says should we reallocate funds or just vote on proposed budget. Some funds we can get compensated through collaboration.

Bill - Beautification arm of the City, under LA Sanitan get contacts from Alfonso and Bill at CD - they have materials and supplies, if we have a beautification idea we can contact them for resources and grants

Motion to approve the budget, Chrissy, Estrella second. All in favor, no opps or abstain.

4. Giveaways and sustainable items

Gracie not on committee anymore so if someone wants to take this on they can.

Chrissy - ambivalent about giveaways, just see them everyday.

Jeff - likes the bamboo ware, and thinks it's a good thing to put out in the public, costs \$2000 for the last order.

Tim - handing out water bottles are not every environmental, doing a workshop showing the different kinds of bottles that people can use to save plastic

Prissma - explains the bamboo utensils to newcomer stakeholders

Jeff - we could do reusable straws, could also be branded and collapsible. Though packaging and storage mechanism is plastic. Jeff has their contact info if we need them.

Stakeholder Kelsea asks if we can accept donations, Bill said no, so that businesses could donate straws or things we can give away. Bill said no.

Chrissy, likes straw idea better than bottles, will vote on water bottles.

Tim, says recyclable straws are packaged and might not be environmental.

Jeff, also mentioned the biodegradable seed packs that could be branded. Wildflower seeds in the cardboard that could be just thrown in the ground.

Jeff will take on researching the straws or seed packs as another option for a community.

Tim -asking about are plastic straws band

Prissma says this was tabled from last time so let's pick something next time. Nancy says we'll know the budget as well.

Motion to table this item to the next committee meeting.

5. Tree removal issue

Chrissy - discussed last time, outstanding questions

In NC's there are different efforts to extend 3-day tree removal notice to 60 days.

Lots of efforts in this, but scattered. Seeking knowledge from entities.

Do notifications include private trees too?

Community Forestry Advisory Council, advises Urban Forestry Division

Joann D'Antonio

Do notifications apply to private trees, answer was NO. Only public lands and protected trees on private land only.

Bill says protected trees go through a different process.

Who is the decision making body that can grant or deny. Answer from JoAnn is NOT SURE.

Could go to City Council, but it's unclear. And people are gun shy because mayor's stance is prodevelopment

Trying to target sympathetic ally who is director of Tree Services. Adel Hagekhalil, oversees street services

Silver Lake drafting a letter to Urban Forestry under street Services to change notice to 60 days

Director organized a Tree Summit to explore other city's policies.

Limited by development interest of mayor and also his own budget

Blanket ordinance also not popular.

Joann suggested that it would be good for Adel to get contacted by other NC's about this matter

Estrella, where does CD1 and CD14 stand on this so we can protect our trees.

- CD14 email said they rely on advice of Urban Forestry and get behind whatever they say
- CD1 - Bill Cody

1. Known Mayor Garcetti for years, he got Black Walnut species on the protected list. Would not call him a pro-development mayor, everyone is aware of lack of housing and cost of housing in this City. And would like to bring the cost of housing down. But doesn't make them pro-development but makes them pro-housing

2. CD1's stance - in the process of working with MtW home alliance and ASNC to map the Black walnuts there. Would like to dig into this issue more, just worked on Jazz Festival so have been busy and now has time to dig in. A lot of developers hiring people to get rid of them as quick as possible. Trying to map them to prevent that.

3. Doesn't know of any trees being knocked down in HLP. Had a tree that was falling down and couldn't get Urban forestry to cut it down. Did fall on his house and crush a car.

4. Take on Urban Forestry - don't think they've been very progressive. Planted a lot of non-native trees that caused a lot of problems on sidewalks.

1. Leigh Adams - works with Peace by Piece, and works at arboretum. Got huge grants for something culture. Only plants native trees. Non native trees are sucking water and sidewalks are being destroyed. Plant a new native tree around dead tree.

Estrella - NC's can't voice objections to tree removals in 3 days, that is our main issue we're trying to address.

CD1 wants to help and is pro-tree - Bill

Jeff- is a California endangered species, not just LA and also federally.

Bill said some rules had to be changed in LA and Mayor Garcetti was at the forefront of it.

Jeff - says there are a bunch of protected trees that CEQA has to approve. There are rules like if you remove a tree you have to plant 10. These should be considered when developments are being plants.

Chrissy - how to we get them to plant the RIGHT trees

Tim - asks Bill how can they get away with what their doing.

Bill says there is a lot of debate about what is the RIGHT tree.

Audubon says Forestry doesn't pick the right trees.

And there is some more progressive tree policies being pushed.

Clara, all of us want affordable housing, but what's being guilty is all big and takes out mature trees. Replacing trees not always a good solution because it plants mature trees.

Our tree canopy has changed and not for the better.

Chrissy - concerned with having enough time to protest tree removals. Want to extend tree removal notification period to 60 days. Given context that City council is unrealistic, the option is to write a letter to Adel from Street Services.

Jeff- opportunity to have discussion could exist at the beginning of a process for development.

Nancy - sometimes when developer needs a variance they talk about the trees that are going to be removed.

Coordinate with land use committee, when they get notifications of developments or conversions maybe they can tell Sustainability what is being proposed about the trees.

Prisma - Antonio the last chair had guidelines for developments including tree removals

Jeff - any other NC's working on this? Estrella said Silver Lake, Jeff said maybe we can submit in conjunction. Don't want to just submit a letter to Adel until we know if he has anything to do with that. Want to find out who makes these decisions to submit to the right person. Trying to approach with CD 1 & CD 14.

Next steps to identify people who to approach, and try to talk to Adel, work on a letter Adel and then contact Silver Lake. Maybe Adel will say this isn't the place to make an impact. So more research is needed.

Jeff - NELA neighborhoods council executives got together to share a forum of collaboration. Talk to Stephanie.

Prisma - Alliance of River Communities is also on this.

8. CHRISSEY TOOK NOTES ON YORK PARK

Discussion of York Park:

York Park clean-up: HPNC receiving lots of letters of concern regarding the quality of the water. In the 80s and 90s there were two major spills of gas/oil. Lot of anecdotal info that the spills were not remediated appropriately. Looking through documents to investigate the matter—HPNC is charged with investigating the remediation. Some Yellow flags have appeared

Key contacts of note for this effort:

Wendy Carillo's office

New field deputy for this area

Lucy Aperacio—Huizar's office

Maria elena de razo—state senator. Veronica is her field deputy

J. Hernandez or Huizar's office

Jeff: We're going to need more evidence.

Documents show "Unknown quantities of soil are removed" It's on record with the EPA.

There's no information of the manifest. Woman from toxic substances got back to Jeff today.

There should be a record of soil being removed and transported and there is none of that in the documents. Lots of vague statements in documents. Ground water wells placed in questionable areas.

Nancy: Ground water flow and wells positioned in questionable areas. In multiple clean-up and abatement orders and assessments there were orders for a gas vapor barrier to prevent the vapors from oil to be contained and nowhere is there evidence that this was done.

Evidence provided by CA water board, Envirostore, online at geotracker, searched the park online and can get soil and underground storage tanks information. If we can't get conclusive evidence that the soil has been tested then we would like to request the park area be tested again. We don't want to launch investigation but want to verify that the area is not toxic. One document from environmental group that clearly states they do not have any bearing on the clean-up effort. This came across and suspicious and suspect that toxins still reside in the park area.

Bill: "I have people/officials that can help you with the retesting effort"

Nancy: it's \$20-30,000 or tens of thousands of dollars to do this kind of testing. The concern is if they remediated the ground water.

Prisma: A woman sent an email stating that the area had been remediated.

Estrella: Motion to write a letter addressing CD14 regarding the concerns that arose in review of documents, submit to HPNC board council for approval in time for the November meeting. Will be letter with supporting documentation.

Nancy 2nded the motion. All in support. No nays. Motion passes.

9. Presentation by Clara Solis

Clara, 3 neighborhoods come together to oppose 13 small lot property on a historic monument six.

People who live below project enjoy the greenbelt. Will remove many trees on the site. Sycamore probably won't survive. One black walnut would be removed. Eucalyptus tree removed. Neighboring offsite trees could be negatively effected. Wildlife corridor will be negatively effected. Want to remove 4500 cu yards of the hillside. Want to go down the hillside, take out a bunch of earth and remove the trees. Will hurt the green belt and endanger the hillside. Had 200 letters from residents of people who live near by. HPOZ meeting was packed about this development.

Made a request to urban forestry, to find out how many trees are being removed from our community. Still waiting for an answer. They don't have a tree inventory so they don't know how many trees are being removed. Latest news on the appeal, continued the appeal process being extended to March. Need to go before HPOZ and cultural heritage for approval. So there is no date yet on our case.

Questions

Jeff - there was no planning document? Was there a CEQA document.

Clara - they are asking for a CEQA exemption. Got the exemption and neighbors are appealing it. Current in appeal process. Asking for 5 foot setback instead of 20 feet. City has a strange rule that we can't appeal CEQA exemptions until they appeal setbacks.

Jeff- what is reason for CEQA exemption. They asked instead to submit a general environmental report. Did they have to touch on tree removal? Clara says issue on trees is reasonable development, right to remove trees. Jeff says not reasonable for federal protected trees. Clara says environmental report is very friendly to the developer.

Being supported by multiple organizations in the community.

Bill asks, if they got an exemption there must be a reason for it. Infill exemption.

Clara also says it's a City Monument so have to go to HPOZ so they did make mistakes.

Jeff - are they proposing any mitigation to the issues? Clara, said noise will be an issue during construction. Said they would put barriers to reduce noise. Jeff says issue is the federally protected tree species.

Clara, would be nice if the council could help with her request to the Urban Forestry division to find out about the tree inventory.

Chrissy says tree inventory is in process.

JEFF - KCsey Trees - did a green build out model for DC years ago. Studies on expanding tree planting for storm water capture.

10. LADOT portion of agenda:

Stakeholder reached out and asked for addition of bike lanes on Figueroa Ave—or that it would not preclude future bike lane installations.

-Bill: The Arroyo Seco NC reached out to HPNC about an open house the 1st week of nov about project.

Estrella: Should we ask this stakeholder to go to the open house and invite him to sustainability meeting to raise his concerns about bike lanes on Figueroa? Vision zero is a part of LADOT who are doing the revisions on Figueroa.

Clara: Is there opportunity for public members to make comments at the open house?

Bill: Contact Jackie and Veronica and Lauren from vision zero.

Nancy: Has the most contact with Lauren from vision zero.

11. Announcements

Next meeting: Nov 12; 7:30-9:30

Same meeting location—131 50th The studio

Nancy: We're getting our permits to use LAUSD properties for future meetings.

Prisma: There's an event about development on Hawaiian lands—preservation of sacred land. Casita festival happening in bowtie area—Oct 26th Will talk about the Lost project, LA restoration of park plans. Environmental reports. Glassel park association.

Bill: We need more Northeast community input on G2—3 acres around river purchased by the city and controlled by the city. They need remediation. Lots of discussion about its future and residents of NELA are needed to chime in. It's run by BOE and army corps of engineers—get on their lists. More people from NE are needed to represent and provide input.

Nancy: Neighborhood congress—sustainability alliance. The city of LA has a Green New Deal. Los Feliz is the first NC to implement the new deal at the community level. Would be good to connect with Los Feliz to see how they are implementing the new deal locally.

Tim: SEIU 721 sustainability committee 2nd Thursday of each month—6-8pm. Union hall on Wilshire

Prisma: Find out about neighborhood community plan the city heads

Nancy: LA City is in processing of updating their zoning code and then roll out community plan after. Takes 3-4 years to implement

Jeff: Nov 6-9 international conference of sustainable infrastructure. There's a mixer at the Biltmore—LA will unveil and showcase the new green deal. Sponsored by American society of civil engineers.