



WINNETKA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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President	Vice President	Secretary	Treasurer	Sergeant At Arms
JJ Popowich	Marilyn Robinson	Carole Ozanian	Erick Lace	Dwight Burgess
Board Members				
Armineh Chelebian	Jozef Essavi	Chris Jurgenson	La Rae Littlefield	Rick Montaine
Howard Seflin	Art Sims	Raquel Diaz	Saeid Faal	Katrina Landeta

Minutes of Meeting

RE: Minutes from Meeting, December 13, 2005

TO: WNC Board Members, Public

From: Carole Ozanian, Secretary

1. Call to Order and Board Members Roll Call.

Present

Absent Excused: Howard Seflin

Present	Absent Excused
Burgess, Dwight	Seflin, Howard
Chelebian, Armineh	
Essavi, Jozeff	
Jurgenson, Chris	
Lace, Erick	
Littlefield, La Rae	
Montaine, Richard	
Popowich, JJ	
Robinson, Marilyn	
Sims, Art	
Faal, Saeid	
Diaz, Raquel	
Landeta, Katrina	
Ozanian, Carole	

2. Explanation of Meeting Rules.
3. Approval of Minutes from last meeting.
4. State and local government representatives updates:
 - 4.1 Councilman Dennis Zine's Representative (3rd District) Irma Pomposo
Updates: Runnymede Park, Sutter Middle School speed bumps.
 - 4.2 Councilman Greg Smith's Representative (12th District), John Bwarie
Updates:
 - A) Constituents can speak to LA City Council from Van Nuys via video.
This is a pilot program we are urged to utilize.
 - B) Renew LA project. Renew and recycle 90% of city wastes.
 - C) New Police Station: Canoga Park on Schonberg.
 - 4.3 Dept of Recreation and Parks: Representative, Monica
Updates: Dept includes not only rec areas but also childcare and senior centers.
 - 4.4 Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA): Representative Mikki Gilkey
Updates: Funds available for low income first buyers.

5. Northridge WalMart update: Mr. Garrett Biggs, Consultant Blair-Biggs Campaign.
 - A) Parking street level and under the store.
 - B) Special lanes to be developed to handle traffic flow.
 - C) City has not yet approved plans.
6. The Brown Act: Board Seminar March 14th, 2005. Regular Board Meeting.
 - A) President Popowich reviewed points of the Brown Act to assist board members to adhere to the Brown Act since many recent emails exchanged by board members were in violation of the Brown Act.
 - B) Mr. Popowich discussed the emails (sent him by board members) with the City Attorney to determine whether they were in violation.
 - C) The emails violated the Brown Act. The City Attorney's office recommended that the emails be read into the minutes of the meeting. There was concern from some board members that reading them at this meeting would only accelerate issues that divide the board. President Popowich disagreed and wanted the offending emails read at this meeting. The reading of the offending emails may be submitted into the minutes at some future date.

7. Statement by President, Mr. Popowich.

Over the last month and a half I have been constantly attacked and accused of misusing my position as President. In summary I have been accused of lying, censorship, abusing my power, attempting to subvert the councils actions and so forth. Throughout this period I have held my tongue while some Board members verbally assaulted me via email and possibly by other means. Tonight that ends.

When I was elected by the stakeholders I took an Oath of office to uphold the various constitutions and charters and laws which we are all governed by. I took this oath and the duties of my office very seriously. Part of my duties is to ensure that this NC operates within the law. Every action I have taken has been legal and within the scope of my duties.

In the most recent case of the banner issue the original motion was voted down. I stated on the record at that meeting that I would check with the City Attorney to see if it was in fact legal to do what the motion stated. Before we received a ruling the issue was raised in the next Board meeting and a motion was passed to approve the banner. As was my commitment I asked our DONE representative to escalate the efforts to get a ruling on this issue because I was concerned at the time that it was illegal under separation of Church & State grounds. At that time DONE advised me the motion to approve this against the Brown Act.

At each step I communicated with the Board, by forwarding the direct emails I received on the issue. At each step I was accused of all sorts of unethical actions.

The City Attorney ruled once that it was illegal and that the Controller was advised not to allow funds to be spent. A week later the City Attorney ruled that the banner could be purchased. I fulfilled my duty to make sure we were within the law and the banner issue once confirmed tonight to address the Brown Act Violation can be moved on.

In order to address the Brown Act Violations of the serial meetings conducted via email by Mr. Sims and Ms. Chelebian and others, I am going to read each of the emails into record at this time:

Finally I will state this. I have done nothing wrong. I have done nothing unethical. In fact I have conducted myself in the most professional manner possible and I have acted to fulfill my duties. Despite some of the rumors I have heard about some council member's desires, I WILL NOT RESIGN. I was elected by the stakeholders and I will finish my term.

However, tonight, as you can see on the agenda, I am calling for a referendum in the following motion:

"The WNC resolves by a majority vote of aye that Mr. Popowich will complete his term as President, or by a majority vote of nay, that Mr. Popowich will not complete his term of office and relinquish his position effective immediately."

8. Discussion and possible action on the following motion:

"WNC-121305-1 The WNC resolves by majority vote "aye" that Mr Popowich will complete his term as President, or by majority vote of "nay" that Mr. Popowich will not complete his term (as President) and relinquish his position as President effective immediately". (Popowich-Burges)

Motion carried 6-4. Abstentions: 3

9. Discussion and possible action regarding proposed projects for 2006. (Littlefield)
Ms. Littlefield proposed having the board participate in a “brain storming” session to identify possible projects for 2006.
The subject was tabled for January meeting.
10. Discussion and possible action regarding 2006 calendar. May effect meeting frequency of all WNC’S committees. (Littlefield).
Identify possible projects for 2006.
The subject was tabled for January meeting.
11. Discussion and possible action regarding the Board’s effectiveness of disseminating information. (Littlefield)
Board discussed the many emails received from President that included city business and decided that the President continue sending them. While some emails are not of interest to some board members, it is too difficult for the President to select and edit information sent..
12. Discussion and scheduling of Board Member Retreat.
Date: February 11th, 4 hours. May involve a commitment of funds.

WNC-121305- Board members of the WNC will participate in a 4 hour retreat February 11th. The goal of the retreat is to improve communication skills between board members and to generate board cohesiveness. (Robinson-Popwich)
Motion passed. Unanimous.
13. Discussion and possible action on the following Committee reports & recommendations:
- Finance Report (including Treasurer’s Report: Eric Lace))
Balance in the treasury is \$45,406.90.
LA City provides the Winnetka Neighbor Council \$12,500 every quarter.
Annual total provided: \$50,000. Funds not used within 3 years are returned to the City.
The WNC will open a checking account at Bank of America.
The Finance committee will meet on a “need” basis.
 - Outreach & Events Committee Report: (Robinson).
 - A. Discussed “Diversity Fair”. Implementation still to be decided.
 - B. Newspaper-Daily News. Will contact them to request coverage of WNC.
 - C. Marketing to promote WNC to stakeholders.
Discussed purchasing 500 pens. Also to purchase T-shirts.
The purchase of T-shirts has been approved but not implemented.
 - D. Discussed and recommended that board members be provided with name tags
And business cards for identification purposes.
 - E. Considered advertising WNC on bus benches but learned that venue is not available.
 - F. Adopt a school. 4 Elementary schools and 1 Middle School in Winnetka.
Provide books for the libraries.
 - G. The committee has rented a storage unit.
 - H. The committee will purchase a table. The purchase of the table has already been approved by the WNC Board.
 - I. Cable TV show. This subject will be included on the January agenda.
 - Planning, Land Use and Management (PLUM) Committee report: (Popowich)
This committee did not have a meeting this month.

- **Public Safety Committee Report (Popowich)** (The following items were approved by the PS Committee)

“WNC-121305-1a: The WNC will hold a community meeting on closing the Gifford Street entrance to the park and placing a wall there to close it off. The WNC will request the Recreation & Parks Department to take this action unless a significant number of stakeholders object. This motion will authorize the expenditure of funds not to exceed \$150.00 to do a mailing to the stakeholders in that area.” (Popowich-Diaz) Motion Passed: 5-0

“WNC-121305-1b: The WNC will offer a letter to stakeholders who wish to canvass their neighborhood asking for signatures for the speed bumps. The letter outline the program offered by the city and state support for this process.” (Popowich-Essavi) Passed: 6-0

- **Public Works & Transportation Committee Report (Chelebian)**

- Appointment of 2 new members.*
- Ad Hoc committee formed to study and research Animal Welfare program.*
- Study of street paving and resurfacing. Cost \$100,000. Submitted to Board.*
- Dissolved the Ad Hoc Committee that studied street grading, resurfacing and paving.*
- Discussion that the Public safety and Public Works and Transportation Committee coordinate a joint effort with regard to speed bumps around Sutter Middle School*

The following motions (2-5) have been approved by the Public Works and Transportation Committee and are now presented to the Winnetka Neighborhood Council Board for full support or nonsupport.

“WNC-121305-2: Discussion and possible action to approve PWT recommendation to support Councilmember Greg Smith’s plan for conversion technologies that will recover and recycle over 90% of city’s waste by 2025. Plan is titled Recovering energy Natural Resources and Economic Benefit from Waste for Los Angeles (RENEW LA)” (Chelebian-Popowich) Motion passed unanimously.
Action: Chair (Ms. Chelebian) will write to Councilmember Greg Smith to inform him of the WNC approval of his plan.

The following motion was tabled for a special meeting Tuesday, December 20th.
“WNC-121305-3: Discussion, consideration, selection and further action of recommended streets by Bureau of street Services and PWT Committee for the \$100,000 resurfacing Project, which needs to be submitted by the WNC to the Bureau of Street Services before end of December 2005.”

“WNC-121305-3a: The WNC Board will meet Tuesday, December 20th in a special meeting to discuss and possible action to approve the \$100,000 street resurfacing Project as recommended by the PWT Committee and to select the streets to be resurfaced.”

Approval must be submitted by WNC to the Bureau of Street Services before the end of December 2005. (Popowich-Diaz) Motion passed unanimously.

“WNC-121305-4: Discussion and possible action to approve the restricted parking signs on 7200 block of Quartz for hours of 11pm-5am. Contingent to receipt of the Petition acknowledgment letter from Mr. Ken Firoozmand, District Engineer” (Chelebian-Popowich) Motion passed unanimously.

“WNC-121305-5: Discussion and possible action to Purchase and Put up “Single Pull down Banners, saying “Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from Winnetka Neighborhood Council” between De Soto and Corbin on Sherman Way and for the banners to be stored, and displayed annually between Thanksgiving and New Years”. (Chelebian-Sims) Passed 7-4. Abstentions: 2

- Rules, Elections, and By-Laws Committee Report (Lace)
The Committee is meeting to review the By-Laws.

10. Adjournment

PROCESS FOR RECONSIDERATION

The Board may reconsider and amend its action on items listed on the agenda if that reconsideration takes place immediately following the original action or at the next regular meeting. The Board, on either of these two days, shall: (1) Make a Motion for Reconsideration and, if approved, (2) hear the matter and Take an Action.

If the motion to reconsider an action is to be scheduled at the meeting following the original action, then two items shall be placed on the agenda for that meeting: (1) A Motion for Reconsideration on the described matter and (2) a {Proposed} Action should the motion to reconsider be approved. A Board member who has previously voted on the prevailing side of the original action taken can only make a motion for reconsideration.

If a motion for reconsideration is not made on the date the action was taken, then a Board member on the prevailing side of the action must submit a memorandum to the Secretary identifying the matter to be reconsidered and a brief description of the reason(s) for requesting reconsideration at the next regular meeting. The aforesaid shall all be in compliance with the Brown Act.

PROCESS FOR FILING A GRIEVANCE

Any grievance by a Stakeholder must be submitted in writing to the Secretary of the Board of Directors. The Secretary shall then within no more than 30 days refer the matter to an ad hoc grievance panel comprised of 3 Stakeholders who are randomly selected by the Council secretary from a list of Stakeholders who have previously expressed an interest in serving from time-time on such a grievance panel. The Secretary will coordinate a time and a place, not to exceed 10 days for the panel to meet with the person(s) submitting a grievance and to discuss ways in which the dispute may be resolved.

Thereafter, a panel member shall promptly prepare a written report to be forwarded by the Secretary to the Board to be heard at the next board meeting outlining the panels' collective recommendations for resolving the grievance. The Board of Directors may receive a copy of the panel's report and recommendations prior to any meeting by the Board, but the matter shall not be discussed among the Board members until the matter is heard at the next regular meeting of the Board pursuant to the Ralph M. Brown Act.

This formal grievance process is not intended to apply to Stakeholders who simply disagree with a position or action taken by the Board at one of its meetings. Those grievances can be aired at the Board meetings. This grievance process is intended to address matters involving procedural disputes, e.g., the Board's failure to comply with the Board Rules or these Bylaws, or its failure to comply with the City's Charter, the Plan, local ordinances, and/or State and federal law.

In the event that a grievance cannot be resolved through this grievance process, the complainant has the right to appeal the matter to the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment for consideration or dispute resolution.