

WINNETKA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA

**Planning & Land Use
Management Committee**

Chair **Vice Chair**
JJ Popowich Jacque
 Lamishaw

Members
Armineh Chelebian
Chris Jurgenson
Wayne Schulte



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To: Council Members, Public

From: J.J. Popowich, Secretary

Date: September 1, 2004

Subject: PLUM Meeting Minutes 09/01/04

- 1. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.**
- 2. Roll Call:** The following PLUM members were in attendance.

JJ Popowich	Jacque Lamishaw	Chris Jurgenson	Wayne Schulte
		Armineh Chelebian - Excused	Suzie Grinley - Absent

3. Approval of minutes from the last meeting.

3.1. Ms. Lamishaw advised the group that Ms. Nawagamuwa from the Montessori House of Children called to thank us for supporting her school and to let us know the process is complete and it was approved.

4. Discussion and possible action on recommending new designs for the public storage project presented to the Board by Mr. Ted Valdez. The Board had requested Mr. Valdez bring new façade designs to the PLUM for approval.

- 4.1. Mr. Popowich introduced the item and turned the floor over to Mr. Valdez for his presentation.
- 4.2. Mr. Valdez passed around a new artist's conception of what the building would look like with the changes the Council had requested. He pointed out the champagne arches are now gone and more trees are evident.
- 4.3. Mr. Popowich asked what the green on the side of the building was.
 - 4.3.1. Mr. Valdez responded that it was ivy to discourage graffiti.
- 4.4. Mr. Schulte recommended that he place a boarder on the top of the building.
- 4.5. Mr. Popowich wondered why more owners don't plant the ivy to discourage graffiti. He noted that everyone seemed to be quite and asked if there were any more comments about the design.
- 4.6. Mr. Jurgenson asked if there was any way that a fountain could included for the front of the building. He cited an example on DeSoto.
 - 4.6.1. Mr. Valdez responded that it was a possibility he is considering it. He said he has one design in mind and may consider it for this property.

4.6.2. Mr. Jurgenson said that would be great. This would really step up and improve the area. His goal is for the PLUM Committee to really work on improving Winnetka's appearance.

4.7. Ms. Lamishaw asked if the door was changed from a roll up.

4.7.1. Mr. Valdez responded that it was changed. There are stairs behind the door.

4.8. A stakeholder commented that he has seen cascading water structures like the one in the Topanga Mall.

4.8.1. Mr. Jurgenson agreed that would really improve the look.

4.9. Mr. Popowich called for a motion.

4.10. Mr. Jurgenson made a motion to approve the design as presented with a request to create a water feature in the front if zoning allows.

4.10.1. Ms. Lamishaw seconded the motion.

4.10.2. Mr. Popowich called roll and the motion was passed 4 – 0.

5. Discussion and possible action on the creation of a Certificate of Approval program. (Jurgenson)

“Whereas the WNC PLUM Committee hears requests for support of zoning changes, variance requests, building permits, building design requests, and makes recommendations to the full WNC Board. The WNC PLUM Committee therefore resolves that in the event a request is approved by the full Board the WNC PLUM Committee will issue a Certificate of Appropriateness to the requestor.”

5.1. Mr. Popowich introduced the next item and turned the floor over to Mr. Jurgenson to explain his motion.

5.2. Ms. Lamishaw asked if this certificate would identify the developer and what was approved.

5.2.1. Mr. Popowich said it would.

5.2.2. Mr. Jurgenson said it would be a nice certificate with a WNC seal. It would be given to the developer and he could show it to whoever he wanted to.

5.2.3. Mr. Popowich pointed out this would be in addition to the letters which we need to send out in support of projects.

5.2.4. Mr. Schulte seconded the motion.

5.2.5. Mr. Popowich called for a vote on the motion. It was passed 4 – 0.

6. Public Comments – Comments from the public on non-agenda items within the Committee's subject matter jurisdiction.

6.1. Mr. Montaine asked if the WNC is allowed to honor people in the community.

6.1.1. Everyone responded that we could do that.

6.1.2. Mr. Montaine asked if we had ever done this.

6.1.3. Mr. Jurgenson said the WNC Magazine will do this on the back page.

6.1.4. Mr. Popowich said we can recognize and give out proclamations to anyone we want to as long as we don't give them any money. He recommended that Mr. Montaine submit a motion if he wants to set up a program to do so.

- 6.2. Ms. Lamishaw said she was happy and pleased to see others come to the committee meetings and contribute ideas. We are coming of age she said.

7. Committee Business –

- A. Discussion and possible action on expanding the Committee to seven members to increase representation.
- i. Mr. Popowich opened the discussion on expanding the committee. He said it was a good idea to expand to make sure we have more representation. He pointed out that the other Committees have voted to expand and that other Board members have expressed interest in serving.
 - ii. Ms. Lamishaw said that she thought we should expand. She pointed out she often has to recuse herself. She did mention that she liked the idea of alternates.
 - iii. Mr. Schulte said he thinks that until we get more people to show up he would prefer smaller committees. Maybe even five members. Until people show up we have to be careful he said.
 1. Mr. Popowich said that if we get into a spot where we can't decide something we have the Board.
 - iv. Mr. Jurgenson said that we could do an alternate and a smaller committee.
 1. Mr. Schulte said alternates may not be here for all the meetings and he has a problem with that. We show up to each one he went on to explain. It could be dangerous to have someone who doesn't know about what's going on and hasn't had time to read about things. He researches issues.
 2. Mr. Jurgenson said we could require them to show up.
 - v. Ms. Lamishaw said we can't assume that an alternate doesn't know anything. We have to determine that. She went on to say that if we have seven then our quorum is still four. If we had an alternate we would be covered no matter what.
 - vi. Mr. Popowich said he doesn't like the alternate idea. He thinks they will lose interest and it's not fair to require them to show up on the chance that someone doesn't show up. He also said that he disagreed with Mr. Schulte and that education in a subject is not required. He said that he is not a contractor or real estate person or in the business, but he is educated and can make an educated decision based on facts presented because he cares about Winnetka.
 - vii. Mr. Popowich made a motion to expand the Council to seven members. Ms. Lamishaw seconded the motion.
 - viii. Mr. Popowich called roll and the motion passed 4 – 0.
- B. Discussion and possible action on filling the open Committee seat. Mr. Richard Montaine has expressed interest.**
- i. Mr. Popowich opened up the discussion on the nominees to fill the vacant positions and the newly created position. He pointed out that there is one vacant seat as Ms. Grinley has resigned. He introduced the candidates, Mr. Montaine, Ms. Robinson, and Mr. Valdez. He asked the candidates to say a few words.
 - ii. Ms. Robinson said she had served on the advisory board for Ms. Chick when she was our City Council representative. She feels she has a good background to serve on this committee.

- iii. Mr. Valdez said he would consider withdrawing since he's not a WNC member.
 - 1. Mr. Popowich stated that he would actually like to see more stakeholder representation.
- iv. Mr. Valdez said he is a retired federal employee (formerly of the Department of Defense). He has owned property in Winnetka for years and is interested in Winnetka's well being as is everyone else. He has developed property here as well. He would like to see Winnetka improve over time. There is a lot of problems and neglect that he sees.
- v. Mr. Montaine said he is interested because he found the issues the PLUM deals with as fascinating. He has is not a contractor, but he has refurbished property and he kind of understands what it takes.
- vi. Mr. Popowich announced that since we have 3 candidates and only two available spots we would do the vote by ballot.
- vii. The ballots were passed back in and the results were as follows:

Mr. Valdez: 4
 Ms. Robinson: 3
 Mr. Montaine: 1

C. Comments on Committee Member's own activities/ Brief announcements.

- i. Mr. Schulte said he drove by the property that was discussed at the last meeting. He says the yard is neatly kept and the cars are neatly parked. Just looks like they made more parking.
 - 1. Mr. Popowich said he had received Mr. Schulte's note. He said the issue is that it's still illegal. Anything parked in front of a house (not in front of the driveway) is illegally parked as the City considers that the lawn.
 - 2. Mr. Schulte agreed. However he said he just knows it's not as bad as he thought. He went on to say he just wouldn't want it on his street.
- ii. A stakeholder asked if there was a boat there.
- iii. Mr. Popowich responded that there was but it is legally parked.

- D. Brief response to statements made or questions posed by persons exercising their general public comment rights.**
- E. Introduction of any new issues for consideration by the Committee at its next meeting/request that the item be placed on the next meeting's agenda.**
- F. Requests for Committee Members to research issues and report back to the Committee at a future time.**

Meeting Adjourned