

WINNETKA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA

**Planning & Land Use
Management Committee**

Chair JJ Popowich **Vice Chair** Jacque Lamishaw

Members
Armineh Chelebian Chris Jurgenson
Marilyn Robinson Wayne Schulte
Ted Valdez



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To: Council Members, Public

From: J.J. Popowich, Secretary

Date: February 6, 2005

Subject: PLUM Meeting Minutes 02/02/05

1. Call to Order and Committee Members Roll Call.

JJ Popowich	Jacque Lamishaw	Ted Valdez	Wayne Schulte
Marilyn Robinson	Chris Jurgenson	Armineh Chelebian	Wayne Schulte - Absent

2. **Approval of minutes from the last meeting.**

3. **Discussion and possible action on a presentation for the developer's plans for the property located at 20415 Runnymede St, Winnetka, CA 91306. At our last meeting we approved a zoning change request, but the developer was unable to attend. He has rescheduled for this month's meeting.**

3.1. Mr. Popowich announced that he had received a call from the developer's representative's secretary and she said she would not be able to make it. He said that he had personally spoken to the representative over a month ago and set this date up since he couldn't attend the first meeting. He was very disappointed that the representative "claimed" he didn't remember. He wondered if we could rescind our support.

3.1.1. Ms. King, representing Councilmember Zine's office said that she ran the tracking on this item and it is scheduled to come up before the Planning Commission on February 24, 2005, and she said she could ask for a continuance since the developer has not been able to come before the Committee.

3.1.2. Mr. Popowich said he would like that.

3.1.3. Ms. Lamishaw asked if that date was for both items.

3.1.4. Ms. King said she could find out.

3.1.5. Ms. Lamishaw asked if we could discuss what our response would be.

3.1.6. Mr. Popowich agreed we could discuss, though he stated that he believes we should set precedence for this so that others will know they will not have our support if they fail to show up.

3.1.7. Mr. Jurgenson asked what re-course we had for this type of event.

3.1.8. Mr. Popowich said we can send a letter advising the Planning Commission that the developer has not appeared before us and we can't continue to support this.

3.1.9. Ms. Lamishaw stated that she has no problem with asking for a continuance. If we do that she said he will have to re-apply and that is going to cost him. He'll have to send out notices again through BTC.

- 3.1.10. Mr. Jurgenson asked what BTC stood for.
- 3.1.11. Ms. Lamishaw said it's a company that is contracted to send out all the notices for the City.
- 3.1.12. Ms. King said that she has an approval letter from the WNC for the zoning change. She can let them know that we do not support the parcel split at this time.
- 3.1.13. Mr. Popowich described the project as it was explained to him the last time he spoke to the developer's representative.
- 3.1.14. Ms. Chelebian commented she thinks if someone needs us, then we should require them to show. They need to be here.
- 3.1.15. Mr. Valdez commented it's a matter of respect.
- 3.1.16. Mr. Popowich said he would write a letter stating we have decided to remove support since he has not come before us.
- 3.1.17. Ms. King said we can ask them to come to you at the regular Board meeting
- 3.1.18. Mr. Popowich said the agenda is already full for that night and we have a Candidate's Forum. He went on to state that we need to take a stand so that when it's not an innocuous project developers will know to come before our PLUM. He then asked the Committee what they wanted to do.
- 3.1.19. Ms. Lamishaw said she wanted to approve the project.
- 3.1.20. Mr. Jurgenson said he wanted to pull the approval and made the following motion:
- “WNC-PLUM-020205-1: The WNC had decided to withdraw its approval for this project on the basis that the Developer or his Representatives have failed to appear before the PLUM Committee to explain the Parcel Map change. Furthermore we formally request the LA Planning Department to continue the hearing until they meet with us.”
- 3.1.21. Ms. Chelebian seconded the motion.
- 3.1.22. Ms. Lamishaw commented this sets a bad precedence for the PLUM Committee.
- 3.1.23. Ms. Chelebian pointed out that Mr. Valdez thought it was important enough to appear before us before he joined the Committee while he was developing his property. Why shouldn't everyone else.
- 3.1.24. Mr. Popowich called roll and the motion was passed 6 – 0.
- 3.1.25. Ms. Lamishaw took the floor for a moment and said that on more than one occasion Ms. King has complimented this PLUM Committee for the way it does business.
- 3.1.25.1. Ms. King agreed. She stated you guys are right up there with only one other NC on the professionalism and how you conduct your business. So many others don't even let us know their opinions or even if they have heard a particular case. She thinks it's a shame.
- 3.1.25.2. Mr. Jurgenson asked her how many other Councils she deals with.
- 3.1.25.3. Ms. King said she has six Councils under Councilmember Zine. She says that most she never even hears from. She went on to say it has not been a problem yet, but someday something will come along and they won't even get to ask for conditions and it will be a problem.
- 3.1.25.4. Mr. Valdez commented that he has shared some of the things the PLUM has done with his relatives who are in government positions in Washington State and they are all impressed with how well things are written. He said he attributes that to Mr. Popowich.

4. Discussion and possible action on a new landscape ordinance that is going before the City Council shortly. For more details please visit the LA City Planning Department website at: http://cityplanning.lacity.org/Code_Studies/Other/landscape.pdf

- 4.1. Initially this was postponed until later in the meeting.
- 4.2. Mr. Popowich opened up discussion on this issue and asked to make a formal complaint to Ms. King that the PLUM Committee only received two or three weeks notice on this issue which is scheduled to go before the Planning Commission next week. He said this was ridiculous and not near enough time for a NC to act on it.
 - 4.2.1. Ms. Lamishaw said this is what happens when you don't have an MOU.
 - 4.2.2. Mr. Valdez agreed with Mr. Popowich and said that we only meet once a month they need to understand that.
 - 4.2.3. Mr. Jurgenson said we should at least have a two month time frame.
 - 4.2.4. Ms. Lamishaw said that as an individual council we don't have much clout to demand this. This is why we need MOUs.
 - 4.2.5. Mr. Popowich suggested that we send a letter to all the NC's asking them to unite in an effort to send a requirement that all notices of proposed ordinances have a minimum 60 day notice prior to the hearing before a committee. He then made the following motion (with assistance from everyone in crafting the motion):

WNC-PLUM-020205-5: The WNC will send a letter to all NC, asking them to approve an attached form letter demanding a 60 day hearing notice and review period for all ordinances before they are heard in Committee. Furthermore the WNC will request that all NC forward said letter to each City Committee Chair, the City Clerk, and their City Council representatives. Furthermore the letter will request that each NC send a copy of their Board resolution (via email) so we can track the support for this demand."

- 4.2.6. Mr. Jurgenson seconded the motion.
- 4.2.7. Mr. Popowich called roll and the motion was passed 6 – 0.
- 4.3. The Committee then proceeded to go through the proposed changes to the Landscaping Ordinance line by line to determine if we had any suggestions. The only real problem the Committee had was with Guideline K – Air Quality Enhancement which discusses trees in parking lots. Some Committee members were concerned about the requirement to place trees in a parking lot when parking is short. This was countered by other committee members who raised the ecological issues of asphalt warming the temperature of the city and the damage it causes to our air quality. Mr. Popowich pointed out that he believes it could raise the temperature of the air about 5 degrees or more. In the end the Committee proposed the following motion:

“WNC-PLUM-020205-5: the WNC respectfully requests that Guideline K – Air Quality Enhancement, Section 1, sub-section “A”; add a line that states trees must remain in perpetuity once planted unless the tree poses a hazard, is diseased or damaged and in the event it must be removed from the parking lot it should be replaced.”

- 4.4. The motion was proposed by Mr. Popowich and seconded by Ms. Robinson.

- 4.5. Mr. Popowich called roll and the motion passed 6 – 0.

5. Discussion and possible action on a request for approval of a Conditional Use permit to add additional cell phone antennae on the roof of 20061 W. Saticoy St., Winnetka, CA 91306 (LA City Planning Department Case #: ZA-2004-7614-CU). The PLUM Committee heard and approved a similar request for this location in late 2004.

- 5.1. Mr. Popowich opened discussion on this item by stating that he didn't request the property owners to come before the Committee because we had already heard the developer on the issue last year. He said they would like to add additional towers.
- 5.2. Ms. Lamishaw said that it really didn't matter as the City was going to make this a by right issue as the Committee had discussed last year.
- 5.3. Mr. Jurgenson asked what harm there could be in letting them add a few additional ones.

5.4. Ms. King commented that the Mayor is actually proposing them to be placed on all utility polls so that there are no dead spots in the City.

5.5. There was a brief open discussion about the merits of placing cell antennae on utility polls.

5.6. Ms. King commented on the Cell Phone by Right proposed ordinance. She said that Councilmember Zine has received quite a bit of negative feedback on the issue. She said that there may be a way to do it and still let communities have say so in the process. She referred to an ordinance for street signs along Ventura where the owners are granted a permit and the public has 15 days to contest it. If no one contests it then it's approved.

5.7. Mr. Jurgenson made the following motion:

“WNC-PLUM-020205-2: The WNC approves the request for a Conditional Use Permit to add additional cell phone antennae to 20061 W. Saticoy St., Winnetka, CA 91306.”

5.8. The motion was seconded by Mr. Popowich.

5.9. Mr. Popowich called roll and the motion passed 6 – 0.

6. Discussion and possible action on a request to approve a parcel map change from one lot into two lots for 20005 W. Vanowen St., Winnetka, CA 91306 (LA City Planning Department Case #: AA-2004-6589-PMLA).

6.1. This item was deferred since Mr. Popowich was unable to get in touch with the owners or their representatives. There is plenty of time before the hearing so he will attempt to arrange it for the next PLUM Committee meeting.

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

7.1. A stakeholder brought up concerns about the Orange Line and all Committee members openly discussed the concerns surrounding the sound proof walls. Most Board members felt the wall was too inviting for graffiti taggers even if it was treated. In addition the Committee generally was very concerned about the gap between the wall and property owner's walls. The general consensus was this would be a haven for the homeless and for crime. It was decided that the Committee would send a notice to all WNC stakeholders adjoining the wall that we would like their comments so we can voice their concerns.

8. Committee Business –

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

B. Brief response to statements made or questions posed by persons exercising their general public comment rights.

C. 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.

D. Requests for Committee Members to research issues and report back to the Committee at a future time.

9. Adjournment