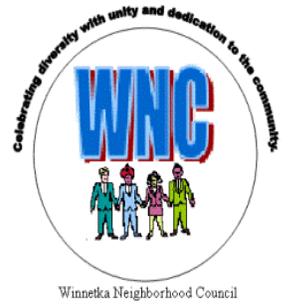




**WINNETKA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

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**PUBLIC WORKS & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

	Chair	Vice Chair	Secretary
	<b>Armineh Chelebian</b>	<b>Wayne Schulte</b>	
		Members	
<b>Dwight Burgess</b>	<b>Richard Montaine</b>	<b>JJ Popowich</b>	<b>Marilyn Robinson</b>

**WINNETKA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

**PUBLIC WORKS & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**From: JJ Popowich, Secretary**

**Date: April 28, 2005**

**Subject: Meeting Minutes**

**1. Call to Order and Committee Members Roll Call.**

Armineh Chelebian	Marilyn Robinson	Dwight Burgess	Richard Montaine
JJ Popowich	Wayne Schulte – Absent		

**2. Approval of minutes.**

2.1. Approved.

**3. Discussion and possible action on street issues. Includes updates on Mason Ave and Lubao Ave streets.**

3.1. Ms. Chelebian introduced the item.

3.2. Mr. Popowich updated the committee on the progress on the Mason Ave issue. He said he had spoken to Ken Olive from the Bureau of Street Services and they have had engineers out to test the street. He went on to say that the results were not in yet as they lab was still reviewing them. Once the results are compiled they will release a report. He said this should be about a week or two.

3.2.1. Ms. Chelebian asked if they will send us a copy.

3.2.2. Mr. Popowich said that he will be asking for it.

3.3. Ms. Chelebian said that she reviewed Lubao Ave and agrees it's in horrible condition and is certainly a failed street. She has met with Mr. Basch who took up the issue and he has indicated that Bill Robertson, the Director of Public Works, has looked into the issue and they are scheduling to redo the street in 2005 – 2006. Lubao, Oakdale and Penfield St. have been proposed to be resurfaced. She pointed out that this shows that the NC's can make a difference. She concluded by saying that she would like to thank Mr. Basch for his initiative and persistence.

**4. Discussion and possible action on the MTA Orange Line Town Hall project.**

4.1. Ms. Chelebian asked Mr. Popowich what the status of the letter was.

4.2. Mr. Popowich said that we have to come out of tonight with a plan and he would like to have her take the lead on it.

4.3. Ms. Chelebian summarized the issue and motion and said we should draft the letter and send it MTA management.

4.4. Mr. Tritt, a stakeholder asked if this was in our area.

4.4.1. Ms. Chelebian said it is and there was a discussion of a general border.

4.5. Mr. Sims asked whether we should do a petition in that area for what they want prior to having the town hall.

- 4.5.1. Ms. Chelebian said what we can do is have some stakeholders write a letter about the impacts and we can include those like we've done with the Mason Ave issue. That's what we want to determine now.
- 4.6. Mr. Sims summed up the desire to have the individual stakeholder walls extended to the main wall on each property.
  - 4.6.1. Ms. Chelebian pointed out that there are some contamination issues with the land. That's why she would like to see some open communication to have a real discussion with the MTA. We can have some stakeholders in that area bring their concerns and they can take questions from the public.
  - 4.6.2. A stakeholder in attendance said he would send a letter to Mr. Popowich.
- 4.7. Mr. Popowich said he thinks we should have a plan.
  - 4.7.1. Ms. Chelebian said step one is to send a letter to each of the stakeholders in that area requesting a letter regarding their impacts.
  - 4.7.2. Mr. Popowich outlined the steps. Step one is to set the date and time and location, step two is to secure the MTA cooperation in showing up. This may take quite a bit of time and effort and multiple calls. Step three is to reach out to the stakeholders and let them know.
  - 4.7.3. Ms. Chelebian said that's one way to go about it. The other way is to go to the MTA and ask them to call the town hall and have them coordinate it and run it. We want to request that they take this step.
  - 4.7.4. Ms. Robinson clarified how far it reaches.
  - 4.7.5. It was confirmed it reaches all the way to North Hollywood.
  - 4.7.6. Ms. Chelebian said that if we take this on ourselves then we may be overstepping our boundaries.
- 4.8. Mr. Burgess asked if the MTA did any meetings with the people prior to the wall going up.
  - 4.8.1. A stakeholder said that the MTA did keep us enlightened on what they were going to do. He said he thinks that it will take the unity of all the councils to get anything done.
  - 4.8.2. Mr. Burgess pointed out it's already to go almost. The homeowners have had their time.
  - 4.8.3. Mr. Sims pointed out that they are already planting plants behind the wall.
  - 4.8.4. The stakeholder in attendance said that they have done plants behind the wall already. There seems to be several layers.
- 4.9. Mr. Essavi said that he was in Valley Glenn and the area is the same. He said some areas have no visibility. He said he wonders what if some homeowners reject the idea of adding the land to their property.
  - 4.9.1. The stakeholder said that his idea would be to place wooden fence in that area and work it out like the DWP easements.
  - 4.9.2. Mr. Sims asked if it would be more feasible if the stakeholders did a petition in that area on how they want it done and that way we would have the whole community saying what they are doing.
  - 4.9.3. Ms. Chelebian asked if even that would be overstepping our boundaries.
  - 4.9.4. Mr. Popowich agreed. He said that there are other avenues to go about reaching out to the other NC's like the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils. As an executive board member of that group perhaps we can do it. We would need a motion from this committee to do it.
  - 4.9.5. Mr. Sims said that even if we did that, a petition would be the best way to go about it because it would show we have some strength.
  - 4.9.6. Mr. Chelebian said that there are two ways we can do this. We can take the lead and invite the others to come into the mix and work with us. This will allow us to be able to stay involved and take the initiative. She said that if we give it to the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils it becomes their project and we lose the control of the process. What we can do is go to the stakeholders and then we can get the letters and then we can go to the other NC's.
  - 4.9.7. Mr. Popowich agreed that this would be the way to go about it.
  - 4.9.8. Ms. Chelebian said we reach out get the letters and then let the other NC's know and duplicate the process and if they want to join in we can have a joint letter go out to the MTA.
- 4.10. Mr. Sims asked the stakeholder if he has spoken to other homeowners.

4.10.1. The stakeholder said he thinks that at least his neighbor would be open to the meeting.

4.11. Mr. Popowich asked for specifics. Do we want to just get the stakeholders concerns again or do we go to them with a plan.

4.11.1. Ms. Chelebian said we want to get their concerns about anything related to the project and we can provide it as a complete project.

4.12. Mr. Popowich said he would put the letter together and send it to Ms. Chelebian for approval and then we can go to Ms. Lamishaw for the address.

## 5. Discussion and possible action on the following Committee reports & recommendations:

### 5.1. *Ad Hoc Winnetka Sign Beautification Committee (Sims)*

5.1.1. Ms. Chelebian requested Mr. Sims to give the report.

5.1.2. Mr. Sims said that we discussed it and we are focusing on the beatification portion first. He summed up what occurred in the meeting and focused on what the city will be doing for us and the fact that we will be receiving free plants and so on. He said that he spoke to the Public Works Department today and they said the bid we received and voted on last night was a great deal. Normally plants are installed at around \$5.00 per plant.

5.1.3. Ms. Chelebian asked for details on the proposal. She clarified the plants are free from the city. She also clarified that the proposal outlines where they would plant it. She asked what the total cost would be.

5.1.3.1. Mr. Sims commented it was about \$4800.00

5.1.3.2. Mr. Popowich asked if that included the mulch.

5.1.3.3. Mr. Sims said that the city may provide the mulch, but if the contractor has to do it then it will cost about \$500.00 more.

5.1.4. Ms. Chelebian asked about the other contractors.

5.1.4.1. Mr. Sims said that they would purchase the plants.

5.1.4.2. Ms. Chelebian asked if we were getting the rocks as well.

5.1.4.3. Mr. Sims said that we were going to wait on those because there is a lot of additional work that needs to be done on the electrical ends for the lights. We may have to do some digging and we wanted to wait on the rocks.

5.1.4.4. Mr. Popowich clarified the first motion and the various stages. He pointed out that the rocks will be free, but we can't put them in until the very last step is because the city is requiring us to cement the rocks for liability purposes.

5.1.4.5. Mr. Sims said the contractor would install the rocks and cement them in for a total cost of \$750.00. He went on to say that the lights are on hold because we also have to talk about whether we want to do solar lights. He spoke about the cost of the solar lights if they were expected to last for some time. He mentioned that this would include batteries and a cost of \$5000.00 per sign.

5.1.5. Ms. Chelebian asked about the electricity.

5.1.5.1. Mr. Sims said that the plans show there is a low voltage line. He is having some issues with the city for taking responsibility for that. Mostly because no one know who would pick up the cost of electricity. Mr. Sims said that they can tie into the electricity but that is going to require an engineer to be done.

5.1.5.2. Mr. Popowich wanted to clarify that the electricity is only for around the signs. We were going to do the solar lights throughout the rest of the median for decoration and not illumination. So we only really have to do worry about the signs for electricity.

5.1.5.3. Mr. Sims spoke about the lighting and that we are going to look into it.

5.1.6. Ms. Chelebian said that she would like to focus on the planting motion. She said that the motion last time said that we were going to go back to those that have put in proposals and get them to put together a plan for us to do so we can compare apples to apples. She said based on what she sees today she would like to put a motion to the committee to accept the proposal for beautification in stage one and move it on to the next stage which would be to go to Council member Zine's office.

***WNC-PWT-042805-1: The Public Works Committee accepts the ad hoc committee report and proposal as is. The PWT moves that the committee proceed to the next step with Council member Zine to secure funding and finalize the contract.***

5.1.7. Mr. Burgess seconded the motion.

5.1.8. Motion approved 5-0.

5.1.9. A stakeholder said that he is not too thrilled with the light options. There was a general discussion on lights and what might be an idea.

5.1.9.1. Ms. Chelebian asked the stakeholder to participate in the next ad hoc committee meeting with his ideas.

5.1.9.2. Mr. Sims said that once it's been approved the city has a limited schedule of people to deliver the goods. He said that he would find a place to store them.

## **5.2. Ad Hoc Street Grading & Evaluation Committee report (Montaine)**

5.2.1. Ms. Chelebian asked Mr. Montaine to present his report.

5.2.2. Mr. Montaine said the initial goal was to have a committee which would put together a grading system and then drive through Winnetka and find out which are the worst. We really didn't get that far because the committee got into a bantering session. However, there is good news that unknown to all of us Mr. Basch had some information on a grading system and schedule. We can now move to get a new committee.

5.2.3. Mr. Popowich said that we don't really need a new committee. We can move on to the next step in this committee's charter which is to grade streets and set priorities that are important to us. So that committee can continue on with that because the city's priorities are not the same.

5.2.4. Ms. Chelebian said that she has some information that she received in her meeting with Mr. Bwaire and would like to move on to that issue.

5.2.5. Mr. Montaine asked if there was anyway we could make sure that we get this information because it was not acceptable that we can't find out about information about these programs so we don't duplicate.

5.2.6. Ms. Chelebian detailed some of the problems she went through to get the information from the other Board members who were not sharing the information.

## **6. Discussion and possible action on Mayor Hahn's plan to allow NC's to have discretion over \$100,000.00, of street funding. Details of this proposal are not yet known, we hope to have information at our meeting.**

6.1. Ms. Chelebian handed out the copies of the Infrastructure Assessment Summary form the Bureau of Street Services.

Ms. Chelebian said she spoke to Mr. Bill Robertson, Director of Bureau of Street Services and he is very willing to attend a meeting and provide the same presentation to our committee. She also said that they are willing to work out a long term plan to address our concerns. She said that they are willing to work on the priorities. She said that many people asked Mr. Robertson to provide his estimation of what streets his department recommends to be addressed and we can then focus on approving or suggesting changes to their plans.

Ms. Chelebian pointed out the department's web site they have a section that you can view which tells you exactly which streets are scheduled and where they are in the process. It is searchable and the map can be moved.

6.2. Mr. Popowich said he would add the link to the WNC web site.

6.3. Ms. Chelebian said that there is about \$9 million dollars that is set aside for the mayor's budget proposal. This still has 6500 miles of streets. 1000 of these are considered failed. There are about 3000-4000 miles that need to be resurfaced. This leaves the City of LA a C grade in street condition. He needs to resurface he has to do 350 miles for about 10 years to catch up with what needs to be done. The budgets usually only cover about 200 miles of this each year. Of this 150 of the funds come from what the Public Works and the other 50 miles would be covered by the NC proposal.

There are three levels. Stage I is surface overlays. About 2 inches down and it's resurfaced. Stage II includes some work on the base of the street. Stage III is reconstruction includes the removal of all entire infrastructure of the street and it has to be rebuilt.

6.3.1. A stakeholder asked what makes them decide to reconstruct.

6.4. Ms. Chelebian said that 100,000 can purchase 3300 feet of overlays, 2640 of resurfacing, or 1130 feet of reconstruction. Of course she said, this can be any combination of these. She said that the best bet is to not pick individual streets but to focus on a grid area. Each city block has an average length of 500 feet. She said that the

city has software that they use to pick which streets will be done so that it removes the human judgment or bias which computes which streets will be focused on based on the current condition, feasibility and future condition.

80% of funds budgeted go to saving the streets. 20% of the budget goes towards restructuring. Mr. Robertson said that this was done so that they can save as much as they can, because if they didn't the neglected streets would deteriorate and get even worse. The worse condition of the street the more it costs so it's a preventive measure.

This money is only for the actual streets and not the sidewalks. He commented that there is an 83 year back log. She recommended that everyone visit the web site and do the research. We'll get them to come to our meetings and we can work with them.

6.5. Mr. Sims said that on Valerio there are some major potholes and someone has painted white circles around them. What are they for?

6.5.1. Mr. Burgess said that those are areas that are identified to be patched.

6.6. Ms. Chelebian said that calling 311 is the fastest way to get them filled.

6.6.1. Mr. Sims said that it really isn't any better.

6.7. Ms. Chelebian said that she asked Mr. Robertson about streets that were redone and then torn up by utility companies. She said that they are informed (utilities) and if they don't do it before and have to tear the city up, then they are fined.

6.8. Mr. Humphreys asked about Mason.

6.8.1. Mr. Popowich provided a brief update since Mr. Humphreys was not available at the beginning.

6.8.2. Mr. Humphreys asked whether it would be a good idea to call about the pot holes and stay on top of it.

6.8.3. Ms. Chelebian provided the name and number for the person in charge of the pot holes.

## **7. Discussion and possible action on updates to the traffic impact taskforce for Westfield Mall. (Seaid)**

7.1. Mr. Popowich said that Mr. Seaid's wife was ill and that is why he has not been able to attend. We need to follow up on this.

## **8. Update on the Parking Town Hall Meeting held by the PLUM Committee**

8.1. Mr. Popowich updated the committee on what happened and said that he still has to type all the notes up. He detailed what it covered and what they can do.

8.2. Mr. Essavi said he wanted to thank the PLUM Committee and the Council as it was a great meeting and it got him thinking and working with his building to address concerns about safety and visibility.

8.2.1. Ms. Chelebian said that was great and asked if he had all the info he needed to work on it.

8.2.2. Mr. Popowich suggested that he also come before the Public Safety Committee and we'll work on it as well.

8.2.3. Mr. Essavi also asked about a Public Safety issue about open containers.

8.3. A general discussion regarding safety issues and Oso Saticoy area as well as Runnymede.

## **9. Discussion and possible action on the City Controller Laura Chick's audit of the Public Works Department's Contract Practices.**

9.1. Ms. Chelebian read the Controller's letter summarizing her report. She pointed out that it's 50 pages long. She asked if we can read through it.

9.2. Mr. Popowich suggested we all read it and take a position or comment on it by the next meeting.

## **10. Discussion and possible action on the DWP MOU and Public Works MOU.**

10.1. Ms. Chelebian opened discussion on this. She clarified that MOU stands for Memorandum of Understanding. She said that Council member Smith's office is working to get us the details on this MOU so we can look into it.

10.2. Mr. Popowich said that he feels that we should really be very careful about what is going on. When we hear about something that a group is working on we need to ensure that we know what is going on and we really need to elect representatives to go and represent us. It's critical that we have a say in what's going on.

10.3. Ms. Chelebian read off a letter sent from Ms. Lamishaw as a member of the taskforce for the DWP MOU.

10.3.1. Mr. Popowich said that it's critical for us to choose someone who we trust, who will represent what we say. It also has to be someone who is very committed and has time to do this. He said that he wants to make sure everyone understands that he's not lobbying for this. This is a long term and very involved issue.

10.4. Mr. Essavi said we really need to ensure that we reserve the right to make this decision so that it's not lost.

10.5. Ms. Chelebian said that we should pass a resolution. Motion is

***WNC-PWT-042805-2: Since the DWP and it's related issues are within the realm of the PWT's responsibilities within the WNC, we therefore we move that the PWT interview, and select a candidate for the DWP Liaison position and bring the nominee to the full WNC Board for a vote to appoint the candidate in concurrence with the DWP MOU. Furthermore we move that the WNC ensure that it considers any Board member or stakeholder for this position based on their individual merits, commitment and desire to serve.***

10.6. Motion seconded by Mr. Popowich

10.7. Motion approved 5-0.

#### **11. Discussion and possible action on Environmental Affairs Department's free tree program.**

11.1. Ms. Chelebian opened discussion on this item. She said that Ms. Palmer is willing and able to work with us. Per the EAD there are about 100 trees left for the major parkways program that are still available. She also announced that there is a new program that will allow streets to be planted on streets leading up to the major thoroughfares. Ms. Chelebian said that she would invite Ms. Palmer to our next meeting. She suggested that we send the word out to the stakeholders that these are available.

11.1.1. Mr. Montaine suggested that we place this on the web site which includes the application. Then we can publicize this and even include it in the newsletter.

11.1.2. Ms. Chelebian asked if we should just start this process now or should we wait. It was agreed we would start the process and also invite her to the next meeting.

11.1.3. Mr. Popowich asked Ms. Chelebian to have Ms. Palmer send the criteria.

#### **12. Update on the Los Angeles Department of Transportation DASH meetings.**

12.1. Ms. Chelebian opened discussion on this item. She read off the letter from the MTA on the DASH Needs Assessment proposal. Ms. Chelebian received and update that no changes were made but it was continued for 30 days.

#### **13. Update on the LA River project.**

13.1. Ms. Chelebian opened discussion on this item. She said that the channel is about 51 miles long from Canoga Park and runs thru Long Beach. She read the email regarding the "Future is Now" campaign that they are launching to clean up and beautify the river. She read off a list of events that are going on along the river. She announced they have a web site which explains the various plans. [www.lariver.org](http://www.lariver.org).

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

#### **15. 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.**

i. Mr. Montaine said that he had noticed that some of the bus stops in Chatsworth are being replaced with adobe benches. He contacted Councilmember Smith's office and he was informed that this was a project that the Chatsworth Chamber of Commerce was working on. He suggested that we look into this as a possible item for us to work on.

ii. Ms. Chelebian said that we can make it an agenda item and Mr. Montaine can take pictures of the items and we will discuss it at the next meeting.

- iii. Mr. Essavi said that he had an idea for the PS Committee. He was at a Jon's in Van Nuys and he noted they had a line of yellow dots along the edge of the parking lots and when you attempt to move the cart beyond it the wheels turn around automatically.

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

**16. Adjournment**