

WINNETKA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA

**Public Works &
Transportation Committee**

Chair
Armineh
Chelebian

Vice Chair
Wayne Schulte

Members
JJ Popowich
Marilyn Robinson
Dwight Burgess



MAILING ADDRESS

**Winnetka Neighborhood
Council**

PO Box 3692
Winnetka, CA 91396

TELEPHONE: 818-781-0016
FAX: 818-781-0929

www.winnetkaneighborhoodcouncil.org

WINNETKA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
PUBLIC WORKS & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

From: J.J. Popowich, Secretary
Date: October 30, 2004
Subject: Meeting Minutes for 10/27/04

1. Call to Order and Committee Members Roll Call.
2. Approval of minutes from our September meeting.
3. **Discussion and possible action or comment on a message from Council member Greig Smith regarding BFI, lobbying efforts, and the Public Works Department.**
 - 3.1. Ms. Chelebian introduced the item and read the email in question to everyone. She asked if we had received a letter regarding the issue and offering a presentation.
 - 3.1.1. Mr. Popowich responded that we have not received a letter.
 - 3.2. Ms. Chelebian asked if anyone had any questions about the email.
 - 3.3. Mr. Popowich responded that the email was scheduled for the newsletter.
 - 3.4. Mr. Montaine stated that Councilmember Smith is an environmental advocate.
 - 3.5. Ms. Chelebian agreed he was. She said he also has the landfill and it is the biggest issue in his district.
 - 3.6. Ms. Robinson stated that she is aware there have been reports of children getting sick in the area. She also commented that she has been through the landfill and that it is very clean. She pointed out that some areas are used for weddings.
 - 3.7. Mr. Schulte asked if we weren't getting off topic.
 - 3.8. No action was taken.
4. **Discussion and possible action recommending the passage of a resolution in support of State Senator Alacorn's efforts to roll back the 11% DWP rate increase, and file an injunction to prevent the City from transferring funds from the DWP to the General Fund except in cases of emergency. This item may be tasked to one or more members for future study.**
 - 4.1. Ms. Chelebian read the item. She pointed out that Senator Alarcon has a town hall meeting about this subject coming up. She then asked if anyone was in support of it or not.
 - 4.2. Mr. Schulte said he was not in favor of any rate hike, but 11% is better than 19%. He went on to say he is dumbfounded that the city can take the money and move it.

4.3. Ms. Chelebian stated that she feels that they are just lying to us. She said it is deceitful for government to do that and if they don't need it then why takes it.

4.4. Ms. Robinson said she is in support of the whole thing (referring to Alarcon's roll back lawsuit).

4.5. Mr. Schulte commented he was in support of the injunction.

4.6. Mr. Montaine said he [Senator Alarcon], didn't say anything about what would be an emergency that it would be ok to take the funds.

4.6.1. Mr. Popowich said that nothing was said, but if the city needed it they would take it anyway.

4.7. Mr. Montaine said he would like to know when.

4.8. Mr. Schulte commented about boats in the reservoir and that there are currently no measures to really protect anything. He went on to say that anyone who wanted to do something could.

4.9. Mr. Montaine maintained he still would like to see some explanation.

4.10. Ms. Chelebian said we didn't have to take a position at this time, but down the line we can.

4.11. Mr. Popowich said he would like a copy of the law suit that was filed. H would like to see what the DWP's position is as well.

4.12. Ms. Chelebian agreed that we could do that. She said maybe the WNC Board liaison could contact the DWP and arrange a meeting.

5. Discussion and possible action on creating plans and working to beautify the area around the "Welcome to Winnetka" signs. The goal is to determine what we want to do, who will be contacting the City to determine the process, how we will select vendors (if not supplied by the City), and other matters pertaining to this issue.

5.1. Mr. Schulte offered to help with this project as it's what he does for a living. He went on to say he's not sure who to contact. He said he would get a list of contractors that are already approved. He also commented that maybe we can do it ourselves. He commented it could be expensive as with a government contractor a day laborer could earn \$28.00 per hour.

5.2. Ms. Chelebian said that first we need to find out if we have that power to do it. She referred to the lease issue and is not sure if we have the right or the ability to enter into a contract. She said we needed guidelines.

5.3. Mr. Popowich said we need to figure out what we want to do first. He said that he had some ideas about flowers, lights and so on. He also suggested we may want to consider river rock in cement around that area which would not require water and would be easy to maintain.

5.4. Mr. Schulte commented he really didn't want to see any cactus out there.

5.5. Ms. Robinson said whatever it is, it should be low maintenance.

5.6. Ms. Chelebian commented that we should tell Zine's office what we want and advise them what he budget is and let them do it. She pointed out that the city already does this in other areas.

She offered another option which was to have a community event where the WNC plants the flowers to show that we care.

5.7. Mr. Schulte suggested that we designate one person to contact the city and ask question and then report back to the committee.

5.8. Mr. Popowich commented that we need to ask the questions in the way that it says what we want to do it. He said there may be problems with the event and safety. He went on to point out that the there are programs where we can get matching funds to improve the area as well.

5.9. Mr. Montaine suggested we look into getting landscapers to volunteer their time.

5.10. Mr. Schulte agreed and said we do need descriptions of what we want to do.

5.11. Mr. Burgess commented that we will probably have to go through D.O.N.E.

- 5.12. Ms. Chelebian said we should go through Zine first and advise him that we have a portion of the money for this. Once we have more of an idea of the process we can come back with options and choose what we want to do.
- 5.13. Mr. Schulte offered to be the point person.
- 5.14. Mr. Montaine said we can see if we can get someone to explain it to us.
- 5.15. Mr. Popowich agreed that this was a good plan as long as Mr. Schulte was given a deadline to report back to the committee.
- 5.16. Mr. Schulte said he would do it tomorrow and get the report to Mr. Popowich and Ms. Chelebian.
- 5.17. Ms. Chelebian suggested that we look at color lights. She said the signs would be nice with colors reflected off of it.
- 5.18. Mr. Popowich made a motion that he report back by the next meeting on his progress, including steps and next action items.
- 5.19. The motion was seconded by Ms. Chelebian and passed 5-0.

6. Update, discussion, and possible action on information from the Public Works Budget Day.

- 6.1. Ms. Chelebian stated that she and Ms. Robinson had gone to the meeting. She said that they never had the chance to sit down and provide any input to the budget. She said they did provide a binder outlining how the budget is put together. She gave a brief outline of the budgeting process and offered to provide the binder to anyone who would like to review it.

Ms. Chelebian continued by saying that this was supposed to be the beginning of a process where the NC's would have a hand in the budget that was submitted. But they never got to it.

She commented that basically the Public Works Department wants us to get involved in the budget process and how the money is spent locally. She said she would provide a copy of the letter which we can post on the web site. She also made available statistical sheets on what Los Angeles consists of.

- 6.2. Ms. Robinson said it was strange because there were too many missing. She said it seemed like no one was really there.
- 6.3. Ms. Chelebian agreed there was poor participation.
- 6.4. Mr. Popowich asked what the deadline was for the next step.
- 6.5. Ms. Chelebian said there really wasn't one.

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

8. Committee Business –

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

- a) Mr. Popowich explained that he has been in contact with the Winnetka Elementary School about the mural project they had presented at a recent Board meeting. He went on to say that he had contacted a Dean at CSUN and outlined the project and plan to him. He then reviewed the plan with the committee. He said he felt this would be an excellent project for us as it would show we are taking a leadership role in the community.
- b) Mr. Schulte said he would volunteer.
- c) Ms. Chelebian questioned whether Mr. Popowich contacted the school privately or as a member of the WNC.
- d) Mr. Popowich responded that he had done it as a member of the WNC. He said he was within his rights and demonstrating leadership. He assured everyone he would bring a report and presentation to the Board for approval before any action could be taken. He reiterated that the WNC has to vote on the issue.

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