

North Westdale Neighborhood Association

Draft Minutes for May 28, 2014

by Joan Winters - Secretary

Called to order: 7:15 PM

Attendance: 30 (the election, which started at 6:00 PM, and continued to go on alongside the meeting until 8:00 PM, had 88 ballots cast. We believe this to be an NWNA record number of votes cast in an NWNA election).

March 26, 2014 Minutes Approved

President's report: Martin Rubin reported that our treasury is growing at a healthy pace thanks to member's dues donations and paid NWNA Newsletter advertisements.

He strongly encouraged community involvement as an essential ingredient to making our NWNA strong. As Chair of our Airport Committee, our one active committee, Martin invited all to attend the mostly informal meetings. He announced that a new committee is now forming to plan a follow-up event to last year's Block Party. Outgoing Treasurer Wayne Matsuyama and Lorraine Wells spoke briefly regarding this and invited all to participate.

Martin thanked Wayne for his excellent work as Treasurer; followed by a well deserved round of applause.

Martin reported about the No Jets lawn signs popping up all around the neighborhood and asked anyone interested in having a free sign to contact him.

Martin introduced new volunteer Block Captain for the 2700 block of Barrington Ryan Steers and his wife Ali. (our seventh new block captain)

Martin then introduced our new Mar Vista Community Council (MVCC) Zone 2 Director Brad Wilhite who spoke briefly. Brad mentioned that there is a number to call for graffiti removal and former NWNA President Bill Koontz added more information regarding how to report graffiti. Martin asked Andy Parke to post this information on the NWNA website.

Airport Committee Report: Chair Martin Rubin read two separate motions that had been passed by the committee at the May 13 meeting. After discussion, a vote was taken on each and both passed unanimously. (See motions below.)

Public Comments: Tony Sanelli and his wife Vicky questioned the election process, saying elections have never been done this way before. Several people commented how election procedures have changed every year at the discretion of the president.

Adjournment: 7:55 PM and all waited while the ballots were counted.

Election Results:

Election volunteers Bill Koontz and Pauli Nuttle reported the election results.

52 votes in favor of the slate of four candidates (President, Martin Rubin; Vice President, Virginia Ernst; Secretary, Joan Winters; and Treasurer, Matthew Roethle)

to

36 votes in favor of Tony Sanelli.

Motion # 1. Nwana Support for the draft ordinance to reduce Santa Monica Airport's air pollution impacts on Nwana residents.

Whereas, air pollution from Santa Monica Airport's aircraft operations has been a contentious issue for many years; and

Whereas, no effort by the City of Santa Monica nor the Federal Aviation Administration has been made to regulate the amount of air pollution carried into the downwind North Westdale neighborhood; and

Whereas, two air quality monitoring studies by the South Coast Air Quality Management District and several studies by the UCLA Dept. of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences have measured highly elevated levels of pollutants in the North Westdale neighborhood; and

Whereas, the U.S. EPA monitored elevated levels of lead at their monitoring sites in North Westdale; and

Whereas, presently there is a draft proposed ordinance being considered by the Santa Monica Airport Commission that will set cut off levels of pollution by engine ratings; and

Whereas, the health of North Westdale residents is at risk; and

Whereas, no environmental ordinance has yet been tested

Therefore, be it resolved that the North Westdale Neighborhood Association on behalf of its residents who experience negative air quality impacts from Santa Monica Airport's aircraft operations, support an ordinance that will reduce the harmful aircraft emissions.

Motion # 2. Motion to join with Santa Monica community groups in opposing AOPA's deceptive petition.

Whereas, a current petition drive funded by the Airport Owners and Pilots Association to place on the ballot an initiative that would change Santa Monica's City Charter; and

Whereas, this change to Santa Monica's City Charter would require a majority vote by Santa Monica voters before any changes can be made at Santa Monica Airport; and

Whereas, this initiative attempt is deceptively cloaked to appeal to Santa Monica residents using the fear of over development of Santa Monica Airport; and

Whereas, not one community group in Santa Monica supports the initiative; and

Whereas, Santa Monicans for Renters Rights, Friends of Sunset Park, Mid-City Neighbors, Northeast Neighbors, Ocean Park Association, and the Wilshire-Montana Neighborhood Coalition are some of the community groups that already oppose the initiative; and

Whereas, the petition drive management firm Arno Petition Consultants Inc., also known as Arno Political Consultants has been the subject of controversy over allegations of petition fraud; and

Whereas, the current paid professional signature gatherers have been reported using false statements to gather signatures

Therefore, be it resolved that the North Westdale Neighborhood Association on behalf of its stakeholders that experience negative impacts from Santa Monica Airport operations, join with the Santa Monica neighborhood groups in opposing this deceptive airport initiative.

