1. Call to Order and Commission roll call

Mario Hernandez: Westlake south was placed back into Exhaustive Efforts as a result of not having enough candidates for the Neighborhood election. It’s always struggled with having enough candidates to maintain a quorum of 15. So they’ve reduced it to eight (8) for the months of March through May. Going forward tonight, the board will consider permanently reducing the number of board members from eight (8) to five (5).

2. Community/ Government Reports & Announcements:
   a. LA City Council District Representative

   David Estrada (Park Director of MacArthur Park):
   On April 20th we’ll be having a domestic Violence Awareness event that will have a march starting at Ramapart at 11:00 am. Then Dia del Nino, Breaking of Barriers and VOA Volunteers of America – which is open to all public, but targeting 2-12 yea-olds. That’ll be April 27 from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Then we have a fishing Derby. This is a partnership between Dan Hernandez and the Department of Youth and Games. No fishing allowed until after 12:00 PM, and then you will have to have fishing licenses to be able to participate. This is 9:00am – 12:00 PM on May 4th. And beginning in June, we’ll have the summer concert series. We’ll post it all online, and CD1 will send a mailing somewhere. We can also make some flyers. (Responding to question) Last year they stocked the lake with 2,000 lbs of fish. They only thing is for us to make sure that they don’t fish it out. But they will stock them.
b. LAPD Senior Leads

c. Government Departments/Agencies, including Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment

Hernandez: Luis apologizes he couldn’t be here. My report: I want to go over Exhaustive Efforts. It’s really critical, the timeline I laid out before you, that we follow that. Because you guys have about $35,000 to spent. Right now the only thing you can spend it on is general operating expense. The plan is to have you in exhaustive efforts between now and May 7. Right now the money could roll over into the next fiscal year and that could happen in June, but only if the Council were without any instances of final distress, like Exhaustive Efforts. So we need to have a Treasurer.

June 13 is next general Board meeting.
June 1 is last day the Neighborhood Council can submit a check to be processed.
May 7 is the critical date.
May 20 is the last day to submit to the City Clerk for any kind of event approval, if you want to have any kind of outreach event.
So May 7 is the target date I set for Westlake south to be released from Exhaustive Efforts.
In order for that to happen, we have to have a Treasurer in place, a Second Signer in place and a Holder in place.

Also on agenda tonight we’re going to consider reducing board structure size from 15 to six (6), seven (7) or eight (8) and reestablish quorum as five (5). If this happens, I have to write this up and have it approved by April 15. The next Financial Training is on March 27. It’s a two-hour class during the day, I think from 1:00 – 3:00 at City Hall. The more people who register, it makes your ability to spend that money easier. I really believe it can be done.

d. Community Organizations

3. General Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

No comments. Closed.

4. Discussion and possible motion to approve a WSNC Community Engagement Forum to be facilitated by Gabriel Kahan, Sense.LA. Forum is based on the leading edge MIT methodology, which helps to create new thinking and increase community participation at Neighborhood Council meetings. Forum requires up to $700.00 for outreach materials, forum supplies and food for participants.

Gabriel Kahan: I’m Gabriel Kahan, a fellow at the Gurgoan Institute in Los Angeles and I’m working on two main goals: 1) to understand and figure out the future of democracy and 2) to understand the transformation of the human and artist. I’m working with them on a city-wide project that uses systems thinking and artistic practices to visualize community issues and collective intelligence and individual perspectives to create something bigger than the sum of its parts. We work closely with the Dept of Neighborhood Empowerment; we work closely with every neighborhood in the city to understand every neighborhood and each other in the context of the city. We collaboratively to build a system within where we can see all of our individual issue are connected. Once we have the structure, you will have a much deeper understanding of our community and of each other, and then how to create policy and make decisions that react more faithfully to the needs of your community. You’ll be able to leave this project with an understanding of systems thinking, leading edge potentiality, and high precision tolls like robots.
and turbines. It is a workshop that’s six hours long. It’s just one day and the idea is to bring not only yourselves, but everyone in community that is interested in having a voice in the community. Pretty much everything we need from the Neighborhood Council is a space – which me might not even need because we might have one here in MacArthur Park, but I’ll check. The method has been tried out all over the world and it’s been tried in City Hall with the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment. I’ve work with Watts, Harbor Gateway North, Rampart Village. We’re going to do Westlake North. So I hope you are interested and we can do something together. I would just need one month in advance so we could do the outreach together. We just pick a Saturday and we could do it.

Board member Guillen motions for discussion. Board member Aguirre seconds. Motion approved unanimously.

Guillen: How is this pedagogy different from what goes on in organizing your human center design? What goes on in the workshop?

Kahan: There are similarities. In this case it’s not about creating a product, but a group visualization. It’s a hybrid model. We create the space for unbound creativity. We put all these images together with robots to create a very quick succession of representations, so we get a very quick sculpture, so to speak, that represents your community. So you will end up with a physical object that represents your concerns and thoughts about your area. You will learn design management and manufacturing systems thinking, used to create robots. Human center design combined with design process and thinking. With up to 50 people to create a sculpture that we create together based off of our lived experiences. They work in small groups 3-5 people.

McAnally: My concern is that the six-hour workshop could create a barrier for people to attend. And is this artistic opportunity is something that can leverage policy?

Kahan: You see it as, “This is the problem, what can we vote on?” It’s a very linear way of thinking.

McAnally: I’m curious how this is going to benefit us more than any other tool out there.

Kahan: This is a community, a socially engaged project. It’s an excellent way to get a lot of people who might not be sitting here to say, “This is what they do. They do pretty cool things and I want to be a part of it.” It’s also a pretty cool tool for data because this is what people are thinking about on the ground every day that aren’t captured by census and other data. So it’s information that you wouldn’t find by other methods. Go to Sense.LA and you can see what we’ve been doing. We did a month-wide city experiment where pay phones became our kiosks–

McAnally: That was a big enough sample?

Kahan: Yeah, it was. We’re going to do one March 30 10:00 – 4:00 at Watts, the old Watts Library. If you can’t be there, I’d be happy to keep discussing this, because I think these are important questions.

Guillen: What sort of change have you seen as a result?

- The first one was Dec 15, so it’s too soon. It’s too soon for me to tell you if there’s any change that has occurred as a result of them.

Guillen: Can you talk about the process?

Kahan: We sit down in a room, break in to groups of three to five, talk about ideas of language and then start to visualize language, then we design. What does a cracked sidewalk make people feel? It’s emotions. And through emotions we can understand all of the little details that
we experience as we go throughout our day. It’s root cause.

Kahan: I’m intrigued about how this differentiates how you eliminate implicit biases about what you think is the causes of these things. How do you facilitate that?

Kahan: It’s about mutual interests. If we’re look at all these problems in the context of something of that is of mutual interest of us, in a group that big, we eliminate the expert.

7:24 break
7:29 reconvened

Hernandez closed Discussion.
Measure approved unanimously (LAsker, Strukov, Aguierre, Guillen, Hernandez)

5. Discussion and possible motion to amend the Bylaws of the Westlake South Neighborhood Council to reduce the Board size from fifteen (15) seats to between seven (7) and nine (9) seats, establish Board quorum to five (5) and other changes the Board may wish to consider. The proposed seats to be eliminated are:

a. Resident Stakeholder – 1 Seat (reduced to 9 or below)
b. Business Stakeholder – 3 Seats (reduced to 9 or below)
c. Community Organization Stakeholder – 2 Seats (reduced to 9 or below)
d. Youth Board Member – 1 Seat (reduced to 9 or below)
e. At-Large – 1 Seat converted from CBO (reduced to 9 or below)
f. At-Large – 1 additional Seat (reduced to 8 or below)
g. Community Based Stakeholder – 1 additional Seat (reduced to 7)

McAnally motions to discuss. Danielle seconds.
Motion approved.

Discussion:
Aguirre: Won’t we still need five whether we have seven or nine seats?

Hernandez: Yes. This is Westlake South and we’ve always struggled with capacity. One idea was that we consolidate with Westlake North.

Aguirre: But then we have to cover more space with less money.

Hernandez: The response to that is that it’s always one space that struggles keeping its money down and one it’s always giving its money back. I wouldn’t focus too much on the money going back to the city, because both of you are always giving money back.

Aguirre: I hear about money being spent on sports uniforms for kids. So I think it’s important to do something with it like that, that helps people.

(response to question from Strukov)
Hernandez: Community outreach/engagement is going to be very critical to keep this council going. So it’s going to be your job to get out there and bring the other people in.

(response to question from Strukov)
Hernandez: There are other boards out there with a size of 9 and they do quite well – that’s why
in your bylaws you have the ability to appoint an alternate.

McAnally: I believe that we should be our own structure for now.
Hernandez: The department is trying to help you guys move forward.
McAnally: I’m trying to see what the consequences would be if this is a failed system you’ve proposed.
Guillen: How many people are on Westlake North’s council?

Hernandez: They appointed an additional three and they have some alternates, so they’re at capacity right now. So they’re in the same situation. But they’re looking at going down to nine, knowing that, if they have to, they can go back up. If we were to combine, we’d probably take the board back up to 15.

Public comment:
Nelson Castillo: Many years ago, a group of individuals and I got together and started this Council. I want you to look at the glass half full, rather than half empty. I want you to be optimistic. It’s an area with a lot of talent. And it’s very beautiful to hear you all ask these questions. And I wouldn’t even fathom the idea of having you disappear or dilute the resources that we’ve been given and having to focus on an area even a couple blocks away, Westlake North, that has different needs. Obviously there have been times when we’ve struggled to have a quorum and to conduct business. But there have been times when we’ve been fully operational. I want you to think about that and have that perspective on this historical point. Where you are now is not where you’ve been and not where you could be tomorrow.

Guillen: I want to say that this is a tension between what is good governance for the people of Westlake South and Westlake North and per capita loss of money, where the Neighborhood Council should function as a pillar, where people should have access to the money. Do we lose the amount of money we can spend in the neighborhood, given the amount of people who are here? I want to put that out for consideration before we vote.

Motion:
Aguirre: I propose going to nine (9).
Hernandez: I want to amend the motion to “to reduce the Board size from fifteen (15) seats to nine (9) seats.”

McAnally motions to approve the amendment. Strukov seconds. Motion approved unanimously.

6. Discussion and possible motion to fill vacancies to the Westlake South Neighborhood Council in accordance with the WSNC Bylaws, Article V, Section 6: Vacancies.

a. If reduction in Board size to seven (7) is approved per Agenda Item 4, the available seat to be filled is:
   5.a.1. Resident Stakeholder – 1 Seat

b. If reduction in Board size to eight (8) is approved per Agenda Item 4, the available seats to be filled are:
   5.b.1. Resident Stakeholder – 1 Seat
   5.b.2. Community Based Stakeholder – 1 Seat
c. If reduction in Board size to nine (9) is approved per Agenda Item 4, the available seats to be filled are:

5.c.1. Business Stakeholder – 1 Seat
5.c.2. Community Based Stakeholder – 1 Seat
5.c.3. At-Large Stakeholder – Seats

Hernandez: I want to make sure the agenda is corrected to Westlake SOUTH for this item.

McAnally motions to fill vacancies. Lasker seconds. Motion approved.

Candidate Statement:
Nelson: I am a Co-Founder and I served as Past President for four to five years. I helped the community to build something from scratch, we worked really hard. It was a lot of toil, a lot of thankless work, but it was meaningful work, because there are a lot of things that need to be done in this area and it’s important to have someone to do it. I’d like to rejoin. I think I could bring you back my knowledge and assistance and it looks like you could use it.

You made a decision to make it nine seats and I think it be more apropos for me to join as a business. You die or live by your people, by your team. You don’t want people with drama, or hidden agendas. The decision you’re about to make with me or anyone else, don’t take it lightly. Because boards can be very productive, when you have the right team, but very destructive when you have the wrong team. I have no drama, no hidden agendas. I offer you the experience I have accumulated over many years.

Guillen: When you were president, or founding Westlake South, what was something your board was not able to succeed in and how did you solve this issue? And what vision where you trying to bring to this board?

Castillo: My biggest challenge is people. People not showing up when they’re supposed to show up. Having challenges within the city government and not getting the support that you need. But you move forward and you persevere and you pick your battles and remember that you’re thinking about someone else to try to help, too. It’s beautiful to have a vision, but you also have to be realistic about what you can and cannot accomplish. And be prepared. Have contingency plans. Out of 15, sometimes we were running on eight cylinders. Sometimes we were running on the whole 15. Out of those who chose to leave they’re a tremendous amount of responsibility of who you choose for the program and the common collective vision you chose to build for the community. Life is tension. And you have to do the best with what you have and move forward. We started with a small group of committed people who worked really hard to achieve things. So talent is there. And the resource is there.

David Estrada: You mentioned vision. What would be your vision now for the area?

Castillo: The reality is that you have a delineated area for your area of concern. You have to understand what your needs are for the community and understand what your neighbors do and do not need. It’s important that you begin from the beginning. But in order to help somebody else, you have to be strong yourself. How strong or weak is the Westlake Neighborhood Council at this moment? So that when we present ourselves out there people say “Wow, that’s something I would like to join.” Before you think about giving away your money to somebody else, you have to think about investing in you. Giving yourself someplace you call home. Prioritize something to go after. If you give your opinion, a lot of times they won’t listen to you. But that doesn’t mean that you shouldn’t continue speaking up. So it’s very complicated. But the vision is a vision of us. And it’s limitation of time, energy and resources.
Hernandez: Let’s have a vote appointing Nelson Castillo as business stakeholder of Westlake South Neighborhood Council. Approved unanimously.

Hernandez: There’s an ethics training tomorrow, if anyone’s interested, at City Hall East.

7. Discussion and possible motion to approve up to $4,500.00 to be a community sponsor of the 2019 Levitt Summer Concerts. Participation in the Levitt Summer Concerts affords the Westlake South Neighborhood Council to promote the WSNC and possible recruitment of potential board members and committee members. Fee includes logo on Levitt LA Promo material, social media recognition, WSNC logo placement on Levitt LA website with link to WSNC and prominent log placement on Levitt LA website home page.

[Guillen leaves for this vote due to personal interest.]

Aguirre motions to approve up to $4,500 to the Levitt Summer Concerts. McAnally Seconds. Motion approved unanimously.

Carla Contreras: I’m Community Outreach Coordinator at Outreach LA. We host the 53 concerts at MacArthur Park throughout the summer, June 1 – September 1. Though this time we served Westlake South community members, as well as surrounding community members, as well as providing kids a way to express their creativity through arts and crafts. We request a contribution this year of $4,500. This will be used for outreach ideas and at our concerts. In return, we offer you the opportunity to host a booth at five of our events. You can select the dates. We’ll also have your name on our LED screens. And we’ll also put you on our social media pages, so all of our followers will know that you’ve been a part of making our concert series happen.

Strukov: Do you already have the program for all the concerts?

Contreras: We haven’t finalized it yet, but we have a sample in the packet from last year. We’ll be finalizing it within the next couple months and you’ll definitely be receiving a copy of that.

The benefits again are:
You’ll be able to host a booth for five nights of our events.
You’ll be recognized on the LED screen at our every night you’re there.
You’ll be recognized on our social media pages as having provided funding for our concert series.

Five nights of having a booth at our events will allow you to do out reach to over 6,000 people. Our events happen four times a week Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

McAnally: When are the most attended days/times?
Contreras: It’s more about the act, than the day.
McAnally: How are we on the prioritization list? If we choose some of the most competitive nights to be represented?
Contreras: You are going to be our priority. If you do agree to the contribution, you will be prioritized.
McAnally: Is there any possibility to discuss further the number of nights represented?
Contreras: I can always discuss that with the team and then circle back.
Aguirre: brought it up first. [below]

Contreras: I can definitely talk to the team and circle back to get you an answer on that.

Castillo: I would ask you to consider, if a board member is available, that they be allowed to be able to say some opening remarks, to get the word out that the Neighborhood Council is here. They would probably be very brief remarks, and also be a function of the availability of people. It probably wouldn’t be all 50 nights. Also, recognizing the sponsors in the social media e-blasts – is that something very generic, or is it some sort of individual recognition?

Contreras: We can definitely provide that opportunity for you all to not be combined with everybody else who has provided sponsorship with us, but to be pushed out prominently. Not every sponsor receives a unique opportunity. And, so that it wouldn’t just be us doing all the work, we can definitely set up a time to discuss this and brainstorm ideas.

Aurora (Lead Representative at Outreach LA): Last year we provided you with two nights on the lawn, this year we’ve provided you five and we can definitely provide you up to 10. April 30th is a very important day at Levitt LA and that’s the day we’ll announce five shows. We’ll definitely need to provide more tents this year because we’ve had so many more people interested in promoting through us. We’ve also doubled our audience from 2,500 to 5,500. We know this because we’ve had to print more flyers. We’re hoping to reach 8,000 to 9,000 this year. If you are on the lawn, we are definitely going to have your logo on the screen for the 90 minutes before the show, in between acts and at the end. Sunday is our bi-lingual audience, Sunday is our local audience. And that’s the time when we have a little more time between acts – we have 20 minutes between acts – so we’ve actually brought sponsors up onto the stage and given them time to speak on stage. We give them two minutes each.

Castillo: And which out of those four days do the most people attend?
Aurora: It really depends. It varies completely on the artist.
Castillo: I understand on Sundays, but I highly encourage you to allow us to speak at every event you have available.
Aurora: I understand that. We definitely have Sundays. The other nights are definitely packed with DJ’s and other things like that. But I’ll definitely take it back and talk about it.
Castillo: If the mayor wanted to speak, he would have that clout. I highly encourage you to help us have that clout for the other things we need to do.

Vote:
Unanimously approved. (Castillo ineligible)
4 yeses, 1 ineligible

Castillo: I don’t know how busy you are all. But the more we could show up at every event – I encourage use to be at every event, if possible.

[Guillen returns]

Aguirre: Many people don’t know who we are right now
Guillen: We just have to make more relationships.

8. Discussion and possible motion to appoint a Board Member as Chair to the Outreach Committee, and any interested stakeholder as Committee Member.

Hernandez: Do we have any board members interested?
Aguirre: I am.

Guillen motions. McAnally seconds. Board Member Aguirre nominated to be Chair to the Outreach Committee.

Castillo: What do you think would be your job as chair of outreach committee?

Aguirre: It’s very important to be engaged in the community and doing things around the neighbors. How can we fix these issues or correct these sorts of issues. It’s not just a public person, but you have to understand what has happened and try to find out the way to solve it. You can connect many of them. The connection between the community and us to work together

Castillo: The fist thing I’m looking for is to get the training to understand what I’m going to do. Castillo: Mr. Hernandez what are the qualities we should be looking for in a chair?

Hernandez: You want to create a plan, maybe it’s a social media plan, maybe it’s flyers, maybe it’s seeing what works in this community and seeing how can we get this community here. Second you have to have a meeting. It would have to be agendized, and properly noticed, and those are thing I would work with you to do. Any committee, it’s their job to make recommendations to the board to consider.

Castillo: How many members does the committee need to function every time it meets? And who is entitled to serve on those committees?

Hernandez: Stakeholders as well. At least two.

Castillo: Actually we all should be involved in the outreach committee. It makes you or breaks you. It’s all hands on board.

Hernandez: I think for the longest time Westlake South was probably one of the best-kept secrets in the area. Which is not how it should be.

Hernandez motions to appoint Board Member to Aguirre as Outreach Committee Chair & Castillo as Committee Member Approval unanimous (6 votes) (Castillo eligible for this vote.)

9. Discussion and possible motion to approve the Monthly Expenditure Reports (MERs) for the months of November 2018, December 2018, January 2019, and February 2019.

Aguirre motions to approve MERs. Guillen seconds. Approved unanimously. (Castillo ineligible.)

10. Discussion and possible motion to approve the rescheduling of the WSNC Car seat event date to April 6, 2019. Event required postponement due to LAISD Teacher’s strike.

Hernandez: On April 20th we have approved a giveaway of car seats. This area has the highest mortality rate of infant mortality, due to lack of car seats. Housing is storing the car seats, but they belong to Neighborhood council.
Guillen motions to table this issue until next meeting
Motion approved unanimously.

Castillo: I encourage you to be very strategic when you do outreach. It’s a double-edged sword when you pick individuals. Think about what kind of skills everybody has and what skills are missing and how you can find those skills as quickly as possible. And how you can leverage the skills you all have. Think about how you can leverage the skills you all have in the community at large.

11. **Adjournment** at 9:05 PM