1. Call to Order

7:04 PM : Mario Hernandez calls meeting to order

2. Community / Government Reports & Announcements

Hernandez: Westlake South was placed in exhaustive efforts in March because of not having enough members from their election. The Department of Neighborhood Empowerment has stepped in to help work with the neighborhood community.

Present Board Members: Aguirre, Lasker, Strukov, Morales, Arzate

Absent Board Members: McAnallay, Guillen, Caldera, Castillo

Hernandez: We will move to Item #7 first because we have limited time with Board Member Lasker.

7. Discussion and possible motion to approve up to $5,000 to CCNP as community partner for their 2019 Summer Camp program…

Aguirre motions, Strukov seconds.

Lizette Arzola: I know you all have the information in front of you about the sponsorship. We are a non profit in a local community. Most of our services are free to local community. We serve anyone who lives in LA City and is a low to moderate income household. This is our third summer providing summer camp free of charge to youth. We want the youth to be in an environment where they can be engaged & not at home in front of the TV.

In April, we have a spring camp with the youth for one week. (Hands out info packets to board). …I provided a sample flyer which will include [WSNC] logo and on the flyer distributed and will be placed on our social media and at our facility.

We are asking for $5,000 and that will go directly to the youth, directly to the program. Our summer camp is focused on science, and on art, and on civic engagement.

Other CCNP Employee: We focus on science. The camp helps them focus on science. They’re scared of the subject, and they think it is boring. We help them see that is more. We launch rockets. We create
volcanoes. We will also be doing that during the summer, and with your help, we could do way more than rocket launching and volcanoes.

No public comment.

Aguirre: Where do you go to the pool?
CCNP: We go to an Echo Park indoor pool. We do activities within walking distance depending on permit.
Morales: How do you reach people and how do you accept people into the program?
CCNP: The info is distributed to those who are in our office regularly which is about 200-500 people per week. We accept people by first come first serve.

We have our applications and the number of youth we are able to accept. Anyone who is a resident of Los Angeles and qualifies for our services based on our services which is low to moderate income but most are very low income.

Strukov: Where is the camp situated?
CCNP: The camp is located at our HQ which is less than a mile down the street on 5th and Bixel. Most activities take place there. But everyday is different.
Monday- in building
Tuesday- library trip
Wednesday- field trip
Thursday- if permit is approved then we go to the pool in the afternoon
We try to make it as active as we can as a daycamp.

Strukov: And for Lunch?
CCNP: For lunch, we are partners with the LA Food Bank, and we provide

Arzate: So this is an NPG/

Hernandez: Because Westlake South is in exhaustive efforts you can’t grant NPGs, but this would be outreach.

Arzate: And you have 4,000 youth?
CCNP: There are 4,000 people affected.

Arzate: The concern is that if we are giving you money, it would make sense that if there is a waiting list, priority would be given to the children in our neighborhood.

Hernandez: But because the program services the community at large, that would be okay.

Arzate: Last question is transportation.
Hernandez: That would be on the organizer. This is just a sponsorship.
CCNP: I can provide clarification.
We serve all individuals in the city of LA. And within our coverage area, there are three neighborhood councils within Westlake Pico Union area. And we are reaching out to all neighborhood councils for funding.

Strukov: And this is for just this area or all of Los Angeles?

CCNP: We are part of the Family Soars system, and there are 16 other Family Soar centers in the LA City. But in this area, we are closest to this neighborhood council, and the rest are spread out through LA City…I would say 99% of the people we serve are within walking distance or public transportation of our building.

Hernandez: We have a motion to vote.  
Motion passes unanimously.

Hernandez: Congratulations. We’ll get that processed tomorrow.

Next item out of order is Item #8

8. Discussion & possible motion to approve up to $2500 to be a community partner for the 4th of July Festival hosted by Council District 1. Event to be held at MacArthur Park on June 29, 2019 from 6pm - 9pm. Event includes activities, food, live music & firework show. The community partnership with Council District 1 allows for a tabling opportunity for the WSNC to expand its identity within the community.

Councilmember Gil Cedillo: We’ve done this event for 4-5 years. We have great bands. We have lots of sponsors. We’ll also be going to Westlake North Neighborhood Council tomorrow. There will be 1,000 free hot dogs for everyone. And we’ll be ending with a firework show over the lake….

Hernandez: Board Member Comments?

Aguirre passes.

Morales: Is this a draft of the flyer? I don’t see our Neighborhood Council logo on there.

Cedillo: Yes it is a draft.

Hernandez: With no further board member questions, I’ll call for a vote.
Motion passes unanimously.

We’ll get that processed as well, $2500.

And now Item #9.

9. Discussion & possible motion to approve up to $2500 to be a community partner for the Hope and Peace Park Pool party hosted by Council District 1. Event to be held at Hope and Peace Park on 6/15 from 11am - 3pm. Activities include water slides, kiddie pools, food, music and prizes. The community partnership with Council District 1 allows for a tabling opportunity for the WSNC to expand its identity within the community.

Aguirre motions to approve.
Arzate seconds.
No public comment.

David Estrada: I’m the Park Director at MacArthur Park & at Hope & Peace Park. A few months ago, we had some brand new LED lights installed there, other improvements to the park with the help of CD1. We had the summer lunch program re-instated over there and will be serving Summer Lunch beginning on June 10th. And we have been wondering - what else can we do over there? And our idea was to have a pool party / fiesta. The money will offset the event. Not one cent goes to my salary or my staff’s salary. All money donated goes right back to the program. We don’t balance our budget with it, etc.

There will be waterslides, a clown, clown show, free music, a rock wall perhaps. If we can’t get a rock wall, we’ll have more than enough in that small space.

This will be June 15th which is Father’s Day Weekend. A lot of the families we serve don’t have the capacity to go outside of MacArthur Park / Westlake. It won’t cost anyone anything to come out to the park and have fun with their families.

Morales: Have there been any events like this here in the past?

Estrada: We haven’t had an event like this...

Hernandez: There was a movie night.

Estrada: Right. That was when we learned I was in charge of that. We had 300 kids come for the movie night. There are a lot of apartments there. We did a Basketball 8-week program - we had about 20 kids per night. And this was during the fall. The kids would be there until 6:30.

The need is there. It is not an underserved area, but the area needs a green area.

Hernandez: On a Department Note, Westlake South provided a lot for that event last year - snacks, soda, water, etc. The kids showed the movie Coco. It was great. The kids loved it.

Estrada: We’re doing the palettas again. We’re putting money back in the community. We’re going to call it the Westlake Summer Fiesta. In Spanish, it translates a bit different. It is a Westlake event.

Strukov: There is no pool in the park?

Estrada: No we’re going to rent it. We’re going to rent slides. Waterslides.

Strukov: There will be a pool?

Estrada: There is going to be a 26 foot tall slide. We’re going to rent some slides and connect the water.

Arzate: A question for Mario - the insurance- is that run through them or through us?

Hernandez: Westlake South is a community partner, but it is CD1’s event.

Estrada: CD1 has insurance. The people providing the slides have insurance etc.

Arzate: The fiscal year is ending, right? So do we have to spend all of the money?
Hernandez: Westlake South has $28,000 later.

Arzate: Cause I’d love to use that money and give them more money.

Hernandez: Because it is agendized at $2500 that’s what we have to use.

Arzate: It should be a huge festival!

**Hernandez calls the vote.**
**Item passes unanimously.**

**3. Discussion & Possible Motion to Approve the Monthly Expenditure Reports**

Aguirre motions to approve.
Lasker seconds.

No public comment.
No board comments.

Motion passes unanimously.

**4. Discussion & possible motion to approve the Minutes of the March 19, 2019 Special Meeting**

Lasker motions to approve.
Aguirre seconds.

No public comment.

Arzate: Can we have the minutes in advance to every meeting so we can review?
Hernandez: We’ll get that out there.

Strukov: Can you disapprove the minutes?
Hernandez: You can approve / not approve or abstain?

Strukov: What would be the reason to disapprove the minutes?
Hernandez: Documentation.
Strukov: We need the minutes on time so we can read and think, etc.
Hernandez: Okay it will be provided in the future.

Motion is tabled - with two yes votes and three abstentions.
Hernandez: I need to check the bylaws.

**5. Discussion & possible motion to approve the Minutes of the April 23, 2019 Special Meeting**

Arzate motions to approve.
Lasker seconds.

No public comment.
No board member comments.
The motion passes unanimously.

6. Discussion & possible motion to move the regular meeting date & time of the WSNC to the 4th Thursday at 6:30 pm

Hernandez: Just a background - the board was set to meet on Wednesdays but several board members cannot make it so we have decided to move the meeting to Thursdays.

Aguirre motions to approve.
Arzate seconds.

No public comment.

Morales: I am glad we are moving it earlier. I am glad we are talking about moving it because of the availability of the board. In the future, I’d like to find more community input for when the meeting should be.

Arzate: I think 6:30 does not allow enough time for people who have just gotten out of work to get to the meeting. When thinking of stakeholders, I am thinking the meeting should be later.

Hernandez: Would you like to amend the motion?

Hector Arzate motions to amend.
Aguirre seconds.

Public comment: Two community members chime in that 6:30 is better.

Strukov: If we need quorum, I think 7 pm is better.

Board comments:

Aguirre: I think 7 pm is much better.
Morales: We have more people here today because the meeting a little earlier, and the last time we had the meeting at 7 pm, there were less people. We should consider that it is not always daylight savings, and in the fall, it might be better to meet earlier.

Strukov: Today we were supposed to start at 6:30, but we did start at 7. We had to wait until 7 to start. I think that 7pm is better.

Hernandez: As a Department Note, meetings always start about half an hour late.

Arzate: The main function of us to be here is for the community to participate. And I know it might be inconvenient to us to be here, but not everyone in the community has the same kind of availability.

If you get home at 5 or 5:30 and you need to get home and feed your children, and it is such a tight window of time to get the community to participate. And soon we will need a bigger room if we have more members of the community here participating.

Lasker: So if the meeting starts at 7 - it will be 7 to what.
Hernandez: It depends how productive the Board is, how busy the agenda is, etc. It could be 7:30, 8, 8:30.

Lasker: Well this agenda says 6:30-8:30

Hernandez: Well, we were going to have you until 7:30

Lasker: My opinion is 6:30 is fine.

Hernandez moves to a vote to approve the motion to discuss new time and date.

Aguirre- Yes
Morales - No
Strukov- Yes
Arzate - Yes
Lasker - No

Hernandez: The amendment passes so the motion is that the WSNC Meeting will be moved to Thursdays at 7 pm.

Arzate: If it doesn’t work, we can always change it back in two, three months.

Public comment:

CCNP: Also to consider - people do go home after work, but a lot of the community here uses public transportation in their own area and they’re not going to want to be at night. A lot of people don’t come to our space at night because they are scared of walking out.

Arzate: There is always the possibility to move the meetings to a different space that is more suitable.

Hernandez: That is something the Board to consider. It’s just a discussion - there has been no formal action. So the meetings are here.

Board comment:

Morales: I think that we should have considered the time - we should have waited for the Community Forum to make a more serious commitment to a new time.

Hernandez: So we should move to a vote.

Morales: So we can only choose the new date to have quorum?

Aguirre- Yes
Morales- Abstain
Strukov- Yes
Arzate- Yes
Lasker - No

The motion does carry to move the meeting to the 4th Thursday at 7 pm.

Hernandez: I’m going to move to Agenda Item #11, out of order.
11. Discussion & possible motion to approve a date to host the WSNC Community Engagement Forum to be facilitated by Gabriel Kahan, Sense.LA. ...$700 for outreach materials, etc.

Hernandez: So at this point, we’ll have the presentation by Gabriel.

Gabriel Kahan: Thank you so much for putting me on the agenda once again. I see a few new faces so I will explain very quickly what I do. I am a writer, artist and researcher from MIT who developed a group learning methodology to help groups come together and discover ideas of mutual interest. I live here in LA, and I am working with the DONE and other organizations and I am working with as many NCs as possible to come together at events and discuss our daily lives and to discover how our situations are interconnected. We map it out using systems, and then we use artistic visualization techniques to identify the issues. Then, together we build a sculpture which helps neighborhood councils see all of the issues - which is why it is important to have as many community members as possible. So when you are developing policy, you can use this sculpture to make decisions that are multi-pronged. This helps you be more dynamic in decision making and helps you realize that change is constant. You can be nimble in decision making and will plan ahead. As you progress, you develop systems thinking techniques, group power system structures - understand ways to break power structures that maybe hinder communication so you enable voices that may not be accustomed to speaking in public to have their voice heard. You learn artistic visualization techniques and you learn design and design framework that was built by one of this country’s leading mechanical engineers to work with groups to build high precision tools - robots, turbines. He developed this about 20 years ago and this is a very powerful tool to learn to take to whatever project you desire and employ it. On an outreach level for a Neighborhood Council, taking this kind of project, you will create a collective, holistic vision - it will draw more people into the Neighborhood Council sphere of influence.

This discussion is a six hour event. Through this discussion, you will learn from each other and build a more united community.

Last time I was here, you voted on approving this assembly. Now we need to decide on a date, and I will need to speak with whoever is in charge of outreach so we can discuss outreach techniques and you can leverage my knowledge for that. You can keep that outreach plan and use it for other things that you do. Usually we do it on a Saturday so we can get as many people as possible It’s six hours.

I will provide the activity materials. What I need from you is outreach materials.

…You can modify my materials. You can also work with me to figure out which social media channels to work with, and also through word of mouth. It’s just deciding which Saturday works for you.

We need about 3 weeks to 1 month in advance to make sure there is enough outreach happening and people will come.

Hernandez: Let me ask for a motion.
Aguirre motions.
Arzate seconds.

Public comment: What are the specific issues?  
Kahan: There is no set agenda - whatever needs to emerge. Emerges.
It goes from:
a broken sidewalk in front of my house - I have a physical disability and can’t cross the street because of that to how the concept of the devil is affecting my life if I am a very religious person. We’ve had that. We’ve had the devil. We’ve had bus stops. We’ve had stop signs. We’ve had trust. We talk about the issues for over an hour so it gets very deep and that is the idea. We’re looking for motivations behind our behavior.

CCNP: How will this be facilitated in English and Spanish?

Kahan: I do speak Spanish and we do need a translator.

CCNP: Will childcare be provided?

Kahan: Translation, childcare, food & outreach are the things we need to discuss here. I know I have used professional childhood services in other Neighborhoods that I can provide, and I need to see how the $700 we have here would be allocated.

Childcare, translation, food and the space are important.

Board comments:

Aguirre & Kahan discuss outreach in Spanish.

Aguirre: We have 10 concerts at the Levitt Pavillion on Saturdays & Sundays that we must table from June to September.

Kahan: We leave it completely up to you. There’s always another event…

Morales: I don’t think we should motion this. There are many details that need to be fleshed out. Like translation is a huge challenge that hasn’t been discussed.

I’m concerned there’s only $700 given to this - there should be more given there is a large outstanding budget. But I know that if we don’t motion this now, we will lose the money. We should have given more money to it.

Hernandez: Clarification from the Department - because you are in exhaustive efforts - and I’m trying to get you out of exhaustive efforts. If you get out of exhaustive efforts, you can roll over up to $10,000 but I need to get the board out of exhaustive efforts. If we can get out of exhaustive efforts by the end of June, then you’ll have that $10,000 and you can use it for next year’s funds.

From a department perspective, we did the exercise, and it was amazing to see everything come together. What I was thinking connected with someone else. It is an important tool that would be beneficial to the community because I think there is so much going on in this community, the left doesn’t know what the right is doing, and it would be great to put some thought into it and do proper outreach to make sure you reach the right people.

Arzate: I think it’s a wonderful project. I like it. It helps to visualize what you are dealing with. And that’s a major problem we’ve had as a community. My question is about the format?

We’d be trained to use the systems and the tools and see the problems of the community?

I agree the money is too little.
Translation itself is $200/hour.

Hernandez: The thing with translation is that part of the neighborhood reforms is that translation will be provided by the Department, but the caveat is that if the NC requests it and they don’t use it, then it will be forfeited.

Arzate: Could this be spread out over two days?

Kahan: We could do two sessions. The thing is that the information should be processed immediately. Also something to consider is that people would come to the first day and not the second day.

Arzate: Could it be an app?

Kahan: This is all tactile. It’s physical. You’re going to build a physical structure.

Arzate: I’m just saying that it could build into a visual map.

Morales: What has been the turnout at other neighborhood councils?

Kahan: It has been 6 minimum to about 30?

Hernandez: Does the board want to move on this? Or do you want to table it? If you want to move it into next fiscal year. I would recommend tabling it and moving it into next year.

Kahan: I can meet with the outreach board member and keep moving on this.

Arzate: Obviously, we can not increase the money, but if other NCs participate as well, then we can pool…

Kahan: Well it is specific to the area - I am working with different NCs - this whole corridor from Koreatown to Downtown is being worked on now. What’s really interesting about that is that you not only have your local issues but other issues and how those are interconnected. It’s interesting to see how this whole corridor thinks, feels and goes through daily life.

Morales: I think that the last time we were speaking - we wanted to be more available and accessible and I think we should do more research about what makes sense / and make sure that we are investing in this very important moment in conversations that are going on - and I think we should take it seriously and not try to rush it - we want to dedicate to it completely - so we could get 30+ people to show up - partner with organizations - do research on other community events and continue to grow.

Was there a big difference as far as time of the year with the turn out?

Kahan: It was more type of neighborhood council and the community.

The least likely turnout was Harvard Gateway North - it is a more transient community and the council members were not very varied.

CCNP: As I shared earlier, CCNP works with three different NCs - WS, WN - we would be willing to provide the space if needed. If we are looking for a larger connected group of the community - there could be an easy group to work together for this, and we have space at CCNP to provide this.
Arzate: And that’s the problem we have is that we don’t have communication with the other NCs, and we need to start working as a community with other communities. Collaboration in a large space with other neighborhood councils contributing would be great.

Kahan: One of the things that is being talked about in this corridor is that some associations are interested in presenting the City of LA with a community plan to give community recommendations for what the planning would look like for the next 15 years - the 2035 plan. And this could be an opportunity for this area to participate in that. And this would give this community an opportunity.

Aguirre makes a motion to table this item.
Arzate seconds.

Motion approves unanimously.

8:20 Mario Hernandez motions to adjourn the meeting.