

**RAMPART VILLAGE  
Governing Board Members:**

TBD, President  
 Velinda Rockello, Vice President  
 Mitchell Gutman, Treasurer  
 TBD, Secretary  
 Uver Santa Cruz, Res Tenant Rep  
 David Rockello, Comm Int Rep  
 William Greene, Business Rep  
 Angela Joo, Homeowner Rep  
 Dom Dacong, At-Large Rep  
 Carlos Villa, At-Large Rep  
 Joselyn G Rosenthal, CBO Rep  
 Jose Sanchez, Student Youth Rep

**RAMPART VILLAGE  
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

RVNC Office: St. Anne's, Suite #236  
 155 N. Occidental Bl., L.A. CA 90026  
 (Cross streets: Beverly Bl. & Temple)  
 TELEPHONE: (213) 568-3086  
 FAX: (213) JOV-3086  
[www.rvnc.org](http://www.rvnc.org)  
[www.EmpowerLA.org](http://www.EmpowerLA.org)

TBD, Business Rep

***RAMPART VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL*****General Board Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, July 19, 2016 – 6:00 PM

**Meeting Location**

St. Anne's, Anne Floto Class Room 155 N. Occidental Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90026  
 (Cross streets: Beverly Blvd. and Temple St.)

**I. WELCOMING REMARKS**

- a. **Call to Order:** Velinda Rockello, Vice President, called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm.
- b. **Flag Salute:** The pledge of allegiance was recited.
- c. **Board roll call: Present:** Velinda Rockello, Mitchell Gutman, Uver Santa Cruz, David Rockello, William Greene, Joselyn G. Rosenthal and Jose Sanchez, for 7 present, initially, and a quorum was met. Later Dominador (Dom) Dacong came in for a total of 8, and yet later, a new Board member, Jeff Jamison, was seated on the Board, for a total of 9.  
**Absent:** Angela Joo and Dom Dacong at the time of roll call. As noted above, Dom came in late. (Jeff Jamison, Jose Sanchez & Dom Dacong were ineligible to vote.)

**II. LOCAL REPORTS:**

- a. **LA City Council District Representatives - None Seen, None Heard**
- b. **LAPD Senior Leads – None Seen, None Heard**
- c. **Other Government Departments/Agencies, including Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment and other Department representatives present.**

**Lorenzo Briceno** from the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE / EmpowerLA) was present this evening. He noted that they have been getting feedback on elections, policy, admin services & outreach via town hall meetings. He'll send a link where we can submit a survey.

**d. Community Organizations**

**Vince Leus** introduced himself as a Community Organizer with the Koreatown Youth Community Center [www.kyccla.org](http://www.kyccla.org). KYCC is a nonprofit organization that provides services to Koreatown as well as to other areas including Rampart Village. They have Clinical Services (mental health), Community Economic Development, Environmental Services (including graffiti remediation), Kids Town (a preschool program), Prevention Education and Youth Services. He works in the area of Prevention, with substance- & prescription-drug abuse programs, and engages schools and local businesses, specifically in Rampart, they work a lot with the liquor stores to help change the way that they view their community, and increase compliance with laws. They have six sites

throughout Koreatown. His office is at 680 South Wilton Place, L.A., 90005.  
Telephone: 213-365-7400. Email: [vleus@kyccla.org](mailto:vleus@kyccla.org) He provided business cards and brochures.

**Giovani Diaz** reported that Youth Development Services has a new location at Occidental and Temple, between Lafayette Park Place and Occidental: 672 Lafayette Park Place, LA CA 90057. They refer youth with anger management and other problems to social services.

**Ms. Lois Arkin** introduced herself as living and working in the Los Angeles EcoVillage, less than a mile west of here near 1<sup>st</sup> & Vermont; 117 Bimini Place, #221 LA 90004. 213-738-1254 email: [crsp@igc.org](mailto:crsp@igc.org) website: [www.Laecovillage.org](http://www.Laecovillage.org) they are a “demonstration neighborhood for a sustainable community in process” they do affordable housing; have a community revolving loan fund; they have organic gardens and orchards, food co-op and bicycle repair shop, etc. They do tours which she offered the NC members and stakeholders to attend for free (they charge the general public). They host meetings including the LA Tenants Union, committed to making more affordable housing happen and reducing the Ellis Act evictions, with wonderful people.

### III. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

- a. **Review and Adoption of Minutes of Special General Board meeting 06/09/16** – The minutes were not received.
- b. **Motion:** Table approval of the minutes until the next meeting in August  
Moved by Joselyn; seconded by Mitchell. None opposed, the motion was approved, and this item was tabled to the next meeting.

### IV. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

**Ms. Vera Padilla, from Apple-One**, related that she has been assisting Rampart Village NC in completing the monthly expenditure reports (MERs) for DONE. She let the Board know that she is up to March, and has met with Mitchell, our Treasurer, and this afternoon. She expects to be done with these by August 9<sup>th</sup>, ready for the retreat with report on what has been submitted. She stated that we are doing well; she needs some invoices and suggested we start planning for next year.

**Carmen Medina (stakeholder)** asked for the rules for attendance for Board members to be followed, citing Dom, whom she stated was not at the first meeting, came late after the second meeting, and is not here at the third meeting. Lorenzo Briceno searched the Bylaws and noted that Article V of Section 7 states that if members miss three consecutive or six total RVNC Board meetings during a 12-month period, they will be automatically removed from the Board. Lorenzo noted that this can be explained further or narrowed down in our Standing Rules, which we can start working on and agendize.

#### **Prior to moving on to Item V.1., the following motion was made:**

**Motion:** Declare Board vacancies first and discuss old business after that – go to item #2, to declare vacancies on the General Board, select the Business Rep Board member first, and then come back to #1, with a full Board, to elect the new Executive Board.

Moved by William and seconded by Joselyn. Uver and Carlos opposed. Roll Call Vote was taken. Yes 5 votes from Joselyn, William, Mitchell, Velinda and David; No 2 no votes from Uver and Carlos; Abstentions 0. Ineligible 1 Jose. **Motion passed.**

### V. MOTIONS & RESOLUTIONS: (Old Business)

1. **Discussion and/or Possible Action relative to declaring vacancies on the Executive Board and relative to the appointment of said Executive Officer positions.**

One (1) seat; Selection of **Secretary**

One (1) seat; Selection of **President**

After Item #2 was addressed, the Board returned to Item #1. Mitchell passed out copies of Uver Santa

Cruz's email letter of resignation, dated July 15, 2016, addressed to Acting President Velinda Rockello, declaring that he has resigned the position as RVNC Secretary, which duties he continued to perform until the date of the letter.

**Motion:** To accept the resignation of Uver Santa Cruz. Moved by Joselyn; seconded by Mitchell. William opposes; no abstentions; otherwise, all accepted and the motion passed and the position of Secretary has been declared vacant.

**One (1) seat; Selection of President** (Agenda order reversed: President 1<sup>st</sup> Secretary 2nd.)  
After accepting the resignation of Uver Santa Cruz, the floor was open for nominations for the Selection of President.

**1<sup>st</sup> Nomination / Motion:** To nominate David Rockello to be President. Moved by William Greene; seconded by Joselyn. David accepted the nomination.

Documentation was provided, per the requirements of the RVNC Bylaws, which Lorenzo explained do not allow an Executive Board member to be on our Board who is currently seated on another NC. This documentation consisted of two letters dated 07/11/2016 and 07/18/2016 addressed to the Echo Park NC, signed by David Rockello, in which David has stepped down from his prior board commitment with EPNC as Vice Chair and resigned from the EPNC Board altogether.

**Public Comment:**

**Carmen Medina** read a prepared statement in opposition to David's nomination, for reasons including but not limited to her opinion that the leadership should not be a husband and wife team; she would like to see leaders living in the area, and to see new Board members given the opportunity.

**Lois Arkin** spoke in favor of David as President. She knows him & Velinda 10 years; & thinks they are "a fabulous team" & supports David based on his experience & ability to mediate.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Nomination / Motion:** To nominate Uver Santa Cruz to be President.  
Moved by Carlos; Uver accepted the nomination. Uver seconded his own nomination  
(no other nominations were made)

**Motion:** To close the nomination, to move to a vote. Moved by William; seconded by Carlos.

[Dom arrived at 6:40. He has completed his Ethics training; however, not Code-of-Conduct or Funding training, and is therefore ineligible to vote this evening.]

**Public Comment** was reopened for Uver and in general.

**Margarita Fernandez** related that there were errors at the last meeting, and she is concerned about conflict of interest, according to Roberts Rules. William stated that the Board does not operate according to Robert's Rules, unless the Bylaws indicate it. Lorenzo clarified that there is nothing in the Bylaws that would prevent the Vice President voting for a President, even if it is a relative. No other comment was offered and public comment was closed.

**Board Comments:** Joselyn asked David, how would you address the issue of a possible conflict of interest raised? David acknowledged that there may be a perception by some of the stakeholders, but there is no conflict of interest. David promised to get the meetings happening and make things happen for this NC, so we can take issues to the City.

Joselyn asked Uver, while acknowledging his passion for affordable housing, this NC has other issues that they care about, and if President, could he be fair, mediate and not advocate too much for the issues he is passionate about? How he will handle that tension? He will have to create a fair and open dialogue for the community. Uver replied that he finds it important to understand the business of

development, particularly large development, and to help developers understand the inequality. He is a member of the Tenants Rights Union. He gave several examples of the community becoming enveloped in large development and would like to deal with impacts to the community.

David disclosed that he & Velinda are also involved in the Tenant's Union and that the three of them will possibly have to recuse themselves when the Tenant's Union comes into this Board, whatever issue they bring in. He noted that they will have to have enough faith in the rest of this Board that they will make the right decisions.

**Votes in favor of David Rockello as President:**

5 yes votes: Joselyn, William, Mitchell Velinda and David.

**Votes in favor of Uver Santa Cruz as President:**

2 yes votes: Carlos and Uver

The gavel was handed over to David, who accepted the Presidency. He told Uver that they will work together whatever the situation.

**One (1) seat; Selection of Secretary**

**Motion:** To nominate Uver Santa Cruz to be Secretary. Moved by William Greene; seconded by Mitchell. Uver accepted the nomination.

**Public Comment: None Seen, None Heard**

**Motion:** To close nominations moved by Joselyn; seconded by Mitchell.

**Board Discussion:** Uver acknowledged David as a leader, however, based on his interpretation of the ethics training, he feels that it is not right having a husband and wife team on the Board, and would like to see this revisited in the Bylaws. He expects votes being warped by 20-30% by two people.

Joselyn related that she did a lot of research on the subject of husband and wife teams on boards, and found favorable comments; they were both elected by stakeholders, and she is comfortable with this arrangement. Carlos does not want to see David and Velinda use the office for personal use. Mitchell noted that we have a new Executive Board. He is looking forward to moving forward with David and Velinda. We can re-address conflict of interest after giving them an opportunity to do their jobs.

**Motion:** To close board discussion. Moved by Mitchell; seconded by William.

**Vote Count:** A show of hands vote was taken to approve Uver Santa Cruz as Secretary with 7 yes, 0 opposed, and 3 ineligible (Jeff, Jose and Dom). Motion passed and Uver was welcomed back as Secretary.

- 2. Discussion and/or Possible Action relative to the appointment to the Board Vacancy;** take nominations & self-nominations as prescribed in the Rampart Village Neighborhood Council Bylaws Article V., Section: 6

**One (1) seat; Selection of Business Rep Board Member** (Item taken out of order)

**Nominations:** Jeff Jamison nominated himself; David Rockello seconded. No other candidates came forth for Business Rep. **Motion:** To close nominations moved by Joselyn; seconded by William. Jeff related that he works at Occidental Studios across the street; that the Studios have been in business for 103 years; current owner has had it for 27 years. They feel very invested in the community, having done improvements, and he is very happy to sit on the Board.

**Motion:** The RVNC supports Jeff as the second business representative. Moved by William; seconded by Velinda. None opposed, no abstentions, 1 ineligible (Jose) Jeff was approved by all 7

voting: Joselyn, William, Carlos, Mitchell, Velinda, David, Uver.

3. **Discussion and/or Possible Action relative to the Rampart Village Neighborhood Council Board Retreat Saturday, August 13, 2016 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. NC Board to approve expenditures for logistics, outreach, refreshments, materials not to exceed \$700.**

Lorenzo related that he will be working with the Board to have a facilitator and to discuss what the board wants to discuss, whether it is Board dynamics, leadership roles, protocol, what you feel you want to discuss. You will be working on the Budget Package, Strategic Plan with Outreach; important for the stakeholders to be involved as well; to work together on this. Mitchell requested a live Treasurer's training be scheduled prior to the retreat, so he can get his funding certification as Treasurer. Lorenzo will get back to him on that.

**Motion:** To deal with issues internal to the Board, to not bicker about keys, passwords, who owns rights to websites, etc., to get addressed immediately and written down as rules, as we do not know who owns admin rights to passwords, to computers, etc., proprietary to the City, not even to us, and if they are given to us, as stewards for a period of two years. We need to deal with these prior to going on, and make sure whatever we do as a Board gets set so that another Board can continue to work efficiently. Moved by Uver; seconded by Mitchell.

Mitchell framed this as needing a discussion of Board dynamics at the retreat. Joselyn agreed with Uver, to go over those items, particularly the Code of Conduct, and pledge to make it workable and abide by it. However, she believes the budget will take 2/3rds of the time.

**Board Comment** remained while Public/Stakeholder Comment was opened to the floor:

**Public Comment:** Margarita questioned the use of \$700 for the retreat. Carmen offered to find a room at no charge for three hours. Carmen will email Lorenzo. No further comment and public comment was closed.

Mitchell suggested that stakeholders submit their ideas to Lorenzo, who can present them the entire board via blind copy and warn the board to not reply to all.

**Items to discuss at the retreat:** Lorenzo related that you can discuss specific topics and there can be bundled items under that specific topic – on the agenda – including website, Board dynamics, Code of Conduct, and budget package. Asked further about how the Board members in addition can get their ideas in for the agenda of the Board retreat, Lorenzo will take emails from the Board & stakeholders and submit the list to the entire Board.

**As to the next meeting:** Lorenzo stated it is at the Department's discretion. It was noted that what would be our Executive Board meeting will be taking place Tuesday prior to the retreat. They can meet at the office. Location for the retreat in and around the neighborhood was also discussed.

**Motion:** To approve the \$700 expenditure, for the Board retreat scheduled for Saturday, August 13, 2016, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. NC Board to approve expenditures for logistics, outreach, refreshments, materials not to exceed \$700.00, which amount is a ballpark figure, to include rental, outreach food/catering, printing costs, etc.

Moved by William; seconded by Carlos Villa.

**Public Comment** opened and closed. **Board Comments:** Mitchell noted, as Treasurer, that we will be sure not to spend excessive amounts on this retreat.

**Roll call vote was taken** with 7 yes votes: Velinda, Mitchell, Uver, David, William, Joselyn and Carlos; 0 opposed; 3 ineligible: Dominandor Dacong, Jose Sanchez and Jeff Jamison; and 1 absent: Angela Joo. The motion passed.

**Carmen** expressed concern that the public won't be able to participate/contribute much to the Board on the 2016-2017 budget proposal, and asked if the Budget can be amended later. Lorenzo replied that if the Stakeholders have recommendations that the Board feels that they want to accept and change, they'll submit that change to the Department, and they'll change it for them. As there was no further public comment, Public Comment was closed.

**Board Discussion:** Uver noted that as we do not have a website, he can reach stakeholders via Constant Contact email blasts; they can take survey with categories, outreach, tech committee, housing, etc. and maybe they can have a small town-hall prior to.

Asked about the website, Carlos related that a former board member bought the website, didn't pay the bill; it is now out of auction and that we bought it and are waiting for it to clear. Uver recommended to present to the ongoing Board everything in order including website ownership, passwords, etc., so this never happens again.

Joselyn recommended looking at the past three years' budgets to come up with a template to revise. **Vera** from Apple One stated that as Treasurer on her own NC, she has provided the last years and new format on the forms. She offered to work with Mitch and Uver. She suggested having a booklet with your expenditures, for everyone to have.

Mitchell concurred with Joselyn. General stakeholder meeting on Tuesday the 16<sup>th</sup> will be more of a forum where we will discuss the items on the budget, and will then have a special meeting in August before approving the final budget by September.

He noted that we will make sure the stakeholders are involved. Carmen again noted that she'll be sending Lorenzo her suggestions for free meeting spaces. The retreat will be treated as a regular meeting, with 72 hours notice.

**(New Business)**

4. **Discussion and/or Possible Action relative to the recommendation to respond to the quotation from Sam's Signs to maintain, restore and, or replace the Rampart Village Neighborhood Council Outreach Banners within the NC boundaries.**

Mitchell gave report on the banners installed last year. He provided a copy of a quote, which adds up to \$8,250.00. He reported that to keep them up, we'd have to pay half of the invoice for another year. Taking them down is included in the cost we have already paid.

**Stakeholder, Carmen**, related that she was the "Lead Person" on this and that this is the wrong quote. The final amount for 65 banners, was \$100 per banner all included @ \$6,500. She reported that the Board previously approved an additional 15 banners but the allocation was there, and that he offered all hardware & maintenance for \$50, with the extension for all.

**Motion** To pre-approve the permit extension for one year if the amount is \$50.00 in writing; and \$3,250 to continue. Moved by William; seconded by Joselyn.

**Motion Amended:** To approve an amount not to exceed \$4,125 based on the 05/15/2015 quotation provided by William; seconded by Joselyn.

**Public Comment:** Gary asked what effect these banners had on the public. **Donavan Green** noted that the banners are unattractive, don't show when the meeting is held. Donavan will give the Board information about designers.

**Peter Quezada**, from Community Relations, Youth Development Services, noted that before the banners we didn't know this was the Rampart Village. He agrees it's worth it to renew for \$3,000. They are on Lafayette Park Place. **Margarita** supports this NC having banners up. David noted that he has received many comments on the banners.

**Kevin Kim**, a neighbor, reported that he is here because of the banners; however, he came to a meeting which was not here, and couldn't find anything on the website or on Facebook. He is friends with Angela Joo. He noted that there is a huge number of Koreans in this neighborhood with a ton of talent, and people in public service. He would be interested in being a part of the NC.

William agreed with the banners being up; would like them to be more streamlined in the future. David recommended having a committee in the future.

**Motion Amended** to renew this up to 50% of the original invoice that is here. Roll call vote taken: 7 Yes: Velinda, Mitchell, Uver, David, William, Joselyn, Carlos. 0 opposed. 0 abstentions. 3 ineligible: Dominandor Dacong, Jose Sanchez and Jeff Jamison. 1 absent: Angela Joo.

5. **Discussion and/or Possible Action relative to the Rampart Village Neighborhood Council lease agreement with St. Anne's for fiscal year 2016/17.**

David noted that the lease is a process; we don't have the new lease agreement until we approve it; negotiate with St. Anne's and then bring it back to the Board for details, then to the Department, then because it's over \$6,000 – \$9,036 a year for the use of this room and our office upstairs.

**Motion**: To table this until all board members are funding compliant.

Moved by William. No second. Lorenzo noted it is time sensitive. David noted that by the next General Board meeting, we can approve the lease if everything gets done. Mitchell noted that since we're working with an expired lease, to move forward.

**Public Comment**: **Carmen** noted that St. Anne has not asked the 3% annual increase. Mitchell clarified that we are going on the assumption that the terms of the lease be extended for another year. **Mr. Quezada** would like to see the NC meet at a facility at no cost and asked that the Board look around for free sites. **Margarita** agreed with saving funds where possible but supports staying here, to use the meeting place and the office, with hours that we are settled with. **Donovan Green** finds it odd that a quarter of the budget is spent on meeting at this room. Public Comment closed.

**Board Comments**: Uver agrees with stakeholders; cut out telephone, fax, and internet bills. Joselyn agrees with Uver's comment but being at the end of the lease, suggests we renew and possibly reducing cost, and make it an agenda item to have a committee search for alternative housing for us. Jeff asked if we can renew for six months. David noted that the whole amount needs to be approved by City Council. Mitchell still recommends moving forward, present all the options, including closing accounts in arrears if we find another space. We need to work with Jeff Brill, Senior Management II for the DONE, who handles all the contracts, and with leases.

**Motion**: That we tentatively approve the renewal of our lease at St. Anne's in anticipation of receiving said lease for Board and Stakeholder review at our next general meeting.

Moved by Mitchell; seconded by Velinda.

7 Yes: Velinda, Mitchell, Uver, David, William, Joselyn, Carlos. 0 opposed. 0 abstentions. 3 ineligible: Dominandor Dacong, Jose Sanchez and Jeff Jamison. 1 absent: Angela Joo.

## VI. REPORTS:

**Treasurer's Report**: MER Assistant from Apple-One, Vera Pedilla, opened the floor to Mitchell, who reported that Vera is working hard on our MERs. We are around two weeks away from being fully actualized from the past fiscal year. We will have something put together for the retreat. Vera recommended that we keep on track in the future with our record keeping.

6. **ANNOUNCEMENTS: None Seen, None Heard**

7. **ADJOURNMENT**: Joselyn moved; William seconded and meeting adjourned at **8:20 pm**.