

**RAMPART VILLAGE  
Governing Board Members:**

David Rockello, President  
 Velinda Rockello, Vice President  
 Mitchell Gutman, Treasurer  
 Uver Santa Cruz, Secretary  
 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  
 Jeff Jamison, Business Rep

**RAMPART VILLAGE  
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

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

Tuesday, August 16, 2016 – 6:00 PM

**Meeting Location**

St. Anne's, Anne Floto Class Room 155 N. Occidental Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90026

**I. WELCOMING REMARKS:**

- a. **Call to Order:** Board President, David Rockello, called the meeting to order at 6:17 pm.
- b. **Flag Salute:** The pledge of allegiance was recited.
- c. **Board roll call:** (The roll call was delayed until after local reports. See III below)

**II. LOCAL REPORTS:**

(Representatives from government offices, police departments &amp; community based organizations)

- a. **Federal, State, County or Mayoral Representatives – Fernando Delgado, Field Supervisor for Office of Hilda L. Solis, Supervisor, 1<sup>st</sup> District.** His area covers Rampart, Westlake, Echopark, Silverlake, El Sereno. Fernando reported that the LAPD is searching for a psychopredator, involved in 8 incidents. The Board of Supervisors has approved a \$10,000 award, then followed by a \$25,000 cumulative award, approved at the County Board meeting. He mentioned two ballot measures: 1) The Parks Bond, a parcel tax; & 2) Metro tax followup to Measure R, which had raised a one-half cent sales tax. Both have been approved by the Board of Supervisors. Questions and answers were taken.

**b. LA City Council Districts 1, 10 & 13:****Juan Fregoso, Field Deputy from CM Mitch O'Farrell's office, 13<sup>th</sup> District:**

[juan.fregoso@lacity.org](mailto:juan.fregoso@lacity.org) 213-207-3015. Juan reported that Council is back in session. They sent out a survey regarding the homesharing ordinance and are getting feedback from the community. They are working on homelessness and protocol with 5611, new Municipal code that passed in April regarding what the City can and cannot do with regard to cleaning up encampments. He noted that they will be adding additional resources; he mentioned the "Hope Program" and that LAPD is addressing encampments with the Bureau of Sanitation. Uver asked how to report these encampments. Juan replied that for bulky items, trash, encampments, report straight to them, but that "311" is the way to go for everything, especially encampments, and then send the Service Request to the office for followup with the departments. Sometimes their team can help address the bulky item or illegal dumping before the Bureau of Sanitation if you flag their office after reporting through 311. It usually takes a week to get an authorization for a posted cleanup of an encampment through the Bureau of Sanitation; if not authorized, they send it to

LAHSA for authorization, then back to the Bureau of Sanitation who will then send Watershed to post when they get it on the schedule. They have two days a month for the whole district. His office has five field deputies. He related that reporting to 311 helps get the metrics up, so as soon as you submit a request via email especially, you'll get a service request number. Then you can forward it to Juan. That initiates the ticket with Sanitation instead of him having to open it.

Asked about beautification process, Juan noted that if you are going to do a project on the median, the City has recommended plants. As to the SW corner of Vermont & Melrose, contact his colleague, Aram. Juan stated that his only power is through protocols and procedures. They're hoping for October November to address the enforcement side.

- c. **City of LA Departments – None Seen, None Heard**
- d. **DONE/ EmpowerLA – NEA** Lorenzo Briceño reminded us to get Budget Package in by 09/01/2016.
- e. **LAFD / CERT** – Battalion 11 Chief, Albert Valle, introduced himself and his Command Team leader, Firefighter Mejia who came with four members of Fire Station 6, our local station at 326 North Virgil. They discussed CERT, “Community Emergency Response Teams” training, free of charge, 1 day a week for seven weeks, 17-1/2 hours in all, to go over fire suppression, evacuation, triage, among other things. We would need 25 people. They have refresher courses every two years. They are also hiring. Chief Valle spoke on heat-related issues, stressing the need to be careful, stay cool by staying in air-condition building; stay hydrated not with energy drinks, and stay informed, with weather forecasts. Do not leave pets or children in a vehicle with windows up, even for a minute. They do respond to the homeless. Carmen asked about CERT training and was told that the LAFD will be very busy in the event of a disaster – so the better prepared we are the better for all. Uver asked what we need to be to be ready for Emergencies and Firefighter Vargas noted it's important to keep your smoke detectors working, as they have had fatalities as a result of batteries not working. Be ready for an earthquake and as a NC, have an Emergency Preparedness representative. If they had to use the reservoir water, they would use it.
- f. **LAPD**
  - i. Olympic Station SLO – **None Seen, None Heard**
  - ii. Rampart Station SLO – **None Seen, None Heard**
- g. **NCSA Sustainability Report - Sustainability Rep; Choose Liaison:**
  - David reappointed Joselyn G. Rosenthal, as our Sustainability Representative; vote taken and Joselyn's reappointment was unanimously **approved by all 9 board members voting**.
  - Joselyn gave report on this alliance, that it is connected with the Mayor's Sustainability Plan for all of Los Angeles which addresses three areas under “sustainability:” 1) Protecting our environment because of climate change; 2) Making it economically feasible to find ways of not bankrupting ourselves; 3) Sustaining people in our communities. Joselyn explained the “Cool Blocks” Project, for blocks to volunteer to reduce their carbon footprint, protect our communities to be safer, more beautiful and happy to live in. She asked that those whom we buy our refreshments from not include Styrofoam plates.
- h. **NC Budget Advocates Report - Budget Reps; choose two (2):** Uver volunteered to continue as Budget Representative and Mitchell volunteered to be the second Budget Rep. **approved by 9 yes votes, 0 no, 0 abstentions.**

**i. Community and Stakeholder Organizations**

**Dayana Molina Patiño, Community Organizer with the Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust**, spoke on the project in MacArthur Park, corner 8<sup>th</sup> & Coronado, or Hoover & 8<sup>th</sup> with the goal of deterring homelessness and illegal activities that come with that. Next meeting is September 10<sup>th</sup> at St. Barnabus from 8:30 to 11:00 a.m. [dmolina@lanlt.org](mailto:dmolina@lanlt.org)  
[www.LANLT.org](http://www.LANLT.org) 213-572-797-6544

**Lois Arkin of LA EcoVillage** related that 1) L.A. EcoVillage is in escrow to acquire the auto repair shop at Bimini & First. It will be a historic project. 2) They'll have a booth at upcoming Green Festival Expo September 16-18 [www.greenfestivals.org](http://www.greenfestivals.org) at Convention Center. Take Metro to Convention Center or bike, walk. There are many ways to get in free. 2) Korean Arts and Recreation Center will have a minimum of 12,000 square feet space. (The Board appreciates Lois & LA EcoVillage for hosting our Retreat on Saturday.)

**III. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:**

**a. Roll Call – RVNC Board of Governors**

**9 Present:** David Rockello, Velinda Rockello, Mitchell Gutman, Uver Santa Cruz, William Greene, Joselyn G. Rosenthal, Jose Sanchez, Jeff Jamison, Dom Dacong (Dom Dacong reported being up to date on DONE trainings and eligible to vote.)

**2 Absent:** Angela Joo and Carlos Villa.

**DONE:** NEA Lorenzo Briceño

**b, c & d: Motion:** To table minutes until we've all had a chance to read them over. Mitch moved; Joselyn seconded.

**Public Comment:** Stakeholder, Margarita, asked that we change her name to "Margarita Fernandez instead of Hernandez" on one of the sets of minutes. **Tally: 6 yes votes from Joselyn, Will, Mitch, Jose, Dom, Mitchell; 3 opposed; Uver, Jeff and David; 0 abstentions, and the motion to table passed**

**b.** Review and Adoption of Minutes of Special General Board meeting 06/09/16

**c.** Review and Adoption of Minutes of Special General Board meeting 07/12/16

**d.** Review and Adoption of Minutes of General Board meeting 07/19/16

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

**Veronica Finch** reported problems in her area with 1) homelessness, having a homeless man dropping clothes off going through the streets; 2) traffic on her street increasing, requesting a stop sign or speed bumps; 3) safety as regards people living in trailers parked on different streets, blocking views to the streets for those living in front of those trailers. She would like to see traffic slowed down. David acknowledged that her street is between two NCs: Echo Park and Rampart. Juan stated that they can ask for a traffic study by DOT; He recommended going to [www.mydot.la](http://www.mydot.la). He noted that these trailers can stay in one location 72 hours, three days.

**V. RECOGNITIONS & PRESENTATIONS:**

**a.** Presentation by former RVNC Board member, Guillermo Modini, on his proposal to create a Homelessness Solutions Data Base that can be accessed as a Smartphone app & a more traditional Website that will cross platforms & agency boundaries so Los Angeles can deal

with this crisis.

**Guillermo Modini** spoke on his plan to use technology to help solve homelessness. He has created a database online to filter by zipcode, services, and names. He requests that we all make an effort as citizens, to create teams and offered to coach the leaders of those teams on use of the database. He recommends creating a plan, finding people willing to work, someone to give transportation, temporary housing, go to offices and get the paperwork. His goal is to help the homeless gain access to services. He will bring this to other NCs. Uver credited Guillermo for what he is doing, and said he'd be glad to work with him. Jose noted we plan to have a town hall meeting this year on homelessness, and RVNC can invite Guillermo.

## **VI. MOTIONS & RESOLUTIONS:**

### **(Old Business)**

1. Discussion and Possible Action on recommendation to pay all outstanding Staffing Agency bills.

**Funding Request Motion:** To pre-approve monthly recurring expenditure of \$150.00 for staffing agency bills. If amount exceeds \$150 will bring it back to the Board for approval – Moved by Mitchell; seconded by Jeff. **Motion passed:** by **8 yes votes** from **Joselyn, Mitch, Velinda, David, Jeff, Jose, Uver and Dom; 0 opposed; 0 abstentions; 3 absent Angela Joo, Carlos Villa and William Greene.**

2. Discussion & Possible Action on the recommendation to respond to the updated quotation from Sam's Signs to maintain, restore &/or replace RVNC Outreach Banners. Mitch noted that we previously approved over \$4,000+ so this is technically approved. The current quote is for an extension of the use of banners at \$1,625.00 and includes hardware & maintenance once a month. Carmen noted it includes up to five new banners needing to be replaced.

**Funding Request Motion:** To approve the new quote of \$1,625.00 to maintain, restore &/or replace RVNC Outreach Banners with Sam's Signs – Moved by Jeff & seconded by Joselyn. **Motion passed:** by **8 yes votes** from **Joselyn, Mitch, Velinda, David, Jeff, Jose, Uver and Dom; 0 opposed; 0 abstentions; 3 absent Angela Joo, Carlos Villa and William Greene.**

3. Discussion and Possible Action on the recommendation to address the current RVNC website. **Tabled**
4. Discussion and/or Possible Action on recommendation from DONE/Funding to work with Jeff Brill the designated City Contract Liaison, in regards to the RVNC, St Anne's Lease agreement with the City of Los Angeles. **Tabled**  
[David asked everyone to email himself & Mitchell who will accommodate suggestions to move this forward. There will be a meeting to negotiate the price.]

### **(New Business)**

5. Discussion and Possible Action on – the recommendation to reimburse Board members for outreach food for the 07/12/16 (Special Meeting), 07/19/16, (General Meeting), 08/09/16, (Executive Meeting), and 8/13/16, (RVNC Retreat).

**Motion:** **To reimburse expenditures.** Moved by Joselyn; seconded by Velinda.

**Motion passed: 7 yes votes from Joselyn, Mitch, Velinda, Jeff, Jose, Uver, Dom; 1 no by David; 0 abstentions**

6. Discussion & Possible Action on RNVC office Time Warner & Sprint bills **Tabled**
7. Discussion & Possible Action on vendor for RVNC Newsletter and status **Tabled**
8. Discussion and/or Possible Action on recommendation to deal with homelessness issues within the Rampart Village Neighborhood Council boundaries. **Tabled**

David reminded everyone about Mayor Garcetti's "Welcome Home Project." He noted that before our next regular meeting, Tony Walker will collect items on September 8<sup>th</sup> 11:00 am to 5:00 pm in partnership with St. Anne's. Joselyn recommended asking Guillermo to participate in this.

9. Discussion and/or Possible Action on the recommendation to create a Homelessness Solutions Ad Hoc Committee. – David volunteered to take the leadership role.

**David Rockello, Chair, HS Ad Hoc Committee; Velinda & Uver** will be a members.

**Motion: To table items #8, 13, 16, 17 – Moved by Mitch, seconded by Joselyn.**

**Motion passed: 5 yes; 2 opposed, David and Uver. No abstentions.** Velinda stepped out with **4 absent: Angela Joo, Carlos Villa, Will Greene and Velinda Rockello**

10. Discussion and/or Possible Action on – the recommendation from LANCC to take a position on demanding that the Governor of California Edmund G. Brown Jr declare a state of emergency for Los Angeles metro area for the purpose of combating the suffering of over 47,000 people living on the streets of LA.

Terrence Gomes, President of LANCC presented this, and some of the following agenda items. [LANCC meets 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month 111 North Hope Street]

Terrence explained the idea of a State of Emergency when the resources of a local agency can no longer meet the need, they go to the next level of services, with the County; then the County declared a State of Emergency. When the Governor declare a State of Emergency, they go to the Federal Government. Terrence related that most experts say we'll have 50,000 homeless in the metro area of Los Angeles; Terrence stated that they want to bring in the resources. While in temporary housing for a year, affordable housing can be built. Terrence related that there is 20% homelessness across the country. Location for the trailers discussed. Will Greene mentioned possible comparison to internment camps. Terrence expects it to take a year for transfer to affordable housing discussed; that the temporary housing will give them an address to be based, to get back into society. They'll have another program for those with mental illness. There are 2,000 rental vouchers now, but no housing for those people, when landlords don't rent to them for fear of having someone with mental illness that they won't be able to evict. The target is 10,000 for the first year.

**[William Greene left the meeting at 7:55 pm.]**

Joselyn asked about LANCC's opposition of City Council's motion to spend \$1.2

Billion on homelessness. Terrence explained there is no plan in the ballot measure.

**Lois Arkin from Los Angeles Eco-Village** expressed concern that the City's RSO has no protection from the State and problems of homelessness will continue. She worries that after the one-year temporary solution, people will have to move after having formed relationships and community.

**Motion:** To adopt the letter – **Moved by Mitch; seconded by Uver.** {David explained that he has broken the proposed letter to Governor Brown down into three motions so the Board can review each part independently before approving the entire letter. The Board continued to review and act on each item, from 10, 11 and 12.}

**Motion:** To adopt the above paragraph – **Moved by Joselyn, seconded by Jeff.** No stakeholder comments; comment closed. **Motion passed: 8 yes; 0 opposed; 0 abstention; 3 absent: Angela, Carlos & William**

11. Discussion and/or Possible Action on – the recommendation from LANCC to take a position on the City of Los Angeles & the County needing to identify all vacant property currently owned by the City & County & all of its departments & agencies that can house temporarily “FEMA-Style” trailers for up to two years to start the housing process.

**Motion:** To adopt the above paragraph – **Moved by Joselyn; seconded by Mitchell;** discussion was held; Uver brought up need to revisit causes of homelessness but supports the proposal. Stakeholder comment closed. **Motion passed: 8 yes votes; 0 opposed; 0 abstentions**

12. Discussion and/or Possible Action on – the recommendation from LANCC to take a position on the proposed \$1.2 Billion bond on the November ballot to be issued over 10 years to tackle the city's homeless problem.

Terrence noted that we shouldn't be double-taxed; that when the City issues a bond, we start paying service charges on that immediately. Carmen asked about Municipal bonds. Terrence replied that that would cost money to the taxpayers. Jos would like her CM to respond to Terrence's assertion before taking a position. Mitch agreed. Uver supported this as a solution and feels that as our Councilmembers have had time to create a solution and have not done so, that this needs to be implemented. Dom supported the motion. Jeff senses the urgency, and trusts LANCC on this.

**Motion:** To remove the first sentence of the 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph; and accept the remainder; **Moved by Mitchell; seconded by Joselyn.** Discussion was held in which Joselyn clarified that we are being asked to oppose the 1.2 billion bond. **Motion passed: 6 yes votes in favor of striking first sentence; 2 opposed: Uver & David; and 0 abstentions. The first sentence will be struck**

**Amendment:** To revise the same line, to say the RVNC believes that the proposed 1.2 B on the November ballot is not enough. **Moved by Mitch; seconded by Jose.** **Motion passed: 7 yes, in favor; 1 opposed, Jeff; 0 abstained**

**Motion** To approve all three paragraphs that we put together, from items 10, 11 and 12, on letterhead and send. **Moved by David; seconded by Uver.** **Motion passed: 8**

**in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions**

13. Discussion and/or Possible Action on – the recommendation to host & coordinate a Community Town Hall meeting to address illegal dumping within the Rampart Village Neighborhood Council boundaries. **Tabled.**
14. Discussion and/or Possible Action on – the recommendation from LANCC to take a position on illegal dumping in LA & specifically in the RVNC.

Terrence noted that there is a street in West Adams which has one side on the City and the other side on the County line, with all dumping is being done on the City side. He noted that the problem is more prevalent in South Los Angeles. The State and County has \$10,000 fine, much higher than the City's fine, and they'd like to be able to impound the vehicle. No stakeholder comments taken and public comment was closed. Uver asked about possible jail time. Terrence added that the fine would be \$10,000 plus having your truck taken away and six months in jail. On September 8<sup>th</sup>, he is meeting with Paul Koretz, to get a council file started on this.

**Motion to approve motion as written – Moved by Jose; seconded by Jeff. Motion passed: 8 yes votes; 0 opposed; 0 abstentions**

15. Discussion and/or Possible Action on – the recommendation from LANCC to take a position on Los Angeles City Council to create a council file to immediately fund speed surveys on streets identified by the LAPD, LADOT & the areas in the RVNC that need immediate attention for public safety.

Terrence noted that speed surveys need to be done every 10 years; and are not being done currently; not funded; therefore cases are being dismissed because no speed surveys were done regardless of what the officers are able to show by laser radar. Need to combine both of the Mayor's street programs.

**Motion to accept the motion as written – Moved by Joselyn; seconded by Mitchell Motion passed: 8 yes votes in favor; 0 opposed; 0 abstentions**

16. Discussion and/or Possible Action on – the recommendation to take a position on the adoption of a Los Angeles Short Term Rental ordinance, Council File 14-1635-S2 **Tabled**
17. Discussion and/or Possible Action on – the recommendation to take a position on the amendment of the Small Lot Subdivision Ordinance. City Council Files 13-1478 & 13-1478-S3 **Tabled**

## **VII. REPORTS:**

### **a. Treasurer – Mitchell Gutman**

- (i) Monthly MER Statement – Board to receive and file as presented.  
Mitchell gave an update that Vera is close to having all the MERs at the next meeting. He will prepare the August MER.

- (ii) Union Bank reconciliation screen shot review & file as presented  
Mitch today just got access to the Union Bank account.
- (iii) Quarterly Report (Apple One services reconciliation) Quarterly report due October meeting
- (iv) 2015-2016 Spend Down Report as presented
- (v) BFG Future Funding Policies Report (review in 6 months)
  - Recruit Members for the BFG (Budget, Finance & Grants) Committee; Meetings Schedule (TBD) -- Mitchell and Carmen volunteered; Carmen noted that Mercedes expressed interest. Margarita volunteered.

**b. Standing Committees (All committees open to stakeholders)**

- i. Planning, Parks, Public Works & Land Use; choose Chair
  - Recruit Members for the PPPWLU Committee; Meetings Schedule (TBD) -- Mitchell recommended having **William continue as Chair, Jeff volunteered to be Vice Chair. Joselyn** as member.
- ii. Community Relations, Outreach & Social Networking; choose Chair
  - Recruit Members for the CROSN Committee; Meetings Schedule (TBD) - **Velinda Rockello Chair, Dom and Jose** volunteered to be members.
- iii. Public Safety, Housing & Transportation; choose Chair
  - Recruit Members for the PSHT Committee; Meetings Schedule (TBD) **Uver Santa Cruz Chair; Jose** volunteered to be a member.
- iv. Any other written RVNC Reports; Officer's Reports; President's Report – **None Seen, None Heard**

**c. Ad-hoc Committees & Liaisons**

- i. Creation of any possible Ad-hoc committees for 2016-2017; choose Chairs (Ad-hocs reviewed every 6 months) – One committee the **Homelessness Solutions Ad Hoc Committee was created** as noted above. David noted that we will create ad hoc committees as we need them.

**Motion:** To table the rest of these ad-hoc committee until next meeting.

**Moved by Jeff; seconded by Mitchell; Motion passed: 6 yes votes by Joselyn, Mitchell, Velinda, Jeff, Jose, Dom; 2 nay votes from David & Uver; 3 absent**

- ii. CIS Filing Reps; choose three (3)
- iii. Regional Grievance Panel; choose one (1)
- iv. City Attorney Liaisons; President + choose one (1)
- v. DWP-MOU Rep/ DWP-AC Rep; choose one (1)
- vi. LANCC Rep; choose one (1)
- vii. Planning/ Plancheck NC Liaisons; choose two (2)
- viii. ARC Rep; choose one (1)



- ix. Emergency Preparedness Liaison; choose one (1)
- x. Location & Filming/ Film LA Liaisons; **Mitchell, Jeff, William Chosen**
- xi. Animal Services Liaison; choose one (1)
- xii. Public Works Liaison; choose one (1)
- xiii. Transportation Liaison; choose one (1)
- xiv. Cultural Affairs Liaison; choose one (1)
- xv. Youth Issues Liaison; choose one (1)
- xvi. Ageing in Place Liaison; choose one (1)
- xvii. Disability Liaison; choose one (1)
- xviii. Conservation Core Liaison; choose one (1)
- xix. RVNC Election 2018 Chair; choose one (1)
- xx. Update on re-launch of the RVNC Website (review in 6 months)
- xxi. Update on the return of all RVNC intellectual & real property still outstanding
- xxii. Update on the RVNC inventory; schedule inventory TBD
- xxiii. Update on who has turned in the three (3) NC training documents;  
Vice President: Code of Conduct, Funding & State Ethics Training
- xxiv. Update on Attendance of Board members; Secretary

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

**IX. ADJOURNMENT:** Motion to adjourn was made and the meeting adjourned **at 9:30 pm**