

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Sheila Irani  
Joseph Hill  
Lara Zvirbulis, Voting Stakeholder  
Ben Famous, Voting Stakeholder  
Bianca Cockrell  
Brandi D'Amore, Chair



HOLLYWOOD UNITED NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL  
Certified Council #52,  
P.O. Box 3272 Los Angeles, CA 90078  
www.MyHUNC.org email us at Info@MyHUNC.org

## COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

### Transportation & Works Committee

Monday, November 15, 2021, 6:00 PM  
Webinar ID: 837 2732 2434  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83727322434>

Mid-meeting, Theresa Gio left and Kasia Mays was required to attend to make quorum.

Welcome

**6:05 PM start**

#### 1. Roll Call

##### Attending

Brandi D'Amore Theresa Gio Bianca Cockrell Kasia Mays Ben Famous Lara Zvirbulis

#### 2. Approval of Minutes

**Kasia Mays was not present for item.**

**Motion Made: Motion to approve October '21 Minutes**

**Motion:** Ben Famous

**Second:** Lara Zvirbulis

**Vote:** Yes-5, No-0, Abstain-0, Recused-0, Ineligible-0

**Yes**

Ben Famous

Bianca Cockrell

Brandi D'Amore

Lara Zvirbulis

Theresa Gio

#### 3. Public Comment on items not on the Agenda (2 minutes each)

**None**

#### 4. Chair Report

**Brandi D'Amore would like members to be in the meeting waiting room at least 5 min before the meeting start so that meeting can start as close to 6pm as possible, especially if staying at an hour for meeting. December is dark so there will be no meeting in December.**

**As a reminder when Chair sends out an email, she needs a response. Only one person responded to the agenda request. It is not collaborative when no one responds so it's very important. Also the committee not providing information to confirm their address proximity to the agenda item requires now not discussing the artificial turf agenda item in detail.**

**B. D'Amore discussed attending a LANCC meeting where LADWP was present. LADWP indicated LA City is at a dangerous water supply so this committee might push towards PSAs about water conservation. She advised committee if they see anyone wasting water, let LADWP know immediately. If we do not get necessary rain fall this year there will be water rationing.**

#### 5. Discussion to change day and time of Transportation & Works meeting to accommodate need for additional meeting time beginning in 2022

**Was discussed out of order, after Item #6. With very little time left to the meeting, Brandi D'Amore advised the committee to again look at if the meeting should be longer than an hour and to consider days/times of the meeting. She cited the length of the previous topic, and if the committee had multiple important topics that it would be difficult with only an hour.**

#### 6. Discussion, identification and possible action recommendations on possible illegal and/or unpermitted use of artificial turf in public parkways within HUNC boundaries, to include but not limited to: 1715/1822/1825/1844 N. Bronson; 1817/1847 N. Garfield; 1806 N. Gramercy.

*Brandi D'Amore moved the agenda items to #5 indicating that as Diana Nicole, a presenter necessary for this agenda item, needed to leave at 6:30 that the topic was being moved to after Chair Report.*

*Additionally, as Ms. D'Amore had to make contact with City Attorney Steve Houchin as committee members did not indicate if they lived in proximity to the locations listed, CA Houchin advised to keep the discussion general to the issue and methods of dealing with the issue.*

*The basic issue is the proliferation on some streets of artificial turf in the public parkways. Ms. D'Amore indicated that stakeholders had brought the areas to her attention, and that there were two issues at hand: 1) a person needs to first obtain a permit from the City to remove and replace vegetation from residential parkways, and 2) a review of the project would deny artificial turf if planted in same parkway as a street tree. As many of the parkways noted have trees in them, it is unlikely that proper permitting was received. Artificial turf is not a conservation method though it is mistakenly being used that way. Anyone who pulls out greenery on a public parkway, they must obtain a permit. 9/10 they will not permit turf, but they will allow other vegetation. Diana Nicole is an expert in this field and will speak on the matter*

*Diana Nicole, tree advisor to the Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance (NCSA), provided her credentials with horticulture and advising the City on tree issues. She presented all the issues associated with artificial turf in the parkways which included: wasting water, creating "heat islands", causing microplastic runoff, killing water absorption, killing trees (and the attendant problems), killing ecology, wasting water.*

*Diana has a degree in horticulture science and is a landscape professional. she stated Urban Forestry does not permit use of artificial turf in parkways around trees. It's a problem for trees and for water conservation. It inhibits the water penetration. She is part of the tree committee on NCSA. Turf shortens the life of the tree*

*Brandi brought up that organizations and property owners likely do not know that there is a process for obtaining permits for what to put in the public parkways in front of their property. This council is very pro tree.*

*Diana says the vegetation argument is enough and we need to plant natives not plastic. We need to preserve any greenery we have in a rapidly urbanizing city. Other cities are planting natives in their parkways.*

*Bianca Cockrell asked her what would be the solution to put in the stead of artificial turf, to which Ms. Nicole asked what was the purpose of the meeting. She also indicated that in her personal experience, the City does not tend to respond to the individual 311 calls. Ms. D'Amore indicated that the purpose was to bring to the committee's attention this issue, and then to find ways to alert the planter(s) to the problem to fix on their own, though if necessary, bring it to the attention of City agencies to get the problem resolved, going so far as to potentially have HUNC initiate as that may encourage expedited care if City agents are aware of how large the problem is becoming and its effect on a community. Ms. Nicole then addressed that what is planted to replace then becomes as critical. Native plantings should be done, preferably mulch to restore the ecology to the parkway. She noted that mulch is distributed for free by the City. She indicated that rock gardens are not advisable. Ms. D'Amore asked if there are grasses heartier than others to withstand trampling, and Ms. Nicole said there are acceptable plants that could, and that there are other plants to make it inhospitable to loitering though the City does not advocate that. She praised HUNC for the direction it is taking to get ahead of the problem.*

*Theresa Gio was noted as being gone, and Kasia Mays was located to attend the meeting to be able to keep the meeting running. Ms. Mays entered the meeting at 6:45PM*

*When public asked if they had any questions or comments, Angela Gygi of The Hollywood Orchard, echoed much of Ms. Nicole's statements. She further added that artificial turf is also dirty, and that it is a breeding ground for pathogens, as well as the heat that is created further creates more compaction and also emits toxic chemicals from the plastic.*

*Joanne D'Antonio, NCSA Tree Committee Chair, provided her input as both chair of her committee and her personal experience watching trees die while in parkways with artificial turf.*

*Ms. D'Amore addressed that until further recommendation can happen, that the committee should utilize the 311 app or service to report potential violations, noting Service Request number and then forwarding the request onto appropriate council district, Urban Forestry, and Bureau of Engineering staff; Ms. D'Amore would find addresses for them. Ms. D'Amore asked the committee members to keep track to see progress of case inspection. Ms. D'Amore indicated that she had contacted two of the more significant locations directly to advise on how to get a permit, and that after this protocol above, if there has been no further momentum it may go to committee again for recommendation to Full Board, pending answer from City Attorney.*

*(Note: Theresa Gio left the meeting at 6:24pm. As she did not announce her departure, her absence was noticed around 6:30, and Lorenzo Briceno was contacted during meeting to see if meeting could continue; this occurred while Diana was providing education to the committee. During this time, Chair reached out to committee member Kasia Mays to attend as without her the committee could not continue. She arrived at 6:45PM.)*

## 7. Discussion of future issues and goals to schedule in T&W committee

***Postponed to future meeting. Meeting ran out of time.***

8. Committee Member announcements on items not on the Agenda

***Brandi D'Amore reminded the committee about ABLE training and December meetings; potential of an in-person January '22 meeting.***

9. Old/Ongoing Business

10. New/Future Business

Adjournment at 6:57 PM

Reconsideration: The Board may reconsider and amend its action on items listed on the agenda if that reconsideration takes place before the end of the meeting at which it was considered or at the next regular meeting. The Board, on either of these two days, shall: (1) Make a Motion for Reconsideration and, if approved, (2) hear the matter and take an action. If the motion to reconsider an action is to be scheduled at the next meeting following the original action, then two items shall be placed on the agenda for that meeting: (1) A Motion for Reconsideration on the described matter and (2) a [Proposed] action should the motion to reconsider be approved. A Motion for Reconsideration can only be made by a Board member who has previously voted on the prevailing side of the original action taken. If a Motion for Reconsideration is not made on the date the action was taken, then a Board member on the prevailing side of the action must submit a memorandum to the Recording Secretary identifying the matter to be reconsidered and a brief description of the reason(s) for requesting reconsideration at the next regular meeting. The aforesaid shall all be in compliance with the Ralph M. Brown Act.