

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA

BOARD OF NEIGHBORHOOD
COMMISSIONERS

ALBERT ABRAMS
PRESIDENT

DANIEL GATICA
VICE PRESIDENT

ESTHER CEPEDA-HATCH
CARLENE DAVIS
JOHN KIM
LINDA LUCKS
KAREN MACK

JANET LINDO
EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
TELEPHONE: (213) 485-1360



ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA
MAYOR

DEPARTMENT OF
NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT

334-B EAST SECOND STREET
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

TELEPHONE: (213) 485-1360
TOLL-FREE: 3-1-1
FAX: (213) 485-4608
E-MAIL: done@lacity.org

BONGHWAN (BH) KIM, MPA
GENERAL MANAGER

www.EmpowerLA.com

MINUTES

BOARD OF NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2011 – 6:00 P.M.

NEW HORIZONS
15725 PARTHENIA STREET
NORTH HILLS, CA 91343

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Albert Abrams, President
Daniel Gatica, Vice President
Carlene Davis
John Kim
Linda Lucks
Karen Mack

ABSENT

Esther Cepeda-Hatch

DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT

BongHwan Kim, General Manager
Leyla Campos, Senior Project Coordinator
Amelia Herrera-Robles, Neighborhood Empowerment Analyst
Janet Lindo, Executive Administrative Assistant

CITY ATTORNEY REPRESENTATIVE

Anthony Paul Diaz, Deputy City Attorney
Carmen Hawkins, Deputy City Attorney

1. Introduction (5 minutes)

ACTION: President Abrams gave the introduction.

2. Call to Order and Commissioner roll call. (1 minute)

ACTION: President Abrams called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m. Commissioner roll call by Executive Administrative Assistant, Janet Lindo.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of January 11, 2011. (3 minutes)

ACTION: Commissioner Lucks moved that the Minutes of the Special Meeting of January 11, 2011 be approved as written.

The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Gatica.

Vote: Ayes - 6, Nays - 0.

Motion passes unanimously.

4. General Public Comments - Comments from the public on non-agenda items within the Board's subject matter jurisdiction. This agenda item will last a total of 15 minutes and no individual speaker will be allowed more than two minutes. (15 minutes)

ACTION: Public comment was received from:

Cindy Cleghorn – Neighborhood Council Congress planning – wants the BONC participation in the Congress, wants a report card on Neighborhood Council effectiveness in working with City Departments. Priority for date for Congress:

- 1) Saturday, September 24
- 2) Saturday, September 17
- 3) Saturday, October 15

5. Verbal update from a representative of the Office of the Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Neighborhood and Community Services. (10 minutes)

ACTION: None.

6. General Manager's Report (10 minutes)

1. Briefing on Departmental activities
2. Staffing, budget and other operational matters

ACTION: General Manager, BongHwan Kim, provided a brief update on Departmental activities.

7. Verbal reports from the 2010 and 2011 Ad Hoc Policy Committees, with discussion regarding possible subject areas for consideration by the Commission in 2011. (30 minutes)

ACTION: Commissioner John Kim provided an overview of the 2010 Ad Hoc Policy Committee.

Commissioner Gatica provided an overview of the 2011 Ad Hoc Policy Committee.

2011 Draft Policy Calendar:

90-day process period taking up policy issue

0-21 days - research and prep for the public hearings by the Department

45 days - public input period with town halls, presentations, coalition meetings and survey collection.

Final 21 days – policy memo finalization period and BONC adopting a policy.

2011 Proposed Policy Calendar:

- 1. Mandatory Ethics and New Board Orientation (Jan, February, and March)**
- 2. Factual Basis Stakeholder (February, March, and April)**
- 3. Grievance Policy and Challenge Resolution (March, April, and May)**
- 4. Candidate Fundraising (April, May, and June)**

5. Posting Policy (May, June, and July)

Commissioner Abrams' comments:

- 1. Would like to add to the year's consideration a re-look at the Form 54, Financial Disclosure, on the part of Neighborhood Council board members.**
- 2. Del Rey Neighborhood Council has two key issues that are on the Proposed Policy Calendar: 1) definition of the factual basis stakeholder, 2) fundraising by Neighborhood Council candidates, and would like to begin the discussion of the two key issues at the March 1 meeting in Del Rey.**
- 3. Focus on the threat of the overall budget to the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment. Effective July 1 the City will have a \$350,000,000 deficit.**

Public comments were received from:

Ivan Spiegel – Thank Commissioner Kim – BONC needs “teeth” there have to be rules. Wants funding frozen if financial reporting isn't done. Concern for bylaws stop date in April.

- 8. Discussion and possible action by the Commission establishing a policy to address compliance with the State law's requirement that Neighborhood Council board members take an ethics course (see Government Code § 53235), including a recommendation that Neighborhood Councils amend their bylaws to include a provision that would prohibit board members from voting if they fail to take the required ethics training within 90 days of taking office. (20 minutes)**

ACTION: Motion: Commissioner Lucks moved that the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners encourages each Neighborhood Council Board to amend their bylaws to adopt a policy which suspends a board member's voting privileges if they have not completed the mandatory Ethics Training (Government Code § 53235) within 60 days from their original date of taking office. This suspension shall stay in effect until such time as said members submit valid proof of their compliance with the mandated Ethics Training.

In addition, the Commission recommends that the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) maintain a current, updated and publicly accessible online database of Neighborhood Council members who have complied and Neighborhood Councils who have amended their bylaws. DONE and the City Attorney, whenever possible should provide live and online training opportunities in multiple languages (Spanish, Korean, etc.)

The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Kim.

Vote: Ayes - 6, Nays - 0.

Motion passes unanimously.

ACTION: Second Motion: Commissioner Lucks moved that the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners authorize the President of the Commission to send a letter to the Los Angeles City Council asking them to enact an ordinance requiring Ethics Training

for Neighborhood Council members as required by CA State law (Government Code § 53235 requires said training within one year). The Commission further requests that the mandated training be taken within 60 days from their original date of taking office and that the Council grant the Commission authority to remove Neighborhood Council board members who do not comply with the training requirement.

The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Mack.

Vote: Ayes - 6, Nays - 0.

Motion passes unanimously.

Public comments were received by:

Dave Beauvais – Do it tonight! Do not put it off – do an update and merge of lists that show who has taken the ethics training – secretaries should also update the lists.

Sharon Brewer – Maximum of 30 days! DONE should publicize the names of those who have not taken it. Consolidate years of training.

Cindy Cleghorn – Installation of a new Board member should include ethics training extension for illness?

Scott Goodman – Do it now.

Jean Herweg – Specify the 60 days.

Ivan Spiegel – All candidates should take it before they run. Only 47% of Neighborhood Council Board members have taken the test, needs teeth. What are the sanctions – enforce it- don't permit one person to punish a board.

9. Discussion with North Hills West Neighborhood Council and various North Valley area Neighborhood Council representatives who wish to report concerns, operations, and best practices. Neighborhood Council representatives should complete their questionnaire in advance of the meeting. This matter will last a maximum of 20 minutes and the time will be divided among those representatives wishing to speak. (20 minutes)

ACTION: Adam Halaby, President, North Hills West Neighborhood Council (NHWNC), welcomed the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners, General Manager, BongHwan Kim, and the City Attorney to NHWNC. Ms. Ellie Hill Reese, NHWNC board member, gave a PowerPoint presentation and progress report for NHWNC.

Public comment was received by:

Cindy Cleghorn – Congratulations to North Hills West Neighborhood Council – announced Sunland Tujunga's contest to honor local people February 9. Next Sunland Tujunga meeting commemorating Sylmar earthquake.

10. Commission Business - Comments from Commissioners on subject matters within the Board's jurisdiction. (20 minutes)

1. Comment on Commissioners' own activities/brief announcements.

2. Brief response to statements made or questions posed by persons exercising their general public comment rights/ask staff questions for clarification.
3. Introduce new issues for consideration by the Commission at its next meeting and direct staff to place on the agenda.
4. Ask staff to research issues and report back to the Commission at a future time.

ACTION: Comments given by Commissioner Lucks.

11. General Public Comments - Comments from the public on non-agenda items within the Board's subject matter jurisdiction. This agenda item will last a total of 15 minutes and no individual speaker will be allowed more than two minutes. (15 minutes)

ACTION: No public comments were received.

12. Adjourn

ACTION: President Abrams moved that the meeting be adjourned at 9:20 p.m. The Motion was seconded by Vice President Gatica.

####