

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA

BOARD OF NEIGHBORHOOD
COMMISSIONERS

DANIEL GATICA
PRESIDENT

CARLENE DAVIS
VICE PRESIDENT

DOUGLAS EPPERHART
LINDA LUCKS
KAREN MACK
PAUL PARK
LEONARD SHAFFER

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.org

MINUTES

BOARD OF NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2012 – 6:00 P.M.

ASCOT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – AUDITORIUM
1447 EAST 45TH STREET
LOS ANGELES, CA 90011

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Daniel Gatica, Present
Carlene Davis, Vice President
Douglas Epperhart
Linda Lucks
Karen Mack
Paul Park
Leonard Shaffer

DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT

BongHwan Kim, General Manager
Grayce Liu, Senior Project Coordinator
Janet Lindo, Executive Administrative Assistant

CITY ATTORNEY REPRESENTATIVE

Carmen Hawkins, Deputy City Attorney

1. Introduction (5 minutes)

ACTION: President Gatica gave the introduction.

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

ACTION: President Gatica, called the meeting to order at 6:11 p.m. Commission roll was called by Janet Lindo, Executive Administrative Assistant.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of January 10, 2011. (3 minutes)

ACTION: Commissioner Lucks moved that the Minutes of the Special Meeting of January 10, 2012, be approved as written.

Commissioner Mack seconded the Motion.

Vote: Ayes – 7

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 comments received from:

Manuel Aldana - has complaints about the Neighborhood Councils in South Central.

Paul Dumont – wants to talk about the Community Care Facility Ordinance (CLFD).

Manny Martinez – formation of Hermon Neighborhood Council. Part of Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council and want to start their own.

Joseph Riser – part of Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council and wants Hermon to also start their own Neighborhood Council.

Ivan Speigel – look into what was approved in the past and follow up. Look into getting Neighborhood Councils informed.

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

ACTION: Taken out of order, after Agenda Item No. 6.

Yolanda Fuentes Miranda, Associate Director, Neighborhood & Community Services, and Joseph Hari, provided an update. Ms. Fuentes asked the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (Commission) to partner and join the Mayor's office in advocating the Mayor's Budget Survey by reaching out to their region to contact their respective Neighborhood Council president or treasurer to remind them of the importance of the budget survey and encourage them to please take the survey and forward the information to their contacts. South Los Angeles Budget Advocates representatives: Allan DiCastro, Arnetta Mack, Shawn Simons, and Jeanine Watkins.

Public comments received from:

Marie Bryant – according to a report by the Office of Finance, 114 million dollars in back taxes is owed to the City. Prestige Parking owes the City approximately 78 million dollars. Why hasn't the City tried to recover these back taxes? What are the Mayor and the City doing about that to bridge the budget gap?

6. General Manager's Report (10 minutes)

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

ACTION: The General Manager provided the updates in terms of Department activities:

BOARD OF NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2012
PAGE 3 OF 5

- Arts, Parks and Neighborhoods Committee, chaired by Councilmember Paul Krekorian, met and heard the four items that he introduced looking to reform some aspects of the Neighborhood Council system. The two items that he requested follow up reports from the Department on pertain to the motion regarding required training for Neighborhood Council board members (State mandated ethics test, sexual harassment and work place violence, and the Neighborhood Council Funding Program.) A report back on the grievance system was also requested. City Council supported Councilmember Krekorian's recommendation that the Department take back elections and that the elections be made available in fiscal year 2012 and 2013.
- Funding program - approaching fiscal year end. A notice will be released to the Neighborhood Councils. The memo will contain a total list of all the funds that were encumbered from prior fiscal year. That total was roughly about 1.6 million.
- Year end closing will focus on allowing Neighborhood Councils to encumber funds. Given that the City Council had eliminated the ability of Neighborhood Councils to rollover funds from one year to another, anything that is not spent or encumbered will get swept back to the general fund. Quite a few Neighborhood Councils had wanted to encumber funds for elections outreach in anticipation of a future council decision to bring back elections to the Department. The Department can encumber funds through a Board action. The Neighborhood Councils need to list a number of possible vendors that will be used for elections outreach and it is only for direct expenses related to elections outreach. The Neighborhood Councils will be required to show their annual approved budget on the Department's standardized template showing that there is enough funds to pay for the encumbered funds.
- February 23, the Department has partnered with the Center for Non-Profit Management to offer a workshop for Neighborhood Council on how to increase your effectiveness advocating for your view to City Hall.
- Regional workshops coming up on February 25 in South Los Angeles at the Constituent Service Center and March 10 in the Valley at Braude City Hall.

Public comments received from:

Manuel Aldana – talking about ethics.

Allan DiCastro – DONE website does not necessarily reflect correct email list for a Neighborhood Council.

Theodore Thomas, Sr. - President, Park Mesa Heights Community Council, concerned that South Los Angeles' input regarding the Krekorian motions is being overlooked.

7. Discussion and possible action by the Commission regarding Neighborhood Council elections including an update from the Los Angeles Alliance of Neighborhood Councils/Elections Task Force. (30 minutes)

ACTION: None.

Public comment received from:

Marie Bryant –leave the elections with the City Clerk.

Ivan Spiegel – first elections should have been this month.

BOARD OF NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2012
PAGE 4 OF 5

Theodore Thomas, Sr. - wants the City Clerk to continue to run the elections. Want their \$2500 back for elections.

8. **Town Hall:** Forum on issues impacting South Los Angeles Neighborhood Councils. Questions for discussion: (30 minutes)
1. What are the current and emerging priority issues that South Los Angeles Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (SLAANC) is actively focused on?
 2. What are some of the successful outreach and recruitment efforts that South Los Angeles Neighborhood Councils have taken to increase community engagement and participation? What are some of the challenges South Los Angeles Neighborhood Councils face in trying to increase community involvement?
 3. In what ways might the Neighborhood Councils for Councils (C4C) Peer Mentoring Program best provide support and assistance to individual South Los Angeles Neighborhood Councils who are looking to strengthen or enhance their Neighborhood Council's operations and community impact?
 4. What is one specific, concrete and realistic policy or practice change that you feel the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners/Department of Neighborhood Empowerment could make to facilitate South Los Angeles Neighborhood Councils with being even more successful?

ACTION: None.

9. Recognition and presentation of certificates to South area Neighborhood Councils reaching their 10 Year Anniversary: Empowerment Congress Central Area Neighborhood Development Council, Empowerment Congress North Area Neighborhood Development Council, Empowerment Congress Southeast Area Neighborhood Development Council Empowerment Congress Southwest Area Neighborhood Development Council, Empowerment Congress West Area Neighborhood Development Council, Mid City Neighborhood Council, Park Mesa Heights Community Council, United Neighborhoods Neighborhood Council, West Adams Neighborhood Council. (20 Minutes)

ACTION: The Commission and the Department recognized and presented 10 Year Anniversary certificates to representatives of the Empowerment Congress Central Area Neighborhood Development Council, Empowerment Congress West Area Neighborhood Development Council, Mid City Neighborhood Council, Park Mesa Heights Community Council.

10. Update on the Commission adopted work plan. (30 minutes)
1. To establish a set of standards to guide Neighborhood Council operations and provide a uniform measure of competence for Neighborhood Council officers, board members and volunteers.

BOARD OF NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2012
PAGE 5 OF 5

2. To devise and implement a leadership development program to improve and extend the skills of Neighborhood Council officers, board members and other volunteers.
3. To devise and implement a citywide publicity and outreach campaign to raise awareness of Neighborhood Councils and encourage participation by stakeholders.
4. To review the Plan for a Citywide System of Neighborhood Councils (Plan) in its entirety and propose amendments to the Plan to eliminate inconsistencies, clarify vague or confusing language, and offer a complete and comprehensive directive for Neighborhood Councils. The desired outcome is a clear and comprehensive Plan that will be more accessible and useful for guiding Neighborhood Councils.

ACTION: Agenda Item postponed to the next Commission meeting.

11. Commission Business – Comment 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 received from Commissioners Epperhart, Lucks, Park, and Shaffer. Commissioner Park requested follow up by the City Attorney regarding the limits of the Commission’s authority to be able to tie a policy to decertification. Whether or not the Commission is able to pass and enforce a measure that is tied to decertification.

Commissioner Park requested copies of the opinions of the City Attorney’s Office as they relate to the standards or rules, related to Agenda Item No. 10.

12. 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: None.

13. Adjourn

ACTION: Commissioner Epperhart moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:45 p.m. Commissioner Lucks seconded the Motion.

####