

**CITY OF LOS ANGELES**  
CALIFORNIA

**BOARD OF NEIGHBORHOOD  
COMMISSIONERS**

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**MINUTES**

**BOARD OF NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONERS**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2011 – 6:00 P.M.**

**MARINA DEL REY MIDDLE SCHOOL - AUDITORIUM**  
**12500 BRADDOCK DR.**  
**LOS ANGELES, CA 90066**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

Albert Abrams, President  
Daniel Gatica, Vice President  
Esther Cepeda-Hatch  
Carlene Davis  
Linda Lucks  
Karen Mack

**ABSENT**

John Kim

**DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT**

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

**CITY ATTORNEY REPRESENTATIVE**

Rita Hernandez-Venegas, 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 6:09 p.m. Commission roll was called by Executive Administrative Assistant, Janet Lindo.**

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 1, 2011. (3 minutes)

**ACTION: President Abrams moved that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 1, 2011, be approved as written. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Lucks.**

**Vote: Ayes - 6, Nays - 0.**

**Motion passed 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 were received from:

Stephen Foster, Principal, Marina Del Rey Middle School, welcomed the Commissioners to Marina Del Rey Middle School.

Cecilia Castillo, Field Deputy for Councilmember Bill Rosendahl. One behalf of Councilmember Rosendahl she welcomed the Commissioners to Council District 11 and thanked them for all their hard work and dedication to the Neighborhood Council system.

Tony Butka – Glassell Park Neighborhood Council (NC), Ethics rules re conflict of interest – he says that Ethics Commission doesn't want to do anything regarding ethics.

Cindy Cleghorn – Update on the Neighborhood Council Congress, increasing public participation re government – several dates are in play-not set yet.

Gideon Elran – Wants more money for schools.

Sue Kaplan – Neighborhood schools do great work – wants NCs to do more for the schools.

Katie Labrie – President of the Booster Club at Westminster Elementary school – opposes Charter schools getting space at public schools.

Nancy Vernon Marino – Concerned about Board of Supervisors acquisition of Marina Del Rey property – taking away parking lots.

Jaime Reynoso – Parent of the school – has concerns about Charter schools getting class space at Marina Del Rey Middle School.

Roxane Stern – Specified concerns about the Westwood NC.

Eric Thomas – Teacher at the school – concerned about “co-location” of Charter-Del Rey NC is for Charters.

Karen Wolfe – Wants more involvement by NCs with local schools.

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

**ACTION: Aaron Gross, Office of the Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, provided an update.**

- Budget survey – The Mayor is asking people to take the budget survey at [-labudgetchallenge.lacity.org](http://labudgetchallenge.lacity.org). Has received 7,000 responses to date. Shout outs to the following Neighborhood Councils that have done excellent as far as their response: Downtown Los Angeles NC, Mar Vista Community Council, Reseda NC, Venice NC, Sun Valley NC, and Sunland Tujunga NC.
- Regional Budget Day – March 12, 2011
- Mayor’s State of the City – April 11, 2011
- Release of Mayor’s Budget – April 20, 2011
- City Administrative Officer Mid Year Report due out - March 21, 2011
- There is currently a 54 million dollars budget gap
- Next budget year’s projected deficit is 350 million dollars
- Significant budget solutions this year include transfers of funds, City employees furloughs, and departmental reductions (layoffs)
- Five hundred million dollars have been cut from the General Fund this fiscal year
- Shop LA - revenue generating program that encourages people to spend their money in the City of Los Angeles
- Vote on March 8

6. General Manager’s Report (10 minutes)

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

**ACTION: General Manager, BongHwan Kim, provided an update on Departmental activities.**

7. Update and discussion about the two recent BONC policies regarding State mandated Ethics Training for Neighborhood Council Board members. (10 minutes)

**ACTION: President Abrams advised that a letter was submitted to City Council on February 3, 2011.**

**Public comments were received from:**

Tony Butka – No difference in those who are trained in ethics doing ethical behavior. Wants ordinance to remove Board members if they do not take ethics training.

Robert Gelfand – The motions passed re ethics training were wrong. The issues need debate.

Jay Handal – NCs are growing up. We need enforcement of the rules. Wants clarification of NC Board members.

Ivan Spiegel – People have to have ethics training – BONC has to have teeth to enforce. Non-enforcement has consequences.

Roxane Stern – Wants enforcement for ethics.

8. Presentation from a Neighborhood Council Elections Task Force with discussion regarding the various election alternatives. (15 minutes)

**ACTION: Doug Epperhart, Chair, gave a presentation on behalf of the Neighborhood Council Elections Task Force. The Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition following on a resolution from the Harbor Alliance of Neighborhood Councils, agreed to sponsor an elections task force. This resulted from the town halls hosted by Councilmember Paul Krekorian, with Neighborhood Council people saying they were unhappy with the way elections were conducted, response from Department of Neighborhood Empowerment to the Education and Neighborhoods Committee, and the City Clerk talking about what it would cost to do the next rounds of elections. The City Clerk is expensive.**

Cindy Cleghorn- Everyone has to register with Everyone Counts, but some people do not want to pre-register.

Robert Gelfand – ran the Election Task Force – most of the people who showed up did not like City Clerk's running the election. The asked the City Clerk if they would be Independent Election Administrators (IEA).

Jay Handal – Election Task Force did a great job. We need to think outside the box. We have to save money and transparent elections.

Charles Lindenblatt – Against recommendation of the Election Task Fore – liked City Clerk elections - issues can be worked out.

Mark Seigel – Has a problem with the City Clerk's running of the NC elections. Liked the IEA method of running elections. Wants streamlined way to do elections.

9. Discussion and possible action by the Commission to conduct a joint meeting with the Education and Neighborhoods Committee regarding election options for the Neighborhood Council System. (15 minutes)

**ACTION: Taken out of order, before Agenda Item No. 7-. A joint meeting with the Education and Neighborhoods Committee regarding election options for the Neighborhood Council System is tentatively scheduled for March 23, 2011, at 5:00 pm at City Hall. President Abrams, Vice President Gatica, Commissioners Davis, and Lucks plan to attend the meeting.**

10. Verbal reports from the 2010 and 2011 Ad Hoc Policy Committees, with discussion and possible action regarding possible subject areas for finalization of the 2011 Policy Calendar. (20 minutes)

**ACTION: Agenda item postponed to the next Commission meeting.**

11. Discussion and possible action with a recommendation to the City Council regarding the term "factual basis stakeholders" under the Plan for a Citywide System of Neighborhood Councils, including a discussion on changing the stakeholder definition in the Plan that could impact the participation of factual basis stakeholders in the Neighborhood Council system. (25 minutes)

**ACTION: None.**

**Public comments were received from:**

Doug Epperhart – I voted in eight elections on one day. He is torn on this issue. Getting more numbers is key to elections.

Robert Gelfand – This all began with the NCRC. What is the purpose of NCs – there are different levels of participation in democracies.

Jay Handal – What happens to an NC that is taken over by Factual Basis Stakeholders (FSB)? Who take over an election? Fair and balanced elections are necessary.

Mark Redick – NCs have grown in stature – City Council takes them seriously now – some candidates used receipts as proof of residence. An opening for fraud.

Dan Savage – Witnessed Del Rey residents going into Venice to solicit voters. Wants a rule or policy to affect it.

Ivan Spiegel – A tough one – against FBS is a block to democracy – however, they will be a threat to elections. Do not change the definition. Put limits on FBS seats.

Karen Wolfe – Factual Basis Stakeholders ruin the integrity of representative government – even at the NC level. One person, one vote.

12. Discussion and possible adoption of a Commission recommendation to follow up with City Council on a letter dated, dated, June 3, 2010, for the adoption of an ordinance regarding financial disclosure, monitoring and oversight of Neighborhood Council election candidate fundraising activities. (20 minutes)

**ACTION: None. Taken out of order, before Agenda Item No. 8.**

**Public comments were received from:**

Jay Handal – Concern for monitoring reports – DONE can not do it.

Mark Redick – No problem with candidate fundraising – each candidate should account for that money.

Ivan Spiegel – The big issue here – “What are NC Council Board members?”

13. Discussion with various West 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: Eric DeSobe, President, Del Rey Neighborhood Council, gave a presentation on behalf of the Del Rey Neighborhood Council.**

- The goal of the Del Rey Neighborhood Council is to outreach to all parts of Del Rey, a unique community.
  - In September the Del Rey Cup took place in celebration of the new lights that were installed on the Mar Vista Gardens field. It was a great opportunity to get youth involve and to highlight physical activity. The Neighborhood Council saw this event as a huge outreach opportunity in reaching out to the Mar Vista Gardens community and letting them know about the Del Rey Neighborhood Council activities.
  - In December the Del Rey Neighborhood Council sponsored the Del Rey Art Walk. It was a great opportunity to highlight the wonderful artists that are living and working in Del Rey. It was a home tour of about 12-13 homes.
  - Del Rey Neighborhood Council’s website is upgraded with a brand new design and is a great way to promote the Neighborhood Council. The website is upgraded frequently. It has video, community announcements and a great way for the Neighborhood Council to stay transparent.
  - Del Rey Neighborhood Council has a strong social media presence. Join them on Facebook at Del Rey Neighbor, or follow them along with the other 29 followers, on Twitter at Del Rey Neighbor.
14. 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: Commissioner Lucks read the following for point of information for discussion at the next Commission meeting:**

- 1) **Whereas the concern has been expressed by stakeholders around the city regarding the City Council’s expansion of the definition of the term stakeholder to allow voters who declare a factual basis stake in the community to be on the boards. I move that the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners encourage Neighborhood Councils to review and revise their bylaws to include a provision whereby a minimum of one seat or ten percent**

of the membership of each Neighborhood Council will include a seat reserved for factual basis stakeholder per the February 20, 2008, decision by the City Council to expand the definition of stakeholder to encompass community members who affirm a stake in their community.

- 2) I move that the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners direct the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment staff to draft a letter for possible adoption by the Commission requesting that the City Council consider directing the Neighborhood Councils to set aside a minimum of one seat or ten percent of the Board for a factual basis stakeholder to implement the expanded definition of stakeholder in February 20, 2008, granting the Commission and the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment the authority to oversee and enforce the action.

15. 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.**

16. Adjourn

**ACTION: President Abrams moved that the meeting be adjourned at 9:25 p.m. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Lucks.**

**Vote: Ayes - 6, Nays - 0.**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

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