

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA

BOARD OF NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONERS

KAREN MACK
PRESIDENT

LEONARD SHAFFER
VICE PRESIDENT

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GRAYCE LIU
GENERAL MANAGER

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MINUTES

BOARD OF NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING

MONDAY, APRIL 21, 2014 – 1:00 P.M.

**CITY HALL, 10TH FLOOR CONFERENCE CENTER
ROOM 1050, 200 NORTH SPRING STREET
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Karen Mack, President
Leonard Shaffer, Vice President
Joy Atkinson
Lydia Grant
Eli Lipmen
Victor Medina
Olivia Rubio

DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT

Grayce Liu, General Manager
Stephen Box, Senior Project Coordinator
Joseph Hari, Senior Project Coordinator

CITY ATTORNEY REPRESENTATIVE

Alois Phillips, Deputy City Attorney

1. Introduction (5 minutes)

ACTION: Vice President Shaffer gave the introduction.

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

ACTION: Vice President Shaffer called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. Commission roll was called by Joseph Hari. President Mack arrived to the meeting at 12:21 p.m.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 1, 2014. (Click on the link to view a copy of the document.) (3 minutes)
http://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/04-01-14_draft_COMMISSION-MINUTES1.pdf

ACTION: Commissioner Medina moved approval of the Minutes of the Regular meeting of April 1, 2014, as written. Commissioner Grant seconded the Motion.

**VOTE: Ayes – 6 (Atkinson, Grant, Lipmen, Medina, Rubio, and Shaffer)
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 three minutes. (15 minutes)

Public comments received from:

Tom Grode – live in Skid Row, would like more information on how to pursue the possibility of Skid Row becoming its own Neighborhood Council now that the population of downtown has grown to where it doesn't need Skid Row to qualify for the minimum population.

Rusty Millar – Vice Chair, Silver Lake Neighborhood Council, speaking on our recent election. Our recent election had a troubling stench about it and it's called, Nina Sorkin, our Silver Lake Neighborhood Council Election Chair. The day of the election Nina Sorkin was ejected from the school auditorium for electioneering, this is illegal. Nina Sorkin has brought shame on the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council for her recent actions. I suggest that Neighborhood Council Election Chairs be required to take the ethics training and be certified as such. Another consideration for the Commission would be requirement that all Neighborhood Council elections committee members not be allowed to be a candidate for elections hence to avoid any inside track of information or knowledge that would jeopardize the integrity of the elections committee.

5. Verbal update from a representative of the Office of the Mayor Eric Garcetti. (10 minutes)

ACTION: No representative present.

6. General Manager's Report. (10 minutes)
 1. Briefing on Departmental activities.
 2. Staffing, budget and other operational matters.
 3. Neighborhood Council 2014 Elections
 4. Councils for Councils (C4C)
 5. Neighborhood Council Boundary Borders

General Manager, Grayce Liu, gave the General Manager's Report.

- Working on funding and elections.

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- Field team is meeting the new boards and training the new boards. The training is a 90 minute training.
- Individuals do need to take the separate funding training and ethics training before they can vote on any funding issues.
- Three Neighborhood Councils are in Exhaustive Efforts – LA 32, MacArthur Park, and Olympic Park.
- Checking accounts – waiting for information from Union Bank in order that the CAO can complete their report.
- Budget – Mayor’s budget came out last week.
- Elections – up to Region 7 of 12. A third of Neighborhood Councils are experiencing historic highs and we’re up about 45% voters over 2012.
- 471 volunteers that have signed up in some fashion or capacity or made contact with us.
- Councils for Councils (C4C) – we’ve been working with the Neighborhood Empowerment Analyst’s Union, EAA. We had a meet and confer meeting about two weeks ago which resulted in an impasse. We are now working with Personnel Department as to next steps. The Councils for Councils still exists in its current form.
- Boundary borders – this issue is already handled in the Plan for Citywide System of Neighborhood Councils under Article 3 when you certify a Neighborhood Council.

7. Commission Committee Reports. (15 minutes)

1. Ad Hoc Committee re Outreach (Members: Atkinson-Chair, Mack, and Rubio)
2. Ad Hoc Committee re ability of the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners to implement citywide policies (Members: Shaffer-Chair, Grant, and Medina)
3. Ad Hoc Committee re Leadership Development for Neighborhood Councils (Members: Rubio-Chair, Medina, and Shaffer)

ACTION: None.

8. Previously, the Commission adopted the Neighborhood Council Plan Review Committee’s recommendation on the Brown Act and posting policies which stated:

Reaffirm support for the Brown Act for Neighborhood Councils and its single accessible 24 hour posting requirement, and reaffirm current board policies regarding electronic mail and website posting, with only one physical posting site as opposed to many. The email requirement shall specify that agendas be sent to “NCsupport” with the intent that the Department will post them to the City’s agenda system.

AND

Neighborhood Councils that do not have a website must post in at least five (5) physical locations.

Discussion and possible action by the Commission including but not limited to reviewing Commission Policy Number 2010-02 (Revised December 17, 2012 and signed January 14, 2013) regarding Neighborhood Council Posting Requirements,

and adopting new policy which incorporates adopted Plan Review Committee recommendation. (Click on the link to view a copy of the document.) (20 minutes)
http://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Neighborhood-Council-Agenda-Posting-Requirements_REV-12-17-12.pdf
http://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Posting-Policy_draft_revised_04-21-14.pdf

ACTION: Commissioner Shaffer moved the agenda item in its entirety. Commissioner Lipmen seconded the motion.

Commissioner Shaffer moved to amend the motion, item no. 4, last sentence which states, emails shall be sent within the time limits of the Brown Act for the posting of agendas, by striking that sentence in its entirety so that the paragraph ends with the word agenda.

Commissioner Shaffer withdrew the amendment.

Commissioner Shaffer moved an amendment to this motion by striking the last sentence of what is now item 4, it says emails shall be sent within the time limits of the Brown Act for the posting of agendas.

Commissioner Grant seconded the motion.

VOTE: Ayes – 7
 Nays – 0

Motion passes unanimously.

Commissioner Shaffer moved to make the following amendment to number 9. If a Neighborhood Council is found to be in violation of this Policy (3) times, within the current fiscal year, and then after, again found to be in violation of this policy, adding the words, during the current fiscal year.

Commissioner Grant seconded the motion.

VOTE: Ayes – 7
 Nays – 0

Motion passes unanimously.

Commissioner Shaffer moved that the Resolution as currently amended be adopted.

Commissioner Shaffer moved to table the motion to adopt the Resolution until the next meeting.

Commissioner Medina seconded the motion.

VOTE: Ayes – 7
 Nays – 0

Motion passes unanimously.

9. Previously, the Commission established Regional Standing Committees to provide recommendations to the Commission regarding improvements to the Citywide System of Neighborhood Councils. The Regional Standing Committees, also known as the Neighborhood Council (NC) Plan Review Committees, have forwarded their recommendations to the Commission for review and action. Discussion and POSSIBLE ACTION by the Commission on the recommendations of the Regional Standing Committees and the Commission's positions with respect to the recommendations, including but not limited to drafting a communication or Resolution to the City regarding: (30 minutes) (Click on the links to view copies of the documents.)

http://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Memo-re_Eight-Motions.pdf

http://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Attachment-A_survey-results.pdf

http://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Attachment-B_NC-Resolutions.pdf

http://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Survey_8-motions_text2.pdf

1) Training and Leadership Development

NC Plan Review Committees' Recommendation:

- a) Neighborhood Council board members be required to complete Ethics, Financial Policy, Sexual Harassment, and ADA Compliance training, and that the Department offer classes including, but not limited to leadership, City government basics, parliamentary procedures, land use, and candidate training.
- b) There be a citywide standard period of time from date of seating, not to exceed 90 days, that a Board member will have to pass the required training, and that this be enforced by the Neighborhood Council bylaws, which shall prohibit voting on any matter coming before the Neighborhood Council board. Inability of any board member(s) to vote for failure to timely complete training will not affect quorum.

Additional Commission proposals:

- c) That the Commission may amend the recommendation regarding training to include consequences for failure to complete the training within the allowed period of time. The ultimate consequence being the removal by action of the Department of any offending board member.
- d) That the Commission may amend the recommendation regarding training to include Workplace Violence/Bullying Prevention training.

ACTION: None.

10. Commission Business - Comment from Commissioners on subject matters within the Board's jurisdiction. (15 minutes)
1. Comment on Commissioners' own activities/brief announcements.

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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: None.

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 three minutes. (15 minutes)

ACTION: No public comment received.

12. Adjourn

ACTION: Commissioner Shaffer moved that the meeting be adjourned at 3:00 p.m. Commissioner Medina seconded the motion.

**VOTE: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0**

Motion passes unanimously

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