

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA

BOARD OF NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONERS

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GRAYCE LIU
GENERAL MANAGER

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MINUTES

BOARD OF NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2013 – 6:00 P.M.

**DORRIS PLACE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
AUDITORIUM
2225 DORRIS PLACE
LOS ANGELES, CA 90031**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Paul Park, President
Douglas Epperhart
Linda Lucks
Karen Mack

ABSENT

Daniel Gatica
Leonard Shaffer

DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT

Grayce Liu, General Manager
Jeff Brill, Senior Management Analyst
Stephen Box, Acting Senior Project Coordinator
Janet Lindo, Executive Administrative Assistant

CITY ATTORNEY REPRESENTATIVE

Alois Phillips, Deputy City Attorney

1. Introduction (5 minutes)

ACTION: President Park gave the introduction.

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

ACTION: President Park called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. Commission roll was called by Janet Lindo, Executive Administrative Assistant.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 15, 2013. (Click on the link to view a copy of the document.) (3 minutes)
http://done.lacity.org/dnn/portals/0/documents/LEARN/About_the_commission/04-15-13_DRAFT_COMMISSION_MEETING_MINUTES.pdf

ACTION: Commissioner Epperhart moved approval of the Minutes of the meeting of March 18, 2013, as written. Commissioner Mack seconded the Motion.

VOTE: Ayes – 4
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)

ACTION: Public comment received from:

Robert Chernob – Land Use Consultant, Neighborhood Councils have absolutely no training in land use.

Arnetta Mack – newly appointed Board of Neighborhood Commissioner, awaiting confirmation by the City Council. Looking forward to working with the Commission and serving South Los Angeles and the City of Los Angeles.

Joseph Riser – Elysian Valley Riverside is the smallest Neighborhood Council in the City of Los Angeles. This Neighborhood Council also cast more votes in the last election than four of the five largest Neighborhood Councils in the City. This is about participation, not sheer numbers. The five smallest Neighborhood Councils in the City out voted two-to-one in participation the five largest Neighborhood Councils in the City.

Jose Sigala – Greater Echo Park Elysian, last year we had elections in October which allowed a new board to transition over. Since October 23 through April 10 of this year there were thousands of dollars allocated or expended without board approval, board knowledge, board discussion or board deliberation or stakeholder input. A couple of policies that are not being followed by the Department.

Daniel Wiseman – How to create a Community Impact Statement (CIS). Angelenos recipe for a just and efficient city government. Prior approval for factual basis stakeholder.

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, Grayce Liu, gave a verbal update on Departmental activities, staffing, budget and other operational matters.

- We are in the middle of budget hearings. Last Friday we had to go before the Budget and Finance Committee to discuss our request based on the current budget.
- We are asking for any unused salary savings from this current fiscal year as well as unused election outreach funding that was not used this current fiscal year to be moved from this current fiscal year to next fiscal year.
- We are requesting that those monies be put into a funding as needed staff account . We had ask for \$250,000 for that account and I am grateful that the Mayor and City Administrative Officer offices were able to find at least \$40,000 for us, but I think with the establishment of the new checking account system, the troubleshooting and adjustment, policies and procedures that I expect will need to happen in the new fiscal year, that we are going to need a little more support than the \$40,000.
- We also requested \$20,000 for Congress and Budget Day support.
- They are also looking into our position deletions as well as the additions.
- Provided report backs giving them a small analysis of the various work duties for each of the positions and how that would affect the Department based on their addition or deletion.

Public comment received from:

Jose Sigala – speaking on 6.2 – gave Commission a DVD of Jay Handal speaking at an executive committee talking about how he does not want the Neighborhood Council’s fingerprint to be on what they are working on at the Department and that it is a done deal they are going to take care of it.

Daniel Wiseman – The fact that we have so many new people in Neighborhood Council activities all around I think can be attributed to the hard work of Stephen Box. I want to publicly thank him here for that. When you went to the City Council Budget and Finance on Friday did they consider or take any action on the \$680,000 necessary for the Neighborhood Council elections in 2014?

Answer by General Manager, Grayce Liu – they provided us with \$576,000 which is sufficient on our side to conduct the elections. The City Clerk was provided \$100,000 to perform their part of the back office.

7. Discussion and motion to retroactively amend the Olympic Park Neighborhood Council contract with the Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative (LANI) to extend the terms of the contract from December 31, 2012, to December 31, 2013. (10 minutes)

ACTION: Agenda item to be continued. Quorum was lost due to Commissioner Mack recusing herself.

8. Recognition and presentation of 10 Year Anniversary Certificates to the Atwater Village Neighborhood Council and the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council. (10 minutes)

ACTION: Atwater Village Neighborhood Council and Silver Lake Neighborhood Council were recognized by the Commission and presented their 10 Year Anniversary Certificate.

9. Discussion with various East 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. (Click on the link to view a copy of the document.) (20 minutes)
http://done.lacity.org/dnn/portals/0/documents/LEARN/About_the_commission/BEST_PRACTICES_NC_CVR_LTR_QUESTIONNAIRE_02-12-13.pdf

ACTION: Representatives from Atwater Village Neighborhood Council, Elysian Valley Neighborhood Council, and Silverlake Neighborhood Council gave a report to the Commission.

10. Commission Committee Reports. (10 minutes)
 1. Ad Hoc Committee re Standards and Outreach (Members: Mack-Chair, Park, and Lucks)

ACTION: None.

11. Discussion regarding the recommendations from the Commission's Regional Plan Review Committees and the final meeting. (30 minutes)

ACTION: None.

Public comment received from:

Joseph Riser – you've been talking about factual basis, there is a tiny stepsister to factual basis it is called subdivision. It was a motion brought forward by Councilmember Huizar at the same time and it deals with the right that Neighborhood Councils have to subdivide. Asking the Commission to take subdivision off of the back burner.

Jay Handal – been listening about the factual basis report. Wonder if the Commission has considered putting a survey out to all the Neighborhood Councils on the language as oppose to hoping someone is going to show up at a meeting because attendance is not always wonderful. You might want to think about doing that because that would be really good outreach and then you might have some better data from Neighborhood Council people. Going back to factual basis – leaving it up to individual Neighborhood Councils to determine what a stakeholder is, what factual basis is, is creating anarchy and it is insane.

12. 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: None.

13. 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 comment received from:

Jay Handal – the West Los Angeles Neighborhood Council is pleased to announce their third annual summer concert series in the West Los Angeles Municipal Center, free concerts open to the public. There will be eight of them this year on Wednesday nights starting in July. On Friday nights starting in July we will have eight movies in the park at Stoner Park, all family movies. Just to clarify something I heard from a previous speaker – any of you who listen to what you just heard about taking over meetings and doing things, what I would do is say to the General Manager please burn the tapes and give copies of all of the cd's of all of the filmed meetings to all of the Commissioners so they can see exactly how the meetings are run, who runs them, how much better they are run under new leadership, how much more organize they are, and how much more transparent they are to the community.

Jose Sigala – just wanted to reiterate, in the packet that I submitted the first thing under unacceptable purchases is: 1. Any purchase made without the approval of a Neighborhood Council governing body and any purchase that are not identified in the NC approved budget are unacceptable. Ms. Liu, said earlier that the items were identified in the budget, they were not identified in the original budget that was passed by the previous board.

14. Adjourn

ACTION: Commissioner Lucks moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:19 p.m. Commissioner Mack seconded the motion.

**VOTE: Ayes – 4
Nays – 0**

Motion passes unanimously.