

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA

BOARD OF NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONERS

KAREN MACK
PRESIDENT

LEONARD SHAFFER
VICE PRESIDENT

JOY ATKINSON
LYDIA GRANT
ELI LIPMEN
VICTOR MEDINA
OLIVIA RUBIO

JANET LINDO
Executive Administrative Assistant
TELEPHONE: (213) 978-1551



ERIC GARCETTI
MAYOR



20th FLOOR, CITY HALL
200 NORTH SPRING STREET
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

TELEPHONE: (213) 978-1551
TOLL-FREE: 3-1-1
FAX: (213) 978-1751
E-MAIL: EmpowerLA@lacity.org

GRAYCE LIU
GENERAL MANAGER

www.EmpowerLA.org

MINUTES

BOARD OF NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING

MONDAY, JUNE 16, 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

ABSENT

Olivia Rubio
Victor Medina

DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT

Grayce Liu, General Manager
Janet Lindo, Executive Administrative Assistant

CITY ATTORNEY REPRESENTATIVE

Carmen Hawkins, Deputy City Attorney

1. Introduction (5 minutes)

ACTION: President Mack gave the introduction.

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

ACTION: President Mack called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. Commission roll was called by Janet Lindo.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 3, 2014. (Click on the link to view a copy of the document.) (3 minutes)

http://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/06-03-14_draft_COMMISSION-MINUTES.pdf

ACTION: Commissioner Grant moved approval of the Minutes of the Regular meeting of June 3, 2014, as written. Commissioner Atkinson seconded the Motion.

**VOTE: Ayes – 5 (Atkinson, Grant, Lipmen, Mack, and Shaffer)
Nays – 0
Abstention – 0
Absent – 2 (Medina, Rubio)**

TOTAL – Ayes 5 Nays 0 Abstention 0 Absent 2 Motion Carries X Fails

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:

John Ignatczyk, LAFD Fire Captain, Disaster Preparedness Unit, Disaster Preparedness Officer, wanted to introduced himself and let the Commission know that his unit is available to assist the Commission or Neighborhood Councils with any disaster preparedness trainings or orientations.

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.

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

- The Department is busy wrapping up the end of the year fiscal issues.
- Closed down the purchase card last Friday.
- On Friday we opened our first checking account.
- Next fiscal year Neighborhood Councils will be able to use their funds until June 30th. They will have a full year of usage which has been an issue in the past.
- The Field Team is still going out and doing trainings at the board meetings. They are moving into South LA and West LA to finish up those trainings.
- The Outreach Team and Elections folks are closing out the final election paperwork and documents.
- We will finalize the year with a yearbook.
- Admin-we are working on a case management system for the Department so that our various teams can record all the interactions we've had.

Public comment received from:

Jay Handal, West Los Angeles Neighborhood Council – one of my concerns on the funding is that somehow there has to be some kind of stop gap. I would ask that the Department not automatically withdraw money knowing that you're at the \$1000 limit and it's gonna take you under the \$1,000 limit and cost you a fee.

Pete Nicholas – residential stakeholder, Rampart Village – concerned about processes to allow Neighborhood Councils to expend money through June 30th. There ought to be better processes to ensure that Neighborhood Councils never have to pay a service fee for a low balance.

7. **PUBLIC HEARING:** Discussion and possible action on Empowerment Congress North Area Neighborhood Development Council's Board Structure Change Request to reduce their board seats from twenty-two to fifteen and their quorum from 9 to 8 by eliminating the At-Large Seat (elected), Safety Representative, Social Services Representative, Education Representative, Public Safety Representative, Youth Representative and consolidating the USC Student Representative with the USC Staff Representative position. (Click on the link to view a copy of the document.) (10 minutes)

http://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/EmpCongressNorthNDC-Approved-Bylaw-Amendments_060514.pdf

<http://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/EmpCongressNorthNDC-Board Structure Change Request Form 6.12.14.pdf>

ACTION: Commissioner Shaffer moved to approve Empowerment Congress North Area Neighborhood Development Council's Board Structure Change Request to reduce their board seats from twenty-two to fifteen and their quorum from 9 to 8 by eliminating the At-Large Seat (elected), Safety Representative, Social Services Representative, Education Representative, Public Safety Representative, Youth Representative and consolidating the USC Student Representative with the USC Staff Representative position. Commissioner Atkinson seconded the motion.

VOTE: Ayes – 4 (Atkinson, Grant, Mack, and Shaffer)
Nays – 1 (Lipmen)
Abstention – 0
Absent – 2 (Medina and Rubio)

TOTAL – Ayes 4 **Nays** 1 **Abstention** **Absent** 2 **Motion Carries** X **Fails**

Public comment received from:

Jay Handal – the argument of not having appointed people vs having appointed people it could create a dictatorship. It just makes it an impossible task to actually work with the community and do proper outreach. As far as size of the board goes, for my board at 15 it's perfect. I've worked through C4C with many Councils and helped reduce the numbers because quite frankly it becomes unmanageable at 25 and 35 and 40 and it also becomes sometimes almost impossible to get a quorum.

8. Commission Committee Reports. (30 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.

Public comment received from:

Pete Nicholas – 8.1 – website - for well over a year there's been a great emphasis on getting websites up and running. I think the Department and BONC would be better advised for these new website people to design a website out of a box that any poor, low-level, impoverished Neighborhood Council could take and could use and could implement.

Pete Nicholas - 8.3 – training policy, outreach – I'm not against public meetings, discussing anything or against outreach. I think we really need to come up with a comprehensive suggestion for what we want for discussion, should there be training or not, how much of a burden is it, free speech issues, and then the penalty.

9. A report by Commissioner Eli Lipmen on the development of metrics in relation to the 2014 work plan for the Commission. (15 minutes)

ACTION: None.

10. TOWN HALL MEETING - The Commission will conduct a town hall meeting where members of the public are encouraged to voice concerns and offer suggestions and comments to the Commissioners regarding a proposed policy requiring Neighborhood Council board members to take the required training within a certain amount of time from being seated, e.g., 90 days. This policy may also include a mechanism for enforcement, including but not limited to, prohibiting persons from voting (without impacting quorum) and/or removal from the Neighborhood Council board. (Click on the link to view a copy of the document.) (60 minutes)

http://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Training-Policy_Proposed_Draft_6-3-14.pdf

<http://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Draft-Bullying-and-Harassment-Policy-051514.pdf>

http://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/Commisison_Code-of-Civility_signed_01-27-14.pdf

ACTION: None.

Public comment received from:

Jay Handal – this should all be incorporated under the grievance panel. As to trainings, there have to be guidelines and there have to be penalties. I strongly urge you to move forward. Do your own monthly e-blast.

Charles Lindenblatt, Mid City West Community Council – I’m opposing this policy because I think that it can be abused.

Frank Wada, Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council – I’m here more on the general concept of the censure, the way it’s written in terms of the training and how you wrote it here. I think this should be integrated into the whole process of what you’re talking about, grievance process. It will become a political football. I agree there should be more training.

- 11. Commission Business - Comment from Commissioners on subject matters within the Board’s jurisdiction. (15 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.

- 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 three minutes. (15 minutes)

ACTION: No speaker cards received.

- 13. Adjourn

ACTION: Commissioner Atkinson moved that the meeting be adjourned at 3:57 p.m. Commissioner Shaffer seconded the motion.

**VOTE: Ayes – 5 (Atkinson, Grant, Lipmen, Mack, and Shaffer)
Nays – 0
Abstention – 0
Absent – 2 (Medina, Rubio)**

TOTAL – Ayes 5 Nays 0 Abstention 0 Absent 2 Motion Carries X Fails

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