

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

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2014 – 6:00 P.M.

**COUNCIL DISTRICT 10 FIELD OFFICE
1819 SOUTH WESTERN AVENUE
LOS ANGELES, CA 90006**

(Enter on Manhattan Place)

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

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

ABSENT

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 6:10 p.m. Commission roll was called by Janet Lindo.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 15, 2014. (Click on the link to view a copy of the document.) (3 minutes)
http://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/09-15-14_draft-COMMISSION-MINUTES.pdf

Commissioner Grant moved approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 15, 2014, as written. Commissioner Shaffer seconded the Motion.

VOTE:

Ayes	<u>6</u>	(Atkinson, Grant, Lipmen, Mack, Rubio, and Shaffer)
Nays	<u>0</u>	
Abstention	<u>0</u>	
Absent	<u>1</u>	(Medina)
TOTAL	<u>7</u>	

Motion Carries X
Fails _____

4. Discussion by the Commission on Best Practices on leadership within the Neighborhood Council system including possible guest speakers. (10 minutes)

ACTION: City Council President Herb J. Wesson, Jr., shared his thoughts on leadership.

- I don't believe in being assertive as a leader, but I do believe in being decisive,
- I believe that leadership is not about doing what you want to do, that it's about doing what you have to do.
- Leadership is about taking people places they don't think that you want to go.
- In order to truly lead from time to time you make people angry, but you have to look at the end game and make sure that it's worth what you're fighting for.
- A lot of the people that we've had in the past as Council Presidents maybe have managed the Council. I lead it. Being a manager is different than being a leader.
- I think my biggest trait as a leader is that I listen.
- The approach I go about when I try to bring people together I've been fairly successful in doing that.
- In leadership as soon as you have the votes that's when you go.
- One of my pet peeves is the poor voter turnout.
- If you're afforded an opportunity to engage, engage even if it is not your highest priority.
- What I do to settle disputes is I sit down with the folk and we first spend our time focusing on what we share, what we all agree on and once you do that you have people kind of vested then we chip away at the various differences and I help people understand that nobody gets everything that they want so we have to be flexible and I think up to this point, at least under my leadership, the Council has been decisive, we have not run away from any issues and I'm proud of that. Issues that other people were footsying around like the big problem we've had

with the Department of Water and Power we went in and got it done. That's what leadership is all about.

- **What I do as the President of the Council and I did it as Speaker of the California State Assembly, those fourteen members, what they want, what they need that comes before anything that I want. I've got the title, that's all I get. So I think when the leader let the other folk know that what they want is every bit, if not more important to him or her then it is to them I think that that's important and I think you need to have people have conversations where they're respectful. If you let a conversation get too one way or the other it creates bad blood that could spill over and taint the way one votes. So I like to have people talk things out. I make sure it's in a controlled environment and then usually when we leave we're shaking hands and patting each other on the back. It's mostly about letting them know how important their thoughts are, letting them know that nobody gets everything that they want all the time and letting them know that you're going to be there to help them work through the concerns. I've done that forever since I was a child. So it's all about having people talk things out. Letting them feel vested in whatever it is you want to do and truly respecting what they say. There's no such thing as a bad idea.**

Public comment received from:

Dolores Spears, United Neighborhoods Neighborhood Council, during the economic downturn the Neighborhood Councils budget was slashed from \$50,000 to \$37,000, but now that the economy is on the upswing I was wondering if we could get our money back?

5. 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:

Margaret Peters, Empowerment Congress Southwest Area Neighborhood Council (ECSANDC), treasurer, delegate to the South Los Angeles Alliance of Neighborhood Councils, I would like for you to consider for your next agenda or agenda in the future the possibility of Neighborhood Councils being allowed to deposit money into an account to pay for Alliance websites.

6. General Manager's Report. (10 minutes)
 1. Briefing on Departmental activities.
 2. Staffing, budget and other operational matters.

General Manager, Grayce Liu, gave her General Manager's report.

- **Funding – funding town halls started around the city.**
- **After the town halls the goal is to make one big change to the checking accounts based on their feedback before the holidays.**
- **As of July 37 Neighborhood Councils are missing their monthly expenditure reports and for August we have 59 Neighborhood Councils.**

- We are giving the raw data for the Union Bank to the Controller's Office so that they can post it online. We are in the process of providing getting all of the old US Bank purchase card information onto his Control Panel as well so that Neighborhood Councils will have the ability to research all of the old information for the funding.
- Code for America is a conference I went to in San Francisco about a week ago, it was awesome. In terms how to work with technology and how to make that technology user friendly and it was all about refocusing on user experience.
- Field – conducted 15 board retreats around the city.
- Exhaustive Efforts – LA 32 is still in exhaustive efforts. MacArthur Park Neighborhood Council did come out of exhaustive efforts. Thank Taneda Larios and Lisette Covarrubias for their assistance.
- Councils for Councils – reached a settlement agreement with EAA. We will be proceeding with the program at full force. Folks assigned under the old program to Greater Echo Park Elysian Neighborhood Council, North Hills West Neighborhood Council and Central Hollywood Neighborhood Council.
- Agendas – posted 299 agendas the last two weeks. It is really challenging. One full time NEA assigned along with two admin assistants. Trying to find a way for Neighborhood Councils to post themselves. The ENS system is really old in terms of technology.

Public comment received from:

Jeff Camp, United Neighborhoods Neighborhood Council, I just want to thank Grayce and her effort and this ENS posting thing I'm sure is a big huge issue because I've just learned that we are supposed to be doing it too and we are now doing it, but something that the Commissioners might want to consider as metrics is also reaching out to the Neighborhood Councils because we an email list of 2,000 people and they're getting all of our minutes, all of our agendas and postings and what not. I'm not even signed up for ENS myself directly. There's definitely metric out there where you can see that the outreach is happening it's just not happening at the ENS level.

Dolores Spears, United Neighborhoods Neighborhood Council, Outreach Chair, I know that you guys are short staffed cause I know about the budget situation in the City but I want to thank you for making the comment about the Councils being patient with this new system that's coming in because it always seem like it's always a report about what the Councils are not doing and not complying in. I'm from UNNC and our people bust our butt to be in compliance. You made a report about voting online for the Councils, the biggest concern I have is if you go totally online that would disenfranchise some of our members of our Council.

7. Discussion with various South area Neighborhood Council representatives who wish to report 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://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/BEST-PRACTICES-QUESTIONNAIRE_03-19-14.pdf

ACTION: Neighborhood Council representatives reported on best practices.

8. 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.
 5. Update on 2014 LA Congress of Neighborhoods

ACTION: None.

9. 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:

Charletta Butler, Empowerment Congress Central Area Neighborhood Development Council (ECCANDC), you spoke of impact statements and I to this day do not know if our board has submitted any impact statements although I come to the board with concerns with our area. We have three areas. I have never been told there was an impact statement. I have never been involved in any conversation with the concern.

10. Adjourn

ACTION: Commissioner Atkinson moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:15 p.m. Commissioner Shaffer seconded the motion.

####