

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA

BOARD OF NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONERS

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MINUTES

BOARD OF NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONERS SPECIAL MEETING – BOARD PLANNING RETREAT

MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2011

9:30 A.M. – 2:30 P.M.

**CITY HALL, 10TH FLOOR CONFERENCE CENTER
ROOM 1035, 200 NORTH SPRING STREET
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Daniel Gatica, President
Carlene Davis, Vice President
Linda Lucks
Karen Mack
Paul Park

ABSENT

None

DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT

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

CITY ATTORNEY REPRESENTATIVE

Darren Martinez, Deputy City Attorney
Anthony Paul Diaz, Deputy City Attorney
Carmen Hawkins, Deputy City Attorney
Rita Venegas, Deputy City Attorney

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Francisco Ortega – Human Relations Advocate, **Facilitator**
Patricia Villasenor, Director, Human Relations Commission

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

ACTION: Commission roll was called by Janet Lindo, Executive Administrative Assistant, at 9:42 a.m.

2. Introduction of facilitator and identification of goals for the meeting. (15 minutes)
 - Welcome new members.
 - Review the work of the Commission over the last year to acknowledge successes and challenges and lay a foundation for planning.
 - Clarify the role of the Commission.

- Review the actions proposed by Councilmember Krekorian and the impact on the system. Develop a position on this for inclusion in a letter to Councilmember Krekorian and the City Council.
- Set priorities for the coming year.
- Develop action steps.

3. Introduction of Board members. (15 minutes)

4. Presentation by and discussion with Deputy Mayor, Larry Frank. (20 minutes)
- Where is the Neighborhood Council system?
 - How can the Commission support long-term sustainability?
 - What is an effective Commission?

Taken out of order before agenda Item No. 2.

ACTION: Deputy Mayor, Larry Frank, gave an overview and presentation:

- **Neighborhood Councils have evolved into viable community-based organizations.**
- **Closer alignment has been established between the goals of the Neighborhood Councils and the goals of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment.**
- **The Board of Neighborhood Commissioners does not have a lot of power to pass a policy.**
- **The power of the Neighborhood Council system will truly blossom when the Neighborhood Council system can lay claim to full representation of the City.**

5. Overview of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment's priorities. (20 minutes)

ACTION: See Board of Neighborhood Commissioners Retreat notes prepared by Patricia Villasenor, Director, Human Relations Commission.

6. Discuss and develop a consensus/definition for the Commission role(s) as an advisory "policy setting" board. (20 minutes)
- What has the Commission done?
 - How do we assess ourselves?

NOTE: Before the lunch break public comment was received from:

Manuel Aldana – dissatisfied with the training of Neighborhood Council board members.

Manny Aldana – expressed dissatisfaction with Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council.

LUNCH (30 min)

7. Discuss and prioritize the policies to be addressed and role(s) to be played by the Commission during the upcoming year. (30 minutes)
- What should we do in the next year based on our vision for the system?
 - How does this integrate with the Krekorian Plan?
8. Develop implementation plan based on priorities and strategies for evaluating our effectiveness. (30 minutes)

- What specific action steps and responsibilities effectively move our agenda forward?

9. **RECAP** (15 minutes)

10. Verbal update from the Office of the City Clerk on the citywide Neighborhood Council elections. (10 minutes)

ACTION: Holly Wolcott, Executive Officer, provided an update on the elections.

- 2008 – conducted 22 Neighborhood Council elections at a cost of \$651,912, included two mailers and vote by mail.
- 2010 – conducted 89 Neighborhood Council elections, budgeted at \$1.9 million, but a total of \$1.147 million was spent. There were no mailers and no comprehensive vote by mail due to budget constraints. This included 21,623 stakeholders who voted, 1,423 candidates who were certified to run, with an additional 246 write-in candidates, 361 unique ballot types, 45 Neighborhood Councils had self-affirming, 45 required documentation, 90 polling places secured, 3-18 poll workers for each site.
- 2011/12 – During the budget discussions the City Clerk requested a base measure amount of \$1.8 million to conduct 90 Neighborhood Council elections in 2012. The City Council and Mayor adopted a budget instructing the City Clerk to postpone Neighborhood Council elections to 2014. There is still an Ordinance pending, waiting for the City Attorney to submit.
- City Clerk was instructed to conduct a study to determine what type of elections the Neighborhood Councils want. No funds were provided for any Neighborhood Council elections or for the study. The City Clerk is currently utilizing in-house staff to conduct the study.
- No elections are scheduled for 2012.

11. Adjournment

ACTION: Vice President Davis moved that the meeting be adjourned at 2:32 pm. The Motion was seconded by President Gatica.

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