

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA

BOARD OF NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONERS

PAUL PARK
PRESIDENT

LEONARD SHAFFER
VICE PRESIDENT

DOUGLAS EPPERHART
DANIEL GATICA
LINDA LUCKS
KAREN MACK

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



ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA
MAYOR

DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT

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: done@lacity.org

GRAYCE LIU
INTERIM GENERAL MANAGER

www.EmpowerLA.org

MINUTES

BOARD OF NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2012 – 1:00 P.M.

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

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Paul Park, President
Leonard Shaffer, Vice President
Douglas Epperhart
Linda Lucks

ABSENT

Daniel Gatica
Karen Mack

DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT

Grayce Liu, Interim General Manager
Stephen Box, Acting Senior Project Coordinator
Janet Lindo, Executive Administrative Assistant

CITY ATTORNEY REPRESENTATIVE

Carmen Hawkins, Deputy City Attorney
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 1:10 p.m. Commission roll was called by Janet Lindo, Executive Administrative Assistant.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of November 6, 2012. (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/11-06-12_DRAFT_COMMISSION_MINUTES.pdf

ACTION: Commissioner Epperhart moved that the Minutes of the Meeting of November 6, 2012, be approved as written. Commissioner Shaffer seconded the Motion. Commissioner Lucks requested an amendment to the minutes, remove her name from the Commissioners Present category as she was not present at the November 6, 2012, meeting.

VOTE: Ayes – 4
Nays – 0

Motion with the noted amendment 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 two minutes. (15 minutes)

ACTION: Public comment received from:

Glenn Bailey – thank the Department, Grayce Liu, and Joseph Hari, for the support of the Mayor's Community Budget Day. Wherever and whenever it is possible for the meetings to be broadcast on CouncilPhone, they need to be.

Latricia Bowers – Voice 90037 Neighborhood Council was inappropriately placed into exhaustive efforts as of September 14, 2012. Looking for solutions from the Department to resolve the matter and getting Voices out of exhaustive efforts.

Pastor Joyce Chapman – Voices 90037 Neighborhood Council, concerned about illegal exhaustive effort, irregularities with funding and board members dealing with the funds.

Rosalie M. Gurrola – when the Neighborhood Councils in Boyle Heights had 51 board members and quadrants which represented every area was vibrant and effective. The changes that were made in the bylaws did not serve the Neighborhood Council. It took away the quadrants which was the heart of the Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council. The current Neighborhood Council is new. The changes were not good.

Jay Handal – congratulation to the Department on the elections, great elections. Why is it that the Commission's policies that were not mandated, but recommended are not mandated and done?

Kaypers Jackson - Voices 90037 Neighborhood Council, the Department has taken a drastic action by placing them in exhaustive effort. The Department has not attempted to explain or respond to Voices 90037 emails,

Daniel Wiseman – look into using webinar for citywide meetings and Council meetings. Use of the modern media is just a natural.

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

- Busy trying to finish up the elections, last week was a very eventful week.
- Last region of elections on Thursday went really well.
- Budget was due and completed on Thursday.
- Requested that the Department be funded for elections in 2014.
- The Department is working with the City Clerk to see if the Department and City Clerk can work on elections together.
- Updating the Department's database.
- Will bring an update to the Education and Neighborhoods Committee tomorrow on the Department's Funding Program.
- Will be trying to get away from the demand warrants and go to the purchase card and possibly imprest checking accounts.
- Saturday was the Mayor's Budget Day, over 200 people attended.

7. 2012 Neighborhood Council election update from the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment. (10 minutes)

ACTION: Elections Coordinator, Stephen Box, gave an update on the 2012 Neighborhood Council elections.

- Last round of elections took place on Thursday night.
- 20,000 voters.
- 1,600 candidates.
- Will be conducting treasurers training, board orientations.
- Budget Advocates were significantly made up of new folks to the system.
- We are working region by region and engaging all of the voters in what is going on with regards to following up.

Public comment received from:

Glenn Bailey – thanks to Grayce and the Department for the opportunity to have served as an elections administrator and a poll manager.

Rosalie Gurrola – the concept of selection is an insider's thing. Evaluate the concept of selection. The role of the neighborhood people should be to have a voice in electing a person for a position because of their skills, talents, their relationships, etc.

Ivan Spiegel – also an IEA for the elections. Part of the reason that we did get that turnout and we did have the election that we did, was leadership. What is important is democracy and the stakeholders right to choose their leaders and representatives. One thing that did not work was the selection process. Councils need to have elections so that their stakeholders can elect their leaders.

Daniel Wiseman – definition of the word factual basis stakeholder was abused by this election. Participation has nothing to do with going and getting coffee at Starbucks and

bringing a receipt for it. It has to do with going to that Neighborhood Council and becoming part of that Neighborhood Council.

8. Commission Committee Reports (20 minutes)
 1. Outreach Committee.
 2. Neighborhood Council Plan Review Committee.

ACTION: None.

9. Discussion regarding two motions presented by Councilmember Jose Huizar on October 23, 2012, regarding definition of "factual basis stakeholders" and the ability of Neighborhood Councils to request a "subdivision" within their boundaries. (Click on the link to view a copy of the document.) (15 minutes)
http://done.lacity.org/dnn/portals/0/documents/LEARN/About_the_commission/FactualBasisStakeholders_CF12-1682_MOT_10-23-12.pdf
http://done.lacity.org/dnn/portals/0/documents/LEARN/About_the_commission/Subdivision_CF12-1681_MOTION_10-23-12.pdf

ACTION: None.

Public comment received from:

Glenn Bailey – as president of the Encino Neighborhood Council, in response to the previous Commission motion and previous discussion, we changed two of our residential at large seats to just at large seats. What we did not realize is that all of our organizational seats were essentially factual basis as well. If receipts are involved down the road, I really think one other issue has to be the currency of the receipt, how recent is it because we had people showing up with receipts that were a year old. In West Hills people were handing off receipts or attempting to hand off receipts.

Rosalie Gurrola – I believe it was very appropriate for Councilman Huizar to address the issue. Not only the factual basis, but even the term stakeholder. I am not comfortable with the term stakeholder, it is a piece of meat and I am not a piece of meat. The term has to be quantified and addressed as Ms. Liu has pointed out. The factual basis adds insult to injury.

Erick Martell – Representative from the office of Councilmember Jose Huizar. To Commissioner Lucks, yes, we have reviewed the policy, we actually agree with the policy that this Commission approved. There is much concern in various areas of the City of how the definition of stakeholder is, not only what puts together a Neighborhood Council but also who is allowed to vote. As our motion is a two-pronged approach, we definitely want to discuss how many factual basis positions will be on each Neighborhood Council and also who is allowed to vote. As Commissioner Shaffer said, we definitely need to review research, and analyze this in the proper vetting process and I think that the 2013 comprehensive Plan review that you guys are currently reviewing is definitely the platform for us to discuss this and I know that the City Attorney's Office is willing to give input on it. What the actual Charter approved back in 1999 it says the definition of lives, works, and own property, I think that is what we need to stay true to with the ever evolving Neighborhood Council system because as we move on from what the actual intent was for the Neighborhood Council the actual

Charter will be weakened. We must review these policies and hopefully we will come to a good compromise.

Subdivision – How were the funding for these Neighborhood Councils? Need to discuss the funding distribution or if it is possible to subdivide.

Ivan Spiegel – there are a lot of things involved here. This bloomed on us in Venice because we have 16,000,000 visitors a year and every one of them is a factual basis stakeholder. If they were allowed to just come in and all vote or any group of them, we would not really have a Neighborhood Council. We solved it by limiting it to one seat. I think everybody should have to do that. You have councils that have been taken over and they are not going to change their bylaws to limit factual basis because that is how they got elected and they are going to keep getting elected like that. I think the answer is to limit it, it prevents a takeover.

Daniel Wiseman – we should be able to agree with the fact that the Plan said at a minimum lives, work, own property. I will dispute what Mr. Bailey said if you bring a receipt in from a year ago, are you still interested? If you bring a receipt from five minutes ago, why are you here at the ballot box? Both of those arguments should be made. I am recommending that participation has to be documented.

10. Discussion regarding the amount of time allocated to public speakers at City Council, City Council committees, City Commissions and Board meetings, including possible action recommending to the City Council, its Committees, City Commissions and Boards that official Neighborhood Council representatives should be granted up to 5 minutes of speaking time when presenting the view of their board. (15 minutes)

ACTION: None. At the recommendation of Vice President Shaffer, this agenda item taken out of order after agenda item no. 11.

Commissioner Epperhart moved recommending to the City Council, its Committees, City Commissions and Boards that official Neighborhood Council representatives should be granted up to 5 minutes of speaking time when presenting the view of their board

Commissioner Shaffer seconded the motion.

Commissioner Shaffer made a motion to amend the motion to recommending to the City Council, its Committees, City Commissions and Boards that official Neighborhood Council representatives should be granted up to 5 minutes of presentation time separate from general public comment when presenting the view of their board.

Commissioner Epperhart seconded the amended motion.

**VOTE: Ayes – 4
Nays – 0**

Motion with the noted amendment passes unanimously.

Public comment received from:

Glenn Bailey – I really do like the inclusion as the presentation part of the meeting. Just like the applicant gets a good chunk of time, I think it very appropriate that Neighborhood Councils if they have taken that position. It think it works at several different levels and hopefully we can get this moving ahead.

Ivan Spiegel – another thing we need to do is in our trainings we need to start training people on how to write community impact statements. This motion came out of a big motion that Jay Handal and I wrote about five or six months ago. Councilman Parks sent a notice out saying I don't think you guys are doing your job. I want you to come in and tell me how you outreach and why you are not coming in and reporting to us about what you want. Why are you not participating which is what your job is. We responded with a series of recommendations basically saying we want to do that, but the way the system is constructed right now it does not allow us to do it and until you change the system nothing is going to get any better. Some of the other suggestions were to hold the Education and Neighborhoods Committee meetings in the evenings so that more people can attend because Neighborhood Council people work. The 72 hours posting allows us no time to meet as a Neighborhood Council and then take a recommendation if you only gave us 72 hours. We also asked for extra Department staff to monitor what is going on and to report to the councils that these are some of the items that are coming up and you might want to put these on your agendas. They need to make it easier for us to participate. Go ahead and approve this, but please bring up the other things to.

Daniel Wiseman – what we are trying to define is whether Neighborhood Councils are really part of the City government or whether they are outsiders. Whether they have the right to go forth in front of the City Council or whether they are going to be regulated to public comment where no specific answer is necessary. That in the activities of the Budget Advocates it was Mr. Parks again who made it possible for the Neighborhood Councils Budget Advocates to go before City Council for the first time in history two years ago.

11. Discussion and possible action sending a communication to the Mayor and City Council regarding the City's budget crisis and providing recommendations for funding for the fiscal 2013-2014 year relating to the Neighborhood Council system, including recommendations on the funding allocation for the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment and Neighborhood Councils. The City's current budget cuts have resulted in a decrease in staff for the Department and the outsourcing of personnel. These cuts impact the ability of the Department to service and oversee Neighborhood Councils. Cuts to the Neighborhood Councils also impact the ability of the Neighborhood Councils to service their communities.
(15 minutes)

ACTION: At the recommendation of Vice President Shaffer, this Agenda item was taken out of order, before agenda item no. 10.

Commissioner Epperhart moved that the Commission send a communication to the Mayor and City Council in support of the Department's budget request. Commissioner Shaffer seconded the motion

VOTE: Ayes – 4
Nays – 0

Motion passes unanimously.

Commissioner Epperhart moved that the Commission send a communication to urge the Mayor and City Council to restore the Neighborhood Council funding to a level of \$50,000 for the next fiscal year. Commissioner Lucks seconded the motion. Commissioner Park will draft the letter and Commissioner Epperhart will review the draft letter.

VOTE: Ayes – 4
Nays – 0

Motion passes unanimously.

Public comment received from:

Glenn Bailey – speaking as a Neighborhood Council Budget Advocate during the past year, I would like to commend Grayce Liu for sticking up for the Department and the Neighborhood Councils. Having this Commission back her up would be real important for Neighborhood Council movement. From the perspective of the Mayor's Office, Neighborhood Councils should expect a proportionate share cut from whatever else is cut across the board. We also have the Valley Alliance Neighborhood Council Resource Board, where we have a number of people who have volunteered to assist, complement the effort of staff as needed.

Robert Guevara – my concern is on the local level, the Neighborhood Councils. Last year the budget survey results were very poor participation by Neighborhood Councils. If we do not get 100% from each board that is really poor. Neighborhood Councils plug up the gaps that City Council should be filling.

Rosalie Gurrola – I respectfully support the decision, your conversation and the position you took on this agenda item. If each Neighborhood Council in the City put it out to a vote to the community they represent, would their community vote for the Neighborhood Council to get more money?

Daniel Wiseman – there are several pieces of budget that needs to be clearly separated. One of them is the Department budget, the allocation to the Department. The other is the set aside for the allocation to each of the individual Neighborhood Councils. One third of our money is gone. We are in the right to say we are the City's best bargain. I am about to send out and hope many Neighborhood Councils will support the concept of fully reinstating the \$50,000.

Ivan Spiegel – of course we should try to fight these cuts. We are really starting to feel all the cuts to the Department. The staff was cut by two-thirds, but they did not cut the

workload. This can be really devastating. The Neighborhood Councils are already talking about fundraising.

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: A Special Board of Neighborhood Commissioners meeting will be held on Monday, January 14, 2013, at 1:00 p.m., at City Hall 10th Floor Conference Center. Room number to be determined.

Commissioner Lucks - agendaize including CouncilPhone on any Board of Neighborhood Council meetings when available.

Commissioner Shaffer – agendaize the possibility of having a webcast of Commission meetings in locations other than City Hall.

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 two minutes. (15 minutes)

ACTION: None.

14. Adjourn

ACTION: Commissioner Shaffer moved that the meeting be adjourned at 3:50 p.m. Commissioner Epperhart seconded the motion.

**VOTE: Ayes – 4
Nays – 0**

Motion passes unanimously.

####