

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA

BOARD OF NEIGHBORHOOD
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PAUL PARK
LEONARD SHAFFER

JANET LINDO
Executive Administrative Assistant
TELEPHONE: (213) 485-1360



ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA
MAYOR

DEPARTMENT OF
NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT

334-B EAST SECOND STREET
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

TELEPHONE: (213) 485-1360
TOLL-FREE: 3-1-1
FAX: (213) 485-4608
E-MAIL: dona@lacity.org

BONGHWAN (BH) KIM, MPA
GENERAL MANAGER

www.EmpowerLA.org

MINUTES

BOARD OF NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2011 – 1:00 P.M.

CITY HALL, 10th FLOOR CONFERENCE CENTER
ROOM 1060, 200 NORTH SPRING STREET
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Daniel Gatica, President
Carlene Davis, Vice President
Karen Mack
Paul Park
Leonard Shaffer

ABSENT

Linda Lucks

DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT

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

CITY ATTORNEY REPRESENTATIVE

Rita Venegas, Deputy City Attorney

1. Introduction (5 minutes)

ACTION: President Gatica gave the introduction.

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

ACTION: President Gatica, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Commission roll was called by Janet Lindo, Executive Administrative Assistant.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of October 4, 2011, and the Minutes of the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners Special Meeting – Board Planning Retreat of October 17, 2011. (3 minutes)

ACTION: Commissioner Mack moved that the Minutes of the Special Meeting of October 4, 2011, and the Minutes of the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners Special Meeting – Board Planning Retreat of October 17, 2011, be approved as written.

Commissioner Park seconded the Motion.

Vote: Ayes - 5, 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 two minutes. (15 minutes)

ACTION: Public comment received from:

Manuel Aldana – issue with Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council, wants the Commission to look into the issues.

Charles Lindenblatt – bylaws for his Neighborhood Council (Mid City West Community Council) needs to be adjusted.

5. Verbal update from a representative of the Office of the Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Neighborhood and Community Services. (10 minutes)

ACTION: Yolanda Fuentes Miranda, Associate Director, Neighborhood & Community Services, thanked the Commission for their time, commitment and dedication to serving the Neighborhood Councils and the City of Los Angeles. She also thanked the Commission for supporting the ShopLA program and also offered assistance if there is anything the Mayor's Office can do to encourage the Neighborhood Councils to take part in the ShopLA program. Regarding Neighborhood Council elections, Arts, Parks and Neighborhood Committee will be holding a Special meeting on November 30, 2012.

6. General Manager's Report (10 minutes)

1. Briefing on Departmental activities.
2. Staffing, budget and other operational matters.

ACTION: The General Manager provided the following updates regarding Departmental activities, budget and staffing:

- **Lower income communities - continue to be a very high concern.**
- **South Los Angeles Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (SLAANC) - seeking out resources and talking with SLAANC on various ways that assistance might be provided to low income areas.**
- **SLAANC - membership and participation has dramatically increased over the past six months. They are averaging about six or seven Neighborhood Councils participating on a monthly basis.**
- **Vista - met with Rafael Gonzalez, Chief Service Officer for the Mayor's Office. Mr. Gonzalez, has been helping in terms of making introductions to various volunteer resources one of which is Vista, a national program of the National Community**

Service under the White House. Vista makes available Vista interns for up to three years with a focus on anti-poverty programs. Spoke with SLAANC folks about the Vista program and they are excited about some possible opportunity to bring on interns to help specifically Neighborhood Councils of low income communities to develop stronger programming in the area of anti-poverty.

- **University Partnerships - have been reaching out to universities (USC, Trade Tech, and LMU) which are interested in some possibilities of introducing students and faculty to provide interns in the South Los Angeles area with a focus on trying to develop some community and democracy building tool kits.**
- **Department budget - due to the Mayor's Office on December 9. All City departments must present two budgets, one with a 6% cut and another with a 12% cut, also includes the Neighborhood Council funding program.**
- **Neighborhood Council elections may come back to the Department.**

7. Discussion regarding the October 17, 2011, Board of Neighborhood Commissioners Planning Retreat, including possible action developing a calendar on the policies that should be addressed in order of priority by the Commission and the identification of outstanding issues from the retreat that should be addressed. (20 minutes)

(See:

http://done.lacity.org/dnn/portals/0/documents/LEARN/About_the_commission/BONC_Retreat_Notes_10_17_2011.pdf)

ACTION: NONE.

8. Discussion and possible action regarding the adoption of a recommendation by the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners that would encourage Neighborhood Councils to do as much of their purchasing of goods and services within city limits in order to increase the tax revenue stream to the city's general fund. (20 minutes)

(See:

[http://done.lacity.org/dnn/portals/0/documents/LEARN/About_the_commission/Resolution_on_Neighborhood_Councils_to_Expnd_Funds_Within_Los_Angeles_City_Boundaries_\(2011-09-26\).pdf](http://done.lacity.org/dnn/portals/0/documents/LEARN/About_the_commission/Resolution_on_Neighborhood_Councils_to_Expnd_Funds_Within_Los_Angeles_City_Boundaries_(2011-09-26).pdf))

ACTION: Commissioner Mack moved the following recommendation:

RESOLUTION

Be it resolved that the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners sets the following recommendation:

RECOMMENDATION ENCOURAGING NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS TO EXPEND FUNDS WITHIN THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES BOUNDARIES

WHEREAS, current state law provides that local jurisdictions receive approximately 10% of all retail sales taxes collected within their boundaries; and

WHEREAS, these funds comprise a crucial portion of the funding stream for local government in California; and

WHEREAS, this revenue source is the fifth largest contributor to the City of Los Angeles' General Fund; and

WHEREAS, Los Angeles' sales tax revenues amounted to \$292M in FY2010, down from a peak of nearly \$340M in pre-recession Fiscal Year 2007; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles has launched the "ShopLA City" program to encourage City departments, staff, residents and businesses to do as much of their purchasing of goods and services as possible within the city limits of Los Angeles; and,

WHEREAS, this practice promises to increase the revenue stream from sales taxes available to the City's General Fund; and

WHEREAS, an increased revenue stream will better enable the City to provide the services and support its residents and businesses deserve; and

WHEREAS, encouraging people to shop locally promotes healthy businesses, employment, healthy lifestyles and more functional communities; and

WHEREAS, Neighborhood Councils receive funding from the City's General Fund; and

WHEREAS, it is in both the direct and indirect interest of Neighborhood Councils to expend their allotment of City funds within the city limits whenever possible, as well as to encourage all stakeholders and residents to shop within the city.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners strongly recommends that:

Each Neighborhood Council, whenever feasible, should expend as much of its City allocation of funding within the city limits of Los Angeles and encourage all stakeholders to support local, city-based businesses whenever possible.

Commissioner Davis seconded the Motion.

Vote: Ayes - 5, Nays – 0

Motion passes unanimously.

Public comment received from:

Glenn Bailey – City Council should get incentive.

Barry Johnson – does not think it is a problem and should not have to be addressed.

9. **PUBLIC HEARING:** Determinations regarding the bylaw amendment applications filed by the North Hollywood North East Neighborhood Council (NHNENC) and Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council (HHPNC) requesting changes to their Board structures. The NHNENC is requesting that their 3 Youth and/or Senior Member seats be changed to At Large Community Stakeholder seats. The HHPNC is requesting that their Board be reduced from 21 to 19 Board seats. (10 minutes)

ACTION: Commissioner Shaffer moved that the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners:

FIND the North Hollywood North East Neighborhood Council's request to change their three (3) Youth/Senior Seats to three (3) At Large Community Stakeholder Seats consistent with the principles governing a Certified Neighborhood Council's purpose and operations per Article VI, Section 3c of the Plan for a Citywide System of Neighborhood Councils; and

APPROVE the change to the North Hollywood North East Neighborhood Council's bylaws to reflect this new Board structure of three (3) additional At Large Community Stakeholder Seats.

Commissioner Park seconded the Motion.

Vote: Ayes - 5, Nays – 0

Motion passes unanimously.

Public comment received from:

Ivan Spiegel – talked about this policy several months ago, proposing an escape clause for exactly this problem.

ACTION: Commissioner Park moved that the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners:

FIND the Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council's requests to change their Board structure from twenty-one (21) to nineteen (19) Board seats and to change the Issue chairs to Directors-at-Large are consistent with the principles governing a Certified Neighborhood Council's purpose and operations per Article VI, Section 3c of the Plan for a Citywide System of Neighborhood Councils; and

APPROVE the change to the Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council's bylaws to reflect this new Board structure of five (5) executive officers and fourteen (14) Directors-at-Large.

Commissioner Mack seconded the Motion.

Vote: Ayes – 4 (Gatica, Davis, Mark, Park), Abstention -1 (Shaffer), Nays – 0

Motion passes

Public comment received from:

Dr. Stanley W. Moore – objects to the use of Ad Hoc Committees as opposed to Standing Committees.

Nancy Wyatt – there was a problem with the ballot issue, when you lower numbers of members on the board you are reducing the number of participants on the committee.

10. **PUBLIC HEARING:** Discussion and possible action regarding the bylaw amendment application submitted by the Mid City West Community Council (MCWCC) and approved by the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment on August 9, 2011. The MCWCC has requested Commission review of Department changes to the

bylaws regarding language for quorum, vacancies, public comment, grievances against the MCWCC by Board members and final bylaw amendment approval by the stakeholders. (10 minutes)

ACTION: Commissioner Park moved that the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners:

DENY the proposed bylaw amendments by the Mid City West Community Council and

FIND the amendments inconsistent with the principles governing a Certified Neighborhood Council's purpose or operations under the Plan for a Citywide System of Neighborhood Councils.

Commissioner Shaffer seconded the Motion.

Vote: Ayes – 5, Nays – 0

Motion passes

Public comment received from:

Charles Lindenblatt – submitted materials on February 8, well in time for the original deadline. Waited about six months until August, when we got the version back from DONE, and submitted our request for the changes we did not agree with.

11. Discussion and possible action by the Commission to include a recommendation to the City Council regarding the current Council Ordinance and postponement of Neighborhood Council elections to 2014. (20 minutes)

ACTION: Commissioner Shaffer moved the following: Resolved, that the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners supports the right of Neighborhood Councils to conduct timely elections or selections of their board members and therefore respectfully requests that City Council not postpone Neighborhood Council elections until 2014 and not grant to the City Clerk the ability to extend the terms of board members expiring in 2012 for two years or until the next City Clerk conducted elections.

Commissioner Davis seconded the Motion.

Vote: Ayes – 5, Nays – 0

Motion passes

Public comment received from:

Glenn Bailey – would like the motion adopted at Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC) meeting - to have the option to either have an elections or selections process in 2012, or to “opt-out” (no elections), included in the above motion.

Barry Johnson – Studio City stakeholder – the Neighborhood Council voted unanimously to request that we go back to the way we held elections prior to the time the City Clerk took over the elections.

Charles Lindenblatt – Mid City West CC election committee chair in the 2008-2010 cycle. Objects to extending the terms.

Ivan Spiegel – asking that the Neighborhood Council elections not be postponed or cancelled and do not extend the board terms.

12. The August 16, 2011, motions proposed several reforms to the Neighborhood Council system and requested that City staff report back on the trainings that should be provided to Neighborhood Council board members, a system for a regional grievance/complaint process, methods for increasing self-governance by Neighborhood Councils, and improvements to the Neighborhood Council Funding Program. Discussion and possible action regarding staff report back on the following City Council motions. (40 minutes)
- (a.) Motion regarding training. (See: <http://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=11-1017>.)
- (b.) Motion regarding regional complaint panels. (See: <http://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=11-1018>.)
- (c.) Motion regarding greater autonomy and self-governance for Neighborhood Councils. (See: <http://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=11-1019>.)
- (d.) Motion regarding improvements to the Neighborhood Council Funding Program. (See: <http://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=11-1020>.)

ACTION: NONE.

Public comment received from:

Glenn Bailey – participated with two of the working groups (financial and grievance/regional governance). Commend the Department staff, particularly, Grayce Liu, who took the lead at all of the meetings I attended. Given the Department's limitations with staffing, we do need to figure out ways in which we can keep the Neighborhood Councils on the right track, strong and out of trouble.

Charles Lindenblatt – agrees with Glen Bailey, regarding how there could be some strong executive councils that do not always do the right thing and they need to be held in check. Regional complaint panels did a great job. In favor of the plan that the working group with DONE developed.

Ivan Spiegel – advocacy is on the right track. You are our representatives to the City, you are the link. It is really important that you take a position and get out and start yelling about it. That is the way things get done. Go get them!

13. 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.

14. 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:

Glen Bailey – accommodate meeting in the South Valley as soon as possible to replace the November meeting that was cancelled. Copy all board members on the best practices questionnaire that is sent out in conjunction to the Commission meeting.

15. Adjourn

ACTION: Commissioner Mack moved that the meeting be adjourned at 4:00 p.m. Commissioner Park seconded the Motion.

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