

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA

BOARD OF NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONERS

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GRAYCE LIU
INTERIM GENERAL MANAGER

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MINUTES

BOARD OF NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2012 – 6:00 P.M.

**HARBOR CITY - HARBOR GATEWAY
BRANCH LIBRARY
24000 SOUTH WESTERN AVENUE
HARBOR CITY, CA 90710**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Paul Park, President
Douglas Epperhart
Linda Lucks
Karen Mack

ABSENT

Daniel Gatica
Leonard Shaffer

DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT

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

CITY ATTORNEY REPRESENTATIVE

Darren Martinez, 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 6:10 p.m. Commission roll was called by Janet Lindo, Executive Administrative Assistant.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of November 19, 2012. (Click on the link to view a copy of the document.) (3 minutes)

Commissioner Epperhart moved that the Minutes of the Meeting of November 19, 2012, be approved as written. Commissioner Mack seconded the Motion.

VOTE: Ayes – 4

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:

Latricia Bowers – We have not heard anything regarding Voices of 90037 being in exhaustive efforts since the last Commission meeting (November 19, 2012.)

Pastor Joyce Chapman – prepared a packet of material for the Commission for Voices of 90037 at the last Commission meeting (November 19, 2012). Why the City Attorney did not allow the information to be given to the Board? Why is Voices of 90037 in exhaustive efforts?

Jerry Gaines – thank the Department for all of its support and outreach efforts for the Redistricting Commission.

Bob Gelfand – isn't it a little hypocritical to have a two minute limit here at this meeting? What is the function of the Commission, if not to at least understand what the people in this system is trying to do?

Robin Line – new to the Voices of 90037 board. Interested in Voices of 90037 being in exhaustive efforts.

Stacie Vernon – Why is Voices of 90037 in exhaustive efforts if they have a new board? How long should we wait to hear from the Commission regarding this matter?

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.

- Working on closing out final elections numbers in terms of cost.
- 48 Neighborhood Councils have not submitted their Neighborhood Council reconciliation form for encumbered money they set aside for elections last fiscal

year. Will do one last e-blast and calls to Neighborhood Councils to submit the reconciliation form.

- Working in regards to getting funding streamlined. A training is scheduled with US Bank next week to figure out how we can move more of the funding to the P-Card as opposed to through Demand Warrant so that we can try to make things a little easier for Neighborhood Councils and the Department.
- Last time I was asked a question to discuss those groups in exhaustive efforts. At this time there are two groups in exhaustive efforts, Watts Neighborhood Council, and Voices of 90037. Watts has since been pulled out of exhaustive efforts. Voices of 90037 is still in exhaustive efforts. In our letter to the board we did state that there was a training requirement that needed to be met. We are going to try to work with Voices of 90037 to do the training.
- We are wrapping up our elections report to City Council.

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

ACTION: 2012 Neighborhood Councils elections update given by Interim General Manager, Grayce Liu, and Elections Coordinator, Stephen Box.

- Working on post elections reports.
- Wrapping up the elections offices in the Valley.
- Speaking with City Clerk sometime this month to see how we will be moving forward with our budget proposal in regards to doing some type of hybrid election facilitation in 2014.
- Proud to say candidates did well and voters turned out.
- The City is up in voters 15.79% and up in candidates 28.35% over 2010.
- A survey started this pass Friday. The survey allows folks to indicate whether they are a candidate, a board member, stakeholder, volunteer, voter, and to give feedback on things that work, things they would like to see the next time around.
- We have gotten a lot of great stories and we got them because we asked. They are on the EmpowerLA Web site.

Public comment received from:

Jerry Gaines – Stephen Box’s elections efforts are commendable and positive. It was more than just an elections if was a real happening event. The numbers are staggering in his article. I support Stephen and everyone involved.

Ivan Spiegel – I was one of the eleven Independent Elections Administrator (IEA) involved in running these elections. The numbers speak for themselves. We out did the last elections by a sizable majority. Way less complaints were issued than against the City Clerk.

8. Commission Ad Hoc Committee Reports. (20 minutes)
 1. Outreach Committee.

ACTION: Per President Park, because this Outreach Ad Hoc Committee was constituted at the beginning of the year and the Commission has substantially made an impact in terms of outreach efforts over the course of the year, we will be terminating the Outreach Ad Hoc Committee as of today. At the next meeting a different Ad Hoc Committee will be appointed to take on the priorities identified by the Commission. An

Ad Hoc Committee to take on the outreach with respect to the standards and a separate Ad Hoc Committee later on in the year that will take on improvements efforts around the EmpowerLA Awards.

2. Neighborhood Council Plan Review Committee.

ACTION: None.

9. Recognition and presentation of 10 Year Anniversary Certificates to the Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council and the Harbor Gateway South Neighborhood Council. (10 minutes)

ACTION: The Commission recognized and presented Delores Alman, and Rosalie Preston, Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council with their 10 Year Anniversary Certificate.

10. Discussion with various Harbor area Neighborhood Council representatives who wish to report concerns, operations, and 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://done.lacity.org/dnn/portals/0/documents/LEARN/About_the_commission/Best Practices_NC_CVR_LTR_QUESTIONNAIRE080712.pdf](http://done.lacity.org/dnn/portals/0/documents/LEARN/About_the_commission/Best_Practices_NC_CVR_LTR_QUESTIONNAIRE080712.pdf)

ACTION: Delores Alman, and Rosalie Preston reported concerns, operations, and best practices to the Commission.

11. PUBLIC HEARING: Discussion regarding Commission Policy 2010-02 regarding Neighborhood Council Agenda Posting Requirements. This policy requires Neighborhood Councils to comply with the Brown Act requirements for each of their posting locations. The Commission may discuss whether this policy should be further amended or clarified. (Click on the link to view a copy of the document.) (20 minutes)

[http://done.lacity.org/dnn/portals/0/documents/LEARN/About_the_commission/NC Agenda Posting Requirements_080310.pdf](http://done.lacity.org/dnn/portals/0/documents/LEARN/About_the_commission/NC_Agenda_Posting_Requirements_080310.pdf)

ACTION: None.

Public comment received from:

Bob Gelfand – City of Los Angeles has made clear from the top that it does not really want to tell residents of Los Angeles that Neighborhood Councils exist. If the City wanted a lively robust Neighborhood Council system, it would communicate to the people of Los Angeles that we exist. Please stop patronizing us by telling us all the wonderful things that we are supposed to do, if the City won't do it. Let's ask for some money in the City budget.

Ivan Spiegel – I could not disagree more. The City does not do anything to promote us, that is why we have to do it ourselves. How do stakeholders know what is going on if we don't post it? Give it a chance to work. It's working when you apply it. Please don't remove the core mission of Neighborhood Councils. How will Neighborhood Councils know what is going on if they don't see an agenda? How will they know if they want to

attend a meeting if they don't know what you are going to talk about? You have to make this public somehow.

12. PUBLIC HEARING: Determination regarding the bylaw amendment application filed by the LA-32 Neighborhood Council requesting to change one of their 4 At Large Seats to an At Large Youth Representative Seat in their Board structure. (10 minutes) (Click on the link to view a copy of the document.)
http://done.lacity.org/dnn/portals/0/documents/LEARN/About_the_commission/LA_32_NC_Board_Structure_Change_Recommendation_113012.pdf

ACTION: Commissioner Epperhart moved that the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners approve the determination regarding the bylaw amendment application filed by the LA-32 Neighborhood Council requesting to change one of their 4 At Large Seats to an At Large Youth Representative Seat in their Board structure. Commissioner Mack seconded the Motion.

**VOTE: Ayes – 4
Nays – 0**

Motion passes unanimously.

13. Discussion and possible action on a motion from the Commission's Ad Hoc Committee regarding the Neighborhood Council Plan Review Committee. The Commission will take possible action establishing 3 Standing Committees, based on three geographic regions within the City who will review and provide the Commission with recommendations on changes that should be made to the ordinances and the Plan for a Citywide System of Neighborhood Councils. (20 minutes)

MOTION - The Neighborhood Council Plan Review Committee requests that the Commission adopt the following structure to undertake a review of the Plan for a Citywide System of Neighborhood Councils (Plan) and to make recommendations on changes to the ordinances and the Plan:

The 3 Standing Committees will represent the following planning areas: Valley, Central/East, and West/South/Harbor areas. Each standing committee is composed of 4 election regions. One Commissioner from the Neighborhood Council Plan Review Committee will be an assigned member for each of the standing committees. The standing committees will be comprised of 15 members: 3 selected by the Commissioner member and 12 selected by the Neighborhood Councils in the committee, 3 from each of the 4 election regions. The Commission shall delegate the authority to make any other policies and procedures regarding the scheduling, operating rules and member selection to the Neighborhood Council Plan Review Committee. At the end of the standing committees work, all recommendations shall be presented back to the Commission for final action.

ACTION: Commissioner Epperhart moved that the Commission adopt the Motion of the Neighborhood Council Plan Review Committee and adopt the following structure to undertake a review of the Plan for a Citywide System of Neighborhood Councils (Plan) and to make recommendations on changes to the ordinances and the Plan:

Three (3) Standing Committees will be created by the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners. These Standing Committees will be chaired respectively by Commissioner Epperhart, Commissioner Shaffer, and Commissioner Gatica. The Standing Committees will be divided to represent the election regions throughout the city. Since there are 12 election regions throughout the city there will be one committee that is designated for the Valley Neighborhood Councils, one committee that is designated for the Central and East Neighborhood Councils, and one committee that is designated for the Harbor, South, and West Neighborhood Councils. The committee shall be created by the committee chairs of each of the respective committees. The committee chair shall work in consultation with the Neighborhood Council presidents within their respective region to determine the remaining members on that committee. The committee chair shall give significant consideration to the recommendations for at least 12 of the members on that committee as recommended by the Neighborhood Council Board presidents and the committee chair shall have discretion to appoint the remaining 3 persons on that committee for a total of 16 members on each committee. The quorum for each committee shall be 5 and the committee shall take action by a majority of those committee members present and voting. At the conclusion of the review by the standing committees they shall conduct a joint meeting among all standing committees in order to attempt to present a unified recommendation to the Commission.

Commissioner Mack seconded the motion.

President Park requested that Commissioner Epperhart, at the next Commission meeting, put down in writing the timeframe that he outlined for the Commission so that the Commission can try to keep the committee and the standing committees accountable to that timeframe.

Vote: Ayes – (Park, Epperhart)
Nays – (Lucks, Mack)

Motion does not pass. The agenda item is postponed to the next Commission meeting.

Public comment received from:

Jerry Gaines – having been a part of the birth of this entire system, it is always refreshing to look at the idea of redesign or revisiting what has been put on the last historical calendar of this system. I lean in the favor of the fact to take a look at this whole system. I think it is a good idea and a good time to do this.

Bob Gelfand – Doug and I and a few other people met for a very long time, close to two years and waited and waited for the City Council to come up with a Plan and create the Commission and so on. The Charter language is kind of interesting in its own way, it's actually a little self-contradictory in some ways, but when we read through the plan it is worse. This is something that is long overdue. Maybe something useful can come out of this.

Ivan Spiegel – My only question is about the three groups. What if this group wants to do this and this group goes, no, no, we really want to do this, and they are all meeting independently and you have three totally different passionate versions, how are you going to propose to reconcile that?

14. Discussion and possible action 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. In addition, the Commission may take action on City Council's proposed motions, including sending a communication to City Council containing the Commission's recommendations on the proposed motions or establishing an Ad Hoc Committee to review the Commission's existing policies regarding factual basis stakeholders and boundary adjustments and report on whether the Commission's policies should be further clarified, amended, or changed." (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
http://done.lacity.org/dnn/portals/0/documents/LEARN/About_the_commission/2011-02_Resolution_Factual_Basis_Stakeholders_060711.pdf
http://done.lacity.org/dnn/portals/0/documents/LEARN/About_the_commission/BONC_Boundary_Adjustment_Policy_04-21-08.pdf

ACTION: None.

Public comment received from:

Jerry Gaines – I just want to enter into the record exactly what Raphael Sonenshein stated in the LA Times yesterday on this topic of stakeholder. The basic challenge is how to keep the doors open for participation without jeopardizing the integrity. The intent was not the original idea that you would go out to organize people to come in who don't have a basic stake in the district.

Bob Gelfand – I get to agree with Ivan, who at the Bylaws Task Force said that we should get rid of the requirement of the factual basis stakeholder. The compromise is that Neighborhood Councils would get to stretch a little bit as they choose, but we don't have it shoved down our throats, all of us. Basically, the City Council should just rescind that original motion.

Erick Martell – representative of CD 14, Councilmember Huizar's office. I spoke at the last Commission hearing and again I am here to reiterate the same point. Times are always evolving and changing in the Neighborhood Council system. When I first started back in 2000 the system has drastically changed from what it was yester-year and what it is now. We have had various situations at least in what actual factual basis stakeholder definition actually is. I think that the Commission should move forward as it agreed last time to possibly look at the policy again. I do agree with Commissioner Lucks, it doesn't hurt to send some kind of communication to the Education and Neighborhoods Committee and the City Council of what your standing policy is now or

what the recommendation was two years ago, but I do want to advocate that things have changed from two years ago since and that I think the perfect opportunity to actually discuss it is during your comprehensive Plan review. I was looking forward to getting it approved, but it will be continued again until next month. Hopefully that's the proper time that we can discuss how to move forward and actually define. Again, I want to give a quick update. Your Commission meeting was the day before the actual Education and Neighborhoods Committee meeting and Interim General Manager, Grayce Liu, was there and gave the report of what happened at the previous Commission meeting. The Councilmembers that attended were Councilmembers Parks and Zine and they continued our item, but it was approved in an essence of they were requiring appropriate departments to report back. So in both of our motions one specifically states that we need input from the Commission and the other one state that we need input from the Neighborhood Councils. The most drastic one is the stakeholder one so I think Commissioner Epperhart's task of how he wants a compromise at least citywide would be perfect for what we want to get input from. I urge again that you review this through the comprehensive plan review and work with our office. I know you mentioned you are interested in working with different councilmembers. We are definitely volunteering. Keep us in the loop.

15. 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: Agenda **Item postponed to next agenda.**

16. 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)

Public comment received from:

Latricia Bowers – just want to reiterate transparency. Voices of 90037 want to be a functioning board like other Neighborhood Councils. I just want answers. Please direct me where I can go to get the answers.

Pastor Joyce Chapman – I am a chartered member of Voices of 90037. I take it very seriously of what I do being accountable to the 60,500 stakeholders that we have. We are in exhaustive efforts illegally.

Robin Line – I just want to say what Commissioner Epperhart said, I just want to mention about how you mentioned that the Neighborhood Councils have a lot of new board members and that is about their future and not about their past. I just want to point out that I could not agree more and just like to say, well said.

17. Adjourn

**ACTION: Commissioner Lucks moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:49 p.m.
Commissioner Epperhart seconded the motion.**

**VOTE: Ayes – 4
Nays – 0**

Motion passes unanimously.

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