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CALIFORNIA

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BOARD OF NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONERS

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 2015 - 6:00 P.M.

**CYPRESS PARK RECREATION CENTER
(CONFERENCE ROOM)
2630 PEPPER AVE
LOS ANGELES, CA 90065**

1. Introduction (5 minutes)

The meeting began at 6:15pm.

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

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Karen Mack
Leonard Shaffer
Lydia Grant
Eli Lipmen
Olivia Rubio

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 18, 2015. (Click on the link to view a copy of the document.) (3 minutes)

https://empowerla.org/wpcontent/uploads/2012/03/MinutesCommissionAgenda_May18_2015-MEETINGMeeting-Minutes-6-1-15-for-Approval.pdf

The minutes are incomplete and will be revisited at a future meeting when they are ready.

4. Verbal updates from representatives of the Mayor and Los Angeles City Council. (10 minutes)

None.

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 Comment

Glen Bailey
Joseph Riser
Brendan

6. General Manager's Report. (10 minutes)

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

General Manager Grayce Liu discussed end of fiscal year actions for the neighborhood councils. She also gave an update on online voting plans, the Clean Streets program, and staffing.

Public Comment

Glen Bailey
Sharon Brewer

7. Discussion with various North East LA Area Neighborhood Council representatives who wish to report concerns, operations, and best practices. 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, which provides some recommendations on what Neighborhood Councils can share with the Commission) (20 minutes) <http://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/BESTPRACTICES-QUESTIONNAIRE.pdf>

Speakers:

Alejandra, President, Cypress Park Neighborhood Council

Glen Bailey, reading an email from Liz Amistan of the Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council

8. PUBLIC HEARING: Discussion and possible action on Council President Herb Wesson's Motion (CF 15-0524) regarding the Commission recommendations on subjects including, but not limited to, Neighborhood Council speaking time in front of City Council, Neighborhood Council funding program and Community Impact Statements. (Click on the link to view a copy of the document) (20 minutes)
http://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2015/15-0524_mot_04-28-2015.pdf

Speakers:

Glen Bailey

Joseph Riser

Jay Handal

Glen Bailey (again)

Mack said we're not ready to take action on this item.

Shaffer said we should go forward. We've got 17 motions that were put forward. The question is should we get these other motions from the working groups and move them forward to the City Council's Education and Neighborhoods Committee (E&N) or just assume that E&N is already aware of them. Perhaps we should make recommendations and try to prioritize them. He wanted us to work with the department. Shaffer wonders whether prioritizing would be redundant.

Grant said the first step is the agenda is addressing a specific agenda item. Another meeting agenda can address issues that we discussed. *Grant said that she would like to make a motion to support Los Angeles City Council President Herb Wesson's motion as written.* We've already written letters of support. Others will weigh in. We should move it forward. I'd like to take action. *Lipmen seconded.*

Lipmen said Wesson received our letter about the 17 motions. He chose the three least controversial ones. I would like to push for the sub divisions. I'm concerned that it could be a poison pill. He wants that agendized. We should move forward with what Wesson is proposing. That's a smart move for us as a Board.

Grant said there have been multiple public hearings about these issues.

Shaffer said we can take a vote but we have no report on the items. I'm perfectly happy to move forward though.

Liu said we can put something together to communicate why we're supportive.

The motion is to support, as written, City Council President Herb Wesson’s motion regarding the Commission recommendations.

ACTION: Motion to Support City Council President Wesson’s Motion

VOTE	Mover	Grant	Second	Lipmen
Commissioner	Ayes	Nays	Abstention	Absent
Atkinson				x
Grant	x			
Lipmen	x			
Mack	x			
Medina				x
Rubio	x			
Shaffer	x			
Total	5	0	0	2
Motion	Carries	x	Fails	

9. PUBLIC HEARING: Discussion and possible action to provide further clarification for the Neighborhood Council Stakeholder definition regarding the term “substantial and ongoing” for the Community Interest Stakeholder. (20 minutes)

Public Comment

Glen Bailey
 Jay Handal
 Tony Wilkinson

Liu said the definition was approved by City Council but decided upon by neighborhood councils. In 2014 elections we found folks in virtual group, which had 700 people and was acknowledged by the Los Angeles Times. At what point are members considered substantial and ongoing? Another group wanted to qualify under community interest. It’s very arbitrary at this point.

Grant said neighborhood council system has become powerful enough that people want to participate. Unfortunately, some stakeholders want to join boards for a single purpose. When that issue is dealt with, they leave. Lots of people have left the system in the past year. Many of them had joined for a specific purpose. We’re creating a system that’s growing yearly as neighborhood councils become more powerful.

Lipmen said people are concerned about vote stacking. I think that will increase because of online voting. He suggested having people attend at least two neighborhood council meetings to prove their ongoing interest in the community. Liu said that was shot down by the City Attorney.

Liu said there is greater concern with transient workers than with people coming in to stack votes.

10. PUBLIC HEARING: Discussion and possible action on Neighborhood Council website recommendations. (Click on the link to view a copy of the document) (20 minutes)

<https://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Website-Elements.pdf>

Public Comment

Glen Bailey

Jay Handal

Tony Wilkinson

Sharon Brewer

11. PUBLIC HEARING: Discussion and possible action on how to address violations to the Neighborhood Council Board Member Code of Conduct Policy. (Click on the link to view a copy of the document) (20 minutes)

<http://empowerla.org/wpcontent/uploads/2015/03/Neighborhood-Council-Board-Member-Code-of-ConductPolicy.pdf>

Public Comment

Jay Handal

Glen Bailey

Liu said she has spoken to the City about this. There are protected classes that require a City review. Without significant work, the grievance panels can't work on this issue.

Shaffer requests that item 14 be moved to precede items 12 and 13. There is a speaker here.

14. PUBLIC HEARING: Discussion and possible action on Tarzana Neighborhood Council bylaws amendment application to change their board structure to allow all stakeholder categories to vote and run for the reserved 2 At-Large seats for which currently only the Community Interest Stakeholders can vote and run. (Click on the link to view a copy of the document) (5 minutes)

<https://empowerla.org/wpcontent/uploads/2012/03/Board-Structure-Changes-TNC-BSC-BONC-6-4-15-1.pdf>

<https://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/By-Law-Application-TarzanaNC.pdf>

Shaffer is recusing himself as he is a board member of the Tarzana Neighborhood Council.

Leyla Campos said the department is neutral in regards to this application.

Grant said this move could create an imbalance on the board, correct? Campos said it could allow for more homeowners.

Mr. Goldberg spoke.

Grant made the motion. Mack seconded.

ACTION: Motion to Approve Tarzana Neighborhood Council Bylaws Changes

VOTE	Mover	Grant	Second	Mack
Commissioner	Ayes	Nays	Abstention	Absent
Atkinson				x
Grant	x			
Lipmen	x			
Mack	x			
Medina				x
Rubio	x			
Shaffer				x
Total	4	0	0	3
Motion	Carries	x	Fails	

12. PUBLIC HEARING: Discussion and possible action on Pacoima Neighborhood Council’s bylaws amendment application to change their board structure by decreasing the total board size from 23 members to 17 members by removing the 2 Industrial Business Employers or Employees seats, decreasing the Youth seats from 3 to 1, including changing the Youth candidate eligibility age range from 14 to 21 years to 16 to 21 years, decreasing the Senior seats from 3 to 1, and changing the 2 At-Large seats to 1 At- Large seat and 1 At Large Community Interest seat. (Click on the link to view a copy of the document) (5 minutes)

<https://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/PNC-Bylaws-AmendmentApplication-6-2-15-1-Corrected.pdf>

<https://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/Pacoima-NC-Bylaws-06-01-2015.pdf>

Campos said the application wasn’t placed on website by the 72 hour deadline. She would like this item tabled.

Grant made a motion to table this item. Shaffer seconded.

ACTION: Motion to Table Pacoima Neighborhood Council Bylaws Changes

VOTE	Mover	Grant	Second	Shaffer
Commissioner	Ayes	Nays	Abstention	Absent
Atkinson				x
Grant	x			

Lipmen	x			
Mack	x			
Medina				x
Rubio	x			
Shaffer	x			
Total	5	0	0	2
Motion	Carries	x	Fails	

13. PUBLIC HEARING: Discussion and possible action on Reseda Neighborhood Council’s bylaws amendment application to change their board structure by adding 1 seat designated for a youth member of the community. (Click on the link to view a copy of the document) (5 minutes) <https://empowerla.org/wpcontent/uploads/2015/03/FINAL-RNC-BSC-BONC-5-14-15.pdf>
<https://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/Reseda-NC-BylawsAmendment-Application-May-1-2015.pdf>

This was presented at the last meeting but there was no vote. Campos addressed concerns regarding bylaws and meetings. We feel that is no reason to hold back the application. The change would be a good addition to the board, she said.

Public Comment

Glenn Bailey
Sharon Brewer

Grant asked if we postpone this and send it back to the neighborhood council for adjustment, would they have to wait? Liu said yes, they’d have to wait until next year. Campos said this doesn’t eliminate any seats, it simply adds a youth seat. This application is complete.

Lipman made a motion to support this with request that they reconsider it at a subsequent meeting. He requests that the department waive the deadline. Mack said we should simply vote on it. The materiality of the situation is that they only want to add a new seat. We want to support community engagement. The intent is honorable. I recommend that we vote to approve this issue.

Shaffer made a motion that board adopt the staff recommendation and approve the bylaws change. Lipman seconded.

ACTION: Motion to Approve the Reseda Neighborhood Council Bylaws Changes

VOTE	Mover	Shaffer	Second	Lipman
Commissioner	Ayes	Nays	Abstention	Absent
Atkinson				x
Grant		x		

Lipmen	x			
Mack	x			
Medina				x
Rubio	x			
Shaffer	x			
Total	4	1	0	2
Motion	Carries	x	Fails	

15. Discussion and possible action regarding the review and approval of the Commission’s approved rules of order and updates to the meeting calendar relative to dates, times and locations will be made. (Click on the link to view a copy of the document) (10 minutes) <https://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/RULESOF-ORDER-AMENDED.pdf>

Shaffer wanted to correct the spelling of “Pacoima” for the July 7 meeting. Shaffer made a motion to approve. Grant seconded.

The result of the vote was never stated, though there was no mention that it failed.

ACTION: Motion to Approve Item 15

VOTE	Mover	Shaffer	Second	Grant
Commissioner	Ayes	Nays	Abstention	Absent
Atkinson				x
Grant	?			
Lipmen	?			
Mack	?			
Medina				x
Rubio	?			
Shaffer	?			
Total	?	?	?	2
Motion	Carries	x	Fails	

Public Comment

Glen

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 three minutes. (15 minutes)

Public Comment

Tony Wilkinson
Jay Handal

17. 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.

Lipmen wants to change the July 1 meeting date in Mar Vista to either June 30 or July 7. He said that following criticisms, he is concerned about organizing BONC meetings on the same nights as nearby neighborhood council meetings. Mack said you’re looking at the wrong schedule.

Grant wants to know whether C4C can be added to the agenda for the next meeting. For budget day, can we stay at City Hall after our next meeting on June 15 for training, she asked. Mack agreed.

19. Adjourn

Grant made the motion. Shaffer seconded.

ACTION: Motion to End the Meeting

VOTE	Mover	Grant	Second	Shaffer
Commissioner	Ayes	Nays	Abstention	Absent
Atkinson				
Grant				
Lipmen				
Mack				
Medina				
Rubio				
Shaffer				
Total				
Motion	Carries	x	Fails	

The meeting ended about 8:40pm.