

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA

BOARD OF NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONERS

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LEONARD SHAFFER
VICE PRESIDENT

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GRAYCE LIU
GENERAL MANAGER

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MINUTES

BOARD OF NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING

MONDAY, MARCH 17, 2014 – 1:00 P.M.

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

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Karen Mack, President
Leonard Shaffer, Vice President
Joy Atkinson
Lydia Grant
Olivia Rubio

ABSENT

Victor Medina

DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT

Grayce Liu, General Manager
Stephen Box, Senior Project Coordinator
Joseph Hari, Senior Project Coordinator
Glenn Bailey, Citywide Elections Coordinator
Janet Lindo, Executive Administrative Assistant

CITY ATTORNEY REPRESENTATIVE

Carmen Hawkins, Deputy City Attorney

1. Introduction (5 minutes)

ACTION: President Mack gave the introduction.

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

ACTION: President Mack called the meeting to order at 1:13 p.m. Commission roll was called by Executive Administrative Assistant, Janet Lindo.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of March 4, 2014. (Click on the link to view a copy of the document.) (3 minutes)
http://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/03-04-14_draft-COMMISSION-Minutes.pdf

ACTION: Commissioner Shaffer moved approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 4, 2014, as written. Commissioner Grant 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 three minutes. (15 minutes)

Public comment received from:

Glenn Bailey – speaking as Neighborhood Council board member. Handing out Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils 11th Anniversary Mixer invitation. We would love to see all the Commissioners, General Manager, and City Attorneys at the event.

John Jakes, Olympic Park Neighborhood Council – Terence Gomes is our Independent Elections Administrator as well. As being the Independent Elections Administrator, I would assume that he would get in contact with our board, not January 14 when we have an election on April 3rd but a cutoff date on February 18, but I assume he would get in contact with us before we have a board meeting so we can meet at least one month before our election cutoff time. He is a very rude gentleman. He came into our board meeting, he insulted a lot of our board members and he doesn't communicate with us. I assume he expects email to work all the time whereas a lot of us are working people, a working family and this is not our full time job and his communication is lacking. So I think we are in a situation right now where we are in an exhaustive state because part of his lack in communicating what needs to be done.

Ann-Marie Johnson, Silver Lake Neighborhood Council - Co-Chair of the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council. We are in the midst of elections. Our elections take place on April 12th. Our Independent Election Administrator is, Terrence Gomes. We have serious concerns about his handling of our elections. Although we have met, the other Chair and I have met with Grayce, many of our concerns, not from Grayce, have gone unanswered. I am aware of two incumbents who have already contacted an attorney and I would rather have these issues corrected before this election is challenged.

Pete Nicholas, residential stakeholder, Rampart Village Neighborhood Council, speaking solely for myself. I came here to speak on one subject, but having heard the former speakers, let me say that I am aware that Terrence Gomes is involved in many activities, including LANCC and does lots of things. I have always considered his leadership to be middling and not objectionable. However, in this election cycle, in my

own Neighborhood Council, there have been close to fistcuffs confrontations between Mr. Gomes and members of the outreach and elections committee. The reason I came here today is to speak to a problem in the Historic Filipino town recognized neighborhood of Los Angeles City. There are two problems concerned with it. There was an old effort to organize Filipino town neighborhood council that fell through. The group that attempted to organize it converted themselves to a 501(c)3 group. They are still representing themselves to be a Filipino town neighborhood council. They've involved the local Consul General of the Philippines contacting Filipino members of the community and others challenging why they aren't supporting Filipino town neighborhood council. There is no neighborhood council. I've quietly been working with DONE attempting to get them to address the problems, but they haven't seen fit or appropriate to take the tact I have advocated and therefore I've decided to go public.

5. Verbal update from a representative of the Office of the Mayor Eric Garcetti. (10 minutes)

ACTION: No Mayor Office representative present.

6. General Manager's Report. (10 minutes)
 1. Briefing on Departmental activities.
 2. Staffing, budget and other operational matters.
 3. Neighborhood Council 2014 Elections

ACTION: General Manager, Grayce Liu, gave the General Manager's report with Elections updates given by Stephen Box, and Glenn Bailey, Citywide Elections Coordinator.

- **Budget – in terms of the fiscal year 2014-2015 budget, we are not getting good news in terms of staffing. It looks like we may lose three vacancies that we currently have right now that we've been trying to convert and actually fill for the past fiscal year. The positions for policy, that would support the Commission, and the position for outreach, they look like they will not be funded as well as the associated costs and that would include for Congress and Budget Advocates, as well.**
- **We are working with the Mayor's office on possible solutions in terms of seeking grants or other sources of funding to address these budget requests.**
- **Funding – checking account system - we have signatures on the contract. The CAO and Mayor's Office are doing some final tweaks. My hope is that come end of March it will go at least before City Council for final approval. The plan right now is to open at least a third of the checking accounts for the Neighborhood Councils who have already had their elections or where the opening of the checking accounts would not be disruptive to their operations at the end of the fiscal year. We also have to be careful on our end in terms of trying to make sure we have enough staffing to support both systems and also the funding deadlines that we've set which currently are April 15 for demand warrants and Neighborhood Purposes Grants that have a contract needed in order to execute them. All other demand warrants and Neighborhood Purposes Grant will be due on May 15 as they have been for the past couple years. We will be turning off the Purchase Card on June 13.**

- We did have a group from Venezuela come and meet with us. We have other additional requests in terms to continue working with some groups in Venezuela to perhaps help them with creating their own neighborhood councils.
 - We have a request from the former General Manager, BongHwan Kim, to send a delegation of Neighborhood Council folks to go down to San Diego and assist them in terms of their grassroots civic engagement efforts.
 - Neighborhood Council Elections – yesterday was the 3rd region of the 12 regions, elections were taking place in the southwest Valley. We had 8 Neighborhood Councils, of the 8 Neighborhood Councils 5 of them had historic highs. After 3 regions 25 Neighborhood Councils, 9 of them have historic highs, that is 36% had a historic high. Overall we're up 40% over 2012.
 - Vote by mail – we've had some great experiences. At Lake Balboa a youth candidate had 200 vote by mail applications returned from her school. West Hills had a great turnout with vote by mail also.
 - We are looking at the voter registration forms under the new City Ordinance that defines community interest as opposed to the previous factual basis.
 - The highest community interest percentages happened yesterday at Region 3, 36.67% in Encino, 35.76% in Reseda.
 - Voter turnout
 - Porter Ranch – 730
 - Chatsworth – 690
 - Tarzana – 682
 - Sunland-Tunjunga – 671
 - Sylmar – 653
 - Exhaustive Efforts – MacArthur Park Neighborhood Council, Olympic Park Neighborhood Council, North Hills West Neighborhood Council is released from Exhaustive Efforts.
7. Commission Committee Reports. (40 minutes)
1. Ad Hoc Committee re Outreach (Members: Atkinson-Chair, Mack, and Rubio)
 2. Ad Hoc Committee re ability of the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners to implement citywide policies (Members: Shaffer-Chair, Grant, and Medina)
 3. Ad Hoc Committee re Leadership Development for Neighborhood Councils (Members: Rubio-Chair, Medina, and Shaffer)

ACTION: None.

8. Discussion and possible action by the Commission to adopt the Commission's strategic plan which was drafted at the Commission's January 27th retreat. (10 minutes) (Click on the link to view a copy of the document.)
http://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/BONC-Retreat-Notes_01-27-14.pdf
<http://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Draft-Strategic-Plan-20141.pdf>

ACTION: None.

9. Discussion and possible action by the Commission to adopt a motion recommending that City Council amend the current Community Impact Statement (CIS) policy to allow neighborhood councils to submit a CIS that take additional

positions, including the position to support or oppose an action if amended, to take no position or to take a neutral position.

Currently neighborhood councils are allowed to submit Community Impact Statements supporting or opposing actions listed on agendas for the City Council and City Boards and Commissions. (20 minutes)

ACTION: Commissioner Grant motioned to move this agenda item forward. Commissioner Atkinson seconded the motion.

**VOTE: Ayes – 5
Nays – 0**

Motion passes unanimously.

Public comment received from:

Glenn Bailey – I totally support this motion. I urge you to take action today so we can get moving, getting it approved through the process.

10. Previously, the Commission established Regional Standing Committees to provide recommendations to the Commission regarding improvements to the Citywide System of Neighborhood Councils. The Regional Standing Committees, also known as the Neighborhood Council (NC) Plan Review Committees, have forwarded their recommendations to the Commission for review and action. Discussion and POSSIBLE ACTION by the Commission on the recommendations of the Regional Standing Committees (Click on the links to view copies of the documents.)
http://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Memo-re_Eight-Motions.pdf
http://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Attachment-A_survey-results.pdf
http://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Attachment-B_NC-Resolutions.pdf
http://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Survey_8-motions_text2.pdf

1) Training and Leadership Development

NC Plan Review Committees' Recommendation:

- a) Neighborhood Council board members be required to complete Ethics, Financial Policy, Sexual Harassment, and ADA Compliance training, and that the Department offer classes including, but not limited to leadership, City government basics, parliamentary procedures, land use, and candidate training.
- b) There be a citywide standard period of time from date of seating, not to exceed 90 days, that a Board member will have to pass the required training, and that this be enforced by the Neighborhood Council bylaws, which shall prohibit voting on any matter coming before the Neighborhood Council board. Inability of any board member(s) to vote for failure to timely complete training will not affect quorum.

- c) Possible action by the Commission on Regional Panels' recommendations including the adoption of a policy that would require mandatory Board Member training, including the time for conducting the training, types of training offered and consequences for failure to take the training.

ACTION: None.

- 11. Previously, the Commission established Regional Standing Committees to provide recommendations to the Commission regarding improvements to the Citywide System of Neighborhood Councils. The Regional Standing Committees, also known as the Neighborhood Council (NC) Plan Review Committees, have forwarded their recommendations to the Commission for review and action. Discussion and possible action by the Commission on the recommendations of the Regional Standing Committees and the Commission's positions with respect to the recommendations, including but not limited to forming an ad hoc committee which will report back to the Commission and include the identification of polices which will satisfy the goal of the following recommendation: (30 minutes) (Click on the links to view copies of the documents.)

http://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Memo-re_Eight-Motions.pdf

http://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Attachment-A_survey-results.pdf

http://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Attachment-B_NC-Resolutions.pdf

http://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Survey_8-motions_text2.pdf

Review of delivery of City services

NC Plan Review Committees' Recommendation:

The Board of Neighborhood Commissioners, with the aid and advice of citywide Neighborhood Councils, will adopt policies establishing best practices for monitoring the delivery of City services.

ACTION: Commissioner Shaffer motioned to postpone this agenda item to the May 6 Commission meeting. Commissioner Grant seconded the motion.

VOTE: Ayes – 5

Nays – 0

Motion passes unanimously.

Public comment received from:

Pete Nicholas – in the 13th Council District our Councilmember pays for a crew anytime we get together for one of these events. So far it's been our experience that anytime the Rampart Village has wanted to have one of these events the Councilmember will pay for the crew and the driver if we show up with volunteers so it might be possible through individual Councilpersons to get such a thing done without any direct cost.

- 12. Commission Business - Comment from Commissioners on subject matters within the Board's jurisdiction. (15 minutes)
 - 1. Comment on Commissioners' own activities/brief announcements.

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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.

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 three minutes. (15 minutes)

Public comment received from:

Pete Nicholas – I want to continue my discussion of the problem with the pretend Filipino neighborhood council. The councils out there representing themselves as an entity that isn't. I have long advocated that DONE and the City Attorney should get an injunctive relief requiring either that they go out of existence cause they're not a Neighborhood Council or that they change their name so that they don't pretend to be an entity of City government or that they be forced to add a tagline to their name that says Filipino town neighborhood council, not an official member of LA City government.

14. Adjourn

Commissioner Atkinson moved to adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m. Commissioner Grant seconded the motion.

**VOTE: Ayes – 5
 Nays – 0**

Motion passes unanimously.

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