

# CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA

## BOARD OF NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONERS

**KAREN MACK**  
PRESIDENT

**LEONARD SHAFFER**  
VICE PRESIDENT

**JOY ATKINSON**  
**LYDIA GRANT**  
**ELI LIPMEN**  
**VICTOR MEDINA**  
**OLIVIA RUBIO**

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



**ERIC GARCETTI**  
MAYOR



20<sup>th</sup> 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: [EmpowerLA@lacity.org](mailto:EmpowerLA@lacity.org)

**GRAYCE LIU**  
GENERAL MANAGER

[www.EmpowerLA.org](http://www.EmpowerLA.org)

## MINUTES

### BOARD OF NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONERS

### SPECIAL MEETING

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2014 – 6:00 P.M.**

**JOSEPH LE CONTE MIDDLE SCHOOL - AUDITORIUM  
1316 NORTH BRONSON AVENUE  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90028**

#### COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Karen Mack, President  
Leonard Shaffer, Vice President  
Joy Atkinson  
Lydia Grant  
Victor Medina

#### ABSENT

Eli Lipmen  
Olivia Rubio

#### DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT

Grayce Liu, General Manager  
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 6:16 p.m. Commission roll was called by Janet Lindo.**

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 20, 2014. (Click on the link to view a copy of the document.) (3 minutes)

[http://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/10-20-14\\_draft\\_MINUTES.pdf](http://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/10-20-14_draft_MINUTES.pdf)

Commissioner Grant stated she would like to amend the Minutes to reflect that during Department Manager, Grayce Liu's, report she handed us three handouts and I would like those included in the Minutes. I would like it to be amended to include the three handouts and included with a note that they are attached from the Department Manager's Report. Commissioner Medina moved approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 20, 2014, as amended. Commissioner Shaffer seconded the Motion.

**VOTE:**

Ayes	<u>5</u> (Atkinson, Grant, Mack, Medina, and Shaffer)
Nays	<u>0</u>
Abstention	<u>0</u>
Absent	<u>2</u> (Lipmen, Rubio)
TOTAL	<u>7</u>

Motion Carries X  
Fails \_\_\_\_\_

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

**ACTION: None.**

5. Discussion by the Commission on Best Practices on leadership within the Neighborhood Council system including possible guest speakers. (10 minutes)

**ACTION: Bill Christopher, former President of the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners, shared his thoughts on leadership.**

6. 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 – at your last meeting you received a handout that listed the number of early notification service subscribers and I'd like to thank Grayce and the Department for producing that. May I suggest that we also get the number of ENS subscribers to the BONC Commission and include that as well?**

**Jay Handal, West LA, I'm here to help you come up with a new name for DONE for the acronym. It should now be called the Department with no employees. I sent an email to this Commission a day ago asking you to have a special agenda item for tonight, dragging us from across the city to address what is becoming a disaster for our Neighborhood Council system. We're down seven employees and counting. We have three active NEAs for 95 Neighborhood Councils. We're crashing, we're not drowning, we're crashing. I see no letter. I see no motion. I see no action. Your main responsibility is to try an help the stakeholders and help the Department. This is a critical issue you need to understand. If you're sitting up there and you don't know it and you don't**

**understand it then you shouldn't be a Commissioner. You should know what is going on in your department.**

**Jim McQuiston – came down today for a specific item to tell you that the only thing Neighborhood Councils are supposed to do and they shall do it is to monitor the delivery of city services in their areas.**

**Pete Nicholas – Rampart Village, to the degree possible I would just like to encourage every BONC board member to attend every LAANC meeting because there you'll see groups of your areas Neighborhood Councils. We need the restoration of funding and staff, we need immediate solutions for positions that are authorized and funded but aren't being filled and we need immediate publication of the disciplinary process and I hope to see every BONC board member at every future LAANC meeting.**

7. General Manager's Report. (10 minutes)
  1. Briefing on Departmental activities.
  2. Staffing, budget and other operational matters.

**Grayce Liu, gave her General Manager's report (see attachment).**

**ACTION: None.**

**Public comment received from:**

**Glenn Bailey – I'd like to commend the Department for the informative reports last meeting as well as the ones here for the Monthly Expenditure Report breakdown. We just need to get it on the website or some place that folks can do without having to bother, make phone calls, it's there on a regular basis, also the running tally on the Community Impact Statements. At the LAANC meeting on Saturday a surprise visit from Councilmember LaBonge, off the cuff comment said he supports moving the Neighborhood Empowerment into the City Clerk's office.**

**Jim McQuiston – there are two things about this budget you have to know. There is a special fund and there is a general fund. If you get general fund money you can spend it July 1st. If you get special fund money even though it's budgeted if it is not put into the special fund you cannot spend it.**

**Pete Nicholas – none of you have lost your right to speech by being on the Board. Each of you tonight can take on the immediate task of contacting every representative you want to get this matter heard.**

8. **PUBLIC HEARING:** Discussion and possible action on Hollywood United Neighborhood Council's Bylaws Amendment Application requesting a change to their Board structure increasing their total Board size from 17 to 19 members by: (10 minutes)
  1. Increasing their Renters Seats from 2 to 3.
  2. Adding 1 new Parliamentarian/Historian Seat.
  3. Merging 2 separate board Seat categories (Non-Profit and Faith-Based) into 1 combined Seat category (Non-Profit or Faith-Based Representatives).
  4. Adding 1 new Youth Seat, in an advisory capacity.

5. Increasing Board Quorum from 9 to 10 Board members, not including advisory members.

[http://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/HUNC\\_Board-Structure-Change-Recommendation\\_FINAL\\_103114.pdf](http://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/HUNC_Board-Structure-Change-Recommendation_FINAL_103114.pdf)

[http://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/HUNC\\_App\\_Bylaws-Amendment-091514.pdf](http://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/HUNC_App_Bylaws-Amendment-091514.pdf)

[http://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/HUNC\\_-Board-Approved-Bylaws-Amendments-091514.pdf](http://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/HUNC_-Board-Approved-Bylaws-Amendments-091514.pdf)

**ACTION:** Commissioner Grant moved approval of the Hollywood United Neighborhood Council's Bylaws Amendment Application requesting a change to their Board structure increasing their total Board size from 17 to 19 members by:

1. Increasing their Renters Seats from 2 to 3.
2. Adding 1 new Parliamentarian/Historian Seat.
3. Merging 2 separate board Seat categories (Non-Profit and Faith-Based) into 1 combined Seat category (Non-Profit or Faith-Based Representatives).
4. Adding 1 new Youth Seat, in an advisory capacity.
5. Increasing Board Quorum from 9 to 10 Board members, not including advisory members.

Commissioner Atkinson seconded the motion.

**VOTE:**

Ayes	<u>5</u> (Atkinson, Grant, Mack, Medina, and Shaffer)
Nays	<u>0</u>
Abstention	<u>0</u>
Absent	<u>2</u> (Lipmen, Rubio)
TOTAL	<u>7</u>

Motion Carries X  
Fails \_\_\_\_\_

9. Discussion with various Central area Neighborhood Council representatives who wish to report 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://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/BEST-PRACTICES-QUESTIONNAIRE\\_03-19-14.pdf](http://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/BEST-PRACTICES-QUESTIONNAIRE_03-19-14.pdf)

**ACTION:** None.

**Public comment received from:**

Charletta Butler, ECCANDC, Area 2 Rep., last Saturday one of the board members, which she was an Area 2 Rep. like myself was buried, our elections were in May. We have three people who have not attended a meeting since they were appointed, they came two times. This is our agenda for the evening, their names are still here, but the lady who was buried last Saturday, we had three days' notice that she was dead, she's listed as vacant.

Judith Wyle, Secretary OPNC and also the Chair of PLUM. I'm relative new to Neighborhood Council system, was elected in the Spring. OPNC has some bright spots in this rather big picture we looked at today, we have an incredibly diverse board, both age, demographic, race and everybody is working really well together. It's bringing a lot of different voices to the table. It's not just people, everybody echoing the same voice over and over again. We have an excellent Outreach Chair.

10. 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.

**ACTION: None.**

**Public comment received from:**

**Pete Nicholas – I'd like to thank each of you for the work you do. I know that Grayce and her department hold the bag for EmpowerLA on the employee side, but you guys hold the bag in the community for volunteers. I continue to hear from members of individual Neighborhood Councils that they have yet to have in recent years a visit from the local member of the BONC board.**

11. 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 – Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils invite the entire Board of Commissioners to the semi-annual planning workshop on December 11 at CBS Studio in Studio City. Wrap up meetings for the Congress planning are also involving looking to the next one, how we can do it better. The next meeting is December 6 at the DWP building. That meeting will be focusing on the workshops. The more things that we can get up in the way of documents both for the Neighborhood Councils as well as the Department on the website will reduce the number of public records acts requests that people have to do, it will make everything more transparent, it reduces the workload.**

**Jim McQuiston – I attended at the start all of the elected charter commission meetings where we got up the idea Neighborhood Councils. The only things Neighborhood Councils are supposed to do they don't want to do.**

**Judith Wyle – Thank you for allowing me to speak. I think that the comments that are being made here are really informative and that Neighborhood Councils have a lot to**

learn. It would be great if there were outreach programs and events to teach the Neighborhood Councils what they need to learn.

12. Adjourn

**ACTION:** Commissioner Grant moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:35 p.m. Commissioner Medina seconded the motion.

**VOTE:**

Ayes                      5   (Atkinson, Grant, Mack, Medina, and Shaffer)

Nays                      0  

Abstention             0  

Absent                   2   (Lipmen, Rubio)

TOTAL                    7  

Motion Carries   X  

Fails                         

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