

ECHO PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
BOARD OF GOVERNOR'S MEETING

Minutes

Tuesday, December 20, 2016,
7:00 P.M.

Echo Park Recreation Center
1632 Bellevue Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90026

1. Administrative items

a. Call to Order

The meeting began at 7:07 pm with 15 Board members present.

b. Roll Call

Attending Board Members:

Tad Yenawine, Chair
Darcy Harris, Vice Chair
Michael Galano, Treasurer (left early)
Paul Bowers, Chief Information Officer
Jackelyn Valladares, Second Signatory
Kevin Fisher
Richard Courtney
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal
Connie Acosta
Ida Talalla
Margarita Fernandez
Luiza Padilla-Mavropolous (left early)
Mike Jolly (left early)
JohnMichael Hull
Jim Brown (left early)

Non-Attending Board Members:

Nicole Tinson (removed from the Board during the meeting.)
Alex Meza
Cheryl Ortega
Jeffrey Kontorovsky
Andrew Knauer

2. Community/Government reports:

a. Government agencies and officers

Juan Fregoso, Field Deputy for Council Member Mitch O'Farrell, Council District 13 (CD13):

He brought flyers about CD13 issues. He also brought toys for families in need. Call him if you need more toys.

CD13 is sending a letter of support the bungalows as an historic landmark.

There is a discussion about tenants rights. Connie Acosta asked Fregoso about a project on Coronado. Fregoso said that he would need the project address in order to address the issue.

There was a question about the new parking district.

Andrew Griggs spoke about a mixed 50%-50% poll response from the community regarding support for Air BnB and home sharing. Acosta added that Council Member O'Farrell's office always says we're undecided. Fregoso concurred that that is correct. The item is pending in city council, said Christine Peters, a representative for Council Member Mitch O'Farrell, CD13.

Jacqueline Kochi, Recreation Facility Director, Echo Park Recreation Center, (213) 250-3578, jacqueline.icci@lacity.org, www.laparks.org/reccenter/echo, (213) 240-3006

She introduced herself and the activities at the center, including Dinner with Santa and the Haunted Lake. For new programs in 2017, we will need sponsors. The next big event will be the Spring Festival.

She said the Park was in coordination with the Los Angeles Police Department CD13, the City Attorney and other agencies regarding the homelessness issue. We want to make the park home for everybody.

She offered services for neighborhood council events.

Paul Bowers thanked her for setting up the meeting.

A Board member mentioned that there have been complaints about smoking marijuana in the park. Now that it's legal, maybe we could have zones for this?

Kochi said there is no smoking in the park. Contact our office when you see smoking.

Luiza Padilla-Mavropoulos asked a question about seniors. She expressed concern about losing staff. She also voiced the need for a senior center within walking distance for those who can't walk.

Koci also discussed intramural sports.

c. EPNC Chair Report

Chair Tad Yenawine told the audience that if you know people in need of toys to please let the neighborhood council know.

He introduced the issue of recreational vehicle parking on Bellevue. Start thinking about it. He told the Board that he wanted a progressive holistic solution.

Paul Bowers said that the Communications Committee received \$1,500 from the Department of Transportation for the Clean Streets challenge. We will address the sidewalk issue with money.

d. Treasurer Report

Treasurer Michael Galano announced that the neighborhood council has emerged from Exhaustive Efforts two weeks ago. There was applause.

There will be no Monthly Expense Report (MER) this month. The only monies spent this month was for public storage and banners.

Regarding funds remaining, Outreach has about \$9,300 Neighborhood Purposes Grants (NPGs) about \$4,500, Community Improvement about \$9,000 and Operations about \$9,000, among others.

The neighborhood council will receive an additional \$5,000 next month. Galano cautioned that these amounts don't include expenses that have been approved but not paid.

He suggested that the neighborhood council committees should consider using Community Improvement Grants. Yenawine suggested internet for echo park as a possible project.

Galano said we'll have a new budget next month.

Yenawine said the homeless count is coming up January 26. Please sign up to help with the count. The neighborhood council is also seeking food and water donations. There are about 40 volunteer slots open, which begin at 7pm that night.

e. Other Committee Chair and liaison reports

Ida Talalla spoke about trees and planting. She is demonstrating the container to be used for planting/watering trees. Planting will occur in January and March. She noted that the containers keep gophers out.

She has attended Parks Commission meetings. Subjects discussed included access to the park, transportation within Elysian Park. State level issues were also discussed.

We have requested a budget of \$500. We need translation.

She discussed the Master Plan for Elysian Park. They want this Plan adopted but it's 10 years old. She invited everyone to attend meetings next month at the Echo Park and Edendale branch libraries.

Acosta said there will were two presentations at this month's Planning and Land Use Committee. The committee also created an ad hoc committee to deal with signage.

Padilla-Mavropolous said that the Echo Park holiday parade was very successful.

(Note: Padilla-Mavropolous left the meeting at 7:45pm.)

3. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items, one minute per speaker

DJ, Purple Party, www.leagueofburntchildren.blogspot.com:

This is his first neighborhood council meeting. He discussed homelessness as well as some of the services offered at his progressive center, which include meditation and a lending library.

He discussed Los Angeles City Ordinance 18590. Enforcement begins January 1 prohibiting sleeping in vehicles, which will affect mobile homeowners. It will be sad to have to leave the lake and the neighborhood, he said. His mobile center is for people who otherwise wouldn't have a home.

Andrew Griggs:

It would be wonderful if when we announce a meeting, we could put out information about parking and access. There are no handicapped parking spaces here.

Last month, he distributed a flyer at the Board meeting about an open house at the Re-Empowerment Center. That meeting was set for January 1. It is now rescheduled for January 7. Everyone is invited to attend. You can meet community folks and staff. He said that they host a community breakfast every morning.

David Rockello:

He expressed disappointment about the new logo for neighborhood council. He made a flyer about this. He said the new logo like marijuana.

He also said that we don't have the proper language on the agendas regarding public requests. He said that he is very disappointed that the neighborhood council is not living up to what it's supposed to do.

Tyan:

She has worked with local schools and was active in elections earlier this year. She spoke in support of Green Party Candidate Kenneth Mejia for the upcoming 34th Congressional District Special race. He also ran in the primary election. He grew up in San Fernando. There will be a meeting about his election on Friday at 7pm. His organization needs donations. For more information: <https://www.crowdpac.com/campaigns/130842/continuing-our-revolution-in-los-angeles>.

4. Motion to Remove Nicole Tinson from EPNC Board of Governors per EPNC Bylaws Art. V, § 7 (Absences) .

a. Determination of Validity of the Absences

David Rockello said I'm glad you're moving forward. She has 7 absences. This should have been done earlier.

Harris stated this was done at the appropriate time. Paul Bowers noted that we haven't had 7 meetings. He said the Rockello is referring to Section 7 of the bylaws, not to 7 missed meetings.

Responding to Rockello's question about placing the Board vacancy on the agenda. Yenawine said that we can't agendize seat until it's available.

Rockello added that Andrew Griggs has come to all meetings. He's a good man.

Yenawine asked whether anyone had seen Nicole Tinson within the last 5 meetings. There was no response.

Ida Talalla said we need a better process. We need to get the signatures of everyone who attends every meeting. There is a discrepancy with the minutes. Yenawine asked her whether she is referred to a sign in sheet.

Paul Bowers made a motion to remove Tinson.

Darcy Harris made a motion to confirm that Tinson's absences are valid. Courtney seconded.

VOTE to confirm absences

13-0-0

PASSED

Yes Votes:

Tad Yenawine
Darcy Harris
Michael Galano
Paul Bowers
Jackelyn Valladares
Kevin Fisher
Richard Courtney
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal
Connie Acosta
Ida Talalla
Margarita Fernandez
Mike Jolly
JohnMichael Hull

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

None

(Note that Jim Brown had left the meeting about 7:30pm and did not vote.)

b. Vote to Remove

Bowers made a motion to remove Tinson from the Board. Mike Jolly seconded.

VOTE to remove Nicole Tinson

13-0-0

PASSED

Yes Votes:

Tad Yenawine
Darcy Harris
Michael Galano
Paul Bowers
Jackelyn Valladares
Kevin Fisher
Richard Courtney
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal
Connie Acosta
Ida Talalla
Margarita Fernandez
Mike Jolly
JohnMichael Hull

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

None

5. Budget and Finance Committee

a. [Outreach] Discussion and possible action re: approving up to \$100 for table/chairs/booth and flyers for EPNC booth at Wellness Fair

Andrew Griggs asked a question about notifying the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) about open Board positions.

Yenawine explained that Outreach hasn't been able to vote on this. They found out about it after the last meeting.

Ida Talalla asked where is this? Harris explained the event and said that it will occur January 14-15. The neighborhood council is invited for outreach. The location is 1838-58 Echo Park Avenue.

Jolly commented we don't know how many people are showing up. Is it worth it? Bowers noted that actual spending will be left to the discretion of the Committee. We don't have to spend any money, he stressed.

Jolly asked what is the \$100 for? Yenawine said it's an opportunity to engage in an Echo Park community event. This is an opportunity to plug the homeless count.

Acosta said that usually the Finance Committee needs to receive a flyer or document indicating that this will actually take place. We need documentation. We should follow procedure. Is that a multi purpose studio?

Andrew Griggs said that Stephanie Woods has a studio there. Other nonprofits will have tables there. It will be like a fair. There will be people passing through all day.

Bowers suggested a substitute motion without money.

Jolly proposed an amendment to \$50 from \$100. Acosta seconded.

Yenawine said that he will designate a representative for the fair on January 14-15 with up to \$50 for expenses, as required.

VOTE for Yenawine's amendment
12-0-1
PASSED

Yes Votes:

Tad Yenawine
Darcy Harris
Michael Galano
Paul Bowers
Jackelyn Valladares
Kevin Fisher
Richard Courtney
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal
Connie Acosta
Margarita Fernandez
Mike Jolly

JohnMichael Hull

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

Ida Talalla

VOTE for amended motion

12-0-1

PASSED

Yes Votes:

Tad Yenawine

Darcy Harris

Michael Galano

Paul Bowers

Jackelyn Valladares

Kevin Fisher

Richard Courtney

Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal

Connie Acosta

Margarita Fernandez

Mike Jolly

JohnMichael Hull

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

Ida Talalla

b. [Outreach] Discussion and possible action re: approving up to \$500 for food & beverages, security guard and other items needed to support Homeless Count in Echo Park on January 26

Yenawine noted that this item was also from the Outreach Committee and, like item 5a, was also submitted without a recommendation. We are trying to solicit donations of food and beverages. We just found out that LAHSA (Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority) will contribute security so this amount can be reduced, perhaps to zero but we would like to have an amount set aside to fund anything related.

Mike Jolly asked what should the amount be? Yenawine said \$150. Jolly said that I can second that.

DJ asked a question regarding exceptions.

VOTE for amendment of \$150

13-0-0

PASSED

Yes Votes:

Tad Yenawine
Darcy Harris
Michael Galano
Paul Bowers
Jackelyn Valladares
Kevin Fisher
Richard Courtney
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal
Connie Acosta
Ida Talalla
Margarita Fernandez
Mike Jolly
JohnMichael Hull

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

None

VOTE for amended motion

13-0-0

PASSED

Yes Votes:

Tad Yenawine
Darcy Harris
Michael Galano
Paul Bowers
Jackelyn Valladares
Kevin Fisher
Richard Courtney
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal
Connie Acosta
Ida Talalla
Margarita Fernandez
Mike Jolly
JohnMichael Hull

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

None

c. [APH] Discussion and possible action re: approving up to \$1500 for translation services, copying, and note taking services for Aging, Parks & Health Committee

Talalla said we are introducing two new items regarding ageing and health. We need translation. Lots of people are not well versed in English. We need Spanish translation. According to the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE), this must be done by professionals. The meetings are held in the Edendale and Echo Park branch library. We also need a note-taker. I didn't hear back from DONE about the cost.

Also, we need books in the libraries for people to look at. So we need to copy documents. We want to make the information known to the broader public.

Yenawine asked where does that funding come from? Treasurer Michael Galano said that it comes from the Operations budget and is estimated at \$250 for six months.

Yenawine asked have any requests for translations been made? Have the meetings been well attended? Talalla said we hope that meeting will be well attended. This impacts the whole community, not just the elderly. We want funds available to the community so we can access the professional help that is needed.

Yenawine asked you haven't had any meetings yet? Talalla replied no.

Galano said we still don't have details of the costs.

Talalla said that just because a meeting hasn't occurred we must anticipate costs. Otherwise can't agendaize this for two months.

Yenawine said that Operations covers these costs. So we are pre-authorizing note taking for the meeting?

Jolly noted that this is 8% of our budget. If other committees follow this, it could eat up our entire budget. Therefore, he is against this.

Bowers made a motion to postpone this until January.

Jolly suggested to look at the needs of all committees and create uniform rules. Let's look at this next month. Bowers seconded Jolly's motion.

Acosta made the motion. Courtney seconded.

Andrew Griggs said that some things are required by law. We should be proactive about outreach. There is also sign language and translation equipment. Bowers said that's an operational cost.

Rockello suggested to have a recording device so the meetings can be recorded. You just need to have the minutes. If you want to help Talalla, this is the only meeting that needs this. It's a very big expense.

A Man commented that Echo Park is diverse. Yenawine said we're not allowed to have a dialogue during public comment.

Galano said I'm uncomfortable with the amount requested without information about how much any of these services will cost.

Yenawine asked is this request okay without specific amounts? Galano replied no. There's not enough information here. The numbers are very vague here.

Yenawine said translation is from Operations. This is a legal requirement. No discussion is needed.

Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal said that while translation is necessary, we need to be cautious about spending.

Jolly reiterated that this is 8% of our entire budget. If all committees want to do this, we're going to spend our whole budget before we get started. Rockello made a good point, said Jolly. We need to be creative or we won't be able to do anything else except have meetings.

Courtney offered that he takes notes for two committees. It's a simple thing. It's an opportunity for more people on the committee to get involved.

Talalla said that the City requires translation. This must be from an approved source. When the Board records information, it has to be

made available to community. This is an official requirement. The committees can ask for funds from the administration, according to a memo. This is an approximate amount.

About recording the vote, that doesn't really express to the public what was behind the discussion. We need a little meat on this document. We need to make a beginning. Each committee will only get \$750, added Talalla.

Margarita Fernandez added we need a translator there. She said she'll be out inviting people to attend.

Harris said she's chaired meetings and taken notes. It's possible but harder. Minutes don't have to be verbatim.

Acosta said these people are active in community. They need a translator to understand what's going on.

Jolly said I just downloaded and tested a translation app. This was absolutely free. Can't we try this before spending money?

Yenawine said we need a resources report. This was suggested months ago. Committees would spend money, including for translation equipment. We need to revisit this. There is a legal version of translation. I don't know if we are required to have a translator if no one requests it. We should proactively have the translation equipment. That's a smaller cost than a translator.

Regarding note taking, we can't have AppleOne on every meeting. I will argue against having a professional note-taker at committee meetings. If these are barriers to meeting, perhaps you should have someone else take over the committee. I'm offended that you're requesting this before you have a meeting and know what you need, added Yenawine.

Talalla discussed the decision of splitting park issues into two committees but was interrupted by Yenawine. That never prevented you from meeting. Point of order. I don't want to hear another word about it, stressed Yenawine.

Bowers said we should have a comprehensive policy. He thanked Talalla for bringing this up. We could use alternative apps, he suggested. Talalla is doing an incredible job. All committees should reach out to Spanish speakers. Talalla said I abstain. I recuse myself.

Bowers made a motion to postpone the discussion. Courtney seconded.

JohnMichael Hull seconded the motion to revisit this in January.

VOTE to postpone
12-0-1
PASSED

Yes Votes:

Tad Yenawine
Darcy Harris
Michael Galano
Paul Bowers
Jackelyn Valladares
Kevin Fisher
Richard Courtney
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal
Connie Acosta
Margarita Fernandez
Mike Jolly
JohnMichael Hull

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

Ida Talalla

d. [BFC] Discussion and/or possible action re: payment of invoices, approval of MERS.

Jocelyn Geaga-Rosenthal said that she wants a more comprehensive discussion of 5.c

There is a business cards invoice for \$902.50. That's all, said Galano.

Galano made a motion to postpone discussion of the Monthly Expense Report (MER). Harris seconded.

VOTE to postpone MER
13-0-0
PASSED

Yes Votes:

Tad Yenawine
Darcy Harris
Michael Galano
Paul Bowers
Jackelyn Valladares
Kevin Fisher
Richard Courtney
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal
Connie Acosta
Ida Talalla
Margarita Fernandez
Mike Jolly
JohnMichael Hull

No Votes:
None

Abstentions:
None

6. Planning and Land Use Committee motions

a. [PLUC] Discussion and possible action re: sending letter in support of Application for Historic Cultural Monument Designation of Bungalow Court at 1450-1456 Echo Park Ave (CaseNo. CHC-2017-4762-HCM).

Harris discussed this and the plans for a small lot subdivision project. One of the tenants had already applied for this. Because of the timing of this issue, we couldn't address this through the Planning and Land Use Committee (PLUC). This is a 1922 classic bungalow. We should support this.

Yenawine made a motion to support the letter as written. Bowers seconded.

Carol Cetrone, a representative of the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council Urban Design and Preservation Committee, said that this was brought to her attention recently. She has visited the site. There are few remaining bungalow courtyards in Los Angeles. It's still occupied with 6 tenants. One of them is the author of the application. She did this on her own. Cetrone said that she is seeking support. She noted that Council Member O'Farrell is quoted in the Eastsider as being in favor of saving the building.

Christine Kantner, another representative of the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council Urban Design and Preservation Committee,

said that it is important to support the preservation of these buildings. This is critical for Echo Park, one of the most historic neighborhoods in Los Angeles. We need more of an historic preservation overlay zone.

Andrew Griggs said these bungalows are disappearing rapidly throughout the City. These are affordable housing. He supports this. The proposed projects won't be affordable.

(Note: Mike Galano left the meeting at 8:48pm. There are 12 Board members left.)

Jolly asked where are we in the development process? Cetrone replied that I don't believe there are any approvals yet.

Bowers said this is a horrible idea. These are attractive to developers. However, 3 stories going up would block the whole bowl from the street. It's evil to take away landscape.

Talalla said I support the preservation of this unique type of building. We need to be planning ahead and looking at other housing that reflects this old Echo Park. We need to have an impact statement for preservation.

Courtney said the woman who initiated this did an incredible job. We do need a database of these properties in Echo Park, as Talalla said.

Cetrone said that Survey LA doesn't offer protection. It's just a recommendation. Acosta said these buildings represent Echo Park. Yenawine said let's proactively start registering these buildings in the neighborhood.

VOTE
12-0-0
PASSED

Yes Votes:

Tad Yenawine
Darcy Harris
Paul Bowers
Jackelyn Valladares
Kevin Fisher
Richard Courtney
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal
Connie Acosta

Ida Talalla
Margarita Fernandez
Mike Jolly
JohnMichael Hull

No Votes:
None

Abstentions:
None

b. [PLUC] Discussion and possible action re: Community Impact Statement on the proposed citywide Sign Ordinance supporting incorporation of the provisions approved by the City Planning Commission on Oct. 22, 2015 (Council File No. 11-1705)

Harris said that there were presentations from both sides as well as from a lobbyist from Clear Channel. A sub-committee looked at the details. There was a City commission with recommendations. This is moving through the City's Planning and Land Use Committee with revisions. The ordinance isn't ready yet. However, that Committee might meet before our next board meeting so we want to approve it.

Courtney made the motion. Harris seconded.

Andrew Griggs wants to eliminate the word "honorable" because that might exclude many of the City Council Members.

Geaga-Rosenthal asked are the provisions comprehensive? Harris said she doesn't know.

Acosta said we will revisit this and we will discuss it. Yenawine asked this is a letter for a CIS (Community Impact Statement)? This CIS might be revised if the City meeting is delayed.

VOTE
11-0-1
PASSED

Yes Votes:
Tad Yenawine
Darcy Harris
Paul Bowers
Jackelyn Valladares
Kevin Fisher

Richard Courtney
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal
Connie Acosta
Ida Talalla
Margarita Fernandez
Mike Jolly

No Votes:
None

Abstentions:
JohnMichael Hull

7. Discussion and possible action re: EPNC sponsoring/participating in Homeless Count in Echo Park on January 26, authorizing BOG members to act on behalf of EPNC and submit opt-in agreement for same.

Kevin Fisher made the motion. Darcy Harris seconded.

VOTE
12-0-0
PASSED

Yes Votes:
Tad Yenawine
Darcy Harris
Paul Bowers
Jackelyn Valladares
Kevin Fisher
Richard Courtney
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal
Connie Acosta
Ida Talalla
Margarita Fernandez
Mike Jolly
JohnMichael Hull

No Votes:
None

Abstentions:
None

8. Discussion and possible Action re: EPNC participating in Echo Park Wellness Fair on January 14-15

Yenawine said this was incorporated into Item 5a. He sought a vote to delete this agenda item.

VOTE to delete this item from the agenda

12-0-0

PASSED

Yes Votes:

Tad Yenawine
Darcy Harris
Paul Bowers
Jackelyn Valladares
Kevin Fisher
Richard Courtney
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal
Connie Acosta
Ida Talalla
Margarita Fernandez
Mike Jolly
JohnMichael Hull

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

None

9. Discussion and/or possible action on regular agreement with Echo Park United Methodist Church for office and meeting space

Yenawine said that he is trying to craft an agreement to get permanent office space and meeting space.

Bowers said that there could be an ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) challenge regarding the angle of the ramp. However, you should still proceed.

Yenawine discussed other options. Basically, this would be a storage space that we can use. I call that an office. Geaga-Rosenthal asked a question about renting parking space.

1. Administrative items -- REVISITED

c. Adoption of minutes

Harris made a motion to approve the October minutes. Fisher seconded.

VOTE
12-0-0
PASSED

Yes Votes:

Tad Yenawine
Darcy Harris
Paul Bowers
Jackelyn Valladares
Kevin Fisher
Richard Courtney
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal
Connie Acosta
Ida Talalla
Margarita Fernandez
Mike Jolly
JohnMichael Hull

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

None

Geaga-Rosenthal offered an amendment to correct the spelling of Juan Villaragoso's last name to "Fregoso" in the November minutes.

VOTE to correct "Fregoso"
12-0-0
PASSED

Yes Votes:

Tad Yenawine
Darcy Harris
Paul Bowers
Jackelyn Valladares
Kevin Fisher
Richard Courtney
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal
Connie Acosta
Ida Talalla
Margarita Fernandez

Mike Jolly
JohnMichael Hull

No Votes:
None

Abstentions:
None

Harris noted various misspellings. She also noted that Ida Talalla was eligible for votes on non-funding items. Harris will correct the vote counts to reflect this. Acosta offered a correction for item 10 in the minutes.

(Note: Mike Jolly left the meeting at 9:12pm. There are 11 Board members left.)

Harris offered a correction that she confirmed the previous action of the Board for an item.

VOTE for amended November minutes
11-0-0
PASSED

Yes Votes:
Tad Yenawine
Darcy Harris
Paul Bowers
Jackelyn Valladares
Kevin Fisher
Richard Courtney
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal
Connie Acosta
Ida Talalla
Margarita Fernandez
JohnMichael Hull

No Votes:
None

Abstentions:
None

11. Announcements

(Note: Jackelyn Valladares and Kevin Fisher are leaving. There is no longer quorum.)

Harris called for volunteers for the Wellness Fair. There were none.

13. Adjournment

The meeting ended at 9:16pm.