

ECHO PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL  
BOARD OF GOVERNOR'S MEETING

Minutes

Tuesday, April 25, 2017,

7:00 P.M.

Echo Park United Methodist Church

1226 North Alvarado Street

Los Angeles, CA 90026

1. Administrative items

a. Roll Call

The meeting began at 7:11pm with 15 Board members present.

Attending Board Members:

Tad Yenawine, Chair

Darcy Harris, Vice Chair

Michael Galano, Treasurer (arrived late)

Paul Bowers, Chief Information Officer (left early)

Jackelyn Valladares, Second Signatory (arrived late, left early)

Kevin Fisher

Richard Courtney

Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal

Andrew Knauer

Connie Acosta (left early)

Ida Talalla (left early)

Margarita Fernandez (left early)

Luiza Padilla-Mavropolous

Alex Meza (arrived late, left early))

Cheryl Ortega (left early)

Mike Jolly (left early)

Andy Griggs (arrived late)

Jim Brown

Daniel Heimpel (left early)

Dominic Ciccodicola (elected to the Board during the meeting)

Non-Attending Board Members:

Jeffrey Kontorovsky

b. Adoption of minutes

*Richard Courtney made a motion to approve the March minutes.*

*Chief Information Officer Paul Bowers seconded.*

**VOTE**  
**15-0-0**  
**PASSED**

Yes Votes:

Tad Yenawine  
Darcy Harris  
Paul Bowers  
Kevin Fisher  
Richard Courtney  
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal  
Andrew Knauer  
Connie Acosta  
Ida Talalla  
Margarita Fernandez  
Luiza Padilla-Mavropolous  
Cheryl Ortega  
Mike Jolly  
Jim Brown  
Daniel Heimpel

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

None

(Note: Jackelyn Valladares arrived at 7:14pm.)

*Kevin Fisher made the motion to approve the April minutes. Luiza Padilla-Mavropoulos seconded.*

**VOTE for April Minutes**  
**13-0-3**  
**PASSED**

Yes Votes:

Tad Yenawine  
Darcy Harris  
Paul Bowers  
Kevin Fisher  
Richard Courtney  
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal  
Andrew Knauer  
Luiza Padilla-Mavropolous

Cheryl Ortega  
Mike Jolly  
Jim Brown  
Daniel Heimpel  
Jackelyn Valladares

No Votes:  
None

Abstentions:  
Connie Acosta  
Ida Talalla  
Margarita Fernandez

Ida Talalla said that the April special meeting minutes were premature. There are things that are questionable there. She mentioned the arguments for the border line at Glendale. It was an unfair decision.

## 2. Community/Government reports:

### a. Government agencies and officers

*Los Angeles Police Department, Rampart Division, Senior Lead Officer Robert Solorio:*

He said that he is the new Senior Lead Officer (SLO) for the Echo Park/Rampart area. He has been with the LAPD for 16 years. At the Rampart Division he's investigated officer involved shootings, gangs, etc and worked with bicycles patrols, vice, and as an undercover officer.

He became the SLO in January. He took over for Officer Ford.

He said that the biggest problem is property crime. Lock it, hide it, he recommended. Crime is up 3% because of property crime.

He recommended using the My311 app. It's a good way to report abandoned cars, etc.

A Man asked him about about homeless. It's getting worse.

(Note: Alex Meza arrived at 7:20pm.)

SLO Solorio said we have intervention/prevention. We go out every Thursday and offer resources to the homeless. Last month

we offered services to 170 people. The idea is everyone has a right to be happy. We want them to be good neighbors. There are certain regulations that govern them. It is not illegal to be homeless. They have just as much voice in the community as you and I do. We take enforcement against people who repeatedly violate laws.

The Man responded that these people are a blight on society and on Echo Park. He said that his daughter works downtown. Regarding handing homeless people pamphlets or giving them services, he asked why can't they be corralled and kept in a lot? They are not good neighbors. Yenawine interrupted the Man. He said that he did so in order to continue the meeting.

Jackelyn Valladares asked SLO Solorio whether the area around Alvarado and the 101 freeway was in his jurisdiction? SLO Solorio said no. My goal is to empower you guys, he added.

#### b. Community Organizations

None

#### c. EPNC Chair Report

Yenawine said we have a new offer from this church that will save us money. They are offering a two room office plus some use of this space for \$900 a month. That will save us \$400. We haven't found a community partner yet.

For nights other than Tuesday, if community organizations need this room, let us know. We get this room every Tuesday.

Daniel Heimpel asked this would also wash out cost of storage? Yenawine responded correct. That amount is up to \$185. Ida Talalla commented we still don't know what is in storage. Paul Bowers said that Michael Galano went there today and made photos. He'll be here later.

Connie Acosta asked we'll use this Tuesdays all day? Yenawine replied we'll use for storage and for the printer. We'll use the front room for committee meetings.

(Note: Michael Galano arrived at 7:29pm.)

Talalla asked aside from the \$900, plus \$180 for storage so we'd be spending \$1080 a month? Yenawine said that the storage will be here, so no.

Acosta asked will others have access? Yenawine said we'll partner with someone to share the space.

Yenawine said we're going to try to spend all of our money before June 1. I want to postpone all spending items until next month to accurately determine how much to give. However, he wants a good discussion of these finance items tonight. We'll also discuss branding and design tonight.

#### d. Treasurer Report

Treasurer Michael Galano said we have a bunch of stuff to go over tonight. There are 5 NPG (Neighborhood Purposes Grants) applications. We have about \$4,000 unallocated after tonight's requests.

Connie Acosta noted that next month is the last month that we can spend in the current fiscal year. She wants to make a motion to fund the neighborhood council congress and voting.

Paul Bowers said that he'd like to introduce a sidewalk cleaning award. David Rockello said that that is a good idea.

Yenawine said that according to our Bylaws, we are supposed to select officers at the next meeting. That task might be better for the June meeting.

Galano announced that we have an open seat on the Budget and Finance Committee.

#### e. Committee Chair and liaison reports

(Note: Andy Griggs arrived at 7:35pm. There are now 19 voters.)

Jim Brown, Homeless Liaison Report: He went to the old YMCA from 1912 on Saturday. The building has been repurposed for homeless youth. Also, it also offers temporary housing. Mayor Eric Garcetti came and introduced more of the measure HHH idea. The group will have another meeting May 1 across the street from City Hall.

Ida Talalla, Committee on Ageing: We didn't hold a meeting this month because of the holidays. However, she attended seminars this month about health hazards with the Los Angeles Department of Ageing. She urges other Board to attend these meetings. The threat is very high regarding mosquito born diseases.

Luiza Padilla-Mavropoulos, Farmers Market: She said that the Farmers Market had nice attendance. We will now only be there every two weeks because we can't get enough Board members to sign up. Stakeholders can also volunteer.

Darcy Harris, Planning and Land Use Committee: She said that two meetings will be held May 6 and 10.

### 3. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

*David Rockello:*

He said that there will be CERT training at the LAPD's Rampart station. He mentioned that the Echo Park parade is coming in December. We want you to join in for the art contest in October. Some folks are leaving the parade community but others are taking their place.

The Lotus Festival is coming up. Get a table. It's in July. Paul Bowers and Darcy Harris did a great job getting people information, said Rockello. Does anyone need an art contest application for their kids, he asked.

*Luiza Padilla-Mavropoulos:*

She said that she is a medical cannabis patient. She has been on medications for over 25 years. They affect her kidneys so she can't take some medications. She said that her local marijuana dispensary was raided. She went to Council Member Mitch O'Farrell's office about this. However, she is still waiting for a response. Why was this place closed down? She is speaking as a stakeholder.

*The Co-Director of the California WWI Task Force:*

We commemorate US involvement in World War I. The national commission is trying to restore monuments across the country. An assessment was done in Elysian Park for a monument. We are trying to improve the grounds around the monument. We have fliers for you.

We're not asking for money. We just want support. He asked if Board members want to attend a rededication ceremony on May.

He also mentioned a June 3 volunteer clean up day.

He said that it's important to try to restore these monuments. The memorial grove is in poor condition so that's why I chose it for consideration of a national grant.

Yenawine said this site has been quite neglected and poorly maintained.

Ida Talalla said there are community groups who can help with clean up. She mentioned a few.

Kevin Fisher asked where exactly is it in Elysian Park? The Man said that it's on lilac terrace. The monument was placed there in 1921 with names of 21 people who died. He's done lots of research.

Richard Courtney said you should go to the Budget and Finance Committee and ask for money for the June 3 clean up event. It's a really important thing. Treasurer Galano gave him sample NPG documents.

*Blanca (she spoke in Spanish using Luiza Mavropoulos as a translator):*

For many years I've been coming to these meetings. The April 4 special meeting left our people unable to participate. In regards to District 5, the item ran past 9pm when people started to leave the building.

In a special meeting, item 5 about district 5, you heard from people who were present on the Board at that time. There is a distinction.

It was almost the last item on the agenda. There should be no distinction in these items. The issues continue the same.

We ask for translation in Spanish and there is none. Now you're excluding the Latino community. I'm here to participate. I can't understand what's going because there is no translation. Can meetings stop until there is a translator?

Paul Bowers said it's my fault. I didn't pass along the request for a translator. It's eating up a lot of our budget. We have translation equipment now. But we need a person to operate it though, commented Galano. We can probably get a volunteer, said Bowers. Jackelyn Valladares translated this to Blanca.

Bowers said this is my fault. The request was submitted but I didn't follow up. Yenawine asked for a volunteer translator for tonight.

Cheryl Ortega said that there is a reason that they send translators. That way, they are official. It's difficult to participate and to translate at the same time. Yenawine told Blanca that we will do our best to accommodate you. Jackelyn Valladares volunteered sit with Blanca and translate.

*Darcy Harris:*

She spoke about the LA Neighborhood Initiatives on behalf of stakeholder Isa Meksin. They do different projects in different districts. There will be a community forum on May 18.

*7-11 Owner:*

This Saturday we'll host the first "Coffee With A Cop" from 8:30am till 11am.

Los Angeles Police Department Senior Lead Officer Gina Paialii, Northeast Division and Captain Sandoval will be there.

*Sally David, St. Athanasius Church:*

She announced that the St. Athanasius Episcopal Church at the Cathedral Center of St. Paul, located at 840 Echo Park Avenue, will host a sanctuary event called "Home Is A Human Right" on May 5. It will feature an evening of radical short films and a Resource Fair. Flyers are available. The event will take place from 7pm to 9pm. For more information: [www.bravenewfilms.org/homeisahumanright](http://www.bravenewfilms.org/homeisahumanright)

#### 4. Selection of Board member to fill vacancy of At Large Seat

Dominic Ciccodicola, the Co-Chair of the Outreach Committee, has applied.

Michelle, who works at City Hall, asked what does Dominic care about? Ciccodicola replied that he's lived here since 2002. I've seen it change a bit. He said that he wants to be a part of that change.

**VOTE for Dominic Ciccodicola**

**19-0-0**

**PASSED**

Yes Votes:

Tad Yenawine

Darcy Harris

Michael Galano

Paul Bowers  
Jackelyn Valladares  
Kevin Fisher  
Richard Courtney  
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal  
Andrew Knauer  
Connie Acosta  
Ida Talalla  
Margarita Fernandez  
Luiza Padilla-Mavropolous  
Alex Meza  
Cheryl Ortega  
Mike Jolly  
Andy Griggs  
Jim Brown  
Daniel Heimpel

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

None

Ciccodicola now joins the Board. He has completed training.

5. BOG Liaisons and Committee Chairs

a. Appointment of liaison to LANCC

Harris said that no one has volunteered.

Acosta asked Harris did you get my motion from LANCC (the Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition)? Harris said that she did. It was related to measure m, said Acosta. It can be on the agenda next month, said Harris.

Talalla observed that we have liaisons in different things. Can we have a list of all liaisons and which committees they belong to? Yenawine said we'll get the Secretary to work on a roster.

Jim Brown said that I can stay sometimes but it's a lot. It would mean that I'd be there from 8am to 1pm. Yenawine said that Brown has just volunteered to sometimes being our liaison. Brown explained that I'm there at 8am to 10am for the Department of Water and Power (DWP) meetings.

Griggs said I could come at 11am but not every first Saturday.

*Yenawine made a motion to have Griggs and Brown as the volunteers. Fisher seconded.*

**VOTE for Andy Griggs and Jim Brown for LANCC  
representatives  
20-0-0  
PASSED**

Yes Votes:

Tad Yenawine  
Darcy Harris  
Michael Galano  
Paul Bowers  
Jackelyn Valladares  
Kevin Fisher  
Richard Courtney  
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal  
Andrew Knauer  
Connie Acosta  
Ida Talalla  
Margarita Fernandez  
Luiza Padilla-Mavropolous  
Alex Meza  
Cheryl Ortega  
Mike Jolly  
Andy Griggs  
Jim Brown  
Daniel Heimpel  
Dominic Ciccodicola

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

None

6. [SLCO] Discussion and/or possible Action on the following

a. Restatement of letter of support for immigration policy in Los Angeles County in light of Sheriff O'Donnell's stated change of policy

Yenawine asked do we have a draft of this letter? Ortega said no. We voted to endorse a grant for refugees (it's on the agenda tonight).

We also endorsed the Skid Row Neighborhood Council vote. For the letter, Sally wants to contact LANCC to discuss the idea of various neighborhood councils moving to become sanctuary cities. We may host a town hall. Yenawine said that sounds like a motion to postpone.

Daniel Heimpel discussed the idea of another letter. I'm trying to understand what a sanctuary policy looks like. But Federal law asks for information on those locked up. I don't know what our policy would be. The opportunity would be what would we call a sanctuary neighborhood and what would the policy be? We should invite experts. We can go beyond a letter. We want to do something more thoughtful and broad.

Yenawine said there is a safe haven as opposed to sanctuary. That's also something to investigate. Acosta said that it seems like you'd have to work with the LAPD. According to newspapers, immigrants are being taken from court houses.

Talalla said we need a discussion, a town hall. We need to hear from the larger population. Yenawine said I'm going to keep postponing this item.

b. Motion supporting the activities of St Athanasius Church regarding immigration workshops

Ortega said we recommend an NPG.

7. [Public Works] Discussion and/or possible action on the following

a. Requests from the Bureau of Street Services for street repair including potholes within the EPNC boundaries. Solicit suggestions of locations for repair from other Board Members.

b. In response to Willits vs. City of LA Settlement, form a subgroup of disabled stakeholders (members of the class named in the suit) to identify and submit suggestions regarding sidewalk improvements.

c. Discussion and/or possible action requesting \$200 for public works literature and materials including My311 LA for promotion and distribution in the community.

Bowers said that we're looking for disabled stakeholders to make requests as part of lawsuit settlement. *Harris seconded Bowers' motion to postpone agenda items 7a,b,and c.*

**VOTE to postpone 7a, b, and c**  
**20-0-0**  
**PASSED**

Yes Votes:

Tad Yenawine  
Darcy Harris  
Michael Galano  
Paul Bowers  
Jackelyn Valladares  
Kevin Fisher  
Richard Courtney  
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal  
Andrew Knauer  
Connie Acosta  
Ida Talalla  
Margarita Fernandez  
Luiza Padilla-Mavropolous  
Alex Meza  
Cheryl Ortega  
Mike Jolly  
Andy Griggs  
Jim Brown  
Daniel Heimpel  
Dominic Ciccodicola

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

None

8. [PLUC] Discussion and/or possible action on the following

- a. PLUC (6-0) Discussion and possible action re: letter of support for LAX expansion project

*Dominic, Los Angeles World Airports, Public Affairs Office:*

We're visiting all neighborhood councils. We're here to answer questions. Harris said there was a presentation in February. There was also a follow up presentation at our Planning and Land Use

Committee meeting. A draft letter is being circulated saying that we support the expansion program.

*Harris made the motion. Courtney seconded.*

Dominic said the letter is satisfactory.

Mike Jolly objected. This is not our neighborhood. Has anyone seen the construction? It's ridiculous to offer a letter of support for something that we know nothing about.

He said that he's for the expansion but is it appropriate for us in Echo Park to offer a letter of support? We should contact the neighborhood council for that area before writing a letter.

Harris said we can vote on things that affect the whole city as well. Jolly said we try to be so thorough with things in our neighborhood. We don't have all the facts for this.

Yenawine asked Dominic do you have something from the neighborhood council in that area? Dominic said no but the Council Member does support this. Griggs asked what is the council file? I can look up the impact statements. Dominic said it hasn't come before City Council yet.

Ciccodicola asked is there any urgency for this letter? Yenawine said that the City of Inglewood doesn't have Los Angeles neighborhood council. We can hear and approve it at our May meeting. Is that correct, asked Yenawine. My boss would like it now, replied Dominic.

Geaga-Rosenthal said they are building 8000 more parking spots for private cars within the airport area, not the satellite area. Dominic said they would be outside of the central area. There would be a bus connection.

Geaga-Rosenthal expressed concern about promoting car use. She mentioned a shopping center converting unused parking spots. That goes against the grain, she said. Dominic said the project achieves that objective by connecting to Metro rail.

Acosta said that a letter from a reputable agency would have more impact than a letter from us. *Courtney made a motion to postpone. Padilla-Mavropoulos seconded.*

Knauer asked a question about parking spaces.

*Yenawine offered a substitute motion. Courtney will reach out to affected parties and present a report next month and say why we should or should not support motion.*

A Woman asked will you still collect letters from non city agencies? Yenawine said that seems to be the case. Griggs said there are several council files on this.

**VOTE**  
**13-2-4**  
**PASSED**

Yes Votes:

Michael Galano  
Paul Bowers  
Richard Courtney  
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal  
Andrew Knauer  
Margarita Fernandez  
Luiza Padilla-Mavropolous  
Alex Meza  
Cheryl Ortega  
Mike Jolly  
Andy Griggs  
Jim Brown  
Dominic Ciccodicola

No Votes:

Tad Yenawine  
Darcy Harris

Abstentions:

Kevin Fisher  
Ida Talalla  
Jackelyn Valladares  
Connie Acosta

(Note: Daniel Heimpel left the meeting about 8:21pm and did not vote.)

b. PLUC (no rec/Harris) Discussion and possible action re: letter of no support for Sunset Garden at 1250 Sunset Blvd, (ZA-2017-236 (CUB)) pending receipt of acoustic study and request to ZA to keep record open to submit follow up recommendation

Yenawine recused himself from this item. I live within striking distance, he explained. Yenawine left the room until the vote was over. Courtney also recused himself because he lives within 500 feet and moved to the public.

Harris is now chairing the meeting.

PLUC didn't take action. Harris submitted a draft letter to the Board. There is no official PLUC recommendation. The draft letter seeks more information. There also a letter from the applicant objecting. They are out of town.

*Richard Courtney speaking as the first public commenter per California Code of Regulations section 18702.4(b)(1)(A) (exception because project impacts his primary residence).*

He said it's an amazing idea. It's great that there isn't a 5-story building going up. This directly links to a neighborhood in the back. There is only outdoor seating. They didn't reach out to neighbors. They're allowed to do this. It's an issue because of sound. We are waiting for the sound study. They close at 11pm, which is reasonable for the neighborhood.

*Richard Courtney then left the room until the vote was over.*

*Sally David:*

She said I've tried to get in touch with them. They don't respond.

*Michelle, the Woman Who Works at City Hall:*

She said I live within 500 feet of project. The neighborhood is facing challenges. There is a situation coming with lots of development on Sunset. They are friends of mine. They own another restaurant in Silver Lake. They are committed to the integrity of the neighborhood. They were in escrow to sell the building for millions but recused themselves at the last minute because that type of project would not serve the community. As restaurateurs, they take pride. There won't be music. This will be a child-friendly place to chill.

They are taking studies that the neighborhood council is recommending seriously.

*Clay:*

The applicants are actually very responsible good people. This is a challenging location though. The bottom floor will be a brewery. There is a question about exhaust with dining outside in a beer garden. Sound travels right across sunset. We can here voices on the buses. There's no parking in area that's already challenging for residents.

It's a great project. I applaud them for not selling out to developers but something needs to be done regarding parking and brewing exhaust. He likes the people, he added.

Acosta said I've visited that site. They have a parking lot. She wants them to move seats to the upper level. They are being unthoughtful when not planning to use the parking lot that was developed for that site. That's very irresponsible. They should put chairs inside like a restaurant.

Ortega said I'm confused. They have parking or not? Acosta said they have a parking structure. Ortega said this isn't a referendum about the quality of people. The issues are about sound, noise, and parking.

Harris said that under the code for what they are doing, they are not required to provide parking. Padilla-Mavropoulos said that she used to work in that building in 1970s. There is a parking area. They need to rethink what they'll do with that space. She said that she loves the idea of new businesses coming in. She applauds that they didn't sell out.

Fisher asked can they do this without a variance? Harris replied that they can. Jolly said they can do whatever they want. Are we chasing our tails? We can't stop them. Parking is a non issue. Maybe discuss an acoustical wall that can help neighbors. Let's focus on what we can actually do something about, if it's reasonable.

Geaga-Rosenthal commented that the issue is noise. They are asking for a Conditional Use Permit. Harris noted that that's for alcohol. There is no variance for the building. They are adding 299 seats but no parking.

*Fisher made the motion.* Galano said that he wants to support the letter. Harris said that the letter says we won't support the project without more information. After we receive information, we'll

consider a recommendation. Ciccodicola said if they come through with acoustics, we'll recommend them?

*Galano made the motion. Fisher seconded.*

**VOTE**  
**15-1-1-2**  
**PASSED**

Yes Votes:

Darcy Harris  
Michael Galano  
Paul Bowers  
Jackelyn Valladares  
Kevin Fisher  
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal  
Andrew Knauer  
Margarita Fernandez  
Luiza Padilla-Mavropolous  
Alex Meza  
Cheryl Ortega  
Mike Jolly  
Andy Griggs  
Jim Brown  
Dominic Ciccodicola

No Votes:

Connie Acosta

Abstentions:

Ida Talalla

Recusals:

Tad Yenawine  
Richard Courtney

9. [Outreach] Discussion and/or possible action on the following

Harris is chairing the meeting.

a) New logo from four logo choices and three lotus colors, as selected by committee.

Ciccodicola said we still have the new logo as our logo. It was designed by Han. At this meeting, pick a logo. There are 4 choices:

#1 new version. Easy to read from distance. Retains old lotus from original logo.

#2 old lotus with chili

#3 old lotus without chili

#4 new design with chili

*Fisher made a motion that was seconded by Bowers to adopt option #3*

Rockello urged don't change the logo. Keep the chili. It's part of Echo Park. It works and has been working for years. Other choices lack pizzazz.

*Ortega said that she wants option #2. Padilla-Mavropoulos seconded. Valladares asked what do they represent? Padilla-Mavropoulos said chili peppers represent the Latino community in Echo Park.*

Talalla said she won't say anything against Han's design. He used a real lotus. That lotus doesn't look like an artichoke. She likes option #3. The meaning is lost.

*Bowers wants option #1. His vision is deteriorating. Han's design is legible. Andrew Knauer seconded.*

Jolly said let's vote and move on. Ortega said we should vote on the last motion first, according to the rules of the neighborhood council.

A Man said I agree with legibility. However, he likes option #3 though. Courtney commented that at the Council District 1 forum you could see option #1 from across the room.

Bowers said that design option #1 is probably more legible for people with linguistic issues too. Galano said I don't like #1. It's cut off at the bottom. It looks like a second grader made it. Padilla-Mavropoulos asked why are we discussing this? Let's vote for #2 and get it over with.

**VOTE for design option #1**

**7-12-0**

**FAILED**

**VOTE for design option #2 (the old logo)**

**8-10-1**

**FAILED**

**VOTE for design option #3**

**10-4-5**

**PASSED**

Yenawine said that he wants the colors in a. Rockello said that c is the right color. Lotus' are not a solid color. There should be a gradation.

*Ortega made a motion for color a. Fisher seconded. Rockello said it will be very weak and difficult to see across the room. Galano said the new logo works because of color. Acosta said that a and b will be faded.*

**VOTE for #c**

**15-4-0**

**PASSED**

Yes Votes:

Tad Yenawine  
Darcy Harris  
Paul Bowers  
Jackelyn Valladares  
Kevin Fisher  
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal  
Andrew Knauer  
Connie Acosta  
Ida Talalla  
Margarita Fernandez  
Luiza Padilla-Mavropolous  
Cheryl Ortega  
Mike Jolly  
Andy Griggs  
Jim Brown

No Votes:

Richard Courtney  
Michael Galano  
Dominic Ciccodicola  
Alex Meza

Abstentions:

None

Yenawine resumed chairing the meeting.

10. [BFC] Discussion and possible Action on the following

- a) Approval of new banner with new EPNC logo up to \$350, in order to have for the CD1 Forum

Treasurer Michael Galano said that for all of these items, we didn't have control of our bank account for the first half of the year. All of this seems appropriate in terms of amount.

Chair Tad Yenawine said that for npgs (Neighborhood Purposes Grants), we'll postpone voting to adjust amounts. However, we should approve the Council District 1 forum right now. Even if we approve every item here, we'll still have \$4000 left.

Connie Acosta said that she wants to make a motion for \$1,500 for the neighborhood council congress.

*Kevin Fisher made a motion to approve agenda item 10.a. Dominic Ciccodicola seconded.*

David Rockello urged the Board to please spend the money! There are many events coming up. It's time to spend the money.

Mike Jolly asked how big will this be? How well made will it be?  
Connie Acosta asked what will we do with the old one?

**VOTE**  
**17-0-0**  
**PASSED**

Yes Votes:

Tad Yenawine  
Darcy Harris  
Michael Galano  
Jackelyn Valladares  
Kevin Fisher  
Richard Courtney  
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal  
Andrew Knauer  
Connie Acosta  
Ida Talalla  
Margarita Fernandez  
Luiza Padilla-Mavropolous

Cheryl Ortega  
Mike Jolly  
Andy Griggs  
Jim Brown  
Dominic Ciccodicola

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

None

(Note: Alex Mesa has left the meeting. Paul Bowers was out of the room and did not vote.)

Margarita Fernandez asked when and where is the forum?  
Dominic said it will be May 4 at 7:30pm.

Andy Griggs said I've heard that one candidate isn't being responsive. He said he wants everyone to call the council district office and say we expect him to attend. It's outrageous.

b) Approval of up to \$1,700 to print new business cards with new EPNC logo, city seal, and QR code on the flip side.

Rockello said to spend the money!

*Kevin Fisher suggested to keep the \$1,700 and use existing cards.  
Mike Jolly seconded.*

Ida Talalla asked what is the total spending for the forum?  
Yenawine told her that she was off-topic.

Jolly said it's a waste of money. Who uses business cards anyway?

Dominic Ciccodicola said that he supports business cards. People do take cards. They are useful for outreach, said Yenawine.

*Vice Chair Darcy Harris made the motion. Ciccodicola seconded.*

**Vote for Up to \$1700 for business cards**

**13-4-0-1**

**PASSED**

Yes Votes:

Tad Yenawine  
Darcy Harris  
Michael Galano  
Jackelyn Valladares  
Richard Courtney  
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal  
Andrew Knauer  
Connie Acosta  
Luiza Padilla-Mavropolous  
Cheryl Ortega  
Andy Griggs  
Jim Brown  
Dominic Ciccodicola

No Votes:

Kevin Fisher  
Mike Jolly  
Margarita Fernandez  
Ida Talalla

Abstentions:

None

Ineligible:

Paul Bowers

c) Approval of up to \$500 to commemorate and celebrate the 15yr anniversary of the EPNC

*Griggs made the motion. Galano seconded.*

Galano said that the anniversary was April 15.

Rockello said to spend the money. This is an important event.

Harris commented that this seems vague. What are we voting for?

Luiza Padilla-Mavropoulos said I made this suggestion. For the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, we had a huge banner on Sunset Boulevard for a month. This is our Quinceanera. This is something to be celebrated. This neighborhood council has done a lot.

Ida Talalla said the banner that was ripped and coming down into traffic. This may require more money. Perhaps we need to be more realistic? Why not celebrate at the Lotus Festival.

*Mike Jolly said to approve the money and then create a committee to decide how to celebrate. Harris seconded and added language to delegate this to the Outreach Committee. Yenawine seconded. Connie Acosta objected.*

Griggs discussed the idea of making it a year-long celebration. We discussed that in Outreach, he commented.

*Yenawine made the motion to refer the agenda item to the Outreach Committee. Jolly seconded.*

Padilla-Mavropoulos said we didn't put in anything specific but we wanted a year-long celebration. There was no discussion of a banner. There was talk of a sub committee.

Yenawine explained that we are asking for postponement because there are few details now. We need more details for funding.

**VOTE to postpone**

**17-0-0**

**PASSED**

Yes Votes:

Tad Yenawine  
Darcy Harris  
Michael Galano  
Jackelyn Valladares  
Kevin Fisher  
Richard Courtney  
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal  
Andrew Knauer  
Connie Acosta  
Ida Talalla  
Margarita Fernandez  
Luiza Padilla-Mavropoulos  
Cheryl Ortega  
Mike Jolly  
Andy Griggs  
Jim Brown  
Dominic Ciccodicola

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

None

(Note: Paul Bowers has left the meeting and did not vote.)

d. Mayberry School Garden NPG application, \$2,500 for maintenance of the edible garden in partnership with EnrichLA.

*Richard Courtney made the motion. Jocelyn Geaga-Rosenthal seconded.*

*Jessica Nathan, the School's Principal:*

We are asking for \$2,500. Our enrollment has been declining so we are seeking more partnerships. They cost money. We have only 300 students. Enrich LA is our edible garden. Students plant seeds and harvest vegetables. We want the support of the neighborhood council. We have a \$5,500 total maintenance cost to support.

Cheryl Ortega said that at the Schools and Libraries Committee meeting we did discuss this but we haven't heard from all schools about their projects. We're not opposed but we want to be fair to the 8 schools that are within our boundaries. *She wants to postpone to hear from other schools. Connie Acosta seconded.*

Galano warned that with postponement it will be really tight. He reminded the group that their next meeting will be at end of May just ahead of the June 30 fiscal year-end.

Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) representative Thomas Soong said it will be close. The key is to get it in. Funding is now handled by the City Clerk.

Rockello said we're running out of time. Let's do this one. This is the first time that the principal is here.

A Woman who said that she is a teacher said that this really costs \$50,000. There is lots of payback. Ortega said we're not opposed.

Mike Jolly said that the Principal is here and she's submitted the paperwork. Don't punish her because others didn't get their act together. Approve this, he urged.

Galano said I support this. Principal Nathan has awesome initiatives. We originally came up with the idea of equitable donations to schools. Maybe the Board can come up with something quarterly, he suggested.

Geaga-Rosenthal said that she supports this vote. The fiscal year ends pretty soon. Other schools will have another chance beginning in July.

Talalla said that she is concerned about what they will grow and how it will be maintained over the summer. Principal Nathan said that Enrich LA does maintenance over the summer, twice a week. We're only off for 3 weeks (as administrators).

Padilla-Mavropoulos mentioned Food from the Hood. Your project reminds me of this. She said that she is glad you're supporting this at the elementary school level. Other schools haven't come forward yet but these people are here and it's a worthwhile project, she said.

Courtney said this is all about outreach. Waiting is just wasting money. Last year \$12,000 went down the toilet (and was returned to the City unspent in the neighborhood).

Andy Griggs said he wants guidelines for the future but vote for this tonight. There are new guidelines from the City for urban gardens.

Ortega asked if we vote on this, are we saying it's okay to bypass committees and go straight to the board? This was not heard in committee, asked Yenawine. It's a question of process, said Ortega.

Yenawine said this is a concurrent meeting because the Budget and Finance Committee didn't meet this month.

(Note: Margarita Fernandez, and Ida Talalla left at 9:36pm. Cheryl Ortega has also left the meeting.)

Acosta said that she is against the motion. Harris said that it may be difficult to postpone. But, try to aim for equal amounts of NPGs, perhaps \$1,500, for groups to be fair. She is in favor of this one though.

*Acosta said that she wants only \$2,000 as an amendment. Harris seconded. Galano asked Principal Nathan what the \$500 difference would mean for the school. Principal Nathan replied that we're already paying \$500 from our general fund. We are seeking \$2,500 from the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council too.*

Jim Brown objected to the smaller amount. Let's do this right now, he said.

**VOTE for \$2,000 amendment**  
**2-12-0**  
**FAILED**

Yes Votes:

Connie Acosta  
Darcy Harris

No Votes:

Tad Yenawine  
Michael Galano  
Jackelyn Valladares  
Kevin Fisher  
Richard Courtney  
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal  
Andrew Knauer  
Luiza Padilla-Mavropolous  
Mike Jolly  
Andy Griggs  
Jim Brown  
Dominic Ciccodicola

Abstentions:

None

**VOTE for original motion of \$2,500**  
**13-1-0**  
**PASSED**

Yes Votes:

Tad Yenawine  
Darcy Harris  
Michael Galano  
Jackelyn Valladares  
Kevin Fisher  
Richard Courtney  
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal  
Andrew Knauer  
Luiza Padilla-Mavropolous  
Mike Jolly  
Andy Griggs  
Jim Brown  
Dominic Ciccodicola

No Votes:  
Connie Acosta

Abstentions:  
None

e. Discussion re: Sunset Bridge Mural (SBM) CIP.

*Galano said that he wants to postpone this. Harris made the motion.*

**VOTE to Postpone**  
**14-0-0**  
**PASSED**

Yes Votes:  
Tad Yenawine  
Darcy Harris  
Michael Galano  
Jackelyn Valladares  
Kevin Fisher  
Richard Courtney  
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal  
Andrew Knauer  
Connie Acosta  
Luiza Padilla-Mavropolous  
Mike Jolly  
Andy Griggs  
Jim Brown  
Dominic Ciccodicola

No Votes:  
None

Abstentions:  
None

f. Discussion/recommendation of \$250 for design deposit of SBM CIP Project for the completion of a design rendering for a “Welcome to Echo Park” mural to be painted on the north-facing side of the Echo Park bridge over Glendale.

*Galano said that he wants to postpone agenda item f indefinitely.*

**VOTE**

**14-0-0  
PASSED**

Yes Votes:

Tad Yenawine  
Darcy Harris  
Michael Galano  
Jackelyn Valladares  
Kevin Fisher  
Richard Courtney  
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal  
Andrew Knauer  
Connie Acosta  
Luiza Padilla-Mavropolous  
Mike Jolly  
Andy Griggs  
Jim Brown  
Dominic Ciccodicola

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

None

g. Reimbursement of Darcy Harris \$29.56 for Homeless Count Water.

*Yenawine made the motion. Fisher seconded.*

**VOTE  
14-0-0  
PASSED**

Yes Votes:

Tad Yenawine  
Darcy Harris  
Michael Galano  
Jackelyn Valladares  
Kevin Fisher  
Richard Courtney  
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal  
Andrew Knauer  
Connie Acosta  
Luiza Padilla-Mavropolous  
Mike Jolly  
Andy Griggs

Jim Brown  
Dominic Ciccodicola

No Votes:  
None

Abstentions:  
None

h. Reimbursement of Darcy Harris \$46.84 (EPNC retreat food).

*Jolly seconded Galano's motion.*

**VOTE**  
**14-0-0**  
**PASSED**

Yes Votes:  
Tad Yenawine  
Darcy Harris  
Michael Galano  
Jackelyn Valladares  
Kevin Fisher  
Richard Courtney  
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal  
Andrew Knauer  
Connie Acosta  
Luiza Padilla-Mavropolous  
Mike Jolly  
Andy Griggs  
Jim Brown  
Dominic Ciccodicola

No Votes:  
None

Abstentions:  
None

i. Bank Account switch from Union Bank discussion/recommendation.

j. Discussion re: details on planned basketball court restoration project at the Echo Park Recreation Center (1632 Bellevue Ave).

*Galano wants to postpone agenda items i and j.*

**VOTE to Postpone**  
**14-0-0**  
**PASSED**

Yes Votes:

Tad Yenawine  
Darcy Harris  
Michael Galano  
Jackelyn Valladares  
Kevin Fisher  
Richard Courtney  
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal  
Andrew Knauer  
Connie Acosta  
Luiza Padilla-Mavropolous  
Mike Jolly  
Andy Griggs  
Jim Brown  
Dominic Ciccodicola

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

None

k. Approval of operations expenses of up to \$2500 including but not limited to a video projector, screen, office printer, and other equipment to outfit new office space in service to the community

Rockello said it's about time.

Galano said that he'd visited the storage space today. We have awesome speakers and microphones and other things so we won't have to spend \$2,500, he said.

*Harris made the motion. Padilla-Mavropoulos seconded.*

Acosta said we need an invoice for these things. DONE's Thomas Soong said that this vote is allocating the funds so the money will be there. Acosta said that next time they will bring the breakdown. This is not a budget item.

(Note: Mike Jolly left at 9:46pm.)

Soong said that they should have invoices. *Galano made a motion to postpone.*

**VOTE for Harris' motion**  
**13-0-0**  
**PASSED**

Yes Votes:

Tad Yenawine  
Darcy Harris  
Michael Galano  
Jackelyn Valladares  
Kevin Fisher  
Richard Courtney  
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal  
Andrew Knauer  
Connie Acosta  
Luiza Padilla-Mavropolous  
Andy Griggs  
Jim Brown  
Dominic Ciccodicola

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

None

I. \$100 CIP project for partnership with Vector Control to promote the awareness that Mosquitos carrying West Nile, Zika, Yellow Fever at the Lotus Festival.

*Galano made a motion to postpone. Ciccodicola seconded.*  
Galano explained that Ida wants \$250 for the project.

**VOTE to postpone**  
**13-0-0**  
**PASSED**

Yes Votes:

Tad Yenawine  
Darcy Harris  
Michael Galano  
Jackelyn Valladares

Kevin Fisher  
Richard Courtney  
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal  
Andrew Knauer  
Connie Acosta  
Luiza Padilla-Mavropolous  
Andy Griggs  
Jim Brown  
Dominic Ciccodicola

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

None

m. Magnet HS NPG \$5,000 - Debate Team Funds

Galano said they are here. We have a letter from the Principal.

A junior at the school who said that she is secretary for the debate team said that this is important for the community. It helps students to be interested in things outside of standardized tests. We sent debate students to the national finals. Money will be allocated to this. This will help to fund laptops too.

Yenawine asked what are your other sources of funding? She said the total budget is about \$10,000. Yenawine asked about spending on tournament transportation? A Male student said that they must pay for hotels, entrance fees, materials, etc. We do fund raising. You are the first neighborhood council that we are approaching. \$10,000 is what we spent last year. That's the part that we raised, said the female student.

Griggs suggested approaching the Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council as well. He asked have you raised the other \$5,000 yet? The Male student said we have some funds. We will have a fund raiser on May 18. Griggs said the downtown magnet school is also in the downtown area.

The Male student said our debate students live in Echo Park. We have had meetings with the Los Angeles Unified School District. We are seeking a meeting with the City Council. Griggs said I'd love to see this be a spring board for you. I really support this.

Courtney said this is an amazing idea. We should support this. We need to support District 5, which we all voted to support last month. I'm livid that we're grilling this community that is underrepresented. We need to respect this people from our community more. Acosta said I'm impressed by these eloquent students. I got a vision of what they do by how they described it in detail.

*Fisher made the motion. Brown seconded.*

*Yenawine said I'm uncomfortable with funding 50% of anyone's budget. He made an amendment to \$1,800. Griggs seconded.*

Principal Nathan said that \$10,000 is what they raised. They sell chocolate and other items. The school serves 1,000 students. The debate team culture permeates the entire school. Their total budget is about \$30,000. She urged them to get in touch with neighborhood councils and to get in touch with the school board.

Yenawine said that Mayberry also serves Silver Lake. It's not appropriate for us to fund 50% of that. Acosta said their high school is in our boundary. Yenawine said it's on the wrong side of Beaudry. Mayberry is not in our boundaries. We should support this proportionately to our community. Harris added that there was another NPG in process from Belmont High School. They are working on it and weren't warned to get their paperwork in now. This would be unfair to others. Acosta countered that it would be unfair to them to not fund 50% of their budget.

Geaga-Rosenthal said that if \$30,000 is their total budget, \$5,000 is only a fraction. Historically, institutions on the border of our neighborhood council are also considered part of our council. Yenawine said that's why I'm asking to fund it.

Padilla-Mavropoulos said it's so hard when it comes to money. I'd like to see them receive the full amount. That school has majority low income students (90%). Her children attended this high school so she knows that it's not easy to fundraise. Kids don't get to participate. Andrew Knauer said I hated selling chocolates. Valladares commiserated saying that she had to sell donuts as a track team member.

**VOTE for \$1,800 amendment  
3-9-1  
FAILED**

*Griggs made a substitute motion for \$3,500. Ciccodicola seconded.*

**VOTE for \$3,500 amendment**

**8-5-0**

**PASSED**

Yes Votes:

Tad Yenawine  
Darcy Harris  
Michael Galano  
Kevin Fisher  
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal  
Andy Griggs  
Jim Brown  
Dominic Ciccodicola

No Votes:

Connie Acosta  
Andrew Knauer  
Jackelyn Valladores  
Luiza Padilla-Mavropoulos  
Richard Courtney

Abstentions:

None

**VOTE for amended motion of \$3,500**

**13-0-0**

**PASSED**

Yes Votes:

Tad Yenawine  
Darcy Harris  
Michael Galano  
Jackelyn Valladares  
Kevin Fisher  
Richard Courtney  
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal  
Andrew Knauer  
Connie Acosta  
Luiza Padilla-Mavropolous  
Andy Griggs  
Jim Brown  
Dominic Ciccodicola

No Votes:  
None

Abstentions:  
None

(Note: Jacklyn Valladares left the meeting at 10:04pm.)

n. Elysian Heights NPG \$1,500 - Art materials

Harris is recusing herself because her daughter attends this school and left the room.

*Fisher made the motion. Ciccodicola seconded.*

**VOTE**  
**11-0-0-1**  
**PASSED**

Yes Votes:  
Tad Yenawine  
Michael Galano  
Kevin Fisher  
Richard Courtney  
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal  
Andrew Knauer  
Connie Acosta  
Luiza Padilla-Mavropolous  
Andy Griggs  
Jim Brown  
Dominic Ciccodicola

No Votes:  
None

Abstentions:  
None

Recusals:  
Darcy Harris

o. BioCitizen NPG \$2,500 - Ecology-based environmental summer enrichment program seeking funds for a van for student transportation

Galano is recusing himself because he's a teacher and volunteer at that school and left the room.

Griggs asked are we allowed to fund capital assets? Yenawine said yes.

*Jessie Carmichael, director of BioCitizen:*

She said that the non-profit organization runs after school and summer programs, including BioCitizenCorps for kids. They are volunteers. They help with tree planting and maintenance. We'll be Echo Park-centric. The group works with citizens to save Elysian Park. We're a roving school. We need vans to get kids around to projects.

Dominic Ciccodicola asked how are scholarships to be distributed? By lottery or by essay? Carmichael said that she's not 100% sure yet. She wants to raise a ton of money. It will be need based. The income level of the parents will be key.

Padilla-Mavropoulos asked what happens to the van if the program goes bust? Griggs said if they are a non-profit must donate it to another nonprofit or sell it.

**VOTE**  
**11-0-0-1**  
**PASSED**

Yes Votes:

Tad Yenawine  
Darcy Harris  
Kevin Fisher  
Richard Courtney  
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal  
Andrew Knauer  
Connie Acosta  
Luiza Padilla-Mavropolous  
Andy Griggs  
Jim Brown  
Dominic Ciccodicola

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

None

Recusals:

Michael Galano

q. Sally David/St Athanasius Church NPG \$2500 for immigration services to the community

Luiza Padilla-Mavropoulos is recusing herself because she is a member of the church and left the room.

Sally David said there will be a workshop on April 30. There will also be a film event on May 5 with a Resource fair. The funding will help immigrants.

*Fisher made the motion. Acosta seconded.*

**VOTE**  
**11-0-0-1**  
**PASSED**

Yes Votes:

Tad Yenawine  
Darcy Harris  
Michael Galano  
Kevin Fisher  
Richard Courtney  
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal  
Andrew Knauer  
Connie Acosta  
Andy Griggs  
Jim Brown  
Dominic Ciccodicola

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

None

Recusals:

Luiza Padilla-Mavropoulos

p. March 2017 MER Review and Approval.

*Harris made the motion. Fisher seconded.*

**VOTE for MER**  
**11-0-0**

**PASSED**

Yes Votes:

Tad Yenawine  
Darcy Harris  
Michael Galano  
Kevin Fisher  
Richard Courtney  
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal  
Andrew Knauer  
Luiza Padilla-Mavropolous  
Andy Griggs  
Jim Brown  
Dominic Ciccodicola

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

None

(Note: Connie Acosta left the meeting at 10:10pm and didn't vote on this. 11 voters remain.)

11. Bylaws Discussion and/or possible action on the following

a. Reconsideration of section regarding automatic removal for absences

Griggs said I didn't get any response about automatic removal.  
Yenawine said there is no motion here.

c. (Harris) Neighborhood Council Resolution on Timing of the  
Neighborhood Council 2020 Elections

Harris said the Board is being offered three options by the City:

- 1) extend Board member terms by one year and have elections in 2019
- 2) have elections next year with one year terms
- 3) have elections next year for 3 year terms and then with staggered years thereafter.

Griggs said that he wants 2018 elections with staggered terms.  
Galano said that he wants to table this discussion. Harris said that it's too late to postpone.

*Griggs said that he supports the first option. Geaga-Rosenthal seconded.*

**VOTE for Option #1**

**4-5-2**

**FAILED**

*Harris made a motion for a one-year term and then staggered terms. Fisher seconded. This would mean have the election as scheduled next year and then another election a year later to stagger terms.*

*Harris made a motion for option #3. Yenawine seconded.*

**VOTE for Option #3**

**10-1-0**

**PASSED**

Yes Votes:

Tad Yenawine

Darcy Harris

Michael Galano

Kevin Fisher

Richard Courtney

Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal

Andrew Knauer

Luiza Padilla-Mavropolous

Andy Griggs

Dominic Ciccodicola

No Votes:

Jim Brown

Abstentions:

None

14. Adjournment

The meeting lost quorum at 10:19pm. The meeting ended at 10:19pm.