

ECHO PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL  
BOARD OF GOVERNOR'S MEETING

Minutes

Tuesday, June 27, 2017,  
7:00 P.M.

Echo Park United Methodist Church  
1226 North Alvarado Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90026

1. Administrative items

a. Call to Order and Welcome

b. Roll Call

The meeting began at 7:03pm with 13 Board members present.

Attending Board Members:

Tad Yenawine, Chair

Darcy Harris, Vice Chair

Paul Bowers, Chief Information Officer

Jackelyn Valladares, Second Signatory (left early)

Richard Courtney

Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal

Andrew Knauer (arrived late)

Connie Acosta

Margarita Fernandez (arrived late)

Luiza Padilla-Mavropolous

Cheryl Ortega

Mike Jolly (left early)

Andy Griggs

Dominic Ciccodicola

Jeffrey Kontorovsky

Tyan Schesser (elected to the Board during the meeting)

Non-Attending Board Members:

Michael Galano, Treasurer

Ida Talalla

Jim Brown

Daniel Heimpel

Alex Meza

Kevin Fisher

c. Adoption of minutes

*Echo Park Neighborhood Council President Tad Yenawine made a motion for approval of the May minutes to be postponed.*

**VOTE to Postpone**

**13-0-0**

**PASSED**

Yes Votes:

Tad Yenawine

Darcy Harris

Paul Bowers

Jackelyn Valladares

Richard Courtney

Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal

Connie Acosta

Luiza Padilla-Mavropolous

Cheryl Ortega

Mike Jolly (left early)

Andy Griggs

Dominic Ciccodicola

Jeffrey Kontorovsky

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

None

2. Community/Government reports:

a. Government agencies and officers

*Juan Fregoso, Field Deputy for Council Member Mitch O'Farrell,  
Council District 13 (CD13), (213) 207-3015,  
juan.fregoso@lacity.org:*

He said that the Lotus Festival will be held July 15-16. The kick-off for the festival and film series will be Friday, July 14. There will be live music. We are working with community partners to seek additional resources.

He said that we are working with the public relations department at Waves. They usually don't change things for neighborhoods regarding cut throughs. The submitted areas include Baxter Street

and Baxter Hill. Regarding traffic flow around Dodger games, please email your concerns and ideas to him.

Other Dodgers related news includes Council District 1 (CD1) working on a motion about traffic issues. We are meeting with the Dodgers and the Department of Transportation soon. We will touch base with Richard Courtney. We want to have greater control. The Dodgers are not as forthcoming in helping us out.

Regarding fireworks, there have been lots of calls about this. It's an ongoing issue surrounding July 4. The Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) and the neighborhood prosecutor are working on these complaints. They are targeting those areas with flyers about dangers and consequences. The fireworks affect pets too. We are trying to get the word out. We're discussing additional resources for patrols.

(Note: Andrew Knauer arrived at 7:10pm.)

The LAPD will respond to 911 calls first but will respond to fireworks violations.

A Man asked what is the fireworks fine? Fregoso said \$1,000. The Man said that there are usually lots of fireworks at the Lake on July 4.

Another man asked what is the City doing to bring in a stop light? What needs to happen? One person was killed, another was hit. (He's referring to the intersection of Portia and Sunset Boulevard.)

Fregoso replied that DOT (The Department of Transportation) is revising it again. They now request a traffic control study and a police report.

Chair Yenawine asked can people comment on that process? Fregoso said to send information to him regarding the need for the traffic light. Two studies have been denied because of the count. When approved, it may cost as much as \$200,000. We are working with CD1 about this.

Jackelyn Valladares said that she runs in that area. Sometimes engineers come out when there's no traffic. There are lots of bars in that area. Fregoso replied that they do the traffic studies between 9am and 5pm when traffic is low. Also, the studies don't include Dodger game traffic.

A Third Man said that at least 5 people were hit in the last year, according to cameras that he's installed at his business. This is a great concern for Echo Park. Where are we with the traffic count? Fregoso said that from my understanding, we are nowhere near.

The Third Man added that the DOT should look at the corner as a whole along Sunset near the gas station. There is no cross walk across Portia. It's really a shit show there especially at night and on weekends. It's not a commuter thing.

A Woman said I work on that street. Foot traffic increases dramatically at night.

Yenawine asked can a traffic study happen at a time when traffic is high? Paying for the study won't be a big issue as we are getting more requests. He added that he wants to get an email list going to update people.

Dominic Ciccodicola asked about a traffic light? Fregoso said that the Council Member would probably prefer this.

Mike Jolly asked is there something that we can do temporarily? Signs? Fregoso said we can expand the scope of the study to include that as well.

A Man asked is most of the danger during baseball games? A Fifth Man said that someone is going to get killed. That family will get a good lawyer, he warned. Installing a traffic light is cheaper.

Another Woman asked what is the extra cost for studies to be done at right times? Fregoso said I've spoken with Brandon about this. We're approving the study and the overtime. DOT only allows one study every two years so we'll have to pay for this.

The Woman asked what are the factors of the study? She wants to manage expectations. Mike Jolly asked can you get the criteria that they use?

Yenawine said that clearly there is a need for this. Can private people put in a stop light? Fregoso said yes. The cost is about \$160,000. It can be paid for between CD1, CD13, and the neighborhood council.

*Niels, Librarian, Edendale branch library:*

He discussed summer activities at the library, which include reading incentives for kids to read over the summer. There are also events in Spanish, family movies on Thursdays at 3:30pm, special events that include a concert with a clarinetist, and a theatre festival on July 22 among many others.

c. EPNC Chair Report

Yenawine said that tonight we are selecting officers. We need to spread the love/work around the Board.

He also spoke about vector control. Mosquito abatement has been extremely effective in Los Angeles. Zika is here, however. Be aware of standing water. Mosquito dung is very effective. Vector Control will have a booth at the Lotus Festival.

Yenawine said we looked at the budget this year. He's concerned about elections and outreach. Our overhead has gone up quite a bit. We want it to be a benefit to the community. You can use this space for free by appointment.

Yenawine added that we have an open seat for District 3.

(Note that Margarita Fernandez is now here. She arrived before 7:31pm.)

e. Other Committee Chair and liaison reports

Yenawine read reports from committee chairs: said that our bylaws packet is being reviewed by DONE (the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment). Changes and approvals are expected this week. The creation of District 6 and having 21 total seats is being examined. DONE is requiring us to do additional outreach to see whether they agree with changes to our external boundaries.

The next Bylaws Committee meeting will be in August.

Separately, he said that there will be a vote to fill an open Planning and Land Use Committee seat at the July 13 meeting. A couple of alcohol applications will be discussed then too.

Outreach Committee, Yenawine spoke of having volunteer translators for Echo Park Neighborhood Council meetings, organizing the Lotus Festival, among other items. Andy Griggs has completed the ADA (Americans With Disabilities Act) compliance

letter. There has been a positive response from the Lotus Festival, CD13, and others.

For the Lotus Festival, Yenawine said that we will have a tent and a booth. We are seeking volunteers.

(Note that Yenawine is reading out most of the committee summaries).

Quoting Cheryl Ortega, Yenawine said the Schools, Libraries and Community Organizations Committee is moving toward closer collaborations with schools. Books are our access to history, science, etc. It all starts with books, he said.

Yenawine added that we are trying to streamline our funding process relating to Neighborhood Purposes Grants and Community Improvement funds

Andy Griggs provided a summary about the Alliance of River Committees. Some 10-12 neighborhood councils are affected by the Los Angeles River. Their last meeting was devoted to the affordable housing linkage fee and how that affects the area.

Instead of using the HUD (Housing and Urban Development) definition to determine who is eligible, use local information to consider disparities in income.

He said that ARC has selected a 4 person transition team. Griggs wants meetings in different districts so that more stakeholders can participate.

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

*David Rockello, former Echo Park Neighborhood Council Board member:*

He said that the Neighborhood Council Congress is coming up. They need more money. We'd like all of you to show up. He added that he's happy that Fregoso discussed July 4 and pets. He is passing out related fliers.

Regarding the Lotus Festival, he hopes that we have a good position near the swamp monster when people take photos.

He also commented on Benton Way, noting that the street is blocked off by the homeless. There's not even 36 inches to get by on the sidewalks.

We have to walk in the street, which is dangerous. He wants to move in plants.

Blanca, using Jackelyn Valladares as translator, said that having volunteer interpreters is not a good thing. We need certified translators, she said.

A Man said I just moved to the neighborhood and saw an accident at Portia and Sunset with my own eyes. It was horrible.

A Woman asked is Fregoso the point of contact? Why does it cost so much to put the light there?

Yenawine said I wish I could answer that. He said he's not sure if Fregoso is clear about the process. There are multilayered policy issues. It looks like we'll get another traffic study. This must be done at times that reflect the problem.

Valladares said we organize in South Los Angeles where people get hit all the time. I work with schools. We make people walk back and forth. We have the right to ask what time of day the study will be done.

A Woman said that she'd called the DOT. They said they'd email her when the study would happen.

Jolly said that when I lived in Moorpark we got problems solved quickly. We walked the streets and brought in news crews. Things moved fast.

Yenawine advised to get organized and get everyone you know involved.

Chief Information Officer Paul Bowers said we have a Public Works Committee chaired by Kevin Fisher. Come to the next Public Works meeting. We have an open seat there for District 3.

A Man asked what is the cost of the report? I understand that it's about \$10.

Yenawine asked do we have a DOT liaison on this board? No was the response.

Rockello said we had a Temple Street slow jam last Saturday. That was the perfect opportunity to ask for a Vision Zero event and get more input. I'll try to hook you up with contacts. Yenawine asked the speakers, can I add you all to the mailing list?

Connie Acosta said that a few years ago we had a problem at Coronado Terrace. We called CD13 and no one did anything. There was lots of fast

traffic. The parents wrote letters. One person went to DOT and bugged them. They didn't have to go through CD13.

#### 4. Budget and Finance Items

Discussion and possible action re the following:

##### a. Reconciliation of FY 2016/2017 budget

Yenawine said we'll decide our budget for next year in the next item. We spent more than our whole budget. We didn't spend much at the beginning. NPG spending was \$18,400. We won't have those resources this year because of the election and the lease of this space. That's an unrealistic number going forward.

Acosta had question about translation services.

Dominic Ciccodicola said this is about money spent but not allocated. It might be helpful to keep in mind allocations and what we intended to do.

A Man asked is City allocation your only way to get resources? Yenawine replied that we can only accept money from the City.

Another Man asked can we have access to public records about allocations? Yenawine said yes. Griggs added that much of the budget information is in the documents.

Yenawine said there were allocations here that were far different than what we actually did. This has been adjusted. Darcy Harris noted that NPG monies were reallocated.

Yenawine discussed Category 100. We've put a lot of things into facility rentals. For translations and transcriptions we spent more than allocated. Also, storage is no longer a line item as we have this space.

(Note: The meeting was briefly on hold at 7:59pm because of a problem with audio visual projector.)

#### 5. Administrative items

Discussion and/or possible action on the following:

##### a. Selection of stakeholder to fill vacant District 3 seat

Candidate Tyan Schesser:

She said that she was working with the Green Party Candidate for the 34<sup>th</sup> District. She was laid off from a nonprofit job. She attended a neighborhood council meeting then. This opportunity came up. It is a goal for her to be involved politically with the community.

She is now working as pet sitter and dog walker for a local business woman in Silver Lake. She lives in Echo Park in District 5. She works with a veterinarian in District 3. She is a volunteer for Echo Park Dog Rescue.

Dominic Ciccodicola expressed concern that she doesn't live in District 3. Schesser said her employer has clients across Echo Park and Silver Lake so she is confident that she is a stakeholder.

Mike Jolly said that if she works in District 3, she is qualified.

Rockello added that standards are less strict for this type of election.

Yenawine asked the Board if they are satisfied with her qualifications?

Dominic Ciccodicola warned that it's important to pay attention to the districts as we set them up for a reason.

Yenawine commented that we have another complicating factor. We have new bylaws, so there is one less seat but another at large seat. This is a grey area. Is there any objection to Schesser's status?

Schesser said I live really close. I live work and shop and consume around District 3.

Andy Griggs noted that we still haven't figured out how to remove people where there are 3 representatives. Yenawine said it's a natural process that will happen in next election.

**VOTE to Accept Tyan Schesser's qualifications to represent District 3:  
11-1-3  
PASSED**

Yes Votes:

Paul Bowers  
Jackelyn Valladares  
Richard Courtney  
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal  
Andrew Knauer  
Margarita Fernandez  
Luiza Padilla-Mavropolous  
Cheryl Ortega  
Mike Jolly  
Andy Griggs  
Jeffrey Kontorovsky

No Votes:

Dominic Ciccodicola

Abstentions:

Connie Acosta  
Darcy Harris  
Tad Yenawine

Your credentials have been accepted, said Yenawine.

Schesser said she was dancer and teacher in Texas. She started working in afterschool programs. She does professional development. She's always been in education and advocacy. She's worked for affordable housing in Santa Monica. She's also created arts programs for students.

Rockello asked how dedicated will you be? Schesser responded I'll treat it like a job.

A Man asked what do you know about District 3? Schesser replied that it's small. She knows where it is. I don't know what differentiates the different districts at this point, she said.

A Man who said that he used to represent District 3 asked will you approach businesses in District 3? Schesser replied that I was a field organizer for the green campaign so yes.

Ciccodicola said thank you for running. What committees would you like to serve in? Schesser said that she is interested in development and outreach. She said that she is concerned about decisions being made without resident input. She is also interested in senior citizen and affordable housing issues. She has lots of expertise with afterschool programs.

Ortega said that she wants to vote.

**VOTE for Tyan Schesser**

**13-0-2**

**PASSED**

Yes Votes:

Darcy Harris

Paul Bowers

Richard Courtney

Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal

Andrew Knauer

Connie Acosta

Margarita Fernandez

Luiza Padilla-Mavropolous

Cheryl Ortega

Mike Jolly

Andy Griggs

Dominic Ciccodicola

Jeffrey Kontorovsky

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

Tad Yenawine

Jackelyn Valladares

(Note: Tyan Schesser now joins the Board. There are now 16 Board members.)

4. Budget and Finance Items -- REVISITED

b. Budget for FY 2017/2018

Rockello asked do you have the other documents for the packet (e.g. strategic plan, proposed budget)?

This budget includes facilities expenses of \$900 per month. Translation and transcription expenses amounted to \$5,900 last year. Most of that was for translations, said Yenawine. Darcy Harris added that we were consistently spending money on transcriptions but only on translation toward second half of year.

Food and copies expenses are allocated at \$3,000 plus \$1,000 for equipment. Outreach is budgeted at \$5,200 versus \$3,200 spent last year. We want more outreach spending, explained Yenawine.

There will be \$7,000 placed into the election fund. The DONE guideline for that is 20% of budget so this is a bit shy. It takes funds from Community Improvement and NPGs.

Griggs asked what opportunities do we have to make budget changes during the year? Yenawine said it's completely flexible.

*Griggs recommended to take \$700 from outreach. Make that \$4500. Move it to translations to increase it to \$6,700. Margarita Fernandez seconded that motion.*

Jolly asked can we discuss the general budget before making motions? Where will funds in each category be used?

Andy Knauer had translations and transcriptions questions. Yenawine said that two Philippine language Tagalog translators for one meeting cost \$1,100. We can spend our entire budget for this. Acosta asked can we find another vendor? Yenawine said that we can only use City vendors.

Ortega said that in general, she would like a discussion about what we prioritize, what's important.

Yenawine discussed a mailing to residents, to likely voters (that would be about 10,000 households in Echo Park for \$5,000). We can forgo that in favor of electronic outreach and direct outreach.

Jolly asked why don't we do this through the booth and get email addresses? When is the hard mailing? If we take time during the year with outreach, sign people up and save some money.

Yenawine said that this budget is a guideline. We must get something approved so we can get our annual funding and get funds unfrozen.

Darcy Harris said that \$7,000 is the recommended guideline. We must set up an Elections Committee and they will decide. If we don't allocate this now, we can shift it later.

Ortega asked about election materials funding. Is it for postage or production of materials? Yenawine said both. Ortega commented that we'd discussed before using natural community gathering

places instead of US Mail. Yenawine said that it costs \$0.30 to \$0.40 for postage for bulk mail. It's better to distribute at events.

Griggs said we can't make a decision. Cities change budgets during the year normally. By fall, we should appoint an Elections Committee to start working on this.

Andy Knauer said I didn't know what a neighborhood council was until I received flyer in the mail. That's effective. Jolly asked can a Boy Scout troop distribute cheaply? Bowers said that it's standard practice to have a mailer. We can be accused of disenfranchisement if we don't. They might be necessary.

Rockello noted the Los Angeles City Council President Herb Wesson is giving every neighborhood council an extra \$5,000 for elections.

(Note: Connie Acosta and Tyan Schesser are ineligible to vote on financial issues.)

**VOTE for budget as amended**

**14-0-0-2**

**PASSED**

Yes Votes:

Tad Yenawine  
Darcy Harris  
Paul Bowers  
Jackelyn Valladares  
Richard Courtney  
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal  
Andrew Knauer  
Margarita Fernandez  
Luiza Padilla-Mavropolous  
Cheryl Ortega  
Mike Jolly  
Andy Griggs  
Dominic Ciccodicola  
Jeffrey Kontorovsky

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

None

Ineligible:

Connie Acosta

Tyan Schesser

c. Discussion and/or possible action on fiscal impact of paid translations services

Yenawine said that for three hours it cost \$305 for a translator including headsets. We can use our headset system to cut costs. The headset system costs about \$100.

Vallardes asked how much will the cost be lowered if we use our own equipment? Yenawine said about \$225 or an \$80 reduction for Spanish. Other languages cost more.

We can have a volunteer or a City vendor. There are no other options. These meetings often go over 3 hours. That's \$75 per hour. We'll discuss policy later.

Rockello asked whether DONE can mitigate costs? Yenawine said no.

Fernandez asked do we have 3 headsets? How can committees have access to these? Yenawine said they are in our office. We must figure out how to use them.

Jolly said I lived in Yugoslavia for 7 months and wanted to attend church. I found a friend who translated for me. I assumed that I had to handle that myself. Can we spend the money on other things? Yenawine said to hold that comment for the policy discussion.

Dominic Ciccodicola asked how far in advance must we reserve these people? Yenawine said at least 72 hours. Often they charge if we cancel with less than 48 or 24 hours notice.

Luiza Padilla-Mavropoulos said I worked as court translator awhile ago. It must have been literal. Some words are very complicated, particularly for planning and land use. So I have a conflict with volunteers versus paid vendors. Not everyone can translate literally. Yenawine said we're not required to translate at all. Padilla-Mavropoulos said it's supposed to be word for word translation.

Valladares said that Blanca, the woman that she is translating for, doesn't know people who want to attend these meetings who can translate.

Ortega said that it's critical that anyone coming to meeting have complete access to information. It's very expensive. That's my conflict. Yenawine commented so it's on us to provide this service.

Jolly asked if we translate all meetings, can we afford to do that? Yenawine said no. We spent \$1,100 for one meeting last year. It can be a very ugly picture. Jolly asked can we put this on the website? Yenawine replied that people must be allowed to participate at the time.

The minimal cost is \$225 if we use our equipment, said Yenawine. Harris added so that's about \$800 per month per language for all meetings. Or about \$10,000 per year, said Yenawine.

Tyan Schesser asked whether it was an equity issue? What is the demographic of the people that we serve? Would they be more likely to come if we were serving them in their language?

Griggs said that there was also the issue of funding for sign language and other accessibility issues. We need the funding. When we get to policy issues, we must push the City to fund more translation for every single meeting.

Valladares noted that the agenda is not in Spanish. In Westlake and McArthur Park neighborhood councils, they have this in Spanish. Have this translated so people know what's going on, she advised.

Rockello noted that the McArthur Park Neighborhood Council has meetings in Spanish. Go to that neighborhood council meeting where you have to wear the headphones, he urged.

d. Discussion and/or possible action on fiscal impact of translation services for documents

Yenawine said it would be costly for other languages. We haven't dealt with that this year. A Man said that Google Translate sounds nice but it's wonky. There is a public duty here. We disenfranchise people at our peril.

Ortega said the demographics of each neighborhood are different and so are the costs. Should we ask the City to consider demographics?

Yenawine said that certain neighborhood councils will be vastly more encumbered than others when we are equally funded and expected to be equally effective.

Valladares said that she'd attended Filipino community meetings downtown where they had 4 translators. We must serve all communities.

A Man asked can you work with other neighborhood councils about this? Maybe more cooperation could reduce the budget impact?

Acosta said that sometimes she does ads in Spanish. It's free. She volunteers as she speaks Spanish.

e. MER for May 2017

*Jocelyn Geaga-Rosenthal made the motion to approve the Monthly Expense Report. Darcy Harris seconded.*

**VOTE for May MER**  
**14-0-0-2**  
**PASSED**

Yes Votes:

Tad Yenawine  
Darcy Harris  
Paul Bowers  
Jackelyn Valladares  
Richard Courtney  
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal  
Andrew Knauer  
Margarita Fernandez  
Luiza Padilla-Mavropolous  
Cheryl Ortega  
Mike Jolly  
Andy Griggs  
Dominic Ciccodicola  
Jeffrey Kontorovsky

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

None

Ineligible:

Connie Acosta

Tyan Schesser

b. Selection of officer positions

New positions of vice treasurer and secretary.

Yenawine said that some of the responsibilities of Vice Chair and Chief Information Officer have been split. Someone could take notes for meetings. We need a secretary.

Nominations:

Schesser asked what is the role of the Secretary? Yenawine explained that it included getting documents to the webmaster for posting to the website. There are also correspondence duties (Community Impact Statements, compiling records, etc.)

The Secretary would also be responsible for minutes and attendance records and vote counts, said Yenawine. The Executive Committee is not a compulsory mandatory meeting every month. However, the Secretary will serve on that Committee. Darcy Harris explained further about the responsibilities of the job.

*Schesser volunteered.* There was applause.

Acosta said that the person who writes letter for committees should be responsible for getting documents to the Board.

Valladares said it's been a pleasure being here. Today's my last day. Yenawine thanked her for her service.

(Note: Jackelyn Valladares resigned from the Board and left the meeting. There are now only 15 voting Board members.)

**VOTE for Tyan Schesser as Secretary**

**15-0-0**

**PASSED**

Yes Votes:

Tad Yenawine

Darcy Harris

Paul Bowers  
Richard Courtney  
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal  
Andrew Knauer  
Margarita Fernandez  
Luiza Padilla-Mavropolous  
Cheryl Ortega  
Mike Jolly  
Andy Griggs  
Dominic Ciccodicola  
Jeffrey Kontorovsky  
Connie Acosta  
Tyan Schesser

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

None

Yenawine said that the Vice Treasurer shall support the Treasurer. That person will act as the Treasurer if the Treasurer is unavailable. This person would not be a member of the Executive Committee. The representative would be a member of the Budget and Finance Committee. Our Treasurer is doing a pretty good job but could use some help.

Rockello asked whether the Vice Treasurer is also the card holder? Maybe it's better to use the cardholder. Yenawine explained that under previous president Kwazi Nkrumah, we had 3 Treasurers, including 2 who resigned. Having a Vice Treasurer is an awesome backup plan. The City will launch a new portal that will make the Treasury job much easier. Bowers said I'm sure that Treasurer Michael Galano will provide support for the new Vice Treasurer.

*Yenawine made a motion to leave the position open until the next meeting. Griggs seconded.*

Chair:

*Chair Tad Yenawine accepted the nomination.*

*Mike Jolly made the motion. Cheryl Ortega seconded.*

**VOTE for Tad Yenawine as Chair**

**15-0-0**

**PASSED**

Yes Votes:

Tad Yenawine  
Darcy Harris  
Paul Bowers  
Richard Courtney  
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal  
Andrew Knauer  
Margarita Fernandez  
Luiza Padilla-Mavropolous  
Cheryl Ortega  
Mike Jolly  
Andy Griggs  
Dominic Ciccodicola  
Jeffrey Kontorovsky  
Connie Acosta  
Tyan Schesser

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

None

(Note: Margarita Fernandez is leaving at 9:07pm. There are now only 14 voting Board members.)

*Vice Chair Darcy Harris accepted the nomination for Vice Chair.*

**VOTE for Darcy Harris as Vice Chair**

**14-0-0**

**PASSED**

Yes Votes:

Tad Yenawine  
Darcy Harris  
Paul Bowers  
Richard Courtney  
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal  
Andrew Knauer  
Luiza Padilla-Mavropolous  
Cheryl Ortega  
Mike Jolly  
Andy Griggs  
Dominic Ciccodicola

Jeffrey Kontorovsky  
Connie Acosta  
Tyan Schesser

No Votes:  
None

Abstentions:  
None

Chief Information Officer:

*Chief Information Officer Paul Bowers accepted the nomination.*

**VOTE for Paul Bowers as Chief Information Officer**  
**14-0-0**  
**PASSED**

Yes Votes:  
Tad Yenawine  
Darcy Harris  
Paul Bowers  
Richard Courtney  
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal  
Andrew Knauer  
Luiza Padilla-Mavropolous  
Cheryl Ortega  
Mike Jolly  
Andy Griggs  
Dominic Ciccodicola  
Jeffrey Kontorovsky  
Connie Acosta  
Tyan Schesser

No Votes:  
None

Abstentions:  
None

Treasurer:

*Yenawine said that Treasurer Michael Galano, who is not attending the meeting, has agreed to continue on as Treasurer.*

**VOTE for Michael Galano as Treasurer**

**14-0-0  
PASSED**

Yes Votes:

Tad Yenawine  
Darcy Harris  
Paul Bowers  
Richard Courtney  
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal  
Andrew Knauer  
Luiza Padilla-Mavropolous  
Cheryl Ortega  
Mike Jolly  
Andy Griggs  
Dominic Ciccodicola  
Jeffrey Kontorovsky  
Connie Acosta  
Tyan Schesser

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

None

Yenawine said that Valladares is resigning because her removal would be automatic because of the new bylaws at end of the meeting.

Second Signatory

Harris said that the biggest qualification is that you must be available.

*Luiza Padilla-Mavropoulos said that she is interested. Yenawine explained the duties of the Second Signatory. Padilla-Mavropoulos said that she's no longer interested. It's too much work.*

Harris said that the Second Signatory would attend Budget and Finance Committee meetings. These are about the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month, said Yenawine.

*Richard Courtney said that he is interested. Mavropoulos seconded Courtney's nomination.*

**VOTE for Richard Courtney as Second Signatory**

**14-0-0  
PASSED**

Yes Votes:

Tad Yenawine  
Darcy Harris  
Paul Bowers  
Richard Courtney  
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal  
Andrew Knauer  
Luiza Padilla-Mavropolous  
Cheryl Ortega  
Mike Jolly  
Andy Griggs  
Dominic Ciccodicola  
Jeffrey Kontorovsky  
Connie Acosta  
Tyan Schesser

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

None

c. Formation of new committees including Elections Committee

A Man asked who is eligible for these committees? Yenawine explained.

Sally Davis, a representative of the St. Athanasius Church, asked what is the mission statement of the Elections Chair? Yenawine answered that it was to increase awareness and participation about election as much as possible.

*Yenawine said he wanted to move the Election Chair into the Outreach Committee. Dominic Ciccodicola seconded.*

Luiza Padilla-Mavropoulus and Dominic Ciccodicola are the Co-Chairs of the Outreach Committee which is now the Outreach and Elections Committee. This will delegate all elections activity to the Outreach Committee as no one volunteered to chair the Elections Committee. Sally Davis said that she'd be willing to help.

**VOTE to combine the Outreach and Elections Committees  
14-0-0**

**PASSED**

Yes Votes:

Tad Yenawine  
Darcy Harris  
Paul Bowers  
Richard Courtney  
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal  
Andrew Knauer  
Luiza Padilla-Mavropolous  
Cheryl Ortega  
Mike Jolly  
Andy Griggs  
Dominic Ciccodicola  
Jeffrey Kontorovsky  
Connie Acosta  
Tyan Schesser

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

None

d. Modification of scope of work for existing committees including possibly merging committees

Yenawine asked whether the Public Works and Public Safety Committees should merge? He wants to consolidate as many committees as possible. Ortega noted that other neighborhood councils have committees that are very different from what we have. (e.g. Silver lake Neighborhood Council.) Yenawine asked her to look at types of committees other neighborhood councils have and come back to the neighborhood council with ideas. Ortega said that she will do this.

Yenawine said the Public Works and Public Safety Committees will be merged into one committee. The remaining committees will be discussed at the next Board meeting.

Jeffrey Kontorovsky is resigning as Chair of the Public Works Committee. So, Kevin Fisher will be co-chair of the new Public Safety and Public Works Committee.

*Yenawine made a motion to postpone the rest of this discussion to the next meeting. Bowers seconded.*

Dominic Ciccodicola asked why not keep them separate? Darcy Harris explained that Public Works has only met once in the past year. The two committees have overlapping issues too.

**VOTE to merge the Public Works and Public Safety Committees and postpone other discussion to the next meeting.**

**14-0-0**

**PASSED**

Yes Votes:

Tad Yenawine

Darcy Harris

Paul Bowers

Richard Courtney

Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal

Andrew Knauer

Luiza Padilla-Mavropolous

Cheryl Ortega

Mike Jolly

Andy Griggs

Dominic Ciccodicola

Jeffrey Kontorovsky

Connie Acosta

Tyan Schesser

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

None

e. Confirmation/appointment of committee chairs

*Harris made a motion to postpone. Yenawine seconded.*

**VOTE to postpone**

**14-0-0**

**PASSED**

Yes Votes:

Tad Yenawine

Darcy Harris

Paul Bowers

Richard Courtney

Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal  
Andrew Knauer  
Luiza Padilla-Mavropolous  
Cheryl Ortega  
Mike Jolly  
Andy Griggs  
Dominic Ciccodicola  
Jeffrey Kontorovsky  
Connie Acosta  
Tyan Schesser

No Votes:  
None

Abstentions:  
None

f. Absences and removals in light of adoption of new bylaws and City Attorney recommendation

*Yenawine made a motion to postpone. Harris seconded.*

Griggs noted an error on the document about Los Angeles Neighborhood Councils Coalition representative Jim Brown.

Yenawine asked whether this is the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting that Jim Brown has missed? Harris said this is the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting that Jim Brown has missed.

## 6. Executive Committee

Discussion and/or possible action on the following:

a. [EC/BFC 4-0-0] Policy of EPNC is to limit translations services for hire only when requested by a stakeholder for meetings 48 hours in advance through proper channels as prescribed in the agenda text. All Committees are encouraged to engage volunteer translators on an ongoing basis.

Rockello asked why are you giving yourself less time? The City requires 72 hours notice.

Yenawine said we could have an amendment about within 24 hours of posting. The point is we want to provide translations. We want guidelines about when to spend money. We need to decide whether committee chairs can decide to spend the money every time we meet.

Jolly warned that if we pass this, we could be bankrupt in 6 months if everyone starts requesting translators. Ortega added that if we think it's good policy to have translators, we must let the community know or they won't be necessary.

*Dominic Ciccodicola offered an amendment: strike "translation services for hire" and change that to "...provide volunteer translation services or if unavailable 24 hours before the beginning of the meeting, getting a translator for hire when to the best of our abilities and at the discretion of the chair" no volunteers can be found when requested by stakeholders 48 hours in advance. Padilla-Mavropoulus seconded.*

Sally Davis asked what is law or guideline regarding this as a political meeting? Yenawine said there is no law that requires translation. Davis asked, is this organization political? Yenawine said we are a government entity.

Rockello urged the wording "please make your request at least 3 days in advance". Don't make things harder on yourselves, he said.

A Man said it would be great to get volunteers on an ongoing basis. People must feel welcome. There are really talented bilingual high school kids. It could be a great way to get them involved in government.

Ortega said I agree with what you're saying. But I'm not a translator because I say I'm a translator. Who will determine the skill levels for high school students?

Harris said to make the policy first. There is confusion based on Rockello's comments regarding 72 hours. If you can't find a volunteer, then hire translator at the 24 hour point. There may also be a rush charge.

Yenawine commented that there is no such thing as a literal translation. Meaning is important. We want to try to maintain a standard. We want to increase our reach as much as possible. None of us want to spend the money on translations. It's on the City to provide for this. They've been lobbying for that for years.

Yenawine said that he likes Dominic Ciccodicola's suggestion. He is asking everyone to vote on this. The chair of a committee has

the discretion for ordering translation, according to Ciccodicola 's amendment.

Acosta said if there's a group that only speaks Spanish, I may as well run the meeting in Spanish. It's the discretion of the chair.

**VOTE for Dominic Ciccodicola's amendment**

**14-0-0**

**PASSED**

Yes Votes:

Tad Yenawine  
Darcy Harris  
Paul Bowers  
Richard Courtney  
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal  
Andrew Knauer  
Luiza Padilla-Mavropolous  
Cheryl Ortega  
Mike Jolly  
Andy Griggs  
Dominic Ciccodicola  
Jeffrey Kontorovsky  
Connie Acosta  
Tyan Schesser

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

None

b. [EC/BFC 4-0-0] Policy of EPNC to limit translation services of documents to free services like Google translate and/or volunteers. It is suggested that any document translated be reviewed by a third party fluent in both languages

*Harris made the motion. Jolly seconded.*

A Man said that Google's not good. Yenawine said that way we'll have 3<sup>rd</sup> party oversight. Ortega said someone must type this. Google is not free to share. Ciccodicola said it works super well.

**VOTE**

**14-0-0**

**PASSED**

Yes Votes:

Tad Yenawine  
Darcy Harris  
Paul Bowers  
Richard Courtney  
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal  
Andrew Knauer  
Luiza Padilla-Mavropolous  
Cheryl Ortega  
Mike Jolly  
Andy Griggs  
Dominic Ciccodicola  
Jeffrey Kontorovsky  
Connie Acosta  
Tyan Schesser

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

None

Yenawine said that means that you can't spend money on documents translations.

c. [EC/BFC 4-0-0] CIS/Letter of recommendation to DONE, the City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles City Council, and Herb Wesson to provide resources outside of NC budgets for translation services both for meetings and documents

*Yenawine said that he wants to postpone this item. Harris seconded.*

**VOTE**

**14-0-0**

**PASSED**

Yes Votes:

Tad Yenawine  
Darcy Harris  
Paul Bowers  
Richard Courtney  
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal  
Andrew Knauer

Luiza Padilla-Mavropolous  
Cheryl Ortega  
Mike Jolly  
Andy Griggs  
Dominic Ciccodicola  
Jeffrey Kontorovsky  
Connie Acosta  
Tyan Schesser

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

None

Griggs commented that DONE is considering not giving every neighborhood council the same amount of money.

d. [EC/BFC 4-0-0] Strategic plan for EPNC FY 2017/2018

Griggs asked can we change this later? Yenawine said not really. This is based on work that we did at the retreat last year. Yenawine read from the document.

A Man asked what is a longitudinal event? Yenawine explained. Rockello said it's not just neighborhood council events but all events happening in Echo Park.

Joelle asked about review and evaluation? That should be part of the strategic plan.

A Man said that a newsletter is a great idea but way too late.

*Jocelyn Geaga-Rosenthal made the motion. Darcy Harris seconded.*

Corrections by Connie Acosta: The Central City Action Committee should be written out.

Yenawine offered an amended substitute motion with the language "engage in process of self evaluation and criticism". Ciccodicola seconded.

Griggs asked do you want to make additions now? Yenawine said I'd like to approve this first.

Griggs offered language after non English speakers, “people with disabilities, and people who are not on the internet”. He suggests “access to additional computers”, and to strike internet accessibility. He also wants this language added “Communicate with businesses and event sponsors to enhance awareness of ada access strategies.” Padilla-Mavropoulos seconded that amended motion.

Geaga-Rosenthal asked what do you mean by community plan? Knauer suggested language “support libraries and schools with access to the internet.

Ortega said that strategies should match goals. She worked at the Logan Street school for years. That school isn’t connected to the internet, not only because of lack of internet but also because of lack of knowledge about how to use it. Yenawine said this is a need that we should address.

**VOTE for Grigg’s amended plan**  
**14-0-0**  
**PASSED**

Yes Votes:

Tad Yenawine  
Darcy Harris  
Paul Bowers  
Richard Courtney  
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal  
Andrew Knauer  
Luiza Padilla-Mavropoulos  
Cheryl Ortega  
Mike Jolly  
Andy Griggs  
Dominic Ciccodicola  
Jeffrey Kontorovsky  
Connie Acosta  
Tyan Schesser

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

None

7. PLUC

Discussion and/or possible action on the following:

a. PLUC [ ] VTT-73168-SL 162 Douglas Street 6 unit small lot subdivision: haul route; waivers of street dedication and rear set back.

b. PLUC [7-0] Letter to Mayor Garcetti and Department of Planning regarding transparency and public participation in general plan updates

d. Connie Acosta CIS and Letter to PLUM/City Council re Sign Ordinance (11-1705)

Harris made a motion to bundle items a, b, and d. (different version of agenda?) not including Westlake design issue.

(Note: Mike Jolly left the meeting at 9:57pm.)

Harris said that the first one is small lot subdivision. The Planning and Land Use Committee spent an hour on this. The second one is a letter about including the public when the City updates plans. The third is a letter to PLUM (the City Council Planning and Land Use Management Committee) about sign ordinance.

**VOTE to bundle items a, b, and d**  
**12-0-0**  
**PASSED**

Acosta spoke about the small lot subdivision on Douglas Street. We had the guy come out more than once. We got a better understanding of all components.

A Man asked what is PLUC?

Jorge Castaneda from the Coalition to Preserve Los Angeles, who said that he was here last month, said that he wants open government. He wants this neighborhood council take the lead like other neighborhood councils.

He urged the Board to submit a letter to Mayor Garcetti, Council Member Huizar, etc. so that we don't have what happened the last couple of months happen again as the process is happening behind closed doors. They said this would be an open process. Amend the template and please take a vote at next appropriate meeting.

Harris said that she wants to add Council Jose Huizar to the letter.

**VOTE to approve items a, b, and d**

**12-0-0  
PASSED**

Yes Votes:

Tad Yenawine  
Darcy Harris  
Richard Courtney  
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal  
Andrew Knauer  
Luiza Padilla-Mavropoulos  
Cheryl Ortega  
Andy Griggs  
Dominic Ciccodicola  
Jeffrey Kontorovsky  
Connie Acosta  
Tyan Schesser

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

None

(Note: Paul Bowers is not in the room.)

c. Connie Acosta Letter to planning regarding proposed North Westlake Design District Ordinance

Connie Acosta's letter seeks a friendlier pedestrian thoroughway.

Harris explained the ordinance. It's intended to make the area more pedestrian friendly.

Yenawine said the ordinance creates incentives for design. It restricts behavior. What would be the effect of the proposal? Acosta said they want people to use the bus more instead of cars.

Rockello commented that not enough of your board attended this meeting. Have a town hall here. Ask the council member to have new discussions about this. As a community, we need to understand each other. We can't push this through.

A Man asked who does this help? Joelle asked what is design district? Harris explained that it sets out building design features including parking and signage. The public comment deadline was

June 19. This CIS was written after the last PLUC meeting so there is no PLUC recommendation.

Yenawine said this is time sensitive so we should act tonight. Acosta said that right now those streets are not inviting. There are no trees. Yenawine noted the second section of letter about concerns and suggestions. Gaega-Rosenthal said I work there and that is accurate.

Rockello asked what is cake like design? It's modernist garbage. I don't like the trend of bright green. Can we have a town hall? Yenawine said there's not much time.

Gaega-Rosenthal said the unbundling refers to parking spaces per unit. There are expectations of off-site parking that creates flexibility because there's parking somewhere. Acosta said it's also called relaxing parking requirements.

Ciccodicola said there is a question about wording. Yenawine said unbundling should only apply to low income units and incentive to build more low income housing. That's a typographical error. Geaga-Rosenthal noted that it also allows reuse of existing building. That is not a typographical error.

(Note: Chief Information Officer Paul Bowers returned to the room at 10:19pm.)

Knowing that a lot of sales have occurred in district 5, how will this apply, asked Padillo-Mavropoulus. Rockello said this applied to Temple, Beverly, and First streets.

Harris expressed concern about parking language. Yenawine said that there is a definite lack of clarity. Rockello commented that we need low income housing for people who ride bikes and don't have cars. That is not a typographical error, said Yenawine.

Schesser asked can the letter language be stronger? Yenawine said we can proactively generate some policies, a community plan. Griggs suggested to add a line that "we urge you to reopen" topics for further discussion?

*Schesser made a motion: add a line to letter just above respectfully. "In light of these concerns we recommend that you extend the deadline for public comment and increase further dialogue prior to final adoption."*

Griggs said that Council Member Gilbert Cedillo and the Head of the Planning Department should also receive this. Rockello said it's Mitch O'Farrell's district, not Cedillo's. Vincent Bertoni and Council Member Huizar should also receive the letter.

**VOTE**  
**13-0-0**  
**PASSED**

Yes Votes:

Tad Yenawine  
Darcy Harris  
Paul Bowers  
Richard Courtney  
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal  
Andrew Knauer  
Luiza Padilla-Mavropolous  
Cheryl Ortega  
Andy Griggs  
Dominic Ciccodicola  
Jeffrey Kontorovsky  
Connie Acosta  
Tyan Schesser

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

None

8. Outreach Items

Discussion and/or possible action on the following:

- a. [Outreach -0] [SLCO] EPNC to sponsor a CIS in support of Council File 17-0481 Title: Neighborhood Welcoming Resolution/Neighborhood Council(s)/Refugee/Asylum Integration

*Griggs wants to bundle items 8a and 8b. They are about the same thing, he said.*

(Note: The digital and printed versions of the agenda differ here. He may be referring to items 8a and 9b on the printed agenda (see item 9 below). This Outreach item 8 only appears on the printed agenda. So items 9, 10, 11, 12 on the printed agenda and listed as

such here are items 8, 9, 10, and 11, respectively, on the digital agenda.)

**VOTE to bundle items (8a and 9b on printed agenda?)**

**13-0-0**

**PASSED**

Yes Votes:

Tad Yenawine  
Darcy Harris  
Paul Bowers  
Richard Courtney  
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal  
Andrew Knauer  
Luiza Padilla-Mavropolous  
Cheryl Ortega  
Andy Griggs  
Dominic Ciccodicola  
Jeffrey Kontorovsky  
Connie Acosta  
Tyan Schesser

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

None

Griggs said the sub-committee was assembled last month.

(Note: Richard Courtney left at 10:31pm. 12 Board members left.)

*Griggs made a motion to refer this to committee. He welcomes the resolution already passed by City Council. Luiza Padilla-Mavropoulus seconded.*

**VOTE to refer back to committee**

**12-0-0**

**PASSED**

Yes Votes:

Tad Yenawine  
Darcy Harris  
Paul Bowers  
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal  
Andrew Knauer

Luiza Padilla-Mavropolous  
Cheryl Ortega  
Andy Griggs  
Dominic Ciccodicola  
Jeffrey Kontorovsky  
Connie Acosta  
Tyan Schesser

No Votes:  
None

Abstentions:  
None

## 9. SLCO Motions

Discussion and/or possible action on the following:

- a. Letter in support of Skid Row Neighborhood Council
- b. CIS/Letter of support for The Neighborhood Welcoming Resolution (Council File 17-0481)

*Yenawine said that he wants to postpone this. NO OBJECTION.*

## 10. Announcements

Griggs has a flyer about a performance upstairs on July 8 about Pete Seeger. This guy is an amazing performer. La Laborfest is raising money to produce a play regarding solitary confinement.

Joelle said that on July 13, the Edendale library will host a discussion about interaction with the community.

Griggs said to let me know about accessibility issues regarding the Lotus Festival. We'll discuss them after the festival. The shuttle buses are not wheelchair accessible.

Harris said that tomorrow night there will be a Tenant's Rights Workshop at the Silver Lake branch library.

## 12. Adjournment

*Acosta seconded the motion to adjourn.*

The meeting ended at 10:35pm.