

ECHO PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
BOARD OF GOVERNOR'S MEETING

Minutes

Tuesday, January 22, 2019,
7:00 P.M.

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

1. Administrative items

a. Call to Order

The meeting began at 7:00 pm with 13 Board members present.

b. Roll Call

Attending Board Members:

Tad Yenawine, Chair (resigned during the meeting, left early at 9:01pm)

Darcy Harris, Vice Chair (resigned during the meeting, left early at 9:01pm)

Devin McCutchen, Secretary

Paul Bowers

Mike Jolly

Richard Courtney (arrived late at 7:04pm)

Thomas DeVoss

Connie Acosta

Tyan Schesser (arrived late at 7:04pm)

Mo Najand

Lauren Buisson (arrived late at 7:28pm)

Bill Shapiro

Cheryl Ortega

Hsing I Bird

Kevin Brennan

Jim Brown

Pascal De Maria (elected to the Board during the meeting)

Non-Attending Board Members:

Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal

Sachin Medhekar, Chief Information Officer

Michael Galano, Treasurer

Luiza Padilla-Mavropoulos

c. Adoption of minutes

Darcy Harris made the motion. Mike Jolly seconded.

VOTE
13-0-0
PASSED

Yes Votes:

Tad Yenawine
Darcy Harris
Devin McCutchen
Paul Bowers
Mike Jolly
Thomas DeVoss
Connie Acosta
Mo Najand
Bill Shapiro
Cheryl Ortega
Hsing I Bird
Kevin Brennan
Jim Brown

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

None

(Note: Tyan Schesser and Richard Courtney arrived at 7:04pm. They did not vote.)

2. Community/Government reports

Fernando, Director of Programs, Centro Del Pueblo:

He said that Robert will share more about our purpose here.

3. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

Jessie Reyes, At-Large Candidate, Echo Park Neighborhood Council elections:

He said that he is an Echo Park resident. He wants to be more involved. He works for the City of Redondo Beach.

Rob Quan, Candidate for the People's Action Slate for California State Democratic Convention representing Assembly District 51, www.adems.vote:

He has been organizing at City Hall for the last couple of years. He is an advocate for immigrant rights. He is focusing on matching funds programs for the City of Los Angeles. He wants to come back in a couple of months regarding a developer ban. January 26 will be Election Day. (Voting takes place beginning at 10am at East LA Rising, 324 North McDonnell Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90022. For more information: www.adems.vote.)

Amar Ravva, Candidate for the People's Action Slate for California State Democratic Convention representing Assembly District 51, www.adems.vote:

He had lived in Echo Park for 6 years. He currently lives elsewhere. He said that he wants to represent lefty Jews in the room. Some of the people in California State Assembly District 51 don't share our concerns. He wants health care for all. He is concerned about climate change. He wants to argue for extreme positions to solve the problem soon.

Robert, Centro del Pueblo:

He said that he asks for support for a letter asking Council District 13 to look for alternative locations for the homeless housing project planned for their playground. Last week we spoke to the Executive Committee. If we need to come back, we're willing to do that.

Dr. Kenneth, an employee of Centro del Pueblo:

He said that he is an employee of Centro del Pueblo. He wants other alternatives for housing for the homeless. You must understand the needs of our children. This plan will put children at risk.

Conrado:

He said that he's lived in Echo Park for 29 years. Regarding the Centro del Pueblo, he said we should not put homeless housing on our playground. It's not a good idea to put any type of housing there. Instead, he suggests various parking lots.

Ezra Pugh, Candidate for the People's Action Slate for California State Democratic Convention representing Assembly District 51, www.adems.vote:

He explained that most Democratic delegates to the state convention are appointed. The rest of us are elected. If you're not happy with how your local Democratic officials are doing, come out and participate.

Chris Ellington, Candidate for District 2 for the upcoming Echo Park Neighborhood Council elections:

He said that he's lived in Echo Park for 26 years. He warns that basketball court would be turned into a homeless encampment, that's idiotic. That's why I'm running. There are more candidates than seats on this neighborhood council, that's healthy.

Irene Pena:

She said that she'd been an employee of Centro del Pueblo. Be more mindful, she said. She wants this development to take place with a democratic planning process, including those to be displaced and those to be housed there. There are many other opportunities.

Fernando, Director of Programs, Centro Del Pueblo:

We are in support of housing our homeless in our community. However, we are just opposed to this site. We made a great impact to make the community safer by keeping these kids off the streets. He said that he wants everyone who opposes the site to raise their hands. About 45 of the large audience raised their hands.

Connie Acosta:

I heard what you all said. She said that she wants to help write the document to whomever is in charge of that site decision. Right now, she has no clue.

Raphael Rodriguez, At Large Candidate, Echo Park Neighborhood Council elections:

He said that Teachers need to be more involved in the community.

Pascal De Maria, At-Large candidate for the Echo Park Neighborhood council.

He said that he wants to be a voice of the people. He stands with El Centro.

2. Community/Government reports -- REVISITED

c. EPNC Chair Report.

Chair Tad Yenawine said we did have a meeting about the proposed housing development at Centro del Pueblo. I was rather disappointed with the results of that meeting. People didn't want to discuss this. We've been dealing with housing issues for a very long time.

There is no demonstrated crisis for El Centro. It was disappointing to see people not take the view that this could be constructive. I won't entertain meetings like that. He said that he compares them to President Donald Trump. There will be action in this. I look forward to a rich community dialogue about this. Losing an under-utilized part of a playground is not an existential crisis.

d. EPNC Vice Chair Report

Darcy Harris said that when there is a meeting, follow the Chair's lead. I've chaired the Planning and Land Use Committee (PLUC). Sometimes people erupt. There are lots of judgment calls. Give the chair of the meeting some leeway to run the meeting as they want. Give people room to do their job.

Separately, we have funds. We have two more meetings with this Board to spend money. What legacy projects do you all want?

e. Treasurer Report

Treasurer Michael Galano is not here. However, Tad Yenawine said that he believes we have about \$25,000 left to spend for the fiscal year that ends in June. A Woman interrupted him and said that she wants to know when the El Centro issue will be discussed. Harris said possibly at the next PLUC (Planning and Land Use Committee) meeting. Yenawine resumed, saying that we can use money to set the table for the incoming Board. If we do things like approve applications to spend with ability of the Board about to vote against them after April, if they want to reprioritize things, that would probably be a good idea.

f. Other Committee Chair and liaison reports.

Thomas DeVoss said that he went to the resilience meeting downtown. Everyone should get CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) training. It's free. When something happens, you might be on your own for a week or more. Know where there are people who might need assistance in the neighborhood. If we can get 25 people, I can schedule CERT training here.

PLUC: Connie Acosta said there will be a meeting February 12. We contacted developers. Only 2 responded. There are several others that want to present. This PLUC meeting will occur at 6:30pm here.

Planning Policy Committee: Mike Jolly said that next meeting will be February 5 at 6pm. They are working on ReCode.

Homeless Committee: Tad Yenawine said that the homeless count is in 2 days. They may still need volunteers. For more information: www.theycountwillyou.com. Mo Najand added that they may need volunteers for other areas.

PLUC: Darcy Harris said there will be two projects: a redo of a duplex and Bright Spot is asking for an alcohol license.

Education Committee: Cheryl Ortega spoke about the teachers' strike. The teachers strike is over. Tentative agreements were reached this morning. There were meetings all over the city this afternoon., There will be voting at 4pm and tallying at 8pm The results will be announced late tonight. Teachers are back to work tomorrow.

(Note: Lauren Buisson arrived at 7:28pm)

There was a resolution for a cap on charter schools, reduction in class size, increase in funding, and the placement of nurses and librarians and counselors in each school.

Also, the Co-location of public and charter schools on the same properties will have committees to regulate their use. Additionally, there will be more green space, less random searches, etc. For magnet schools, the reduction of class size will be the main thing. Hopefully this will all work out really well. It's moving in a positive direction.

Election Outreach Committee: Bill Shapiro said that he wants to have an internal contact sheet. Mo Najand said we have more than 20 candidates now as of 4pm.

LANCC: Paul Bowers said I went to LANCC (the Los Angeles Neighborhood Councils Coalition) -- he was interrupted by Tad who yelled at stakeholders outside of the room talking loud enough to disrupt the meeting. A Man named Chris objected. Bowers continued, saying that the mobility bill of rights has been pushed forward. He made a mobility bill of rights at the last meeting. We haven't taken a vote. We'll be hearing about it again.

4. Administrative items

Discussion and/or possible action on the following:

- a. Selection of Board member to fill vacancy of District 3

Pascal De Maria, District 3 Candidate:

He said I lived here for almost 9 years. I've seen the neighborhood go through transitions. There are lots of new developments which is great. But, a 3-bedroom home just rented for over \$5,000 per month. He's not for that. He wants to get involved. He wants a more even and more equal distribution of housing. He lives in District 3.

A Man named Chris responded that development is not always good because of increased parking. Pascal's neighbor spoke up on his behalf.

Darcy Harris said I suggested that Pascal run. I've seen him moderate forums in an even handed way. In response to a question from Hsing I about his committee interests, Pascal De Maria said he's not sure which committee would interest him.

Pascal De Maria said that he is a film editor with no previous political experience.

Secretary Devin McCutchen asked did you file to run for the upcoming election? Pascal De Maria said yes.

Paul Bowers recommended joining the Communications Department because of his film skills.

VOTE
15-0-0
PASSED

Yes Votes:

Tad Yenawine
Darcy Harris
Devin McCutchen
Paul Bowers
Mike Jolly
Richard Courtney
Thomas DeVoss
Tyan Schesser
Mo Najand
Lauren Buisson
Bill Shapiro
Cheryl Ortega
Hsing I Bird
Kevin Brennan
Jim Brown

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

None

Pascal De Maria now sits with the Board. There are now 17 Board members present.

(Note: Connie Acosta is out of the room.)

5. PLUC.

Nothing

6. Budget and Finance Items

Discussion and/or possible action on the following:

a. December/November 2018 MER Approval

Yenawine said that he wants to postpone actions on the MERs without the Treasurer present. Bowers seconded.

VOTE to postpone

15-0-0-1

PASSED

Yes Votes:

Tad Yenawine

Darcy Harris

Devin McCutchen

Paul Bowers

Mike Jolly

Richard Courtney

Thomas DeVoss

Tyan Schesser

Mo Najand

Lauren Buisson

Bill Shapiro

Cheryl Ortega

Hsing I Bird

Kevin Brennan

Jim Brown

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

None

Ineligible:

Pascal De Maria

(Connie Acosta was out of the room and did not vote.)

b. [EC 5-0] Buy wi-fi booster up to \$200

Darcy Harris made the motion. Tad Yenawine seconded.

Yenawine said that a goal would be to expand internet use in the area beyond the building. It would help us along with the branch library to provide free WiFi.

Thomas DeVoss mentioned a WiFi booster that may be a good choice though it costs about \$500.

VOTE

15-0-0-1

PASSED

Yes Votes:

Tad Yenawine

Darcy Harris

Devin McCutchen

Paul Bowers

Mike Jolly

Richard Courtney

Thomas DeVoss

Tyan Schesser

Mo Najand

Lauren Buisson

Bill Shapiro

Cheryl Ortega

Hsing I Bird

Kevin Brennan

Jim Brown

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

None

Ineligible:

Pascal De Maria

(Note: Pascal De Maria is ineligible because he has not completed training. Connie Acosta was out of the room and did not vote.);

c. [EC 5-0] Authorize separate wi-fi account for EPNC up to \$100 monthly

Yenawine said we may not need it but would be an ongoing monthly expense.

Harris made the motion. Bowers seconded.

VOTE

15-0-0-1

PASSED

Yes Votes:

Tad Yenawine
Darcy Harris
Devin McCutchen
Paul Bowers
Mike Jolly
Richard Courtney
Thomas DeVoss
Tyan Schesser
Mo Najand
Lauren Buisson
Bill Shapiro
Cheryl Ortega
Hsing I Bird
Kevin Brennan
Jim Brown

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

None

Ineligible:

Pascal De Maria

7. Outreach and Elections

Discussion and/or possible action on the following:

a. Discussion and possible action to approve a motion to organize candidate forums. Proposed Dates are Tuesday February 19th and March 19th in conjunction with the BOG meetings, and Saturday March 16th from 12:00-2:00 pm.

Mo Najand said we have 30 candidates. That's more than one candidate in each position except for District 6.

Mo Najand said it's a proposal. We would start the meeting at 6pm with a candidate forum. The dates would be February 26 and March 4.

Yenawine commented that I'm not sure that we need to move this. This is more of an announcement. Harris commented that I thought it would be good to have it on a separate night than our Board meeting. Najand replied that my idea would be for it to be an hour before the main meeting.

Devin McCutchen said the March date is the 26th plus a Saturday date. That is unchanged. He fears that one hour may not be enough for 30 candidates. Najand responded that we can have a moderator. McCutchen suggested to maybe break it up by district on different dates.

A Candidate asked what will be the format? Najand said we haven't decided. Yenawine then explained what has happened in the past.

(Note: Connie Acosta is back in the room.)

Harris added that if someone is voting for a district, they can also vote for at large candidates too.

Yenawine said the dates are February 26 and March 26 and Saturday March 16.

b. Discussion and possible action to approve a motion, in conjunction with the Outreach and Elections Committee to provide up to \$2,000 for Election related expenses. The funds will cover marketing strategies, outreach, and other election related activities such as candidate forums and election organization. This motion will be in addition to the \$2,000 budget previously approved, the allocation of funds will be at the discretion of the election committee/outreach committee.

Najand said this is for organizing the Candidate Forum.

Paul Bowers made the motion. Bill Shapiro seconded.

Bowers commented that that's not quite enough. Yenawine explained that the Committee would have about \$3,000 in discretionary funds until the March meeting.

VOTE
16-0-0-1
PASSED

Yes Votes:

Tad Yenawine
Darcy Harris
Devin McCutchen
Paul Bowers
Mike Jolly
Richard Courtney
Thomas DeVoss
Connie Acosta
Tyan Schesser
Mo Najand
Lauren Buisson
Bill Shapiro
Cheryl Ortega
Hsing I Bird
Kevin Brennan
Jim Brown

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

None

Ineligible:

Pascal De Maria

c. Discussion in regards to organizing a block party on election day, April 6th, to increase neighborhood participation and awareness in the elections. Discuss expectation and feasibility of such event.

Najand said this was more of a thought. It's a good way to get people involved. It's a lot of organization. Everyone has to be involved in this.

Yenawine said that the Edendale branch library has confirmed as a polling place. So, this street could be easily used as a block party. That's a great idea.

Kevin Brennan volunteered to organize this. Harris commented that the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council did this last year and brought in a food truck. Yenawine told Brennan to draw up a plan and a budget.

There is no action on this.

A stakeholder named Chris also volunteered as he used to organize events.

8. Bylaws/Standing Rules

Yenawine commented that we should probably have a discussion about absences and removals. The rules are only intended for those who were absent not those who were late or left early.

9. SLCO

Schools, Libraries, and Community Organizations: Cheryl Ortega said that for all schools in Echo Park as well as those downtown and in nearby areas, we all lined Sunset Boulevard for about 2.5 hours in the pouring rain. The Elysian Park school people danced in the street. People from this community brought food and water. The outpouring was amazing. It was cool to see the population being supportive. Yenawine added that the teachers' salary concerns were addressed months ago.

McCutchen said the group meets on the second Tuesday of the month at the Edendale branch library at 6:30pm.

8. Bylaws/Standing Rules -- REVISITED

Harris said that the Bylaws and Standing Rules Committee is seeking a stakeholder and a Board member for members.

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

A stakeholder named Paul spoke about segregating the homeless. There are 4 categories: the mentally ill; the druggies; the economically displaced (those that lost their jobs) and disabled; and hobos or long term homeless. These people should be segregated.

10. Homelessness & Housing Committee

Discussion and/or possible action on the following:

a. Discussion and possible action to approve a motion, in conjunction with the Homelessness and Housing Committee, to sponsor up to \$800 for an event to help those experiencing homelessness in Echo Park by promoting the resources available and funding a hygiene kit drive. The event will be tentatively called the SELAH Homelessness Education Day of Action & Hygiene Kit Drive. [10 min]

Najand said that this is organized by SELAH (a coalition of nearby neighborhood councils addressing homelessness) We are a part of it. We asked for \$800. They requested \$1,500. This is funding for SELAH to create hygiene kits. Responding to suggestions to raise the amount, Yenawine said that if it's on the agenda for \$800, the amount can't be increased. The word sponsorship is a bit tricky. Najand said that SELAH just got a 501c3. Yenawine commented we're discussing writing a check. Is there time for this? Najand said the timing is February/March.

Harris said we'd have to buy the hygiene kits. Mario Hernandez, a representative of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE), said that neighborhood councils can no longer purchase items for give away, according to the city clerk. You must now seek an NPG (Neighborhood Purposes Grant). Giveaways are limited to swag. If you approve this tonight, they may kick it back, warned Hernandez.

Harris suggested a motion to make an NPG to a neighborhood organization. Yenawine suggested to allocate up to \$800 to participate in the event as a cosponsor. Hernandez said you'd have to submit event paperwork with a budget. That may trigger other requirements. I recommend tabling it until you get more advice from the City Clerk and SELAH.

Yenawine made the motion to cosponsor the event. Lauren Buisson seconded.

Connie Acosta said I don't object but DONE has a procedure. If we can meet that that would be good so funds won't be frozen. Najand said I ran a similar idea by DONE representative Julien Antelin and our funding director. That was approved.

Chris asked is neighborhood council money spent locally? You can buy lots of toothpaste at the 99 cent store. Najand that's the expectation.

McCutchen asked what is the actual motion? It's a motion up to \$800 for co-sponsorship of an event to help those experiencing homelessness in Echo Park in conjunction with SELAH.

VOTE
16-0-0-1
PASSED

Yes Votes:
Tad Yenawine
Darcy Harris
Devin McCutchen

Paul Bowers
Mike Jolly
Richard Courtney
Thomas DeVoss
Connie Acosta
Tyan Schesser
Mo Najand
Lauren Buisson
Bill Shapiro
Cheryl Ortega
Hsing I Bird
Kevin Brennan
Jim Brown

No Votes:
None

Abstentions:
None

Ineligible:
Pascal De Maria

b. Discussion and possible action to approve sponsoring the “The Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count” in Echo Park and provide up to \$250 for food and drinks for volunteers on January 24th at the Methodist Church.

Najand said that this coming Thursday is the event.

Yenawine made the motion. Harris seconded.

VOTE
16-0-0-1
PASSED

Yes Votes:
Tad Yenawine
Darcy Harris
Devin McCutchen
Paul Bowers
Mike Jolly
Richard Courtney
Thomas DeVoss
Connie Acosta
Tyan Schesser
Mo Najand

Lauren Buisson
Bill Shapiro
Cheryl Ortega
Hsing I Bird
Kevin Brennan
Jim Brown

No Votes:
None

Abstentions:
None

Ineligible:
Pascal De Maria

c. Discussion and possible action on a letter of support to the city librarian, Board of Library Commissioners, City of Los Angeles Homeless Coordinator and DMHS regarding EPNC support for providing funding and expanding the frequency and locations of the Source event. [5min]

Najand said there was objection to the last letter because of the name and the amount. This one is okay, There is no funding for it. Their staff does the work. There is no specific funding.

Yenawine made the motion. Harris seconded.

McCutchen offered an amendment with the phrase: “provides staff”

Lauren Buisson asked what is it? Najand explained that it brings together a lot of service providers like LAHSA (the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority). We sponsored food last month. About 30 homeless people attended. Two of them went into shelters. Services provided include IDs, veterans services, etc.

Connie Acosta asked what kind of staff? Najand said the staff is librarians. Yenawine commented that they are trained to deal with the homeless. Najand said there would be other agencies there too providing staff. Acosta suggested to use “City” staff, not staff. McCutchen noted a couple of typographical errors at the bottom of the letter.

VOTE
17-0-0-0
PASSED

Yes Votes:

Tad Yenawine
Darcy Harris
Devin McCutchen
Paul Bowers
Mike Jolly
Richard Courtney
Thomas DeVoss
Connie Acosta
Tyan Schesser
Mo Najand
Lauren Buisson
Bill Shapiro
Cheryl Ortega
Hsing I Bird
Kevin Brennan
Jim Brown
Pascal De Maria

No Votes:
None

Abstentions:
None

11. Public Safety, Sustainability

12. Planning Policy Committee

Mike Jolly said we didn't meet.

Harris said that Jocelyn Geaga-Rosenthal said the meeting will be February 5.
This will include a presentation.

13. Dodgers Ad Hoc

Richard Courtney said that opening day will be March 28. Usually at the beginning of March there is an invite to the neighborhood.

14. Other Administrative items

Discussion and/or possible action on the following:

a. Removal of Board Member Jim Brown for Absences: Confirmation of Absences as reflected in minutes, attendance log by BOG majority vote of those present and voting per Bylaws, Art. V, sections 7 & 9: Grounds for removal are 4 absences from BOG regular meetings, as well as 5 absences from all BOG

(special and regular) meetings, within 12 month period. Board vote to confirm validity of records showing absences that are basis for removal.

Yenawine said this is meant to be automatic and procedural. Jim Brown was absent or left early. You'll be removed if the Board sees fit that these things happened. Late and early departures count by a certain amount and lead to automatic removal. Connie Acosta left early for 3 consecutive months and that wasn't the intent of the rule but it wasn't agendized for removal. This is a future discussion worth having, said Yenawine.

McCutchen noted that there are a couple on columns without specific arrival and departure times. Based on the minutes, being more than 20 minutes late counts as an absence. He made a chart.

Najand said we only have two more meetings with this Board. I don't see the purpose. It seems not worth it. Yenawine said that it's an administrative motion.

Tad Yenawine made the motion. Darcy Harris seconded.

Dr. Kenneth said you need to get the data fixed and apply it to everyone equally. Yenawine said you're correct. It should be uniform. All data has been verified. The accuracy has been verified. The procedure is not uniform. It has to be agendized and done with the advice of the City Attorney. So, we can only address the removal for Brown listed in the agenda tonight.

A Man suggested that perhaps if you're late, count it as a half point instead of a full point? Another Man offered that if a Board member arrives 10 minutes before meeting ends that should not be an absence. You're all volunteers. Don't discourage people.

Dr. Kenneth expressed concern that all the data isn't accurate. Chris commented that it seems like you like some people in the room more than others. A Woman commented I agree with half point idea.

Jim Brown said I understand protocol. I voted against this. On the first absence, on that date, I remember I left about 10pm. I asked if it was cool if I left. You said you're good, don't worry. Yenawine said that's not my recollection.

Jim Brown said I was given an email that said you should resign or you'll be removed. I didn't want to step down. There are only 2 more meetings left. I've been in Echo Park for 26 years. I was voted in by my community. He asked me to resign. Yenawine said you can run again then we can vote you back in. I helped start the homeless community. I

was absent for one meeting because it was helping on the reservation with my relatives. In December I was in a near death car accident. I had a lung infection, etc.

Yenawine responded we had this discussion. There are no excused absences. There is a reason for removal for coming late or leaving early. The community deserves representation. There is nothing that prevents Jim Brown from doing what he does. I like him a lot. This is the second time that this has happened.

The responsible thing to do for the community would have been to resign again and run again. That's what the rules are. We can look at the rules for the future.

McCutchen said I understand that that Bylaws were approved in August. Which Bylaws are in effect? Harris said this was approved in April 2017. Yenawine added that we agreed to follow them until they were approved. They have been approved.

Harris said that in April 2017 we said this. In April 2018, we added a sentence that if you're there 2.5 hours (the Andy Griggs motion) that would count as present if the agendized time exceeded 3 hours, added Yenawine.

Najand noted Mike Jolly's attendance record and said the bylaws are being selectively enforced. Najand added that he doesn't want Jolly off the Board.

Paul Bowers said the Bylaws are not uniformly understood. The last DASH commuter bus service stops at 10:20pm. Jim Brown has been a very valuable member of the board. Bowers noted that with the new Bylaws, we've had tremendously successful attendance. We have a strong board that is almost fully present at our meetings.

Lauren Buisson said I wasn't on the Board when this was decided. I would not have voted for it. If a person is not serving the community, it's our responsibility to remove them. Special meetings count. This is preposterous. I will not vote to remove someone willing to serve the community for free.

Harris said I was on the Bylaws Committee. There was lots of discussion about this. Jim Brown was subject to removal. He's had many absences over this term. The reason behind the rule is to avoid a popularity contest. We have an objective rule. Part of being a Board member is attending meetings and weighing in. If you're chronically absent, there

are other ways to serve. You can make a case for appointment based on what you've done.

We can talk in the future. We need to follow the rules. There is no one else here subject to removal though there is a case for Acosta. Jolly doesn't have the required number of absences. We need to follow the rules.

Cheryl Ortega said she wanted to offer context. In previous Boards, things were out of control. People were gone for months. Bowers added we couldn't have quorum. Ortega said she is neither supporting nor opposing. That board had gotten out of control. Yenawine added that removals became contentious and a popularity contest. We agreed on the rule. The Board is just to confirm that this happened.

Acosta said we should establish standard meeting rules. How can I be absent after being here almost 3 hours? I don't get it. If you leave 20 minutes before the agenda time that's an absence, explained Yenawine.

Thomas DeVoss said I like Brown. He contributes lots of work. His accident was unfortunate. The rules have yielded good results for attendance. I appreciate his contributions so it would be hard for me to vote that way.

Tyan Schesser asked DONE authorized this in April 2018? Harris said we approved this a year earlier. The fact that he was in a near death accident is not a factor. Yenawine explained the rules again.

Tyan Schesser asked when did Devin McCutchen become Secretary? McCutchen said I compiled this last month. You can't use threats and bullying to get what you want, added Schesser toward Yenawine.

Harris said the question before the board is did this happen or not. Brown said I would resign if my record reflected this. I have the memory. I'm the last person to leave. You told me I would be fine. Yenawine added but then you missed 4 more meetings.

Brown asked why do you say, if he doesn't go, then I go? You should have the leniency to vote how you want to vote. Buisson said the vote is for the accuracy for the data. McCutchen asked the DONE representative for input.

Hernandez said they have consulted with the City Attorney. The only action that the Board should take is are the minutes reflective of what

happened. You're just following the Bylaws. The changes to the Bylaws are for the next term. Harris read the actual terms of the motion.

Bowers said a difference of 4 minutes is too small of an amount of time. I'm voting to not confirm the date. Yenawine said the minutes are part of the public record.

Richard Courtney said this is never pretty at all. This reflects what happened in the old neighborhood council. As frustrating as it seems, we have to believe in the process. Four minutes is four minutes. I leave at 5pm to get here. If I know that I don't have to follow the Bylaws, I can arrive later.

Bowers interrupted Courtney and accused him of exaggeration. When Yenawine yelled at him to stop, the stakeholder named Chris yelled to Yenawine that "Man, you love yelling at people!"

Courtney said people fought to put this in. These are the Bylaws. In response to a question about special meetings, Yenawine said they count toward the five absences.

Mike Jolly said it's important that we follow the rules. For the first time in almost 2 years, we didn't have enough people here for quorum. I drive 2.5 hours to get here. It's a commitment for me to be here. We've got to run the Board by the rules.

Jim Brown said the data is wrong. Yenawine said the data is right. Brown asked how long before the removal takes effect? Hernandez said that depends on your Bylaws. Two things can happen. If you don't take action, someone can file a grievance against the Board that you aren't following process.

Does anything preclude a person from reapplying, asked Hernandez. Yenawine said that within 90 days of an election, we can't fill vacant seats. Hernandez said they are following bylaws and the advice of the City Attorney.

Pascal De May asked if we remove Brown tonight, that seat will be vacant until after the election? Yenawine said yes. A Man named Lawrence commented that there could be grievance against Acosta because she wasn't held to the same standard. Yenawine said that can be agendized for the next meeting. Acosta said I was not absent.

VOTE
5-6-5
FAILED

Yes Votes:

Richard Courtney
Tad Yenawine
Darcy Harris
Mike Jolly
Kevin Brennan

No Votes:

Devin McCutchen
Paul Bowers
Lauren Buisson
Tyan Schesser
Mo Najand
Hsing I Bird

Abstentions:

Cheryl Ortega
Thomas DeVoss
Connie Acosta
Bill Shapiro
Pascal De Maria

(Note: Jim Brown was not able to vote, per the Bylaws.)

Chair Tad Yenawine and Vice Chair Darcy Harris resigned. (They later confirmed on January 28, 2019 that they remain members of the Board.)

Brown said your resignation is unnecessary. Harris wished the group good luck. Yenawine said rules are rules. We don't make exceptions for people. Harris said that McCutchen is now acting chair.

(Note: Tad Yenawine and Darcy Harris left the meeting at 9:01pm.)

Secretary Devin McCutchen is now acting chair.

Lauren Buisson suggested to take a break so McCutchen could confer with the DONE representative about how to proceed. McCutchen said I will need at least 20 minutes to consult the Bylaws. Mike Jolly objected to such a long break and said that requires a vote. Hernandez advised to call a 5 minute recess. McCutchen said I will call a 10 minute recess.

A 10-MINUTE BREAK BEGAN AT 9:04PM

THE BREAK ENDED AT 9:16PM

(Note: Jim Brown is not in the room.)

McCutchen said that he wanted to clarify the minutes of what just happened. Darcy Harris and Tad Yenawine both left at 9:01pm. They did not resign. We don't know that. We can amend the minutes at the beginning of the next meeting with the clarity of the resignations. Let's seek clarification and amend at beginning of the next meeting.

Paul Bowers made the motion. Lauren Buisson seconded.

Hernandez said there is nothing to vote on. It's not on the agenda.

(Note: Jim Brown is back in the room.)

Tyan Schesser said that Tad Yenawine had earlier told Jim Brown that he would resign if that motion failed.

McCutchen commented that neighborhood councils are an experiment in radical participatory democracy. There are lots of failures and scary and dangerous moments. This will be a challenging and exciting time in the next two months.

- b. Selection of open BOG officer positions and Liaisons
- c. Formation of new committees
- d. Modification of scope of work for existing committees including possibly merging committees
- e. Confirmation/appointment of committee chairs
- f. Board members eligible for removal, motions to remove for next meeting

McCutchen said that he is tabling everything else in the agenda because we don't have clarity on the nature of Yenawine and Harris' resignations. Acosta asked can we mark Yenawine and Harris absent because they left early?

15. Announcements.

DeVoss commented that Yenawine and Harris did a lot of good work to bring the community together. They set a good example of ways to move forward and learn from things that weren't as we'd like them.

Bowers said I was at el Centro del Pueblo. He mentioned the donors involved in the creation of the playground. Can we move future agenda items to the

beginning of the meeting. I would like future agenda items on record in support of el Pueblo on the next agenda.

Connie Acosta said that PLUC will write it.

Buisson said I want to second what DeVoss said. Sometimes when people embarrass themselves, give them the opportunity to step down gracefully. We're all adults here. We've been doing good work. Let's try to be generous of heart moving forward.

Schesser said that philosophically I agree with the rules and what Richard Courtney said. However, because of my experiences dealing with Yenawine it was possible that the records were not correct. Notes are often emailed to us the night before the meeting. That was a really swift sort of dismissal. I trust McCutchen and his recording of arrival and departure times. I was willing to say that records may not be correct. We do need to have processes.

Buisson said that it's been my experience that there are discrepancies between when I arrived and when Yenawine said I arrived. There is room for reasonable doubt. Going forward, we can think about ways to make things more accurate.

Acosta commented that we as a council acted as responsible people. Unlike other neighborhood councils, we'll pull through very well.

Bowers added that as a former Chief Information Officer (CIO) during which time when there was delinquency on my part, the minutes were in Harris' possession for a long time.

The person with the most control in the meeting is the minute taker. If we only want motions, why have a note-taker? I have video records of everything which I hope to transcribe and have eventually on the website.

McCutchen said I've been slow to take up secretary duties. My experience is that it's a fair amount of work. The administrative duties were a surprise. I hope this moment pushes us toward greater collective work. Our minutes haven't been posted to our website for almost a year. We all serve on multiple committees. In this interregnum we consider upholding administrative tasks.

17. Adjournment.

Cheryl Ortega made the motion to adjourn. Lauren Buisson seconded

VOTE to adjourn
15-0-0
PASSED

Yes Votes:

Devin McCutchen
Paul Bowers
Mike Jolly
Richard Courtney
Thomas DeVoss
Connie Acosta
Tyan Schesser
Mo Najand
Lauren Buisson
Bill Shapiro
Cheryl Ortega
Hsing I Bird
Kevin Brennan
Jim Brown

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

None

The meeting ended at 9:32pm.