

**ECHO PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
BOARD OF GOVERNOR'S MEETING
Minutes**

**Tuesday, December 18, 2018,
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 7:05 pm with 19 Board members present.

b. Roll Call

Attending Board Members:

Tad Yenawine, Chair
Darcy Harris, Vice Chair
Michael Galano, Treasurer
Sachin Medhekar, Chief Information Officer
Devin McCutcheon, Secretary
Richard Courtney
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal
Connie Acosta
Luiza Padilla-Mavropolous
Cheryl Ortega (left early at 8:24)
Mike Jolly
Tyan Schesser (left early at 9:36)
Paul Bowers
Thomas DeVoss
Mo Najand
Kevin Brennan
Lauren Buisson
Hsing I Bird
William Shapiro

Non-Attending Board Members:

Jim Brown

c. Adoption of minutes

Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal moved to adopt the November minutes, seconded by Cheryl Acosta. The minutes were adopted 19-0-0

2. Community/Government reports

a. Government agencies and officers

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

He addressed the meeting, thanked everyone present for coming out and supporting the council, one of the best turnouts he's seen. The council provides feedback on city projects, they encourage everyone to get active in your NC. He leaving behind two handouts from the meeting about city-owned lots being looked at for housing projects, FAQs and a map of the lot they're looking at, he's leaving them on the table. Any questions, comments, reach out. They're working the Mayor's office, to mold what the RFP would look like, these are the options to go with. He's also attached his monthly report, tailored to give info on what's going on, bigger comprehensive issues about homelessness, working with the committee on safe parking at the Edendale Library, porta poties at Alvarado and 101, plus safe needle dropoffs. Two restrooms were made available for homeless and passerby's. Lots of bus users, pedestrians, etc. use these as well. Skate park to break ground, slightly a year behind schedule, hoping for next year, he's included a small visual of what it will look like you can email him for full renderings. Also looking to add mile markers around the lake to increase the rec space, help people track how many miles they're walking or running around the park. Working on teaming with Clippers/Balmer Foundation to upgrade rec basketball courts, indoors and out, list not available yet, but hoping within next year and half, both indoor and outdoor renovations will be complete. That's it in a nutshell, any questions, comments or concerns, review the info and reach out to us.

Danni Wang, Field Representative for Assemblymember Wendy Carillo, 51st District, (213) 483-5151, Danni.Wang@asm.ca.gov:

She addressed the council, this is one of the greatest demonstrations of civic engagement she's seen. On behind of Cabrillo, not too much to update, the past two months she's have been on delegation trips to Chile and Mexico, increasing the diplomacy between CA and other countries. Carillo learned a lot and looks to implement what she's learned in upcoming cycles. The 2019/2020 cycle isn't completely off the ground yet, but she introduced her first bill, very exciting. She was elected via special election, she's now official and intro'd AB 46 that will remove harmful language in the CA code pertaining to mental health. For example, phrases such as 'mentally insane' that are prevalent in the law language, this bill will put people-first language in to the laws. Contact her via her email above if you have questions. Some holiday events coming up include a toy

drive tomorrow in East LA, catering to families. Carillo also attended the Echo Park parade two weeks ago, happy to be here.

At this time Tad Yenawine asked Stephen Box's permission to jump ahead to Item c, Community Organizations

Franci Schwartz addressed the council, she's the Public Service Librarian at the Echo Park branch of library, not the one next door, but the one at Temple & Douglas, but they're both great, use them both! Library cards, get them, they're free. Not just for checking out materials and online access but free events, services, computer classes, literacy programs with tutoring for adults, classes, etc., we are first public library anywhere that has a book club for adults with aphasia. If you know someone who has had a stroke and struggles for words, they have a book club for them. They also have the only dedicated Filipino heritage collection in southern CA, she noted flyers she left on the table. And thanked the council for their time.

Jenine Rohn, here on her own, not on behalf of the Democratic Party addressed the council. Tad Yenawine asked her to wait for the public comment portion of the meeting.

Gabriella Barbosa, Director of Advocacy at the Alliance for a Better Community, supporting Latinos in LA county, here to talk about a civic engagement initiative around the LAUSD District 5 Board race, they really want to ensure voices of parents and students are at the fore of the race, not special interest groups. They'll be hosting a candidate forum and have surveys ahead of that to learn what issues should be prioritized, asking for council support to help with distribution of those surveys. It's on February 13 in the evening, location TBD.

Julian Antelin works for City of LA, D.O.N.E., which helps NC councils, addressed the council with a few announcements – The Candidate filing period runs from 12/22 to 1/22. If you want to run for one of these seats, you can run. Anyone can run, they don't have to be registered or documented. He also talked about the 2019 the Empower LA Awards, from the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners, to recognize remarkable achievements in fulfilling the mission to promote more citizen participation. If you have to anyone you'd like to nominate (or yourself) please do. There are 7 awards, 1 for each city planning area. Darcy Harris got an award for renters' rights workshop in 2017. You have to submit candidacy before 2/1. Winter housekeeping, please think about 2019 meeting calendar, avoid holidays, etc., also pertains to committee meetings. A Homelessness Resource Fair is being organized on 3/2 from 9:00 am-1:00 pm in Grand Park, goal of fair is to connect orgs involved w/homeless

and NC's, to connect with people like you, the goal is to connect the dots and connect the people, to take action in the short term to help people quickly. He noted that Yenawine and Harris were at the Health and Neighborhood Committee hearing, where there was discussion of translation costs that might not be charged to the NC. The committee and city council will work on it, maybe in the future it won't come from NC funds. Materials distributed by the council should be in several languages, reflecting the area. There is a video just released to explain the NC system and why it's important to run and be involved, he'll share with the council, please share with all you can. A volunteer homeless registration site is up and running, www.theycountwillyou.org. He also wanted to remind everyone that the council are volunteers, thanks to them, happy holidays, and complimented the Echo Park Parade, heard from a different NC member, so it must be true. The ceremony for the Empower LA awards will be 3/28, open to all. Also at the awards there will be a moment when a NC can give award to a city employee which they've worked with and have done a great job, this doesn't include DONE folks or the City Attorney office, other depts. No word as of yet who will be hosting the event. Apologies for early leaving, has another NC meeting to go to.

David Rockello addressed the council and spoke about a kickoff event at the Farmer's Market, and getting kids to participate in the art contest. He spoke about the VIP breakfast, get some face time with other community leaders, would love to see you all there.

b. Stephen Box/Paul Bowers Mobility Bill of Rights

Box and Bowers presented a Mobility Bill of Rights, a document prepared regarding basic principles with regard to transportation, land use and public works. LA is #1 in the USA for numbers of streets, with over 7500 miles, 15% of city is streets. For many it's a huge scary place. Very basically, streets should be safe, people should use w/out fear, our right to get home safely is important, no one's desire to get home quickly outweighs the obligation to get home safely. We travel in cars out of fear often, but the city could take a good hard look at engineering the streets and encouraging folks to work for everyone. Bowers was able to attend LA Commotion Mobility Festival, as a wheelchair user he found people with impairments have a difficult time in the city, so among the Bill of Rights he focused on item 9, where people have the right to roadway planning science-based data, roadway innovation and emerging technology, Echo Park is a great laboratory. He has to be on the street because often sidewalks are not an option, so bike lanes should be safe and available to all. He noted that one of the sponsors of the event was an LA Clean Tech Incubator and also noted Lime and Bird scooters will be emerging, so he's hoping the NC will assist in any way. Box noted that the most important

thing is that constituents are involved. He's asking for the council's endorsement, he'd like this document sent to LANCC Coalition for 1/5 meeting and he'd like a LANCC liaison attend that meeting to speak in favor and vote for the mobility bill of rights. He thanked the council for the opportunity to present.

Yenawine noted that there isn't time to agendaize this prior to that January meeting, but a liaison, David, from the Rampart NC, said he'd be there.

c. Community Organizations

This section was done earlier in the meeting, before item b.

d. EPNC Chair Report

Tad Yenawine tabled this item.

e. EPNC Vice Chair Report

Darcy Harris referred to the NC mission statement, one goal is to enhance relationship with city resources. She reminded committee chairs to designate one or more members of the committee (not the chair) to be in charge of looking at what the city is doing in your field or sphere and report to the committee about it (proposed ordinances, programs, each month, etc.), this will help committees be more proactive.

f. Treasurer Report

Treasurer Michael Galano said we have some money, a good amount, we're halfway through the year, looks like we might have some extra funds at the end of the year. Yenawine said to start thinking about legacy projects. An overdraft situation brought up by Luiza Padilla-Mavropolous has been passed on to Galano.

g. Other Committee Chair and liaison reports

Election Outreach Committee: Mo Najand encouraged people to run, good elections come from having many candidates, also applies to the board, please distribute the election information so more people sign up. 12/22 is when registration starts, election is April 6. Would love to have a great turnout.

Homeless Committee: Najand continued, an event is this Thursday at the library, they need volunteers, one thing that helps is going and doing outreach on the day, if anyone has time, it's at the Edendale library.

Public Safety/Public Works Committee - Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal - did a whole spiel earlier, but no meeting in January, next meeting is on 2/5 at 7pm, following Mike's planning meeting.

SLCO Committee Cheryl Ortega said she and Lauren B are having discussions with the chair of the former Immigrant Justice Committee, talking about collaborating or merging, talking about how that would happen. Andy Griggs was a board member for a long time, he founded an ad hoc immigrant justice committee and that committee was taken over by Lauren. Folding into Schools and Libraries is what's being discussed. Lauren also noted that in LAUSD, 66% of children have at least one parent at risk of deportation. It makes more sense to magnify bandwidth.

Planning and Land Use Committee: Darcy Harris said at least one project they had issues with on Park Drive could come back. Possible alcohol application for brite spot, another one pending for Brickworks taking over A1 Grocery Store, probably in February, but not confirmed. Potentially a mixed use project.

Planning Policy Committee Mike Jolley said the next meeting would be on 1/8 at 5:30 meeting pm. Looking to learn from past mistakes and successes.

3. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

Ramond Yu addressed the council, with concerns about homeless encampments and the signal head size at intersections in Chinatown. He demands justice for the signals, upgrade them to larger size, ahead of the LA Chinatown Golden Dragon parade on 2/9. He wrote letters to all LA officials, to LADOT and LA City Atty for further investigation review. He had multiple issues he was concerned with and spoke rapidly, so Tad Yenawine suggested reaching out to Raymond w/David to get all of the issues listed and addressed.

Nina Suarez, with the East Hollywood NC, spoke, just saying hello, impressed with the turnout. They just cancelled their meeting last night, as only 8 people showed up of 15 board members. They're currently in open enrollment, if you know anyone who might be a good candidate, let them know. 3/31 elections, 12/16-1/15 candidacy enrollment period. This is a great opportunity to help your local govt and community.

A man named Charlie (or Victor?) spoke, he grew up in Echo Park, and noted that Echo Park has radically changed since the early 80s when he grew up here. He's organizing people that reflect old Echo Park, there people weren't part of the radical changes in Echo Park in restructuring, they and he want their issues to be heard. These are important issues.

Tad Yenawine closed public comments at this time. Before moving on to section 4., Darcy Harris requested jumping ahead to item 5-b, as there were people in attendance for that item. Yenawine agreed (jump down to 5-b)

4. Administrative items

Items 5-b and 5-a were addressed before this and a meeting break followed. After the break, the meeting resumed here.

Discussion and/or possible action on the following:

a. Approval of Mission Statement/Strategic Plan

Darcy Harris moved to approve this as written, Richard Courtney seconded. Public comment was closed, under board comment, Connie Acosta had a suggestion about Goal number 3, suggesting other wording regarding small businesses, adding "and small" between local and businesses, differentiating between all commercial rents and small businesses. Harris noted that they had a long meeting and agreed on the goals, including that language. After discussion, Devin McCutcheon called the question of the mission statement as written, Mike Jolly seconded the amendment from Acosta. Cheryl Ortega left the meeting at 8:24. The amendment passed, 17-1-0 (Darcy Harris opposed).

Vote for mission statement as amended 18-0-0, approved.

b. Approval of CIS letter to CD 13 and LA Bureau of Sanitation regarding the future sanitation, maintenance and management of Echo Park Lake

After discussion, Michael Galano wanted to introduce amendments to the letter, Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal seconded. After discussion about the amendments, a vote was taken and the amendments passed, 16-0-2 (Connie Acosta and Mo Najand abstained).

A vote was taken in favor of the letter as amended and the approval passed 18-0-0.

c. Approval of up to \$75 for Glad forceflex or equivalent or better garbage bags for Echo Sparkle clean ups

Moved by Darcy Harris, seconded by Paul Bowers, the vote taken was 18-0-0, the approval passed.

d. Approval of up to \$15 for Leaf Skimmer Deep Bag for Echo Sparkle

After discussion, Darcy Harris moved to approve, seconded by Luiza Padilla-Mavropolous, a was taken and the approval passed, 18-0-0.

(as the next two items had been covered earlier, the meeting moved on to Item 5-c)

5. PLUC

Discussion and possible Action on the following:

- a. [PLUC 6-1-2] Construction of two-story duplex and garage with 6 parking spaces, located at 1475 Scott Ave. Los Angeles, CA 90026. Zone is RD2-1VL with existing one-story single-family dwelling to remain. Request for 0' front setback instead of 15' required, 0' east side setback instead of 7' required. Recommendation to send letter of opposition based on current plans due to issues of massing, setbacks and loss of street parking. Case No. ZA-2018-5932-ZAA.

Darcy Harris explained and described the request. The Committee voted to oppose the project as request, due to lack of community outreach, invited applicant to return after issues have been addressed to change the committee's opinion. Darcy Harris moved to approve the letter as written, opposing the request, seconded Richard Courtney. After discussion Cheryl Acosta moved to postpone the vote to the next public meeting, Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal seconded. After discussion and debate over options on how to proceed, the motion to postpone passed, 7-5-7, and will be on next month's agenda. (the meeting now took a 5-minute break and when returned, picked up at item 4-a, above)

- b. [PLUC 7-1-1] Plan approval to allow additional offsite, uncovered parking space (3 total, currently 2 permitted) on 1902 N. Alvarado St. (Parcel A), which would allow proposed new construction of SFR to increase square footage by approx. 365 SF on adjacent lot 1965 W. Avalon Street (Parcel B). Recommendation to support request. Case No. 2014-3748 (ZA)(ZAD).

Darcy described and explained the plan. Tad Yenawine had been at the meeting where this was discussed, and clarified that they're not asking for an additional parking space, but asking for the definition to reflect three parking spaces there. This change will allow them to add 300 sq. feet to their building. Harris noted the vote tally, 7-1 with one abstention to support it, she moved the draft letter as written to approve, Connie Acosta seconded. After discussion and clarification, there was no objection calling the question or vote and the motion passed, 19-0-0. (the meeting went now to item 5-a)

- c. [PLUC 9-0] Proposed Community Impact Statement supporting motion by Councilman Paul Koretz compelling HCID, Dept. of Building and Safety and Planning to create a more transparent and easily accessible database of affordable housing units. CF No. 18-091.

Darcy Harris described the item and moved to approve as written, seconded by Mo Najand. A vote was taken and the item was approved, 18-0-0.

- d. [PLUC 9-0] Proposed Community Impact Statement re: Restaurant Beverage Program – supporting proposed ordinance establishing streamlined process for sit-down restaurants meeting certain conditions to obtain alcohol permits, with recommendations. CF No. 17-0981.

After discussion, Devin McCutcheon moved to amend the letter, striking a point about happy hour, Tyan Schesser seconded. After further discussion McCutcheon moved to strike a large chunk of text, Lauren seconded and a vote over the amendment was taken, and the amendment failed (8-9-1). Mike Jolly moved amend the letter to remove a happy hour bullet point, Kevin Brennan seconded, and a vote was taken and the amendment passed, 14-2-2.

A vote was taken on the letter as amended and the motion passed, 17-1-0 with Lauren Buisson opposing.

6. Budget and Finance Items

Tyan Schesser left the meeting at 9:36.

Discussion and/or possible action on the following:

- a. October and November 2018 MER Approval

Moved as written by Tad Yenawine, seconded by Darcy Harris. 17-0-0, passes.

7. Outreach and Elections

Nothing for this item.

8. Bylaws/Standing Rules

Nothing for this item.

9. SLCO

Nothing for this item.

10. Homelessness Committee

- a. Discussion and Possible Action to authorize the homeless committee members Thomas, Tyan and Tad to respond to any city/agency or non-profit inquiries and submit requests for information, requests for proposals etc. similar to those already submitted regarding proposals to address homelessness in Echo Park without prior BOG approval.

Mo Najand described the item, a vote was taken and passed, 17-0-0.

- b. Discussion and possible action regarding the NPG for up to \$800 from Edendale Library Friends Society for support of the Source Program.

Mo Najand described the item, Tad Yenawine moved to approve, Darcy Harris seconded, a vote was taken and the item passed, 17-0-0.

- c. Discussion and possible action on a letter of support to the city librarian and DMHS regarding EPNC support for expanding the frequency and locations of the Source event.

Mo Najand moved to refer back to committee, Tad Yenawine seconded and it passed, 17-0-0.

11. Public Safety, Sustainability

Nothing for this item.

12. Planning Policy Committee

Nothing for this item.

13. Dodgers Ad Hoc

Nothing for this item.

14. Other Administrative items

Discussion and/or possible action on the following:

- a. Selection of open BOG officer positions and Liaisons
The need for a LANCC Liaison and what that entails was discussed. Tad Yenawine nominated Sachin (no last name given), there was no objection and the nomination passed, 17-0-0.
- b. Formation of new committees
This item was not discussed.
- c. Modification of scope of work for existing committees including possibly merging committees
This item was not discussed.
- d. Confirmation/appointment of committee chairs
This item was not discussed.
- e. Board members eligible for removal, motions to remove for next meeting
Jim Brown is eligible for removal due to his absence tonight. Tad Yenawine will ask him to resign, but he can run for his old seat again. Darcy Harris pointed out that if Brown does not resign and board has to remove him at next meeting, the seat would not be filled because of the proximity to the election, and it would sit empty.

15. Announcements

16. Future Agenda Items

Talk to Kevin Brennan & Michael Galano about reimbursement for tonight's party costs.

17. Adjournment

The meeting ended at 9:47 pm.