

ECHO PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
BOARD OF GOVERNOR'S MEETING

Minutes

Tuesday, February 26, 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 7:05 pm with 18 Board members present.

b. Roll Call

Attending Board Members:

Sachin Medhekar, Chief Information Officer

Michael Galano, Treasurer

Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal

Tad Yenawine

Darcy Harris

Paul Bowers

Mike Jolly

Richard Courtney

Thomas DeVoss

Connie Acosta

Tyan Schesser (left early)

Mo Najand

Bill Shapiro

Cheryl Ortega

Hsing I Bird

Kevin Brennan

Jim Brown

Pascal De Maria

Non-Attending Board Members:

Devin McCutchen, Secretary

Luiza Padilla-Mavropoulos

Lauren Buisson

(Note: There is no elected Chair or Co-Chair. Chief Information Officer Sachin Medhekar is chairing the meeting.)

c. Adoption of minutes

Sachin Medhekar made the motion. Tad Yenawine seconded.

VOTE
18-0-0
PASSED

Yes Votes:

Sachin Medhekar
Michael Galano
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal
Tad Yenawine
Darcy Harris
Paul Bowers
Mike Jolly
Richard Courtney
Thomas DeVoss
Connie Acosta
Tyan Schesser
Mo Najand
Bill Shapiro
Cheryl Ortega
Hsing I Bird
Kevin Brennan
Jim Brown
Pascal De Maria

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

None

2. Community/Government reports:

a. Government agencies and officers

b. Community Organizations

Robert Solorio, Senior Lead Officer, Rampart Division, Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD):

Senior Lead Officer Solorio said that crime is down 20% for this area compared to last year. He said that on Thursday, the LAPD will be in

Echo Park at the sports complex at Temple and Glendale. We will be in the park every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon. We want to reach children. We'll be there from about 3pm to 8pm.

We want to bring the station out to the street. We will have our daily briefings on the street. We want to bring the station to the street. We want to give the park back to you guys. It is one of the safer parks in the City.

We want to build partnerships with the community. We want to do more outreach this year. There will be events at least once a month. On April 2 there will be free hot dogs for kids at the baseball diamond. We will post things on Next Door. Everyone is invited.

Julien Antelin, Neighborhood Council Advocates, Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE), Julien.Antelin@lacity.org, (213) 978-1551, www.EmpowerLA.org.

He said I missed one meeting and it seems to have been a very interesting meeting. I'm mad, he joked.

He reminded the group about the EmpowerLA Awards. We want to recognize the actions of neighborhood councils. We will grant 7 awards to neighborhood councils. The ceremony will be held March 28. The event is open to the public but you must RSVP.

He mentioned that the City Council has new committees: Neighborhood Councils are now under the Health, Education, Neighborhood Councils, Arts, Parks, and Rivers Committee. You must subscribe again to receive their announcements. They meet on the 1st and 4th Monday of each month.

Tomorrow night there will be a Beyond Neighborhood Councils meeting. There, you can run for higher office or get a City job. The location will be the National Council of Jewish Women from 6:30pm to 8:30pm.

He also said that because of expected rain on Saturday, the City's big homeless fair, scheduled for Saturday, will be postponed.

d. Other Committee Chair and liaison reports

Homeless Committee: Mo Najand discussed the Homeless Count in January. A few of us volunteered. There was free pizza. The event was well organized. He thanked Michael Galano. He said that on March 2, there will be a SELAH (a coalition of local neighborhood councils active in finding solutions to the homeless crisis) event with hygiene kits. See

the website and social media. Representatives from the Echo Park library will be there. The homeless will be offered free movies, exercise classes, etc.

Schools Committee: Cheryl Ortega said the group is seeking volunteers.

Planning and Land Use Committee (PLUM): Connie Acosta said that the code of conduct will be printed out for the next meeting. She wants meetings to run more smoothly.

Budget Advocate: Connie Acosta said that there will be a Town Hall on April 13 at Edendale branch library. There will be free food.

Public Works Committee: Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal said that the group is excited and busy. There will be a presentation tonight about achieving zero waste and 100% diversion of waste for the Lotus Festival. That cost is \$30,000 through a for profit organization. We would have to partner with a non-profit branch of the festival, if we decide to do this there will be four funding levels. Beginning at \$30k and going lower.

Outreach Committee: Bill Shapiro said you can post all you want on Facebook and other digital media. However, word of mouth is needed for the April 6 election.

PLUC: Darcy Harris said there will be a meeting on March 12. We will discuss two projects on Alvarado. We'll also consider a new policy for default when you reach out to developers and they don't come or when there's a letter of opposition or non support. This will be on the agenda. We are hoping to have a special meeting for the proposed affordable housing project next to El Centro. That will probably happen in April. A representative from the Chief Administrative Office is likely to make a presentation.

Planning Policy Committee: Mike Jolly said the group is going through neighborhood plans in Los Angeles. Ours is coming up.

Homeless Committee: Connie Acosta said there was a meeting to discuss Measure HHH funding and their allocation.

Executive Committee: Sachin Medhekar said that there is no chair or vice chair for the Echo Park Neighborhood Council at the moment. An opportunity to choose new leaders is at the bottom of tonight's agenda.

3. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

Chris Ellington:

He discussed former Echo Park Neighborhood Council President Tad Yenawine. I want to know why he has a problem with the Centro del Pueblo playground, which keeps kids out of trouble. He quoted Yenawine as saying "I am a fool". Ellington said he thinks that Yenawine believes that the people who oppose this potential site for homeless housing are fools.

Paul Bowers:

We voted to support a variance at Kite Hill. A Person who owns the top lot of the hill wants to develop it. However, an organization wants to oppose that. See www.kitehill.org for information. It's the last hill that's not developed. People use it to enjoy. There is a little school there. If the hill is developed, we'd be sending a bad message to students there.

A 9th Grade Teacher who is a policy advisor for the LAUSD (Los Angeles Unified School District):

The teacher said the LAUSD will hold a March 6 special election to fill a vacant seat. The teacher wants people to get out and vote.

4. Administrative items

Discussion and/or possible action on the following:

- a. Organizing board members to create introductory materials for newly elected/appointed board members to help those new members acclimate to and understand the workings of the board faster.

Acting Chair Sachin Medhekar discussed introductory materials for new board members. It would be a good idea to create a video or short introduction packet with a nice overview of procedures and committees. Does anyone want to help, he asked. Paul Bowers and Pascal de Maria volunteered. Darcy Harris commented that DONE has a website with lots of introductory stuff. New Board members should read the bylaws and standing rules.

5. PLUC

Discussion and possible action on the following:

- a. 1. [PLUC 5-2-1]. Proposal for new construction of two-story duplex at 1475 Scott Ave. Los Angeles, CA 90026. Zone is RD2-iVL with an existing one-story single-family dwelling. Recommendation to support request for 0 ft front setback instead of 15 ft required and to allow relief from 7 ft east side setback on first story garage only; observe 7 ft side setback on upper stories. Case No. ZA-2018-5932-ZAA.

Darcy Harris said that this came to the Board two months ago. We told them to come back. They did a lot more outreach. But the design didn't change. We recommended to support the project for zero front setback and partial support for side setbacks. They want to build a garage out to the street, like the neighboring building.

A Woman read an email aloud. She said that she represents tenants who have lived there as long as 30 years. At the PLUC meeting, you voted to deny this. There were concerns about loss of privacy and airflow. One PLUC member said the homeowner has plenty of land to build on. Others said setbacks would infringe upon privacy and will remove very limited street parking. There is a high number of cars on that street. Requiring setbacks is not unreasonable. It's challenging to find housing that is affordable. That is particularly true in here in Echo Park.

She added that they didn't see the 72 hours notice. This puts a strain on stakeholders who might want to attend the meeting. She also said that the group is opposed to the initial plan to remove public parking. We're in support of maintaining setbacks as set by the City.

Connie Acosta said that she wants to amend the motion. Tyan Schesser commented that Darcy Harris didn't say why the Committee supports the setback. Harris responded that it's a steep hill. The building to the east also has zero front setback. There is an existing garage at zero front setback. Because of the new building, they must request a variance. Their objections were mostly about outreach.

Thomas DeVoss said this is the right conclusion. We want people to support it. There are reasonable people on both sides here. A 5 foot setback is not egregious but it's better with a 7 foot setback.

Mike Jolly asked, the developer won't change on the second floor? Harris said we raised that as an issue and suggested that they come back. Jolly commented that the developer won't observe the setback. He's not here to make a presentation. Harris pointed out that the developer is here.

Why won't you on the second floor move the setback to 7 feet as per code when you're getting a lot of other things that you want, asked Jolly.

Connie Acosta said that she wants to make an amendment. Sachin Medhekar said she could do so later but she wanted to explain now. She said the project has a 5 foot front yard on the second floor and a 15 foot front yard on the third floor. We only approved a zero foot front yard for the garage. We didn't write all of the details.

Paul Bowers said that the applicant indicated that without the 7 foot side setbacks, they would not be able to proceed with the project.

The Applicant responded that we do intend to comply with 7 ft setback request. We can't pay the architect to create new plans. We don't have the ability to move forward because of the budget. The project must be re-engineered. When he has the funds to pay the architect, he will do so. In response to a question from Jolly requesting a letter to that effect, he said that he can provide a letter agreeing to the PLUC agreements. Jolly said once we receive the letter we can give you the approval and you can move forward.

Connie Acosta proposed an amendment: "support for LAMC 12.09.01B1 relieve from request to requirement to provide 15 front yard setback. To allow proposed zero setback at garage level and keep the 5 foot setback on the second level and the 15 foot front setback on the third level as written in the plans."

The Applicant noted the architectural trellis in the plan. Even with zero setback, the City will require a permit for that, he understood that PLUC would approve it knowing that it was there. Darcy Harris commented that we voted for zero setback. The applicant said it's an unconditional zero setback. Acosta said that that's not how it is in the plans. *There is no second for Acosta's amendment.* Thomas DeVoss said I like it as written. Plans will have to be redone.

Darcy Harris offered a friendly amendment: Under Point 2: change "no relief" to "partial relief". Also, after apply code add "enforce 7 foot eastside setback." Paul Bowers seconded.

Chris Ellington, who attended the PLUC meeting, said this guy spent 5 figures on a presentation. He really might not have the money to redraw the whole project. A Woman commented that it would have been wiser to not spend that money before approval. That was his own injudicious action.

VOTE for amendment
Unanimous
PASSED

Yes Votes:
Sachin Medhekar
Michael Galano
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal
Tad Yenawine
Darcy Harris

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

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

None

VOTE for amended motion

Unanimous

PASSED

Yes Votes:

Sachin Medhekar
Michael Galano
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal
Tad Yenawine
Darcy Harris
Paul Bowers
Mike Jolly
Richard Courtney
Thomas DeVoss
Connie Acosta
Tyan Schesser
Mo Najand
Bill Shapiro
Cheryl Ortega
Hsing I Bird
Kevin Brennan
Jim Brown
Pascal De Maria

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

None

b. [PLUC 8-0]. Application for a Conditional Use Permit for the sale and dispensing of a full line of alcoholic beverages at existing restaurant under new ownership, Brite Spot at 1918 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90026. Restaurant contains 88 indoor seats and 42 outdoor seats in an uncovered patio in [Q]C2-1L-CDO.zone: ZA-2018-7022-CUB. Recommendation to support 24 hours of operation for food service with outdoor patio to close at 11pm Sun-Thurs, 12am Fri and Sat; support beer and wine only with alcohol sales allowed starting 9am Sat & Sun, 11am M-F, and closing 12am Sun-Thurs and 2am Fri and Sat.

Darcy Harris explained that Brite Spot is an old restaurant with new owners. They want 24 hours of operation. They also want a full line of alcohol with no restrictions. The Committee supported this but with alcohol being only beer and wine initially with default hours of 11am to midnight weekdays and 9am to 2am on weekends. Food service would end at 11pm on weeknights. Patio service would end at midnight on weekends.

Darcy Harris made the motion. Mo Najand seconded.

Ms. Gokcen, representative for the applicant:

She said that the new owner is an experienced operator who bought Brite Spot last September. They want to modernize it. The property is owned by a church. They have never allowed a tenant to apply for alcohol before. Brite Spot has a history of late night service.

Regarding patio hours, she said that the properties around are almost all commercial. Also, the patio has landscaping and umbrellas. A couple of people who live across the street came out to support the project. She said that the LAPD's Rampart Division likes the idea. They are okay with alcohol and the patio. The Echo Park Improvement Association also supported it. We did do outreach, she added.

A Man said some tenants near Brite Spot say it's already a noisy area. The Applicant replied said it hasn't been open late for years.

Chris Ellington cited the cost of food. He suggested a 10% discount for residents, using the Two Boots discount card for people in the same zip code as an example. That encouraged him to frequent that restaurant. I don't want another place in the neighborhood where people can't afford to eat.

Joelle said that she is concerned about making an exception to the PLUC Committee's policies. This leads to non-enforcement. Paul Bowers commented that we did a great job of creating guidelines. But, we also have judgments. That location is unique. Few people would be disturbed. He said that he's in favor of this exception.

Connie Acosta commented that if Brite Spot did apply for a full line of alcohol, the ABC (Alcoholic Beverage Control) would place a sign there. People can call and protest. They will respond, especially if you're within 500 feet.

Tad Yenawine said I agree with Joelle and Paul Bowers. Stick to the guidelines. Harris commented that we don't have guidelines for late night alcohol. We haven't seen this before. The City can't regulate alcohol to the State. The City Attorney can only regulate hours. The City can't enforce them. The City may not write this. The only way to ensure that alcohol isn't served late is to cut hours.

Thomas DeVoss said that this is imperfect but we have rules in place. He supports the motion as written. Paul Bowers said we're adhering to our guidelines for alcohol but not for hours of operation.

Harris offered an amendment: fix the last sentence: cross out "the 24 hours" and replace with "the application with conditions as stated above"
Mo Najand seconded.

VOTE for amendment
Unanimous
PASSED

Yes Votes:

Sachin Medhekar
Michael Galano
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal
Tad Yenawine
Darcy Harris
Paul Bowers
Mike Jolly
Richard Courtney
Thomas DeVoss
Connie Acosta
Tyan Schesser
Mo Najand
Bill Shapiro
Cheryl Ortega
Hsing I Bird

Kevin Brennan
Jim Brown
Pascal De Maria

No Votes:
None

Abstentions:
None

VOTE for amended motion
Unanimous
PASSED

Yes Votes:
Sachin Medhekar
Michael Galano
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal
Tad Yenawine
Darcy Harris
Paul Bowers
Mike Jolly
Richard Courtney
Thomas DeVoss
Connie Acosta
Tyan Schesser
Mo Najand
Bill Shapiro
Cheryl Ortega
Hsing I Bird
Kevin Brennan
Jim Brown
Pascal De Maria

No Votes:
None

Abstentions:
None

c. [PLUC 7-0]. Proposal for new construction of a 5-story, 70-unit residential-apartment building over 2-levels of parking with 35 required parking spaces, etc., at 1251 W. Sunset Blvd, LA, CA 90026. 7 units will be set aside for extremely low income. Request support for project including Transit Oriented Communities Tier 1 approval pursuant to LAMC section 12.22.A 31 to allow 3 additional on-menu incentives for a height increase, one side yard reduction and rear yard reduction.

Case No. DIR-2018-6634-TOC. Recommendation to oppose project based on insufficient outreach including to current residents, excessive height and grading, lack of necessary parking, misapplication of TOC Tier 1 designation to this location, and project resulting in net loss of affordable housing.

Connie Acosta said this project is on Sunset Boulevard. There are 10 dwellings there now. The Housing Department wants to relocate them.

This would be 5 stories over a 2 decks of car port. They are not providing enough parking spaces. They need to dig out 4 floors of dirt. Several residents at the top of the hill are concerned about digging.

Richard Courtney is recusing himself. He lives nearby. Harris commented that Richard Courtney must leave the room before we vote because he lives within 500 ft. He is currently sitting in the audience.

Acosta continued that this is a transit-oriented project, which offers incentives. On the commercial corridor, you can build to 56 feet instead of 45 feet. There will be 7 units for extremely low income households. There are 35 parking spaces. A traffic study has been done. This project is opposed by PLUC because of excessive height, among other reasons.

Tad Yenawine made the motion. Thomas DeVoss seconded.

Andy Simhigh, a representative of the owner, said this promotes less parking and more units and more affordable units for low income. It's hard to develop on hillsides. Each unit must provide ½ parking space and 2 bike spaces. The architect designed it like that. We could go up to 75 units but there is no room. There will be 70 units in two buildings. The book allows 45 feet height. We are being given 12 feet extra. They can't go down. There is an 11 foot height extra incentive. So, the height is 68 feet. The side yard setback is at 5 feet instead of 8 feet. The rear yard setback is at 19 feet instead of 15 feet.

The project Owner said that the owners will help them find a place and offer relocation assistance. The Owner will give everyone enough time to go out and find a place. For the hillside, the City of Los Angeles and the engineer of the project, will make sure all residents above will remain on site.

Tad Yenawine asked how many units are being removed? The answer was 10. He asked there are 7 units of extremely low income housing? Yes was the reply from the Owner. These units will be for rent.

Mike Jolly asked the 10 units are studios? The Applicant replied that they are one bedrooms. Jolly asked whether the new low income units will be

one bedroom units too. The Owner said he doesn't know if that's been decided.

Richard Courtney expressed concern that 10 people live there. These are bungalows that have been there forever, including low income people. Why not create 10 low income units? He added that he has an HCM nearby.

They are separating these two buildings because they can go more height in the back. I understand that the project is already for sale. This community is a community. I have a huge thing about someone coming in and flipping property and not investing in the neighborhood. I strongly oppose this, said Courtney.

Chris Ellington said that at the PLUC meeting, the Committee voted to not approve the project until Andy could give a guarantee. This is the next item.

Joelle said I agree with the comment about having 10 low income units. I disagree about parking spaces. We need to do as much as we can to maintain our neighborhood. A Man commented that I don't appreciate community displacement disguised as generosity.

A Woman asked how will they enforce and vet low income tenants. What is their plan?

Lawrence said I applaud the PLUC Committee. There is lots of misrepresentation. The owner, Andy, is Ussef. He owns several car washes. He is involved in a City labor dispute involving wage theft. In public records, there is no Andy but there are many aliases. I applaud the Committee for its opposition to this project. This is by right. So it may go forward even with a letter of opposition.

(Note: Richard Courtney is now leaving the room.)

Mike Jolly said they'll have to go through the Los Angeles Housing Board to select low income tenants. Only the low income housing department can put people in there.

Jim Brown said those bungalows represent a classic architecture that represents Echo Park. It sucks. I'm totally against it. Pascal de Maria said that relocation is not an act of generosity.

Thomas DeVoss said I've never been more opposed to anything. These houses were built in 1922. Parking will be a disaster. Regarding Tier 1

TOC, he said this shouldn't apply if you're only offering 7 affordable units but taking 10 of them. We need 17 affordable housing units.

Tad Yenawine said I agree with Thomas DeVoss. There should be more affordable units. There should be 30% low income for our guidelines. You must build for density in this city. This is a really unfortunate moment. This will probably get built anyway. We need help with this. Join the PLUC Committee, he urged.

Darcy Harris commented that there are 10 bungalows. People didn't know that they are being kicked out. Half of the seven new units will be studios. The others will be one bedroom. So, there will be fewer people. There will be a real loss.

There is no real basis for denial. They are doing the bare minimum. This is such a terrible application. We need to use examples of this to change policy. A transit oriented community is not happening here. These people won't be riding bikes, said Harris.

Connie Acosta said that the biggest concern is that the rear building would sit on the ground after 50% of the dirt is dug out. I'm concerned about mudslides. Why do developers want to build a huge building on a hill? Build on flat land.

Paul Bowers asked whether the units would be mixed or studios? Mike Jolly said mostly studios.

Darcy Harris wants to make grammatical amendments. She wants authorization to correct typographical errors. Mike Jolly suggested to add "strongly" in front of "in opposition". Chris Ellington said "Right on!"

VOTE for "strongly"

17-0-0-1

PASSED

Yes Votes:

Sachin Medhekar
Michael Galano
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal
Tad Yenawine
Darcy Harris
Paul Bowers
Mike Jolly
Thomas DeVoss
Connie Acosta
Tyan Schesser

Mo Najand
Bill Shapiro
Cheryl Ortega
Hsing I Bird
Kevin Brennan
Jim Brown
Pascal De Maria

No Votes:
None

Abstentions:
None

Recusals:
Richard Courtney

Tyan Schesser wants to add a line about adding more than the bare number of units. She wants to specify extremely low vs. low vs. affordable, etc as in 5.d. Paul Bowers seconded her amendment.

Tyan Schesser's amendment: Recommendations to strongly oppose the project based on insufficient outreach, including to current residents, excessive high grading, lack of necessary parking, misapplication of DOT Tier 1 designation, and project resulting in a net loss of public housing. She also wants language to increase the affordable housing to have more than the bare minimum requirements. Yenawine suggests to take the time to write a more specific amendment.

Darcy Harris said the amendment language is that: 'at a minimum the project should include at least 10 extremely low income units to replace the 10 being lost.'" Schesser said that she likes that. Jolly seconded Schesser's amendment motion that was clarified by Harris.

Thomas DeVoss said that this is unnecessary. Yenawine agreed. Schesser explained that she wants to make sure that that item is part of the project check list.

VOTE for Schesser's amendment
10-7-0-1
PASSED

No Votes (partial):
Tad Yenawine
Pascal de Maria
Jim Brown

Michael Galano
Kevin Brennan
Thomas DeVoss

Recusals:

Richard Courtney

While the amendment passed, Schesser said that she wants to change her amendment to DeVoss' suggestion. Thomas DeVoss said that "at a minimum the project should include at least 17 low income units to replace those being lost". Bowers seconded.

VOTE for DeVoss' amendment

16-1-0-1

PASSED

Yes Votes:

Sachin Medhekar
Michael Galano
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal
Tad Yenawine
Paul Bowers
Mike Jolly
Thomas DeVoss
Connie Acosta
Tyan Schesser
Mo Najand
Bill Shapiro
Cheryl Ortega
Hsing I Bird
Kevin Brennan
Jim Brown
Pascal De Maria

No Votes:

Darcy Harris

Abstentions:

None

Recusals:

Richard Courtney

VOTE for amended motion

17-0-0-1

PASSED

Yes Votes:

Sachin Medhekar
Michael Galano
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal
Tad Yenawine
Darcy Harris
Paul Bowers
Mike Jolly
Thomas DeVoss
Connie Acosta
Tyan Schesser
Mo Najand
Bill Shapiro
Cheryl Ortega
Hsing I Bird
Kevin Brennan
Jim Brown
Pascal De Maria

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

None

Recusals:

Richard Courtney

d. [PLUC 5-0-1]. Proposal for new construction of a 5-story, 77-unit residential-apartment building over 3-story parking with 45 required parking spaces, etc., at 1275 Sunset Blvd. CA 90026. 7 units will be set aside for extremely low income. Zone: C2-1VL. Request support for project including pursuant to LAMC section 12.22.A 25/12.22.A 31, Transit Oriented Communities approval to allow one incentive for an 11 ft. Height increase; Site Plan Review per section 16.05 for a project having 50 or more dwelling units. Case No. DIR-2018-6956-TOC-SPR. Recommendation to support project on condition that more than the bare minimum number of affordable units (7) are included.

Acosta said that this project is by the same developers. It will be 5 stories tall with 77 units of residential apartments. 7 units will be set aside for extremely low income. There will be 45 parking spaces.

Acosta said we support the project with more affordable units. The land wasn't an issue. The audience didn't object as much. They are only

removing 1 warehouse commercial unit on Sunset Boulevard. There is no housing on the lot. There was years ago.

Tad Yenawine made the motion. Sachin Medhekar seconded.

Andy Simhigh said that he'd talked with the developer who said that he is okay to make additional low income units.

Yenawine asked is this time sensitive? Harris said I have no idea. Acosta also said I don't know.

Andy Simhigh expects no permits in the next 60 days. I don't see a necessity to return with a plan for more low income housing. We have 7 units of extremely low income. There will be additional units for moderate income. The owners cannot rent it to anyone. The Housing Department will select people.

Mike Jolly asked how many moderate income units will there be? Andy Simhigh replied 1-2. Mike Jolly said we want 5.

Richard Courtney, who will recuse himself for this item, said it's for sale already. That's come to light within the last week. Of course he's going to say yes. This infuriates me. I strongly urge you in light of that to decline this project.

Lawrence said the record shows several aliases. Don't write a letter for this. These are by rights projects. Chris Ellington said I like the way you amended the first project. There should be at least 8 low income units. It's important that more than the bare minimum be required.

(Note: Richard Courtney left the room.)

Paul Bowers said that he is very uncomfortable with the lack of transparency with ownership. There are also other serious concerns.

Connie Acosta asked is this property for sale now? Andy Simhigh said that when developed it will be sold as a condominium project. They want to get entitlement. They may sell thereafter.

Tad Yenawine asked if we make an amendment to define low income units and the minimum, would that remove credibility to the letter and why? Harris responded that we did have a PLUC discussion about this. This project is different than other one. It's better but they are doing the bare minimum. The City is required to approve it if they do the bare minimum. We want to say "more than the bare minimum". If we ask for

more, it will be completely ignored. We must still be in the range of what the developer can give us.

Tad Yenawine cautioned that language about suggested guidelines would devalue our comments. Mike Jolly said I want confirmation from the developer and a promise to add moderate units. Then we get approval. Then we have a little clout and we've asked for more units.

Thomas DeVoss said I agree with Jolly and Harris. Our decision was for a more affordable unit, not a moderate unit. In future, we don't have to accept the bare minimum. Maybe ask for 15% or 20% affordable units as standard?

Schesser asked what is the basis for the assumption that if we ask for too much we'll be considered as a joke? Homelessness is not a joke. Mike Jolly said it's based on by rights. They are doing everything that they need. Mo Najand said this needs to be a policy change.

Paul Bowers concurring with Schesser, asked then what are we here for? Echo Park is so valuable that it will still be profitable if they add more units. Let's hear some real meat for that argument. Yenawine explained that if we don't play close to the rules, we will be a joke and we want to be effective. It's happened before. I want to be vital and listened to.

Harris said it makes sense to be aggressive with policy. But, with PLUC matters, if you ask for a lot, the Planning Department Zoning Administrator has little legal wiggle room. It gets a second level of scrutiny. If you go too far afield, it will be tossed out as not required by law.

Thomas DeVoss said it's a calculation to try to get more affordable units issue. The access issue for wheelchairs hasn't been addressed, he noted.

Jolly said the Planning Department can approve something if the developer agrees to do it. We can take little bites, then it becomes the norm. Then Planning can look at that history and feel emboldened to request more.

Jim Brown explained that Lawrence used to own the property and he was displaced. That's why he is so passionate. Acosta said that sometimes the City gets sued when they allow the developer to do what they want and it risks the safety of adjacent neighbors.

Schesser said he verbally said that he wanted to give more than the bare minimum number of affordable housing units. Is there another step

needed for this? This voted is unclear. Jolly asked can we add this promise to this letter?

Yenawine asked should we move to postpone it? *Acosta made a motion to have the developer bring a letter. Postpone this until we get a letter from the developer to supply two more affordable units then we will amend the letter to support the project. Harris and the Owner clarified that two moderate units would also be affordable units. Harris' amendment states to "Include at least two more affordable units." Thomas DeVoss seconded.*

Ortega made a motion to close debate. Najand seconded the motion.

Medhekar wanted to vote to end debate. Yenawine said that 2/3 of Board members present or 12 yes votes would be required to do so. However, Harris said this is out of order. Amendments must be heard first.

Vote for Harris' original amendment

17-0-0-1

PASSED

Yes Votes:

Sachin Medhekar
Michael Galano
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal
Tad Yenawine
Darcy Harris
Paul Bowers
Mike Jolly
Thomas DeVoss
Connie Acosta
Tyan Schesser
Mo Najand
Bill Shapiro
Cheryl Ortega
Hsing I Bird
Kevin Brennan
Jim Brown
Pascal De Maria

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

None

Recusals:

Richard Courtney

VOTE for amended motion

17-0-0-1

PASSED

Yes Votes:

Sachin Medhekar

Michael Galano

Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal

Tad Yenawine

Darcy Harris

Paul Bowers

Mike Jolly

Thomas DeVoss

Connie Acosta

Tyan Schesser

Mo Najand

Bill Shapiro

Cheryl Ortega

Hsing I Bird

Kevin Brennan

Jim Brown

Pascal De Maria

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

None

Recusals:

Richard Courtney

Sachin Medhekar said that he is moving up the presentation by Sustain LA.

VOTE to move up the item 11.a

Unanimous

PASSED

Yes Votes:

Sachin Medhekar

Michael Galano

Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal

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

No Votes:
None

Abstentions:
None

11. Public Safety, Sustainability

a. Presentation on plans for making Lotus Festival zero waste in conjunction with SustainLA

Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal said they want to submit an NPG (Neighborhood Purposes Grant) at the next meeting. It's a crisis with the land fill, plastic is not being recycled but being burned as China is no longer buying plastic. We want the Board to know, absolute 100% diversion of trash (everything recycled and policy mandated for vendors for compostable or recycleables,) There is a \$30,000 budget. All trash will have bins and staff stationed. That is a really intensive package. Our committee suggested that for Lotus Festival 2019, go for 50% diversion at a cost of \$15,000. The NPG will request \$5,000 from the Echo Park Neighborhood Council. The Committee has ideas to raise the other \$10,000.

Leslie, owner of Sustain LA, said that applications are already out. Start with a manageable goal of 50% or \$15,000. That includes consulting, bins, working with the Sanitation Department, 20 crew members per day, and back end sorting. Trained staff will educate people about what can go into the bins. We sort through everything on the back end.

She discussed an event at Pershing Square that they did. We've been doing this for 10 years now.

Joelle asked about the languages of the volunteers? Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal said that will be discussed at the Committee meeting on Tuesday.

6. Budget and Finance Items

Treasurer Michael Galano said there is nothing.

7. Outreach and Elections

Discussion and possible action on the following:

- a. Request to allocate up to \$3,000 for expenses relating to the upcoming election day EPNC block party intended to increase voter turnout.

Kevin Brennan said this includes food and entertainment. The elections will take place from 10am to 3pm. For \$3,000 voters can have a fun time. These would be all neighborhood businesses and artists. Harris seconded.

Joelle asked where is it? Kevin Brennan said there are rules about how close it can be to the polling place in the library. We can't be within 100 feet of a polling place. Streets will be tough.

Treasurer Michael Galano said I want to see more of a budget on this, including food, bands, permits, outreach, etc. Kevin Brennan said it would cost about \$1,000 to feed 300 people for the day. Lauren Buisson got a taco truck quote and an ice cream place quote. There would be \$2,000 for food and \$1,000 for entertainment. Acosta said that for DONE you'll need specific documentation from each vendor. You'll need invoices. Brennan said time is of the essence.

Sachin Medhekar said this is a great event to encourage voter turnout. Jim Brown commented that allocating that money and allocating it towards that is like a pat on the back. Yenawine said that voting numbers have been declining. Anything that encourages people to vote so we can get back to 900 voters is a good thing.

Joelle asked can Christine help to cut through red tape?

VOTE
17-1-0
PASSED

Yes Votes:

Sachin Medhekar
Michael Galano
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal
Tad Yenawine
Darcy Harris
Paul Bowers
Mike Jolly
Richard Courtney
Thomas DeVoss
Tyan Schesser
Mo Najand
Bill Shapiro
Cheryl Ortega
Hsing I Bird
Kevin Brennan
Jim Brown
Pascal De Maria

No Votes:

Connie Acosta

Abstentions:

None

b. Request to allocate up to \$200 for food and beverages for the upcoming 3/16 candidate forum.

Najand said that Andy from the library will moderate the question and answer session. Julien Antelin asked do you have outreach materials for this event? Najand replied that that will come out of the election budget.

VOTE

18-0-0

PASSED

Yes Votes:

Sachin Medhekar
Michael Galano
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal
Tad Yenawine
Darcy Harris
Paul Bowers
Mike Jolly
Richard Courtney
Thomas DeVoss

Connie Acosta
Tyan Schesser
Mo Najand
Bill Shapiro
Cheryl Ortega
Hsing I Bird
Kevin Brennan
Jim Brown
Pascal De Maria

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

None

c. Request to allocate up to \$5,000 for a direct mailer to approximately 19,000 addresses within Echo Park for outreach about the upcoming election and related events.

Najand said that this idea came from the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council. There is a direct mailing program sponsored by the United States Postal Service. This will go to businesses and residents. This will be done after the LAUSD school board elections so there will be less paper around. We want to make it as appealing as possible so people will want to keep it.

Harris said we have authorized \$4,000 in election spending. This is additional, plus the block party. Galano said we authorized \$4,000 but spent \$1,000 so \$3,000 is available. Sachin Medhekar said that that \$4,000 was for outreach. Galano said we have \$3,000 of that.

Julien Antelin warned that you are limited in number of mail that you can send. I want to check that. That may be a constraint. Yenawine said that the Echo Park Neighborhood Council did this when I was Elections Committee Chair. I recall it being very expensive. We spent over \$8,000 for this. The idea that people will want to keep it is great. I'm not sure that \$5,000 is enough. I'm not sure that these mailers work well. We got few voters. This may not be an efficient way to spend money.

Schesser asked about Facebook ads. Najand said we approved \$250 for Facebook ads. Jolly said this is a total waste of money. It won't be effective. Jim Brown said that if we were to allocate that, spending would be a total of \$12,000. That exceeds homeless money. There are other things that we can spend on.

Ortega asked is there a way to advertise via public institutions (e.g. at schools via posters)? Nahand said we're open to that but we need help. Joelle asked would a banner on sunset boulevard be more effective? That would be reuseable.

Harris commented that that does seem like a lot of money. What was the original budget? Najand replied \$7,000. I don't see spending another \$3,000 on elections. We can reallocate money.

Yenawine said we're at the end of the fiscal year again. We haven't spent much of our budget. We need to spend that money for the community. It's easy to allocate money but hard to get flyers designed and approved. This should have happened a few months ago. We're behind the 8 ball on this. Five thousand dollars is not enough for the mailing. Najand responded that this is from the website.

Bowers said that it's difficult to create nice flyers. Galano said the \$3,000 is flexible. There is no time to put a banner on the agenda. Najand said we looked at banners, bus benches, and light poles. That's not easy or cheap.

DeVoss said that \$5,000 can do lots of lasting change here. *Yenawine said he wanted to amend the amount to \$2,000.* Medhekar said that the money can do other things.

Yenawine said I misspoke. It's \$2,000 for expenses for election materials. Najand said we already have \$3,000 allocated for election outreach. Medhekar said that the wording can be vague. The money is for outreach. That can include mailings. We can change the wording to be vague: outreach materials, possibly a mailer, printing, digital, etc.

Julien Antelin said that according to the California Fair Political Participation Commission, you can send 200 times per month for mailing. This is for a mass mailings at public expense. Medhekar said that the Outreach Committee can do their due diligence with DONE later.

VOTE for \$2,000 amendment

15-0-3

PASSED

Yes Votes:

Sachin Medhekar

Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal

Tad Yenawine

Darcy Harris

Paul Bowers

Mike Jolly
Thomas DeVoss
Connie Acosta
Mo Najand
Bill Shapiro
Cheryl Ortega
Hsing I Bird
Kevin Brennan
Jim Brown
Pascal De Maria

No Votes:
None

Abstentions:
Tyan Schesser
Michael Galano
Richard Courtney

VOTE for amended motion
17-1-0
PASSED

Yes Votes:
Sachin Medhekar
Michael Galano
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal
Tad Yenawine
Darcy Harris
Paul Bowers
Richard Courtney
Thomas DeVoss
Connie Acosta
Tyan Schesser
Mo Najand
Bill Shapiro
Cheryl Ortega
Hsing I Bird
Kevin Brennan
Jim Brown
Pascal De Maria

No Votes:
Mike Jolly

Abstentions:

None

8. Bylaws/Standing Rules

Nothing

9. SLCO

Discussion and possible action on the following:

- a. NPG application for up to \$5,000 for LAPL's Source program at the Edendale Branch Library

Joelle, President of the Edendale Branch Library Friends Society:

She has literature. She said that Najand asked her to submit an NPG. This specifically serves the homeless. The program is unfunded. They had no idea that this program would be so successful. About 45 people per month are served, one day per month. All professional services are listed. It's set up like an information fair. The first grant for \$800 lasted about 2 months. It's been unfunded and surprisingly successful. People who've been through the program have come back to thank the library. We're really having an impact right here in the neighborhood. Your \$5,000 would keep it alive for up to 10 months. Most of the money is for food and services that they may need. Last Thursday there were hair cuts.

Joelle also announced something new. Every Friday there would be coffee and snacks specifically for the homeless.

Harris made the motion to support both agenda items 9.a and 9.b. Ortega seconded.

A Man spoke about categorizing the homeless. He said this to me at an earlier meeting. He also mentioned an epidemic of bugs. It affects everyone.

Medhekar said I think this is a really good event. It's effective. He's seen it. Najand said the event is unfunded. We would want to publicize that we have funded it. The East Hollywood Neighborhood Council has done this. They have been successful.

Galano noted that there are many partners listed on the flyer. Have they been approached for funds?

Yenawine commented that LAHSA and the LAPD say there is a 1%-3% rate for housing people. This is a different strategy that's working well.

The city needs different models to reach different populations. Jim Brown said I agree. It's an excellent program. I'm excited about this. Bill Shapiro added that he appreciates including the NPG application. It looks like this has legs.

VOTE for 9a
18-0-0
PASSED

Yes Votes:

Sachin Medhekar
Michael Galano
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal
Tad Yenawine
Darcy Harris
Paul Bowers
Mike Jolly
Richard Courtney
Thomas DeVoss
Connie Acosta
Tyan Schesser
Mo Najand
Bill Shapiro
Cheryl Ortega
Hsing I Bird
Kevin Brennan
Jim Brown
Pascal De Maria

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

None

b. NPG application for up to \$800 to purchase two book display shelves for the Edendale Branch Library.

Joelle said the building is out of date. We've gone digital. We want to upgrade the library. The adult area is where the homeless congregate.

Yenawine made the motion. Geaga-Rosenthal seconded.

Michael Galano said they'd originally requested more. The Executive Committee moved it down to a typical ask. The first was a special project.

VOTE
18-0-0
PASSED

Yes Votes:

Sachin Medhekar
Michael Galano
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal
Tad Yenawine
Darcy Harris
Paul Bowers
Mike Jolly
Richard Courtney
Thomas DeVoss
Connie Acosta
Tyan Schesser
Mo Najand
Bill Shapiro
Cheryl Ortega
Hsing I Bird
Kevin Brennan
Jim Brown
Pascal De Maria

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

None

12. Planning Policy Committee 15 minute 9:47 pm Discussion and possible action on the following:

- a. Authorizing up to \$400 for 3-4 town halls from April through December 2019 regarding updates to community plan.

Jolly said we are trying to provide the Planning Commission doing the new neighborhood plan with some data with what people in Echo Park really want. We want to have a Town Hall to understand what people want.

Yenawine made the motion. Geaga-Rosenthal seconded.

A Man said that everyone is addicted to their phones. That's a problem. Ortega asked will we be able to plan something in writing in English? Galano commented that \$1,100 is for candidate forums, includes this money.

VOTE
18-0-0
PASSED

Yes Votes:

Sachin Medhekar
Michael Galano
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal
Tad Yenawine
Darcy Harris
Paul Bowers
Mike Jolly
Richard Courtney
Thomas DeVoss
Connie Acosta
Tyan Schesser
Mo Najand
Bill Shapiro
Cheryl Ortega
Hsing I Bird
Kevin Brennan
Jim Brown
Pascal De Maria

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

None

b. Authorizing town hall in approximately April for up to \$500 regarding scoping session for local input into Community Plan update, possibly in coordination with Silver Lake and Elysian Valley NC's

Jolly said we want town halls (special meetings). We want to compile the data from the special meetings so we have an idea of what the neighborhood wants. Also with Silver Lake and Elysian Valley included in the plan and contributing funds.

*Galano made th motion to approve special meetings or town halls.
Geaga-Rosenthal seconded.*

Joelle said I'm not clear if special meetings will be moved around so more people can attend? Absolutely was the response. Galano noted that this is going into the next fiscal year. We may have to vote again in July

VOTE
Unanimous
PASSED

Yes Votes:

Sachin Medhekar
Michael Galano
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal
Tad Yenawine
Darcy Harris
Paul Bowers
Mike Jolly
Richard Courtney
Thomas DeVoss
Connie Acosta
Tyan Schesser
Mo Najand
Bill Shapiro
Cheryl Ortega
Hsing I Bird
Kevin Brennan
Jim Brown
Pascal De Maria

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

None

13. Dodgers Ad Hoc

Nothing

14. Other Administrative items

Discussion and/or possible action on the following:

a. Selection of open BOG officer positions and Liaisons

Medhekar said this will last for two more meetings.

Acosta nominated Medhekar to be Chair. Schesser seconded.

Yenawine asked do you want the Chief Information Officer (CIO) to remain in place? You can't be two officers on the Board. It's too much work. We need really good outreach.

Najand seconded the motion for Sachin Medhekar. Yenawine said the CIO would act as the chair. Brown asked if we don't select a chair you remain in that position? Medhekar said yes.

Yenawine said I'll vote no. No one will do the CIO job. Harris commented that switching CIOs has a lag time. That could create problems. Najand asked can we make him a Co-Chair?

Galano commented that we have had a few successful Executive Committee meetings in the past month. It's not the right thing to do right now. It's by default. Schesser said if we don't elect Medhekar, he will continue to fulfill that role and keep the role of CIO. What is the impact of not having a Chair versus not having a CIO?

Yenawine explained that responsibility trickles down, not up. If there is a vacancy at top, those responsibilities are shared by people below. Courtney said those are the repercussions of having no chair or vice chair for two months. Yenawine said it's a bitch to be CIO. Medhekar is getting help from others.

Antelin said the seats can remain vacant. Medhekar said it will be me, Galano, and Devon McCutchen operating together. It would be helpful to have others. Jim Brown said to leave it vacant for next two months. I feel partly responsible for that burden.

Galano is now running the meeting as Sachin Medhekar has been nominated.

Yes for Sachin to be Chair. A "No" vote is for him to remain CIO.

**VOTE for Sachin Medhekar to become Chair versus remain as CIO
2-15-1
FAILED**

Yes Votes:

Connie Acosta
Paul Bowers

No Votes:

Michael Galano
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal
Tad Yenawine

Darcy Harris
Mike Jolly
Richard Courtney
Thomas DeVoss
Tyan Schesser
Mo Najand
Bill Shapiro
Cheryl Ortega
Hsing I Bird
Kevin Brennan
Jim Brown
Pascal De Maria

Abstentions:

Sachin Medhekar

Sachin, still the CIO, is now chairing the meeting.

Tyan Schesser and Darcy Harris are nominated for Vice Chair. They declined. The positions remain vacant.

b. Formation of new committees

None

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

None

d. Confirmation/appointment of committee chairs

e. Board members eligible for removal, motions to remove for next meeting

Yenawine said that Acosta and Geaga-Rosenthal were both eligible. This can lead to complaints from the public. If you want to keep the Board functioning, don't ignore the rules. Schesser said that that was discussed at the Executive Committee meeting. We concluded that the Jim Brown vote applies to the Connie Acosta situation. It was scrutinized for 40 minutes. You could have put it on the agenda, she said to Yenawine. Medhekar commented that that's a really valid point. Acosta added that Mike Jolly is also eligible for removal because he has five absences.

(Note: Tyan Schesser left the meeting at 10:22pm.)

Yenawine said I'm not saying that I want anyone off the Board. It's important to follow the rules and know the consequences. A lot of you don't follow the rules. That's why I resigned as Chair. Harris noted that she had sent a detailed email to current executive officers explaining which removals should be agendaized, so it was requested. Acosta said she could step down until after elections. Medhekar said that won't be necessary.

16. Future Agenda Items

Harris said that the Outreach Committee should come up with a specific Lotus Festival spending plan for the next meeting so we don't have to wait for the Board to transition to put that into place.

17 . Adjournment

The meeting ended at 10:24pm.