

## DRAFT MINUTES



## Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition

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**January 15, 2011, 10:00 AM**

**Hollywood Constituent Center  
6501 Fountain Avenue  
Los Angeles 90028**

1. The meeting was CALLED TO ORDER by President **Len Shaffer** at 10:15 am.
2. The Neighborhood Council Active Stakeholders (NCASHs) **INTRODUCED THEMSELVES.** There were 35 NCASHs present from all seven Regions of the City.

Also in attendance were Bong Hwan Kim (DONE GM), Grayce Liu and Leyla Campos (DONE staff) and, joining us later Council President Eric Garcetti and Anna XXXX (his COO)

3. **REVIEW & APPROVAL of the AGENDA**
4. **The MINUTES of the December 4, 2010 Meeting were REVIEWED & APPROVED**
5. **PUBLIC COMMENT & DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES**
  - a. Ron Kaye encouraged the LANCC members to become active in Project Clean Sweep. A list of Candidates will be approved at their meeting, Sunday, Denny's in El Sereno. He said that the City is moving toward Budget Disaster with State/County/City elements all intertwined.
  - b. Steve Twining told of a WRAC. The group voiced objection to the City proposal to saddle the property owner with maintenance of the sidewalks in front of their building/home. He spoke of problems in Hog Canyon OHG (Linda dr. & FWY 405) and the Stone Canyon UPPER Reservoir concrete cover supported.

- c. Glenn Bailey (Encino NC) opposes 12/10/10 the CA Draft Ordinance on Sidewalks which which puts more responsibility on the property owner. Failure to maintain trees in the parkway could result in a fee for property owner. NC Representatives were not part of Working Group deliberating on this policy.

The City's schedule to trim the trees in the parkways in front of our properties extend for 30 years; beyond the life span of some trees. Four NCs have filed CIS's opposing this policy. He asked others to do so.

He thanked LANCC for its support opposing increased fees in community gardens.

- c. Charles Lindblatt said that the DONE-required/ByLaws Task Force-developed NC ByLaw Revision requirements are very difficult to achieve.
- e. Adrienne O'Niell told of a Job Fair (by Harbor Gateway South) supported by Mayor's Gang Program & the County. Harbor Gateway South NC has received a presentation on the County's Economic Plan. For more information, go to [www.LACOUNTYstrategicplan.com](http://www.LACOUNTYstrategicplan.com)
- f. Tom Williams spoke of the LANCC postings to LANCCOalition.org & BUDGETLA.org
- g. Heinrich Keifer announced meetings in his area: Arroyo Seco NC sponsored a School Board Candidate Forum.

He said, "We NCASHs ARE making an impact" and encouraged NCASH activists to support Project Clean Sweep, work (as individuals) in the elections and to increase voter turn-out.. Sid Gold spoke against City money support for Downtown Football Stadium.

- h. Steven Box spoke of his candidacy for CD4 --- He said, "There has been no opened election since the '20's." He called for change – more open government. All candidates need help & money to carry on their campaigns. He reminded us (NCs) to "...advise the government" and spoke of unfair election campaign practices he has observed.
- i. Terry Robinson (Palms) spoke of the reason we have NCs. He is finding great difficulty getting access to engagement the large numbers of apartment residents in his area.
- j. Bong-Hwan Kim (DONE GM) said that Public Records requests received by NCs must be answered. He mentioned "serial PRA requests" from one individual and said that case needed to be addressed.

He announced that City Council had confirmed his appointment an "Interim GM" for until June 30, 2011.

He announced that "new," 6-month Parking Permits (one per NC) are available, today. Many were delivered to NCASHs, today. The General Services Dept (which handles the parking passes says that NCs are the only Dept with "flexible" Parking Passes (usable by more than one person).

There will be a Volunteer Program meeting on 1/18/11, 6:30 pm --- at Hollywood Community Center.

- k. Cliff Jacobs announced Van Nuy's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday
- l. Phil Gluer has fliers on local meetings of the "new" North-East L.A. Assn of Councils (NELALAC)

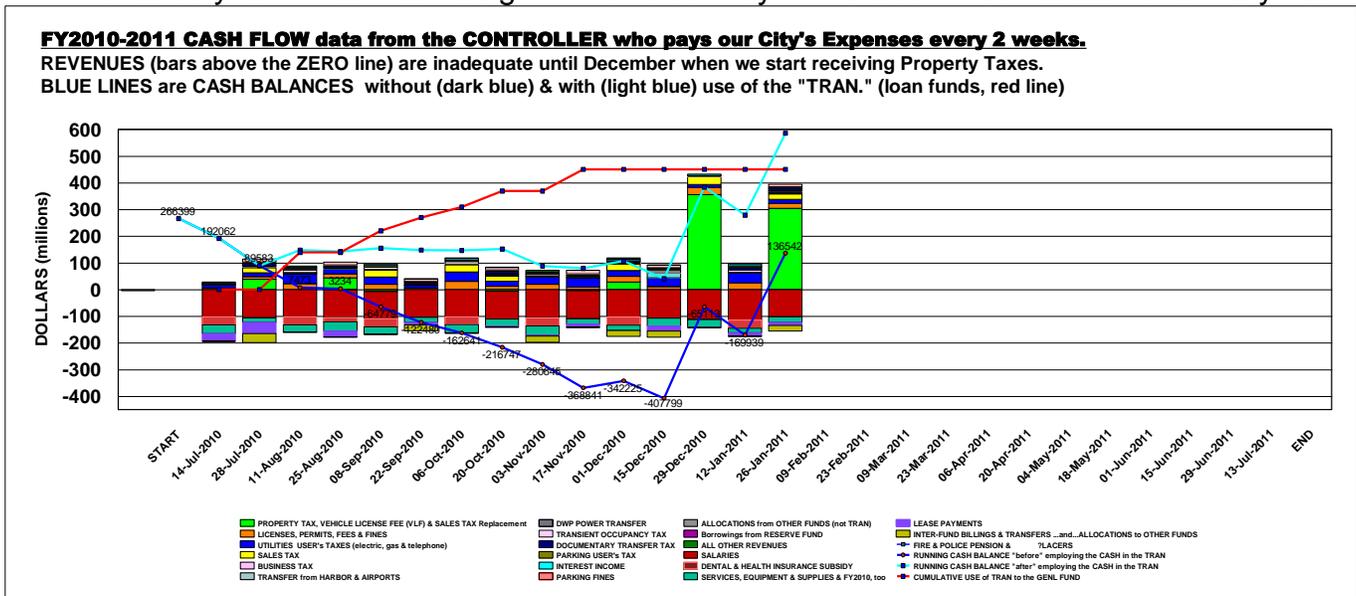
**6. District Representative Reports were part of Public Comment**

7. **ByLaws Revisions** are due by 4/5/11, according to Ivan Speigel. If not, DONE will do it for you...and you may have to "start all over." The ByLaws Task Force has created 14 people as a ByLaws Assistance Team to help any NC that wants help.
- a. Charles Lindenblatt spoke of the difficulty to revise their NCs ByLaws, including many meetings of their ByLaws CMTE before presentation to their Board (Feb. meeting).
  - b. Some NCs require posting ByLaws changes for 30 days and holding a vote for all Stakeholders... a long process which precedes BONC approval of new ByLaws.
  - c. Several voiced concern for the time table. Confusion as to whether the City Clerk will continue to manage the NC Elections is a quandary.
  - d. The authority for each NC to be independent includes the ability to create and maintain their own ByLaws
8. Jay Handal announced the **PEER MENTORING/VOLUNTEER Program** as a way in which NCs can help each other "learn the ropes" and avoid conflicts. The Program will include an interviewing & training process ... more info. coming.
9. Holding a **NC CITYWIDE CONGRESS** has been approved by DONE. There will be a meeting to develop this event, here, today, @ 2:00 pm.
- 10.A **SUNSHINE ORDINANCE** which might remove/replace the Brown Act for NCs was described at the December 2010 meeting. It will require a not-yet-proposed state ordinance. State Congressman Mike Feurer is interested and may be invited to address us.
11. Doug Epperhart told of a resolution opposing the **City Clerk's request for \$1.5M (or up to \$ 3.5M) to run 2012 NC Elections** passed by the Harbor Association of Neighborhood Councils (HANC). Last year the City Clerk was requested \$ 4 million and received \$ 1.9 million for their work. The discussion went to the possibility of putting together a Task Force to address this issue. After discussion of the details, the time table, the relative costs, the impact on NC ByLaws Revisions, an AMENDED MOTION (Epperhart/Twining) was presented to support the first two sentences of the HANC resolution. The resolution reads: **A task force consisting of, and led by, neighborhood council volunteers should be established to develop recommendations for neighborhood council election policies and procedures. Such policies and procedures should include alternative systems, such as polling place, town hall, vote-by-mail, and electronic voting, which may be selected by individual neighborhood council to best suit their communities.**

This MOTION was MSP... AYES: 12, NAYES: 8, ABSTAIN 0

## 12. The NC BUDGET ADVOCATE (NCBA) REPORT

- a. Heinrich Keifer (NCBA V.P.) described the activities of the NCBA's. More information can be obtained from your NCs' Budget Representatives, from the NCBA's and from [BudgetLA.org](http://BudgetLA.org) (where you can find the Agendas, Minutes and other Documents).
- b. Daniel Wiseman (NCBA Secretary) presented a discussion, entitled, "The L.A. City Budget (proposal), the Cash Flow (experience) and the TRAN." (with handouts). It displayed the time-table and amount of City Revenues and how/why we have an increasing dependency of the Tax Revenue Anticipatory Notes (TRAN, a \$ 1.2 billion loan taken in July and paid of on/before June 30<sup>th</sup>). We use these funds to maintain enough Cash to pay our bills from July to December and leverage some of the TRAN to decrease the debt service (payable loan interest). The only "good news" in these data is the fact that we have used "only" \$ 450 million from the TRAN, this year. We used \$ 550 million, last year. Our Cash Balance is at a "high point," right now, because the first Property Tax payments have been received but that will decrease as we pay the TRAN (loan) off. The TRAN is mentioned in the Mayor's Budget Proposals and elsewhere but it does not appear on the annual Budget lists of Revenues because it is money that comes in and goes out of the City's "Cash Account" within the fiscal year.



- c. Cliff Jacobs described the efforts of the NCBA Outreach Committee to increase the numbers of "respondents" on this year's Budget Survey (the MAYOR'S BUDGET CHALLENGE). The goal is 100,000 responses but that will take the participation of all NC Stakeholders.

13. This week, the CRA transferred \$ 930M to the City's General Fund to avoid a loss of their funding from state. Governor Brown has proposed discontinuing CRAs across the State. CRA funds come from property taxes (but are not specific on the tax bills). The assessment bills are prepared and collected by the County Assessor. The funds are forwarded to the State and then returned to the localities. There were questions as to the authority of the City to do this, the legality of the GF receiving these funds, the possibility of a "cooperative agreement" and the possibility of the State taking legal steps to recover these funds.

14. Our **SPECIAL GUEST: City Council President ERIC GARCETTI** joined us at 12:45 pm with his Chief Operating Officer (Ana Guerrero) He discussed a wide variety of issues but focused on specific issues in the City Council ballot proposals.

- a. Azusa is training journeymen in Green Jobs (the only job sector that had growth, last year in California. He had taken a trip to China and China's major solar power manufacturers with Federal Officials).
- b. Mr. Garcetti was concerned that the USA is becoming more polarized (Democrats vs. Republicans, Liberals vs. Conservatives) and that the general population has grown distrustful of its government.
- c. He said that people have become frustrated by corrupted elections, disappointed in the repair and maintenance of our infrastructure, worried about losing their jobs or having trouble finding new jobs.

He believes that recent elections have shown and upcoming elections will confirm that the people want change. The March 8, 2011 election is for City offices and issues, only. (There are no State or Federal elections or propositions are on this ballot.) He noted that it is difficult, even for him, to keep all of these ballot measures straight.

- d. Mr. Garcetti said the City has a \$ 60 million Deficit right now and is facing a \$ 350 million Deficit starting on July 1, 2011 (FY2011-2012). Balancing this year's budget depended on receiving \$ 53 million in Parking Facilities contracts (P-3) and that has not happened.

Additional economies must be implemented before June 30<sup>th</sup> and next year, as well. We may expect to see...

- More layoffs & furloughs.
- Employees asked to pay more to their Pension Plans.
- Employees (?and retirees) asked to pay more of their Health Care Costs.
- More sales of City Properties and contracting for management of many facilities (not only Parking Facilities, but also the Zoo, the Convention Center, El Pueblo and even Major City office buildings).
- The estimated \$ 530 million in non-tax uncollected debt is "stale" and very little can be collected at this point...but we should try...perhaps, hiring "outside" collection agencies.

- e. Mr. Garcetti said that, in direct discussions with city workers, locally, he is hearing they say that they will consider concessions .... Union leaders represent people with a full array of interest in various benefits and solutions.
- f. On the positive side: Our streets have improved for the first time since the war.... Yet... the backlog of broken streets is huge. Bill Robertson is retiring, next month.
- g. Adrienne O'Niell worries that the economy won't improve until/unless unemployment decreases. City has not used (??? >30 %) federal support funds (check out).

Mr., Garcetti chairs the “Oversight CMTE” responsible for watching efforts to increase our City’s efficiency. All are invited to the Oversight Cmte meetings – Fridays @ 9 am.

- h. Phyllis Dougherty said that other cities issue citations for City Violations by Marijuana Clinics. Why aren’t we doing this in LA?
- i. Terry Robinson spoke about the condition of our streets. We seem to need too many authorities, including BOSS, DWP, Sanitation, etc., to get a street repaired. Mr. Garcetti answered that Bill Robertson (BOSS) has tried to bring all agencies together, to identify streets with “greater need” (priority) for repair.
- j. Mr. Garcetti has not decided his position on “Medical Marijuana,” yet.

15. **ADJOURNMENT** – (1:00)

**Next LANCC Meeting February 5, 2010 10:00 AM**

**Location TBD**