

LANCC

Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition

President: Bob Gelfand
Vice President: Leonard Shaffer
Secretary: Daniel Wiseman
Treasurer: Glenn Bailey

WEBSITE (Minutes, Documents, etc.): www.lanccoalition.org

WEB-BLOG (Notices, etc.): lanccreports.blogspot.com

Send emails (questions, comments, etc.): Info@lanccoalition.org

DRAFT AGENDA of July 7, 2012 MEETING

Hollywood Constituent Center
6501 Fountain Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90028

1. **MEETING was CALLED TO ORDER** at 10:18 am by LANCC President, Bob Gelfand
INITIAL REMARKS and **PRESIDENT's REPORT**.
 - a. Recent Preparatory Meeting – Saturday – June 23, 2012 – Bob Gelfand, Len Shaffer, Daniel Wiseman, Glenn Bailey, Cindy Cleghorn, Jack Humphreville, Ken Wyrick, Tony Wilkinson
 - b. Preparing LANCC Agendas
 - Public Comment morphed into a “Lightning Round” of comments and announcements
 - Regular Issues
 - Special Guests
 - Reports
 - Publication and Publicity (Electronic, On-Line, Personal, other media, etc.)
2. The **AGENDA** was reviewed and accepted.
3. The Chair asked all **PARTICIPANTS and GUESTS to** (voluntarily) identify themselves and to (voluntarily) sign-up for minutes and notices on the sign-up sheets.
 - a. There were 40 participants at the beginning of the meeting.
Another 5 people joined during the meeting.
 - b. The following City Officials attended:
 - Bong Hwan Kim (DONE)
 - Grayce Liu (DONE)

- Jerry Kvasnicka (DONE – Elections)
- Fred Pickel (DWP Ratepayer's Advocate)
- Bradley Silvers (?) (DWP Liaison)
- Paul Rodrigo (?) (L.A. Animal Services)

4. The **MINUTES of the MEETING of June 2012** were NOT reviewed, corrected or approved.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT – LIGHTNING ROUND – COMMENTS & REPORTS**

a. **Steve Twining** wants the City Council to know about all of the Community Care Facilities in the City, both authorized and non-authorized.

He also told us of the DWP proposal for a ~20% increase in water rates, $\frac{3}{4}$ of the increase is due to the increased cost of water from the Metropolitan Water District and the rest is the cost of covering the reservoirs and repairing aging infrastructure.

b. **Sid Gold** criticized City Council for spending time on Plastic Bags and Soda Machine in City Parks when the City has so many more (major) serious financial difficulties.

c. **Glen Bailey** spoke of the way City Council used “report backs” for the City Budget issues. Once received, City Council agendas and act on them so fast that community (NC) comment is not possible. This is how the Van Nuys City Hall City Council Public Comment facility was shut down ... a savings of \$ 20,000 per year ... and a diminution of Citizen's (Public Comment) First Amendment (opportunities) Rights.

d. **Bill Hooey** told of the action of the Fair Housing Coalition (Landlords) to oppose the City Attorney's ACE proposal because it might permit the City to cite/fine Landlords for minor or facetious City Code Violations and violations produced by their tenants. He said the starting fines were \$ 1,000 per violation and the appeal process was daunting. He claimed credit for his organization “killing this proposal in committee” and defeating his candidacy for District Attorney.

e. **Jack Humphreville** called the City's financial condition the most serious issue in the City, today. Our costs for infrastructure, pension plans, deferred expenses and negotiated salary increases exceed the approved budget by \$ 500 million to \$ 1 billion. He encouraged the participants to question every candidate for office about their views and plans to solve the financial problems of the City. He spoke of a Charter Amendment requiring a Balanced Budget, a 2 – 5 year plan and verification of funding for new programs.

f. **Jay Handal**, speaking as the Chair of the NC Budget Advocates, echoed Jack Humphreville's suggestions. As the Chair of the West L.A. NC, he invited all to the Wednesday night Summer Concerts at the West L.A. Civic Center and the Friday night Movies in the (nearby) park.

- g. **Courtney Hamilton** (for Howard Berman for Congress) will be visiting SF Valley NCs and HOAs.
- h. **Nina Royal** spoke in favor of the Community Care Ordinance (CCO).
- i. **LANCC President Bob Gelfand** commented on the recent LANCC meeting video-tape of the CCO
- j. **Cindy Cleghorn** announced...
 - the **Valley Alliance of NCs Meeting** on July 12th at Sherman Oaks Hospital, 6:30 pm (Special Guest: Jan Perry, mayoral candidate)
 - the **PlanCheck Meeting**. Saturday, 10:00 am, July 14th (Eric Lopez, guest)
 - the NC Congress Planning Committee is asking for NC contributions for the **September 22nd NC Congress**.
- k. **Len Shaffer** announced the 100th Anniversary of Tarzana and the release of U.S. Postage Stamp honoring Edgar Rice Burroughs (author and creator of Tarzan).
- l. **Dr. Stan Moore** announced Highland Park Benefit at Galco's, July 22nd, for the Southwest Museum.
- m. **Robert Navarro** suggested that we coordinate our activities before City Council when we present issues of importance. He favors City Council putting its Public Comment first on its agendas.
- n. **Jay Handal** said reminded us of a motion related to what we wanted City Council to do at the May Meeting (passed by WLANC, Venice, SoRo, Mar Vista, ?other NCs)... This should become a CRITICAL ISSUE ("our name") ... sent to all NCs for their agendas ... sent to all LANCC "Usual suspects" for comment ... Our Secretary is out, fishing.
- o. **Cindy Cleghorn** revisited earlier comments about the ACE Program. She doubts that the fines were \$ 1,000 and that LAPD was not supportive.
- p. **A Stakeholder** described changes and current conditions in and around the **Mark Ridley Thomas City Hall Constituency Center** with some comparison to the situation before the Rodney King incident.

6. **The DONE ("EMPOWER L.A.") REPORT: GRAYCE LIU**

- a. Parking Passes (latest issue) are available
- b. Regional Elections are in process. 8 Regions are searching for and signing up candidates. 150 signed up for 76 seats in Region 1; helped by a full page add in the Daily News. IEAs **Glenn Bailey, Jay Handal, Alisa Smith and others** are working hard. **Cindy Cleghorn** gave important support. We need volunteer help from the neighboring NCs on

every Election Day.

- c. **Steve and Enci Box** have updated the DONE website (empowerla.org) to include materials on the upcoming NC elections and to make it much more vibrant.
- d. **Tony Wilkinson** is pleased that the NCs have “taken back their elections,” that we have more candidates than ever and stated that this could not have happened without Grayce Liu’s efforts.

7. **SPECIAL TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL TRADE & JOBS CREATION**

- a. **Jennifer Frank (Mentors International)** spoke of training people for the new business activities and opportunities centered around the Port of Los Angeles. Flyers were provided. If you are interested in a job in worldwide trading go to their Speakers Series on Wednesdays, 6:30 – 9:30 pm. These meetings can give NC representatives tools to use. The Fees for these activities are waived for LANCC participants. For more information: go2mentor@gmail.com or 1-562-439-6502.
- b. **INTERNATIONAL TRADE thru the PORT OF LOS ANGELES – Jim McClellan (Director of Port Development for the Port of Los Angeles)** told us that BOTH imports and exports are expecting large increases in the next few years. The Port of L.A. is supported by 919,000 jobs and Long Beach adds another million jobs. Only 15% of the imports go to California, Nevada and Arizona; 85% goes to the rest of the country. Therefore, the Port of L.A. is a major supplier of the country. Only 15% of the imports go to California, Nevada and Arizona; 85% goes to the rest of the country. Therefore, the Port of L.A. is a major distributor of the country. The Port(s) have regained the losses from the 2008 Great Recession and now (with the international air freight) handle over \$ 387 billion in international trade. 2010 and 2011 were record years in the amount of trade. The proportion of exports-to-imports has risen from 15% to 30%. This is due to dollar deflation but also new exporters. 2010 and 2011 were record years in the amount of trade. The proportion of exports-to-imports has risen from 15% to 30%. This is due to dollar deflation but also new exporters. Exports could and should continue to rise. The more we export the more U.S. manufacturers and their employees and, ultimately, the entire population benefits. Only 15% of U.S. companies export (some of) their products and many more could ... we make good products here in the U.S. The economic growth of Latin America’s and Asian Countries’ middle classes is much higher than the U.S. and they will want more and more high grade products. 92% of the population and over 66% of the world buying power is outside of the U.S. The Port of L.A. is in competition with other West Coast Ports (from Canada to Mexico), with the cost of distribution from L.A. vs. Pacific shipping through the Panama Canal to the U.S. East Coast and with costs of direct air transport of goods. Local transport (via labor relationships, rail routes, the “Alameda Corridor,” and the “clean truck” program) is a complex concern.

NC’s ROLE IN THIS ACTIVITY

Mr. McClellan said that the Port of L.A. is already an important part of the Los Angeles Area economic recovery. The **Port Development Division of the Port of L.A.** proposes to reach out to every L.A. community (?to every NC) to try to find and engage small and medium-sized businesses in increasing their export business. They have a 3

hour presentation:

- (1) How to find an overseas market. (Departments of Commerce – here and there)
- (2) Financing export business (Banks & Small Business Administration – here and there)
- (3) How to document (develop business plans – Freight forwarders)
- (4) Port & Airport services available

NCs, singly and in groups (Regional Alliances), could help find and arrange these meetings in their communities.

- c. The **KOREAN TRADE ASSOCIATION (KOTRA)** was represented by **Derrick Waleko** (Senior Executive/Investments of KOTRA-L.A. and also the President of the Van Nuys NC). KOTRA is a 50 year old part of the Korean Office of Culture and Business Development working to increase trade with not only Korean but also non-Korean businesses in the U.S. Korean companies with major local installations include: Samsung, LG (appliances & electronics), Honjin (Korea Air, etc.), Hyundai, KIA. KOTRA has eight offices in the U.S.; including a Business Incubation Center in Torrance, CA. Korea increased its trade from \$ 19 billion to \$ 29.4 billion between 2010 and 2012. Korea's total U.S. trade is now \$ 100 billion. There is a Free Trade Agreement so there will be no import-export tariffs between Korea and the U.S. for the next 10 years. That will decrease the tariff (cost) of exporting agricultural and food (meat, citrus, vegetables, etc.) products to Korea by 30%. KOTRA has been working with various L.A. City offices for partnerships.

In answer to **Bob Gelfand**'s question as to who will benefit from increased U.S.-Korea trade:

- (1) the Port of L.A. organizations (administration, Longshoremen, trucking and transportation services, etc.) and the City Tax Base.
- (2) the Solar Panel distribution, assembly and installation industry and, secondarily, the users of Solar and Renewable Energy services (cheaper energy costs).
- (3) all firms who do business directly and/or indirectly related to this international trade.

Secretaries Note: It should be assumed that all of KOTRA's activities will be or primary benefit to the interests and businesses of the Republic of Korea.

NC's ROLE IN THIS ACTIVITY

Mr. Waleko concluded by saying that NCs might have a role in these activities but he is not sure of how that might happen. One activity which NCs might join is a Korean-Latin America outreach event. NCs might also advocate tax considerations for local companies; the details remain to be worked out.

Cindy Cleghorn described a neighborhood in the Sunland-Tujunga/La Crescenta area which has become home to many Korean-Americans. She mentioned a major (?residential) building in the area which was rebuilt with community support by its owners (Korean-Americans) but failed and has gone into foreclosure...idle for 10 years and vandalized. Communications with the owners has been difficult. **Mr. Waleko** advised her to contact the Korean-American Chamber of Commerce and the Korean-American Foundation.

Jay Handal spoke in support of the NCs working to create the links necessary to solve problems like this (contact the City Council Member, City officials, key organizations, etc.).

Tony Wilkinson sees the NCs as a natural place for all concerned from all parts of the community (i.e. “all Stakeholders”) to “bridge the gaps” between themselves. He advocated more involvement, NC board candidacy/membership and meeting participation as the true “empowerment” role of the NC’s Stakeholders.

8. **TOPIC: RESTORATION of the VAN NUYS & SAN PEDRO PUBLIC COMMENT FACILITIES**

MOTION: LANNC requests the immediate restoration of the Remote City Council Public Comment facilities in Van Nuys and San Pedro Municipal Buildings. (Wilkinson/Handal)
This Motion passed UNANIMOUSLY with no NAYE and no ABSTENTION votes.

ACTION:

9. **ADJOURNMENT** at 12:33 p.m.

a. NEXT MEETING: August 4, 2012 @ 10:00 a.m

LOCATION: Hollywood Constituent Center
6501 Fountain Avenue
(Fountain & Wilcox, West of Cahuenga Street)
Hollywood, CA 90028