

Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE LANCC GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, April 5, 2014 at 10 a.m.

LANCC Officers

Terrence Gomes, Chair
Fred Mariscal, Vice-Chair
Connie Acosta, Secretary
Glenn Bailey, Treasurer

MEETING LOCATION:

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
111 N. Hope Street, L.A. 90012

A. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

1. President, Terrence Gomes called the meeting to order 10:00 a.m.
2. Presidents message.
 - The Neighborhood Councils Charter Mandates are: (1) to be a conduit between the city Hall and stakeholders, and (2) to direct city services to our community.
 - Lidia Grant is distributing the **Save Our Streets** handbooks for each LANCC representative to take back to their NC's Transportation Committee Chairs.
3. Introduction of LANCC representatives and leaders from the L.A. Neighborhood Councils (NCs):

<p>35- members present according to today's sign-in sheet.</p>	<p>T. Gomes, F. Mariscal, C. Acosta, J. Yvanek-Garb, B. Peppermuller, F. Wada, D. Rockello, E. Lim, N. Royal, I. Spiegel, P. Gohel, G. Wilson, L. Grant, D. Uebersax, G. Wilson, S. Gold, J. Barbosa, T. Wilkinson, D. Selesnick, M. Benedict, S. Johnson, R. Guevara, R. Waller, M. Leiaghat, L. Lee, J. Handal, S. Twining, P. B. Hearst, B. Kwitz, A. Jos, B. Gelfand, M. O'Gara, M. Savage, C. Loring, J. Wong (candidate for L.A. County Assessor), and S. Wong.</p>
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B. PRESENTATIONS

1. Los Angeles Department of Water and Power --- Penny Falcon, Manager of the LA City Water Conservation Campaign

The photographs displayed in today's presentation, showed how the Folsom Lake was full of water in July 20, 2011. Two and half years later in January 16, 2014 the lake is pretty empty.

Due to the present California draught conditions, water conservation is of high importance now more than ever. LADWP is proposing the following tips on water conservation for all L.A. residents:

- Take shorter showers and install a water-efficient showerhead,
- Wash only full loads of laundry and stall a high efficiency washer,
- Install a high efficiency toilet and fix running toilet tanks,
- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean your driveway, and
- Turnoff the faucet when brushing or shaving.

As a city, we are the lowest in terms of water consumption compared to cities with this same size of population,” said Falcon.

Free Landscape Training for residential customers:

- Friendly Landscape Training for water-wise gardening.
All workshops are from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

2014 Dates	City Locations	Addresses
Saturday, April 12	Downtown L.A.	1230 W. 3 rd . Street #111
Saturday, April 26	Van Nuys	14401 Saticoy St. Bldg. 7

Cash in Your Lawn --- www.LADWP.com/CF

Apply for the California Friendly Landscape Incentive Program. The plants are natural to this climate, easy to maintain, and water wise year-round. Select from a diverse plant palette of ground covers, vines, succulents and shrubs, etc.

Know your Watering Days --- www.LADWP.com/waterconservation

City of L.A. Water Conservation Ordinance limits outdoor water sprinkler for only 8 minutes, 3 days a week.

Odd Addresses: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

Even Addresses: Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday.

All outdoor watering is prohibited from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., regardless of the watering day.

Other Prohibited Water Uses --- www.LADWP.com/WaterConservation

- Watering of any hard surfaces such as sidewalks, walkways, driveways or parking areas.
- Outdoor watering during periods of rain;
- Allowing runoff onto streets and gutters from excessive watering;
- Allowing leaks from any pipe or fixture to go unrepaired;
- Washing vehicles without using a hose with a self-losing water shut-off nozzle; and
- Serving water to customers in restaurants unless specifically requested.

2. Housing and Community Investment Department --Robert Galardi, Principal Inspector

Discussion Focus: Primary Code Enforcement as related to city renters and owners.

Housing Dept. Background

In 1997, a Blue Ribbon Committee was formed to fight substandard housing in Los Angeles. It created Chapter 16 of the L.A. Municipal Code --which is the Housing Regulations: It took the responsibility from Building and Safety over all multifamily dwellings-- two or more dwellings on a lot with the exceptions of condos which can be two in a lot. LA Building and Safety Department has jurisdiction over single family dwellings when there is only one to a lot, Condominiums, and commercial buildings

- Park La Brea has over 4,000 rental units.

The Housing Department:

- Is a regulatory agency for the City of Los Angeles,
- Has an inventory of 100, 000 properties representing approx. 750, 000 rental units.
- Program is funded by the renters-- \$43.32 per year, per unit, includes two inspections,
- If there is an additional inspection, the fee is \$201.50,

Employees:

- There are 60 Systematic Code Enforcement Program (SCEP) inspectors who do this task full time all year round. "There are about 200 employees all together in the Division. 30 Million is the revenue generated from annual SCEP fees," stated R. Galardi.
- "We have weekly web cast trainings (every Thursday) for inspectors at all five regional offices to build conformity and uniformity".

Complaint Component

- The Hot Line to the internal Housing Department is 866-557-7368.
- There is a complaint component to supplement the 4 -year systematic inspections, the number is 866-557-7368. Complaints are routed to the nearest regional office with a 72-hour response time,
- The locations of the 5 regional offices are:

North-Valley	6640 Van Nuys Blvd
West Los Angeles	1645 Corinth Ave.,
Central Region	3550 Wilshire
Lincoln Heights	2215 N. Broadway
South Region in Torrance	690 Knox Street

Inspection routines:

- Every 4 years all residential units are routinely inspected—interior/exterior, and common areas-- according to the ordinance,
- Mailings are issued to owners and tenants 30 days prior to the inspection. In addition, the buildings (of the owner and tenants) are noticed with postings of inspection date and time,
- The minimum standards are enforced: leaky plumbing or roof, smoke detectors, strapped water heater, any indications of deferred maintenance, etc.,
- If violations are identified, 30 to 40 additional days are granted for owner to make repairs. If on re-inspection, the violations are repaired, the case is closed,
- If repairs are in the process of getting done but not yet completed, an extension is granted,
- If repairs are not getting done, inspector photographs the violations and submits the property owner's name for a General Manager's Hearing where the owner explains why the repairs are not being completed. 2% of our properties end up at city attorney's office,
- Time duration of inspection—depends on the age, size, and layout of the building,
- If structural damage is identified (as a result of an earthquake or not) a notice will be issued,

Property Maps:

- *Sanborn Maps* are used to show that the building existed before 1950
- *Arial Satellite --Navigate L.A.* through Bureau of Engineering
- *Zimas* --through the Department of City Planning
- *Google Maps*

3. SkyTran –An Innovative Idea to Assist with L.A. City Transportation Issue--Bob Gelfand
Showed two 2-minute videos of *SkyTran* previously broadcasted on ABC CH7 NEWS.
Copyright 2012: www.skytran.us

“The Purpose of this presentation is to introduce the concept, connect with you for presentations at your own neighborhood councils,” said Bob. “and to get something like this going as a project.”

SkyTran is a high tech mode of transportation, controlled by a computer; consists of pods (plastic-boat shaped vehicles) that glide at a speed up to 150 mph. The ride is silent since the pods swiftly move on a cushion of air; there are no wheels rolling on rails. The pods are suspended on tracks from poles that rise high above our current telephone posts.

The pods pull up to a station, a rider swipes a card to enter a pod, presses a button to select a stop location, and away it goes to the selected destination.

“It can be built quickly and cheaply because of our technology. We couldn’t have done this 20 or 30 years ago,” said Bob. “It has a lot of advantages; it doesn’t interfere with ground traffic.”

C. LEGISLATION

1. **Discussion and possible action for Neighborhood Councils.**

Proposal to draft letter to Sacramento lawmakers to amend language of the Brown Act for additional transparency: “In the interest of transparency, all applicants for zoning variances and other legislative actions must be required to disclose all campaign contributions relating to all City, County, and State elections for the last ten years as well as any litigation involving any government entity within the State must be posted for 90 days on the governing body’s website and the link prominently displayed on the home page above the scroll before any actions by lawmakers is considered.”

Fred Mariscal Moved to open discussion.	Terrence Gomes Seconded.
	Motion 1 was postponed for the May meeting.

2. **Discussion and possible action for Neighborhood Councils.**

Proposal to draft letter to Los Angeles City Council to enact a moratorium on the small lot subdivision ordinance until a staff report can be commissioned to review the merits of the 2006 ordinance and to see if current construction is meeting the intent of the original ordinance for infill density and affordable housing options.

Randy Waller motion to remove the word “Moratorium” from motion 2.	Peter seconded
In favor--8 votes; Against--11 votes; Abstentions-1	Motion Fails

Terrance moved the motion as it reads.	Fred seconded the motion.
In favor as the motion reads--16 votes; Against--2 votes; Abstentions-- 2 votes.	Motion Passes.

Click below to view small subdivision ordinance:

http://cityplanning.lacity.org/Code_Studies/Housing/smalllotpolicyFINAL.pdf

D. REPORTS

1. EmpowerLA --Steven Box

“We’re up by 45% citywide [in voter turn-out] from the 2012 elections.”

- We’re half way through the elections. We just completed the 5th and 6th regions. Region 7th is coming up on Saturday, April 12. Volunteers are needed at the following NCs: Silver Lake, Los Feliz, Greater Echo Park Elysian, and Rampart Village.
- The funding program is not ready. To the treasurers, there are 4 important funding dates-- see the EmpowerLA newsletter.

2. Budget Advocates --Joanne Yvanek-Garb, West Hills NC

- We are completing our Budget Advocates Report with our recommendations and findings.
- On Wednesday, April 9, the 2020 Commission is releasing their recommendations— Preliminary Report stating what the problems are.
- On Friday, the Mayor is releasing the City Budget Report.

3. Board of Neighborhood Commissioners-- Len Shaffer

Len Shaffer commends Kevin James’ discussion on Leadership-- refer to the EmpowerLA newsletter.

Email Janet Lindo for the full documents on the Posting Policy, Selections, and Bullying. Go to EmpowerLA; find the Commission. There is a link to every policy that is on the commission’s agenda. “Review these documents and give us your feedback. We need to hear from you on these important issues,” said Len.

- The Posting Policy will be a part of all NC’s Bylaws if not followed there could be a grievance filed against you.
- “You take the training because it’s a matter of city liability,” said Len. The board members will take the training and will be given the tools to take action and resolve the issues that come before them. If a Board refuses to use these tools, instead of decertifying the NC, DONE will file a City Council action to come before the Commission to remove the Board, have a new election, to replace the particular Board.
- After the training, the Board will have the tools to take action on matters related to policy, And can removing board members that fails to comply.

The Next Commissioners meeting will be on April 21, 2014 at 1: 00 PM at City Hall on 10th floor, Room 1050.

E. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Saturday April 12. Tarzana-- **Earth Day Celebration** --is having a poster contest from 10:00 a.m.--3:00 p.m. 35 vendors and various city agencies. Location will be at the corner of Vanowen St. and Ventura Boulevard, between Tampa and Reseda.
- April 26, 2014 --Neighbors from Tarzana are having a spring clean up by the river. There will be a station parked on De Soto.
- Sylmar NC is looking for a free Parliamentarian.
- April 26, 2014 --Mar Vista is having its yearly Green Garden Tour covering their 6 sustainable garden clusters. www.Marvista.org
- Alex Martin is running for City District 14; the Elections are March 3, 2015.
"I'm having coffee meeting Greets at Star Buck Union Station, Mon and Saturdays 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m."
- May 1, 2014 --Hamilton High School is hosting a Candidate Forum for an LAUSD Seat.
- June 2, 2014—SOREC Is having an Emergency Preparedness Event.