

Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition

MINUTES OF THE LANCC GENERAL MEETING Saturday, December 6 2014 -- 10 a.m.

LANCC Officers

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

MEETING LOCATION:
LADWP Headquarters
111 North Hope Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

A. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

1. Terrance Gomes called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.
Quote of the day, "The rail that goes from nowhere to nowhere will not be here today until next month."
2. LANCC membership introductions.
3. The LANCC Representatives in attendance were, per the sign-in sheet of December 6, 2014:

36--LANCC members present.	T. Gomes, F. Mariscal, G. Bailey, C. Acosta, T. Wilkinson, C. Cleghorn, L. Shaffer, F. Wada, P. Gohel, S. Twining, R. Waller, M. Savage, J. Yvanek-Garb, M. Butcher, O. Scott, J. Liberman, D. Wiseman, B. Gelfand, J. Humphreville, D. Uebersax, G. Reed, S. Ramsawack, O. Reed, M. Peters, O. Ray Scott, T. Butka, R. Millar, E. Morales, G. Aggas, M. O'Gara, D. Tool, L. Grant, J. Handal, T. Williams, I. Spiegel, and L. Amsden, D. Selesnick.
1-- Presenter	Seleta Reynolds, GM LADOT

Chairman's opening statements:

- Terrence made a motion that Cindy Cleghorn be the chair of the LANCC Elections Committee. Steve Twining seconded the motion. Vote count was: 18-yes; No oppositions; and 1-abstention. Motion adopted. The LANCC Elections will take place in February.
- Jay Handal and Terrance Gomes met with Armando Ruiz who is presently acting as the General Manager for DONE. They are redeveloping the Funding Request Form (FRF), Monthly Cash Request (MCR), and the Monthly Expenditure Report (MER). The content of these financial forms will be simplified to fit a single page and still meet the regulations of the controller's office. There are 150 MERs from this fiscal year that NCs have not submitted to DONE; "treasures say the process is very burdensome," Terrance said.
- There are NCs that have not as of yet submitted their Budget packets with Surveys, Jay and Terrance will be contacting NC officers to provide assistance.
- City Council President Herb Wesson commented to Terrance that he would like the NCs to take a more active lead and get more money for it.

B. PRESENTATIONS

1. Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) ---- Seleta Reynolds, GM LADOT
“The Department of Transportation is a customer service department that touches civilian lives everyday,”
Seleta said.

Background

- Grew up in Jackson Mississippi; earned a B.A. in American History from Brown University.
- Started working for the Oakland Public Works agency, “had an internship there, wrote a lot of grants and funded my position fulltime,” Seleta said.
- Worked for a consulting firm in San Francisco for a decade; managed the San Francisco and Seattle offices improving safety for pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Led the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency’s Livable Streets Section coordinating street projects citywide for three years. “I was In charge of the section that build all the bicycle-pedestrian, traffic-hauling, and school safety projects for the city.” She said.

LADOT

- Lost 30% of personnel to early retirement, budget cuts and attrition.
- The department’s expectations are rising as the department budget is decreased, “we need to do more with less” Seleta stated.

Seleta oversees: **Traffic officers** who issue tickets and direct traffic; **Franchises** for taxies, gas pipelines, and ambulances that operate the city; **DASH** services; **Engineers** in district offices who work on signals, designs, development review, community requests, and construction coordination with Metro. “We touch a lot of lives that contribute to the city in a positive way,” said Seleta.

DOT - Department’s Strategic Plan (divided into 4 sections)

- The Plan starts with an articulation of the department’s mission, vision, and core values.

Each of the four sections contain strategies, benchmarks, and partnerships:

1. What are we going to do to achieve a safe city?
2. What we’re going to do to become a livable and sustainable city.
3. What are we going to do to become a 21th century department?
4. How are we going to improve customer service?

In the Safety Section, there’s a call to action for the city to adopt a “Vision Zero Policy.”
“Our goal is get to zero traffic deaths by 2025,” Seleta articulated. “Since October, 148 people died just trying to get around town, directly related to the design of our streets in our system.”

DOT highlights (in the works):

- Update the street parking signs in the customer Service section.
- Improve passenger traffic while maintaining safety.
- Carry forward beyond the Mayor’s Great Streets Initiative for the 15 streets identified.
- Improve the freight and goods movement, and make sure that loading is managed effectively in the downtown port and neighborhoods.

A question and answer period took place with Seleta Reynolds.

C. LEGISLATIVE:

LANCC Letter to L.A. City Council:

Ivan Spiegel moved the motion.	Joanne Yvanek-Garb seconded.
16 yes, 1 against, 2 abstentions	Motion adopted as stated.
Motion as stated: The Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition (LANCC) requests that Councilman Parks start holding regular meetings of the Education and Neighborhoods Committee forthwith.	

D. Reports

1. EmpowerLA--- Stephen Box

- LA-DOT Dispatch is active from 8 AM to 4 PM. Call: (213) 485-4184.
- Agendize Community Impact Statements (CIS) on NC board agendas for discussion and/or possible action; the approved CISs are submitted to City Hall.
- NC board members (up to five individuals) may obtain a city clerk's code to submit CISs directly to city hall: First, complete an Authorization to Submit CIS with Board Resolution, then place item on NC board agenda for board approval.
- If you need help with the above, call Steven Box at (213) 978-1551.
- To send letters to all city councilmembers, email to cityhall@empowerla.org

2. Budget Advocates --- Terrence Gomes or Jay Handal

- If your NC doesn't have a budget representative to meet with Budget Advocates, appoint one. Have questions? Contact Jay Handal.
- There are White Papers for everyone. Go to: NCBLA@aol.org.

E. UPDATES

1. Board of Neighborhood Commissioners- Len Shaffer

- There are 95 NCs with less than 20 active, none employees.
- According to the Brown Act, the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (BONC) cannot meet with less than (3) three members present.

PLEASE NOTE:

- Every NC board member is to sign the Code of Conduct document due at DONE by January 5. After 30 days, if a board member has not submitted a signed Code of Conduct, he or she will not vote, nor count as a quorum at subsequent NC board meetings.

2. BONC – Lydia Grant

Council File 14-1624: This CIS is to expedite the process for events and community improvement projects of nonprofits and Neighborhood Councils.

F. ANNOUNCEMENT --- Bob Gelfand

Bob is a filmmaker and his hobby is old silent films.

Bob expressed an interest in making a documentary--where individuals talk at the camera--an oral history of the NC system to archive as a DVD at UCLA and the City of L.A.

“I have noticed that we’re starting to get an “In Memory of” section in the newsletter of EmpowerLA.org; and, now that we’re going on our sixteenth year...” Bob said.

Bob finds that there are many NC board members in the LANCC membership who have been long time participants in the NC System since its inception, when the L.A. City Elections of 1999 passed the Charter Amendment. And, “it would be worthwhile to get your oral histories and other documents that you have of the NC system,” he said. “I have spoken with Grayce Liu and discussed making such documentary. She is in support.”

Bob is in the process of writing an inquiry for a grant for this project. “Possibly NCs can contribute to the fund that would make this project possible,” he said.

For further information on this topic contact Bob Gelfand at: citywatch@la.com

G. ADJOURNMENT: 12:00 p. m.

Website: www.lancc.org WEB-BLOG (Notices, etc.):

lanccreports.blogspot.com

Send emails (questions, comments): LANCC@EMPOWERLA.ORG