

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

California



SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

PRESIDENT: Ann Job

VICE PRESIDENTS:

Administration: Diane Valencia

Communications: Kathy Grubert

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SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - MINUTES May 26, 2015, 7:41 PM – 9:02 PM El Cariso Park Community Room, 13100 Hubbard Street, Sylmar, CA

Sylmar Neighborhood Council Meeting Minutes are a summary, not an exact, verbatim, word-for-word transcript of what was said at a Meeting. The only two exceptions are the Motions shown in italics and quotes shown with quotation marks (“ ”) at the beginning and ending of a word or words. The Minutes are not, nor were they ever meant to be, a comprehensive record of what was said about an issue or project.

1. Call to Order

President Ann Job called the meeting to order at 7:41 PM

2. Roll Call

Roll Call was taken by Ms. Job. Present: Ann Job, Diane Valencia, Patricia Rau, Maria Silva

Absent: Kathy Grubert

Stakeholders present: Amanda Bloom, Bonnie Bernard, Les Aisenman

SNC Directors present: Roy Smith, Kathy Bloom

3. Housekeeping: Sign-In Sheets, Speaker Cards, Recording and Timekeeper

Ms. Job provided a general explanation of these items.

4. Discussion and possible action regarding the “Neighborhood Councils Administrative and 2016 Elections Procedures Stipulation Worksheet.”

DISCUSSION: There was a general discussion regarding the Stip Sheet which was original sent by DONE to the SNC Board on 3/20/15. Subsequent reminders had been sent by DONE and Ms. Valencia to the Board. The Executive meeting was called to ensure that all Bylaws and Elections choices had committee recommendations to bring to the Board for approval on during the General Board Meeting on May 28, 2015.

Since the Bylaws Committee meeting took place immediately preceding this meeting, during which items #1-5 on the Stip Sheet were covered, this meeting picked up with review and discussion of items #6-11 on the Stip Sheet.

The majority of the Committee agreed on the following selections in the Stipulations Worksheet:

6. Online and Telephone Voting

Discussion: Committee members discussed the potential for increased community outreach and engagement with the elections if online voting were available. Saturdays are often busy days, with some Stakeholders working, including business owners. Saturdays are also busy for families. The need to look for ways to increase outreach and Stakeholder involvement are noted in the NC Plan and the SNC’s Bylaws. Ms. Valencia indicated that she had many people ask her last year about online voting. Roy Smith expressed concerns about online voting and

stated that he is opposed to it. Ms. Valencia indicated that DONE has prepared some good FAQ's on the process and would look to send those out to meeting attendees.

Committee vote – 4/0 in favor

7. Telephone Voting

“Not Applicable” since the default is to HAVE telephone voting if online voting is chosen in item #6

8. Vote By Mail

Discussion: Committee members were concerned about potential costs associated with this option. Such costs, if any, were not identified. In addition, since this option requires an individual to take the initiative to request a paper ballot to be mailed to them for voting, the Committee felt that the benefits for additional community outreach were quite limited and may not justify an additional expense. Online and telephone voting choices tremendously increases community access to the election process.

Committee vote – 3/1 against

9. Board Vote Structure

Discussion: Committee members reviewed Attachment B of the Bylaws and confirmed that the board voting structure is correct.

Committee vote – 4/4 in favor of maintain the current board voting structure

10. Candidate Filing Requirements

Discussion: Committee members discussed how they felt it would be very helpful for candidates to have an overview of the NC system. Some members felt that some candidates are unprepared and are not actually aware of the scope and expectations of being on the Board. Ms. Rau expressed concerns with training before filing candidacy being required, not optional.

Committee vote – 3/1 in favor of Neighborhood Council candidates being required to take a 5-10 video training (produced by the City) about the Neighborhood Council system and their responsibilities as a candidate during the election process prior to completing their registration.

11. Elected Board Members Seating Period

Discussion: Committee members discussed the various options and were concerned about potential long periods with “lame duck” Boards. DONE has not yet released the election schedule, so the committee based their decisions on the timing and seating of the last election in 2014.

Committee vote – 3/1 in favor of keeping the current staggered seating of the Board

5. General Public Comment on matters not appearing on the agenda.

Ms. Bloom suggested that the SNC have a Green seat. There was some general discussion about the seat selections already being approved by the Bylaws Committee and Board. There may be an opportunity in the future to reconsider this. Ms. Bloom also indicated that she would like to see a second Neighborhood Council in Sylmar.

6. Committee Member Comments on subject matters within the committee's jurisdiction

None

7. Closing Remarks, Announcements, Acknowledgements, and Adjournment

Ms. Job adjourned the meeting at 9:02 PM