

ECHO PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL  
BOARD OF GOVERNOR'S MEETING

Minutes

Tuesday, June 28, 2016,

7:00 P.M.

826LA & Time Travel Mart

1714 W Sunset Blvd,

Los Angeles, CA 90026

1. Administrative item

The group's first regular general Board meeting in almost a year began at 7:07pm.

Thomas Soong, a representative from the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE), led the proceedings for the first half until officers were in place.

a. Roll Call

Attending Board Members:

Kevin Fisher

JohnMichael Hull

Cheryl Ortega

Richard Courtney

Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal

Andrew Knauer

Tad Yenawine

Jeffrey Kontorovsky

Mike Jolly

Jackelyn Valladares

David "Rockello" Rosen

Darcy Harris

Connie Acosta

Alex Meza (elected to the Board during the meeting)

Ida Talalla (elected to the Board during the meeting)

Margarita Fernandez (elected to the Board during the meeting)

Michael Galano(elected to the Board during the meeting)

Non-Attending Board Members:

Paul Bowers

Manuel Pool

Mary Jane Hunter

Jim Brown

There were 13 members present when the meeting began.  
Quorum is 11 Board members.

b. Adoption of minutes

*Kevin Fisher made the motion to adopt the minutes. Jeffrey Kontorovsky seconded.*

**VOTE**  
**12-0-1**  
**PASSED**

Yes Votes:

Kevin Fisher  
JohnMichael Hull  
Cheryl Ortega  
Richard Courtney  
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal  
Andrew Knauer  
Tad Yenawine  
Jeffrey Kontorovsky  
Mike Jolly  
Jackelyn Valladares  
David "Rockello" Rosen  
Darcy Harris

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

Connie Acosta

2. Community/Government reports/Elected officials:

Thomas Soong thanked Annie, representing the meeting host, 826LA @ Time Travel Mart, for the meeting location. There was applause. She explained what that organization does. It supports students with writing and has an office here and in Mar Vista. They work as volunteers. They have relationships with over 100 schools.

*Amanda Mejia, Mayor Garcetti's representative for Echo Park*  
[\(\[Amanda.mejia@lacity.org\]\(mailto:Amanda.mejia@lacity.org\)\):](mailto:Amanda.mejia@lacity.org)

She said that she occasionally attends meetings and oversees 12 neighborhood councils for the Mayor. She works closely with Council offices.

Her remarks were interrupted by a Woman named Emma shouting about another stakeholder who mishandled her wheelchair. Thomas Soong intervened. Thereafter, Mejia continued. She said the Mayor will host a neighborhood council barbeque on July 5. Three members from your neighborhood council can attend. Send her the names of the selected representatives once they are voted on.

*Fernando Delgado, Assistant Field Deputy for Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis, First District, 323-881-4601, [fdelgado@bos.lacounty.gov](mailto:fdelgado@bos.lacounty.gov):*

He introduced himself noting that Supervisor Solis represents a large area that includes about 22 neighborhood councils.

He said that Solis is now working on a big motion. This will be a November ballot measure: Proposition A for park improvements. Funding has run out so we need a new ballot measure. They will vote next Tuesday to place this on the November ballot.

Kevin Fisher asked would that benefit Elysian Park and Echo Park? Delgado said yes. This would be county wide.

*Stephanie Uy, field representative for State Assembly Member Jimmy Gomez, 51<sup>st</sup> District, (213) 483-5151, [Stephanie.uy@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Stephanie.uy@asm.ca.gov):*

She introduced herself and congratulated the new Board. She said that the Council Member's big issues are health care, education, and the environment.

### 3. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

*Ari Bessendorf, former President of the Echo Park Neighborhood Council:*

The last Board was a disaster. By contrast, when he took over in 2012 we were in chaos and worked hard to get the neighborhood council on strong footing. We ran meetings in an efficient way. To see what happened after we left was incredibly depressing. Where is the equipment? We don't know.

This council should work together for this community. Look to Britain and Europe to see what happens when people want to divide by race and class. Work together civilly for the people that you represent.

*Ida Talalla:*

A lot of what Ari Bessendorf said is true. However, with non compliance encouraged by DONE, the neighborhood council didn't have a chance. Stakeholders have been locked out of this process. I'd like to run in district 3 but I don't qualify to live there.

Our bylaws are so convoluted. You begin by being in non-compliance because your bylaws contradict each other.

Your agenda was put together not by DONE or by Paul Bowers so you're starting off on shaky ground. You should call this meeting off and spend an hour studying the bylaws.

*Matt Sharp, a former Board member:*

He thanked the host organization and Purgatory Pizza for snacks. There was applause.

He offered two suggestions: First, try to think about all the different committees and focus on a handful. If there are too many committees and meetings, everyone will fade.

Second, take advantage of public servants who can follow up on things for you and who are paid civil servants. This can help build momentum.

*Patricia Mendoza:*

She said that she was born and raised on Temple and Beaudry. She's been there for 52 years.

We all know life is not perfect and people can be mean and cruel. The Rampart police station hasn't changed. There were lots of bad experiences. There are lots of corrupt inspectors out there. When is the abuse going to stop? 20 years ago there were going to be lots of developers coming. At the end of the day, it's a mess. There are no city inspectors. They ignore you. We, the little people, have to deal with this daily. That's important to keep that in mind when people come to you for help. They are desperate. City council doesn't help. It's a waste of time voting for these people.

*Andy Griggs:*

The stakeholder said that he lives in District 5. He has one agenda item. He said that if you promote a place with the agenda on it, you must let

people know about parking. Outreach is not working. I received no notice of this meeting. Communication must improve.

*Luiza Padilla-Mavropoulos:*

She asked the Board to please don't repeat the past mistakes. All my friends are gone from this community. I've been here for 40 years. They were all thrown out of Echo Park. This was the only neighborhood council that stood up against the gang injunction. We have people of color who live in the area.

#### 4. Discussion and Possible Action Selection of Stakeholders to fill vacant seats in Districts 3 and 4:

There are 2 applications for district 3: Alejandro Contreras and Ida Talalla. Talalla said that she is not a stakeholder in district 3, so she is not qualified.

Tad Yenawine asked Talalla if she'd served on the Board before? She said yes. She said she was instrumental in fighting City Council. Yenawine said she is a volunteer in District 3 so that qualifies. However, Talalla said that until it's clear in the Bylaws, it precludes me.

Thomas Soong asked the Board, do you agree that she is a viable candidate? They said yes. So Talalla can run, he said.

Alejandro Meza Contreras and Ida Talalla are the two candidates for the 2 seats.

Meza said I've been wanting to serve for quite some time. I want to assist bringing back what we lost. I've been involved in the community for many years. I've lived here almost 10 years.

Yenawine said that Meza has been a member of my Schools and Libraries Committee for a long time. He has helped with homeless issues and The Dodgers. I strongly recommend him.

A Woman said that in the past you had to come in with a letter from your organization proving what your community work was. That hasn't changed in the bylaws. Sue Reimers said that Talalla has been instrumental in bringing issues to City attention. We know her to be an activist. The first woman said that it was a racist organization.

Soong is now checking the Bylaws about this. He read from page 6 of the Bylaws. You'll need 7 yes votes for anything to pass tonight as there are 13 board members present at the moment, he said. There is a 30 day

waiting period for candidate recruitment. Funding and ethics training required to vote on funding items, he added.

Cheryl Ortega asked, when did the last training expire? Soong said only ethics training expires, every two years. Connie Acosta said I thought that funding training was 7 years. Soong said no. He then explained how members are chosen and their training.

Talalla thanked the Board for its confidence in her. I have reservations about bylaws requirements, she added. Amending bylaws afterward is not the way to go through things. There are 11 city departments including DONE. There is a lot of work to do. We need to get our bylaws fixed properly.

Kevin Fisher asked should we amend the Bylaws to ensure that your selection is allowed? Talalla said you need to amend the Bylaws and look at them much more carefully or you'll be on a rocky road. However, you may want to expedite things because you're so far behind.

David Rockello asked Talalla, are you withdrawing your candidacy or are you a candidate? Talalla said I definitely want the seat, with reservations.

A Woman asked a question about the number of openings.

**VOTE for Alejandro Meza Contreras (Alex Meza):**

**13-0-0**

**PASSED**

Yes Votes:

Kevin Fisher  
JohnMichael Hull  
Cheryl Ortega  
Richard Courtney  
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal  
Andrew Knauer  
Tad Yenawine  
Jeffrey Kontorovsky  
Mike Jolly  
Jackelyn Valladares  
David "Rockello" Rosen  
Darcy Harris  
Connie Acosta

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

None

**VOTE for Ida Talalla**

**Unanimous 14-0-0**

**PASSED**

Yes Votes:

Kevin Fisher

JohnMichael Hull

Cheryl Ortega

Richard Courtney

Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal

Andrew Knauer

Tad Yenawine

Jeffrey Kontorovsky

Mike Jolly

Jackelyn Valladares

David "Rockello" Rosen

Darcy Harris

Connie Acosta

Alex Meza

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

None

(Note that Alejandro Meza Contreras was a Board member for this vote so there were 14 voters. There are now 15 voting members. The majority vote is 8.)

There are three District 4 candidates: Michael Galano; Margarita Fernandez; and Jerry Clark.

*Michael Galano:*

I ran for a seat in District 1 where I live. I volunteer here. I am dedicated to community service. I really love our community.

*Margarita Fernandez:*

I am very involved in the community. She said she wants to help clean up homeless encampments. I will be an asset to the neighborhood council so I ask for your votes.

*Jerry Clark:*

I've lived in Los Angeles since 2006. My wife and I live on Douglas and Ridgeway. I have been involved in the community. He also said that he was a big fan of Ida Talalla. He said that he's worked with her to speak with City agencies. He said he's also helped clear a lot down the street, along with Fernando (a stakeholder who is here). We call 311 and try to fight crime. He is a home owner.

Richard Courtney asked the candidates which committees interest you?

Michael Galano said Budget and Finance. I work as an accountant, he explained. The Land Use committee also interests him.

Margarita Fernandez said her interests were the Bylaws and Planning and Land Use Committees

Jerry Clark said parks and crime. He's not sure which committees they fall under. By creating more green space, life becomes more livable, he said.

A Female Board member said she had a couple of reservations.

Jerry Clark said that affordable housing is very important. It's a difficult issue. Margarita Fernandez said that gentrification is an important issue for all of us. So much is happening. Affordable housing must be addressed.

Jerry Clark said I want to raise all boats. He said he want input for zoning. I'm not against an urban center growing.

A Man asked Clark why didn't you run in the recent election? Clark said I chickened out.

Rockello asked the candidates what is your value added to this neighborhood council?

Clark said I really love this community. It's got everything in it. My time is very valuable. I'm willing to learn and be a conduit for a safer happier Echo Park.

Margarita Fernandez said I am able to work with all. She is a former Board member.

Michael Galano said that he was getting involved to gain experience. He is dedicated to wanting to learn. His interest is in the Budget and Finance Committee.

Yenawine said I think you're all good candidates. Margarita Fernandez has spent lots of time at meetings and is very connected.

JohnMichael Hull said he likes all the candidates.

Cheryl Ortega asked how will we vote for 3 candidates? Soong said there will be a roll call vote for each.

Matt Sharp spoke highly of Margarita Fernandez and her work on his committee. He expects further effective work from her.

Bessendorf said he likes the idea of Margarita Fernandez and Ida Talalla on the same board. It blows my mind, he said. There will be many opportunities to work on committees for those not elected.

Ida: Talalla said she recommends Margarita Fernandez and Jerry Clark. Fernandez stands up for all the right things. Clark took care of his father-in-law in a marvelous way. He's also a great worker. The treasurer's work is the responsibility of each of us. She said that she wants DONE to make a report.

A Woman who is a former Board member also recommended Margarita Fernandez.

Another Woman, who is Jerry Clark's neighbor, said she came to attest to his community involvement.

Each Board member can vote for two candidates.

**Votes for Margarita Fernandez (13):**

Kevin Fisher  
Richard Courtney  
Cheryl Ortega  
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal  
Andrew Knauer  
Tad Yenawine  
Jeffrey Kontorovsky  
Jackelyn Valladares  
David "Rockello" Rosen  
Darcy Harris  
Connie Acosta  
Alex Meza

Ida Talalla

**Votes for Michael Galano (12):**

Kevin Fisher  
JohnMichael Hull  
Cheryl Ortega  
Richard Courtney  
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal  
Tad Yenawine  
Jeffrey Kontorovsky  
Mike Jolly  
David "Rockello" Rosen  
Darcy Harris  
Connie Acosta  
Alex Meza

**Votes for Jerry Clark (5):**

JohnMichael Hull  
Andrew Knauer  
Mike Jolly  
Jackelyn Vallardares  
Ida Talalla

Margarita Fernandez and Michael Galano are elected. There are now 17 board members.

5. Discussion and Possible Action: Election of Board Officers and Representatives:

- a. Election of board officers as stipulated under the Bylaws, Article VI (Chair, Vice Chair, Chief Information Officer, Treasurer, and Second Signer)

Board members referred to the Bylaws: Article 6 on page 8.

Thomas Soong gave the job description for the Chair.

Ari Bessendorf said that one of the Bylaws problems is they are unclear about the responsibilities of officers, particularly for the Chief Information Officer (CIO). I ask that you look at the Bylaws of other neighborhood councils to help clarify responsibilities, like who posts agendas, he advised. Bessendorf said that during his tenure as Chair, he wrote and posted agendas. You've already made quorum so you're doing pretty well, he added.

Ida Talalla complained that your bylaws are Swiss cheese.

Ida Talalla said that if we believe in Roberts Rules, there is an issue of a tie for Board president.

Cheryl Ortega said that many people have commented this evening that the past Board was fraught with irregularities and a lack of knowledge of how things work. We don't have a parliamentarian. Who can call this? Soong said the Chair has this authority. He said that Roberts Rules are a guide.

Ortega added the question of challenging the Chair came up often. Soong said we can discuss that at the Board retreat.

Nominations for Chair:

*Tad Yenawine nominated himself. Connie Acosta nominated David Rockello, who accepted.*

Yenawine said that he'd been on the Board for 4 years. We have two responsibilities. Do what community wants and do what's right. We must understand the balance between those things. I will facilitate conversation.

Rockello said I'm a bridge builder. I have the experience of being president of another neighborhood council for 4 years. I have time to do the hard work between meetings. Everyone will be heard. I'm a traffic cop and not a speechifier. I'm here to help the Board make decisions, not to take over. The community comes first.

Mike Jolly asked both candidates, what do you do for a living? Why do you have time to serve as president?

Yenawine said I own several businesses and don't have time but I make time. I run the Schools and Libraries Committee. Many of this Board's accomplishments came through my committee.

Rockello said that he was a graphic designer. He is currently between jobs. Public service is something that I like. I've been involved with the Los Angeles Neighborhood Councils Coalition, the Department of Water and Power, etc.

Connie Acosta said I've known Rockello from several committees. He has excellent people skills. He has served in the Echo Park Neighborhood Council in prior years.

Jeffrey, who lives in District 5, said I see Rockello walking around there. He would be a wonderful chairman.

Michael Galano said that he wants to sing praises of Yenawine, who introduced him to the neighborhood council.

Cheryl Ortega said that Yenawine and I have worked together for years. We worked to defeat the gang injunction. We've worked on homeless issues and when a private organization wanted to take over public schools. He's a hard worker.

Alex Meza said that Yenawine has been tirelessly working for this board for years. He's committed to the neighborhood and the cause. It has been a joy to work with him in committee.

Jackelyn Valladares said both of you are amazing men. I see you in District 5 all the time.

Margarita Fernandez said that she is very pleased that Mike Jolly asked candidates what they do for a living. If you serve on another Board as Rockello does, can you do both? That's something to think about. Regarding Yenawine, he demonstrated that he works hard. That time element is important.

Sue Reimers, a former neighborhood council Treasurer, said I'm here to advocate for Yenawine. I know both candidates very well. Yenawine had been here for 4 years. He showed up when funds were frozen and when the neighborhood council was put into "extreme measures". She said she adores Rockello but he can't wear two hats.

A Woman said let's speak truth. Yenawine never knew me personally. I've been here for years. Sometimes Yenawine bullied and threatened me. I'm sure that he has a good side. To Rockello, she said I admire you. You've learned to respect me. I would love to see Rockello as president because you listen and you're not aggressive.

A former Board member from District 5 who said that she is the wife of Rockello, said that Rockello is very qualified for this position. To Yenawine, she said you were very angry to me. You are part of the problem.

Luiza PadillaMavropoulos said to Yenawine that sometimes you come off as being aggressive when things don't go your way. She cited his ability to use words on people for the sake of argument. I

would like to see you as the chair, that way you can use your arguments in a good way.

Carmen Medina said that while Rockello is already on another board, she prefers Rockello.

Yenawine said I'm here for community service. I tried to support former Chairs Ari Bessendorf and Kwazi Nkrumah. I'm here to make things work.

Rockello said my allegiance is to the community where in live. I'm on another Board as a stakeholder. I have ample time for this. We have to get out of "exhaustive efforts". He said he's available for this from day one.

**Votes for Tad Yenawine (13):**

Kevin Fisher  
JohnMichael Hull  
Cheryl Ortega  
Richard Courtney  
Andrew Knauer  
Tad Yenawine  
Mike Jolly  
Jackelyn Valladares  
Darcy Harris  
Alex Meza  
Ida Talalla  
Margarita Fernandez  
Michael Galano

**Votes for David Rockello (4):**

Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal  
Jeffrey Kontorovsky  
David Rockello  
Connie Acosta

Tad Yenawine is the new Chair.

*Jeffrey Kontorovsky nominated David Rockello for the position of Vice Chair. He accepted.*

*Margarita Fernandez nominated Darcy Harris, who declined.*

Bessendorf said that Vice President is a very important position. It's important that the Vice President can run meetings and can work together with the President.

A Woman said that Christine Peters is still running the community. I live in Los Angeles, not Echo Park. She said she still wants an apology from Christine Peters.

Luiza Padilla-Mavropoulos said that she is not happy with Yenawine.

Emma said that this room is not ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) acceptable. In response to a complaint, she said that she needs to eat because of health issues. She also has hearing issues.

Yenawine said when you comment on an agenda item, comment on that item. Wait for other issues. We'll take steps to address the issue. Public Comment is not for discussion.

*Talalla said we're nominating vice chair. She nominated Jackelyn Valladares, who declined.*

*Margarita Fernandez nominated herself. She said that she wants to work at the executive level.*

**Votes for David Rockello (12):**

Kevin Fisher  
JohnMichael Hull  
Cheryl Ortega  
Richard Courtney  
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal  
Andrew Knauer  
Jeffrey Kontorovsky  
Mike Jolly  
Jackelyn Valladares  
David "Rockello" Rosen  
Darcy Harris  
Alex Meza

**Votes for Margarita Fernandez (3):**

Connie Acosta  
Ida Talalla  
Margarita Fernandez

**Abstentions (2):**

Tad Yenawine

Michael Galano

Paul Bowers, who is not present, has been nominated as Chief Information Officer. He was CIO for the last neighborhood council,

*Connie Acosta nominated Jackelyn Valladares, who declined.*

Darcy Harris read a statement from Paul Bowers about meeting announcements and how they can be improved. He also mentioned the Alliance of River Committees meeting and discussed various plans for the CIO role.

Jackelyn Valladares said I want to help and translate. Acosta said you can work with him.

Rockello said that while Bowers was on the old Board he was always welcoming. He really is the best candidate for the job. We need continuity.

Acosta said that she wants Valladares to be CIO. She said that she's talked to Bowers about setting up a Communications Committee.

Yenawine said that Bowers is a very valuable member of this Board. However, part of the CIO role should go to others. Ortega said that she wants to close discussion. A Woman asked, Bowers isn't here? Another Woman said that Bowers was very helpful with potholes.

**VOTE for Paul Bowers for Chief Information Officer  
Unanimous  
PASSED**

Yes Votes:

Kevin Fisher  
JohnMichael Hull  
Cheryl Ortega  
Richard Courtney  
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal  
Andrew Knauer  
Tad Yenawine  
Jeffrey Kontorovsky  
Mike Jolly  
Jackelyn Valladares  
David "Rockello" Rosen  
Darcy Harris  
Connie Acosta

Alex Meza  
Ida Talalla  
Margarita Fernandez  
Michael Galano

No Votes:  
None

Abstentions:  
None

*Jackelyn Valladares nominated Michael Galano for Treasurer, who accepted*

Galano said I've been studying accounting since I was 18 years old. I've filled out many expenditure reports since then. He's a senior accountant at a real estate company.

Rockello asked are you willing to follow DONE Funding Department directives? Galano said yes. A Woman said that most funds go to libraries and nonprofits. It's really sad.

**VOTE for Treasurer (Michael Galano was the only candidate)**  
**17-0-0**  
**PASSED**

Yes Votes:  
Kevin Fisher  
JohnMichael Hull  
Cheryl Ortega  
Richard Courtney  
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal  
Andrew Knauer  
Tad Yenawine  
Jeffrey Kontorovsky  
Mike Jolly  
Jackelyn Valladares  
David "Rockello" Rosen  
Darcy Harris  
Connie Acosta  
Alex Meza  
Ida Talalla  
Margarita Fernandez  
Michael Galano

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

None

b. Board designation of Bank Card Holder and Second Signatory

*Rockello nominated Acosta. She accepted the nomination to be Second Signatory.*

*Yenawine nominated Valladares, who accepted.*

Talalla asked what is the role of the Second Signatory. If DONE doesn't give us information, what is the use of the role? Acosta said that there are procedures that need to be followed.

Acosta said I took training and want funds allocated properly. I will follow DONE procedure. It's very important.

Valladares cited her experience working with the community and property law and policy. She said that she wants everything allocated the right way and following the rules.

Acosta said that she also manages properties.

Richard Courtney asked the candidates, what is important for this job?

Acosta said it's a check and balance. They don't work together.

Yenawine said this position was created under exhaustive efforts. It's not well thought out. It's on the Executive Committee. It was formerly a community interest seat. We will refocus this position into a similar position. Valladares is good fit.

Rockello said that this position is about availability. Acosta said if I was Second Signatory I would make sure the Treasurer will do his work. The representative must spot errors and contradictions and make sure that the Treasurer is following rules.

Valladares said I work in South Los Angeles a lot. I make time. I live and breathe and I'm passionate about Los Angeles. I will make sure that policies are being followed and I will represent the community.

*Acosta said I want Jackie to have this experience. Acosta withdrew her nomination.*

A Woman said that Christine Peters had been a Second Signatory. She asked Valladares, what would you do? Valladares said I rely on Galano to be available. I will get the training and be as fair as possible.

Acosta said she is happy to see two new young faces on the Executive board. I'm really thrilled.

The Woman thanked Acosta for working so hard. She said to Valladares that it is your responsibility to communicate errors to the new Treasurer Galano.

**VOTE for Second Signatory (Jackelyn Valladares was the only candidate)**

**17-0-0**

**PASSED**

Yes Votes:

Kevin Fisher  
JohnMichael Hull  
Cheryl Ortega  
Richard Courtney  
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal  
Andrew Knauer  
Tad Yenawine  
Jeffrey Kontorovsky  
Mike Jolly  
Jackelyn Valladares  
David "Rockello" Rosen  
Darcy Harris  
Connie Acosta  
Alex Meza  
Ida Talalla  
Margarita Fernandez  
Michael Galano

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

None

Yenawine said that he wants a 5 minute break. Thomas said that he wants a 2 minute break.

The break began at 9:11pm.

The meeting resumed at 9:18pm.

Echo Park Neighborhood Council President Tad Yenawine is now chairing the meeting.

9. Discussion and Possible Action: Filing a Community Impact Statement to City Council File 14-1635-52 that Echo Park Neighborhood Council adopt or not adopt the motion in support of the Community Impact Statement for Council File 14-1635-52 that supports the proposed Home Sharing Ordinance as proposed by the Department of City Planning.

Yenawine said that he wants to move item 9 to the top of agenda. There were no objections.

Acosta said that she wanted to postpone the item. I read the wrong ordinance, she said. Yenawine asked are there objections to this?

Richard Courtney said I spoke with Matthew Glesne downtown. The earliest this will be heard is at the end of July. There is misinformation in the package that you have. City Council passed a new version last Thursday. You don't have this in your packets. This is a complicated issue. I support Acosta. He said he also wants to have a Town Hall meeting about the issue.

*Cheryl Ortega seconded Courtney's substitute motion to postpone the discussion and to have a Town Hall meeting about it.*

Emma, who said that she is a retired teacher and Air BnB host and community activist, said that senior citizens are a significant percentage of home sharers. There is lots of rhetoric. Take time to go over things. There are so many problems with this document. It could destroy home sharing. She said that she wants more than 2 minutes to speak. She also wants to be on the committee. Home sharing is a right.

A Man named Andy said there is so much wrong with this ordinance that needs to be looked at. It doesn't address RSO units that have been destroyed by developers. It was amazing to see supposedly progressive union members calling us illegal hotels. Andy added that he's willing to serve on the Planning and Land Use

Committee (PLUC). Also, a public hearing is a good idea. There is time to look at this and offer suggestions for change, he said.

Yenawine said we want to get out of here by 10pm.

Richard Courtney asked can this be referred to PLUC to create a town hall meeting. Yenawine asked about the creation of PLUC. Jackelyn Valldares said our next meeting is July 26.

Kevin Fisher raised a point of information. I fear losing a voice if it happens at the end of July, he said. Yenawine asked Acosta her thoughts. Acosta said there should be an Air BnB ordinance and a home share ordinance. Split them up. Valladares said we need more time.

Emma asked can the neighborhood council ask for more time from the City Council? Yenawine said we are not prepared to do this.

**VOTE to postpone and have a Town Hall meeting**  
**Unanimous**  
**PASSED**

Yes Votes:

Kevin Fisher  
JohnMichael Hull  
Cheryl Ortega  
Richard Courtney  
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal  
Andrew Knauer  
Tad Yenawine  
Jeffrey Kontorovsky  
Mike Jolly  
Jackelyn Valladares  
David "Rockello" Rosen  
Darcy Harris  
Connie Acosta  
Alex Meza  
Ida Talalla  
Margarita Fernandez  
Michael Galano

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

None

8. Discussion and Possible Action: Appointing up to 5 Community Impact Statement filers.

*Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal made the motion. David Rockello seconded.*

**VOTE to postpone item 8**  
**Unanimous**  
**PASSED**

Yes Votes:

Kevin Fisher  
JohnMichael Hull  
Cheryl Ortega  
Richard Courtney  
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal  
Andrew Knauer  
Tad Yenawine  
Jeffrey Kontorovsky  
Mike Jolly  
Jackelyn Valladares  
David "Rockello" Rosen  
Darcy Harris  
Connie Acosta  
Alex Meza  
Ida Talalla  
Margarita Fernandez  
Michael Galano

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

None

6. Discussion and Possible Action: Selection of Committee Chairs: Chairs will be nominated and confirmed by majority of Board members present and voting. Committees include: Schools, Libraries and Community Organizations; Public Safety, Planning and Land Use; Parks, Public Works, and Sustainability; Outreach; Communications; Bylaws and Standing Rules; Dodgers Ad Hoc; Location Filming and Film LA; etc.

*Connie Acosta nominated herself to be Chair for PLUC*

*Jeffrey Kontorovsky nominated Mike Jolly. Jackelyn seconded his nomination.*

A stakeholder named Patricia expressed concern about increased density and allowing these expensive apartments in our community. They will be unaffordable for us. It's overwhelming. Over 100 apartments are being built next to her house. It's a big monster, she said.

A Man said that he supported Acosta.

Emma said there is a conflict of interest.

Cheryl Ortega raised a question of process and bylaws. Did the voting method change?

Yenawine said I'll seek the recommendation of the Board for the appointment. He said he prefers the democratic process. Talalla cautioned, don't rush. Sit down and change the Bylaws to include the nitty gritty. All of these committees can wait for a month, she said. That's a motion to postpone all committees until next meeting, said Yenawine.

Fisher asked, in exhaustive efforts, everything was disbanded for the committees? Yenawine said no committees were disbanded. That's a good question.

Acosta asked, if the PLUC chair left and I was vice chair doesn't that make me chair? Soong said that he is reading bylaws seeking guidance about the standing rules.

Ortega asked with the exception of PLUC, can we postpone assignment of other committee chairs? Yenawine seconded Ortega's substitute motion.

Carmen Medina asked the budget and finance committee? Yenawine said we're only postponing the ad hoc committees. PLUC is the only standing non ad hoc committee being discussed now.

*Fisher made a motion to form PLUC. Yenawine said let's deal with Ortega's substitute motion. Valladares seconded.*

**VOTE to postpone formation of all committees except PLUC:  
Unanimous  
PASSED**

Yes Votes:

Kevin Fisher  
JohnMichael Hull  
Cheryl Ortega  
Richard Courtney

Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal  
Andrew Knauer  
Tad Yenawine  
Jeffrey Kontorovsky  
Mike Jolly  
Jackelyn Valladares  
David "Rockello" Rosen  
Darcy Harris  
Connie Acosta  
Alex Meza  
Ida Talalla  
Margarita Fernandez  
Michael Galano

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

None

In response to a question regarding conflicts of interest, candidate Mike Jolly, who is a developer, said he'd recuse himself if his projects came up. He cares about our neighborhood. He said he lives in district 5. We can go rampant with development or we can do it the right way. He said he knows people at City Hall and knows developers.

Acosta said I've developed several apartments. This entails more than land use and property. We need to communicate. She talked to senior citizens today. I have an interest for healthy living and sustainability. I support affordable housing.

Valladares said we live in a growing city. She asked the candidates how will you consider all the voices?

Jolly said when I put up a building, I always do low income. I always put the maximum of number of low income in my buildings. Gentrification is happening but it must be done responsibly.

Acosta said there are lots of good old buildings being torn down for the sake of development. We should rehabilitate old buildings. They have greenery and were well designed.

Margarita Fernandez asked the candidates what do you know in reference to the Central City West plans?

Jolly discussed city plans in general but said that he was not sure about the plan that she mentioned. If we have strong planning commissions we'll have input into change.

Acosta said there are big developments in Chinatown where big easements were given for density. People took the money and ran. The City lost money. There are Los Angeles Times' articles about this. Density bonuses won't save us. We have to preserve what we have.

Kevin Fisher asked the PLUC chair term is one year? Yenawine said that generally, they are appointed until they resign or are removed. However, it doesn't say in the Bylaws. We could review it.

Richard Courtney said that every person in this room is passionate about development. We're rushing into this. He said that he agreed with Talalla in that he'd like time to ask more questions.

*Yenawine made a motion to temporarily make Connie Acosta and Mike Jolly co-chairs. Kevin Fisher seconded.*

Acosta asked so we can form the committee and create a town hall meeting? Yenawine said yes.

Talalla said to make it an ad hoc committee. Yenawine said that it is an ad hoc committee.

**VOTE for co-chairs**  
**Unanimous**  
**PASSED**

Yes Votes:

Kevin Fisher  
JohnMichael Hull  
Cheryl Ortega  
Richard Courtney  
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal  
Andrew Knauer  
Tad Yenawine  
Jeffrey Kontorovsky  
Mike Jolly  
Jackelyn Valladares  
David "Rockello" Rosen  
Darcy Harris  
Connie Acosta  
Alex Meza  
Ida Talalla

Margarita Fernandez  
Michael Galano

No Votes:  
None

Abstentions:  
None

Yenawine said this will be an item on every agenda until it's decided to make it permanent.

**VOTE to postpone election of other committee chairs**  
**Unanimous**  
**PASSED**

Yes Votes:  
Kevin Fisher  
JohnMichael Hull  
Cheryl Ortega  
Richard Courtney  
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal  
Andrew Knauer  
Tad Yenawine  
Jeffrey Kontorovsky  
Mike Jolly  
Jackelyn Valladares  
David "Rockello" Rosen  
Darcy Harris  
Connie Acosta  
Alex Meza  
Ida Talalla  
Margarita Fernandez  
Michael Galano

No Votes:  
None

Abstentions:  
None

7. Discussion and Possible Action: Board appointments of NC Liasions to City Departments and Alliances

- i. Public Works
- ii. Animal Services

- iii. Transportation
- iv. Planning
- v. DWP
- vi. Alliances
- vii. City Budget Rep
- viii. City Attorney's Office

*Yenawine made a motion to postpone this item. Soong said there should be a legal liaison. Yenawine said point taken. Acosta said she wanted to nominate Darcy Harris. Jolly seconded Yenawine's motion.*

**VOTE for postponement**  
**Unanimous**  
**PASSED**

Yes Votes:

Kevin Fisher  
JohnMichael Hull  
Cheryl Ortega  
Richard Courtney  
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal  
Andrew Knauer  
Tad Yenawine  
Jeffrey Kontorovsky  
Mike Jolly  
Jackelyn Valladares  
David "Rockello" Rosen  
Darcy Harris  
Connie Acosta  
Alex Meza  
Ida Talalla  
Margarita Fernandez  
Michael Galano

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

None

7. Discussion and Possible Action: scheduling a time and location for a Board Retreat to discuss Neighborhood Council Budget Packet (Outreach Plan, Strategic Plan, Budget etc), Board Dynamics, Bylaws, etc. (This item was renamed Item 7b.)

This is the second item 7 thanks to a typographical error: (now item 7b)

Soong suggested that this be the last item.

Yenawine wants to table the board retreat item 7 to the end of the meeting. Any objections? There were none.

10. Discussion and possible action to update the Neighborhood Council Board Roster to submit to the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment

11. Discussion and possible action to update the Neighborhood Council inventory list to submit to the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment

*Darcy Harris said she wants to postpone items 8, 10, and 11. Rockello seconded.*

A Woman said your behavior is unacceptable. We need the opportunity to discuss items. You are a bully she said to Yenawine.

**VOTE to postpone**  
**Unanimous**  
**PASSED**

Yes Votes:

Kevin Fisher  
JohnMichael Hull  
Cheryl Ortega  
Richard Courtney  
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal  
Andrew Knauer  
Tad Yenawine  
Jeffrey Kontorovsky  
Mike Jolly  
Jackelyn Valladares  
David "Rockello" Rosen  
Darcy Harris  
Connie Acosta  
Alex Meza  
Ida Talalla  
Margarita Fernandez  
Michael Galano

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

None

12. Lotus Festival: Discussion and possible action re: spending up to \$100 to secure booth at Lotus Festival (July 9-10) and authorizing Darcy Harris to submit application on behalf of EPNC

Yenawine said to have Darcy Harris submit an application on behalf of the neighborhood council.

Women in the audience complained that it was difficult to follow the proceedings because they didn't have agendas. Yenawine said that was unfortunate.

Carmen Medina asked who's ineligible to vote on finance issues? Michael Galano, Margarita Fernandez, and Ida Talalla are ineligible.

In regard to a question about funding, Soong said while he hasn't been given specific numbers from higher ups at DONE, there is funding for this from fiscal 2015-16. Yenawine said money from this fiscal year can be used for this.

Mike Jolly asked what's this for? Darcy Harris said it's \$100 for a booth for two days. *Jolly asked what about all the stuff that goes into the booth? He suggested an amended amount of \$300.*

Richard Courtney asked are there banners in storage? They are under the old Greater Echo Park Elysian Neighborhood Council name. Jolly said let's make the booth worthwhile.

*Kevin Fisher said that he wants to the amend amount up to \$500 for a Lotus Festival booth and materials.*

Carmen Medina noted that in the last minutes, it said there was up to \$2000-\$3000 left in budget so you can cover this. Valladares said she wants to make sure things are translated. I want to be there.

Talalla said we're going down a slippery slope. I haven't taken training. You need to know how much you have in the bucket. That information has been missed for past 9 months. What is holding up this determination? This issue has been raised consistently and there are no answers. Why are we spending money that we don't know? I loved the idea of Outreach. For DONE to not give it to us is derelict.

Acosta said we still have an open account at ER Copy. We can make up to \$400 of printouts.

**VOTE on amendment to change the amount up to \$500.  
14-0-0-3**

**PASSED**

Yes Votes:

Kevin Fisher  
JohnMichael Hull  
Cheryl Ortega  
Richard Courtney  
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal  
Andrew Knauer  
Tad Yenawine  
Jeffrey Kontorovsky  
Mike Jolly  
Jackelyn Valladares  
David "Rockello" Rosen  
Darcy Harris  
Connie Acosta  
Alex Meza

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

None

Ineligible:

Ida Talalla  
Margarita Fernandez  
Michael Galano

**VOTE for amended motion**

**14-0-0-3**

**PASSED**

Yes Votes:

Kevin Fisher  
JohnMichael Hull  
Cheryl Ortega  
Richard Courtney  
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal  
Andrew Knauer  
Tad Yenawine  
Jeffrey Kontorovsky  
Mike Jolly  
Jackelyn Valladares  
David "Rockello" Rosen  
Darcy Harris

Connie Acosta  
Alex Meza

No Votes:  
None

Abstentions:  
None

Ineligible:  
Ida Talalla  
Margarita Fernandez  
Michael Galano

13. Lotus Festival: Discussion and possible action re: approving survey and other literature to be distributed at Lotus Festival and other future events

Darcy Harris said I have drafts of the survey. Yenawine said let's table this until others have seen the drafts. Harris said I have 30 copies. Yenawine asked the Board to have a look at this. Carmen Medina asked the survey will be passed out at the festival?

14. Discussion and possible action re: Translation and meeting equipment: spending up to \$600 on wireless translation equipment, up to 2 broadcast stations and ten receivers, Anleon wireless headsets or equivalent

We are moving to agenda item 14 while item 13 documents are being circulated, said Yenawine.

Yenawine said he looked on Amazon. The Broadcast stations were explained to Cheryl Ortega who said I'm in favor of this but this is step 2. Outreach is step 1. There is nothing in here that says do outreach.

Acosta said we need to have the need first. There have to be 3 bids. Yenawine said that because we're in exhaustive efforts, things work differently. DONE has total control over our budgets.

Soong said that on your agendas, if you need translation, contact DONE at least 3 hours ahead of time. Fisher asked can we buy something generic? Yenawine said that it had good reviews.

Jeffrey Kontorovsky called the question.

A Woman said that past boards wanted this. We always got caught with our parts down.

Jerry Clark asked is that what people wear on their heads? The group replied yes.

**VOTE to spend up to \$600 on wireless translation equipment.**

**14-0-0-3**

**PASSED**

Yes Votes:

Kevin Fisher  
JohnMichael Hull  
Cheryl Ortega  
Richard Courtney  
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal  
Andrew Knauer  
Tad Yenawine  
Jeffrey Kontorovsky  
Mike Jolly  
Jackelyn Valladares  
David "Rockello" Rosen  
Darcy Harris  
Connie Acosta  
Alex Meza

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

None

Ineligible:

Ida Talalla  
Margarita Fernandez  
Michael Galano

13. Lotus Festival: Discussion and possible action re: approving survey and other literature to be distributed at Lotus Festival and other future events -- REVISITED

Darcy Harris explained the motion. *Kevin Fisher made this motion to approve the survey with possible changes by Darcy Harris at her discretion. Richard Courtney seconded.*

A Woman asked to make this more simple but in Spanish.

JohnMichael Hull asked can we give information about the next meeting and invite them here on the flyer? Valladares said we must provide child care at the meeting.

Richard Courtney discussed the need for an email address that someone checks that has our neighborhood council address in it.

Courtney suggests that people send comments directly to Darcy Harris. The language suggests that. *Acosta seconded Harris' motion.*

**VOTE on amended motion**  
**Unanimous**  
**PASSED**

Yes Votes:

Kevin Fisher  
JohnMichael Hull  
Cheryl Ortega  
Richard Courtney  
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal  
Andrew Knauer  
Tad Yenawine  
Jeffrey Kontorovsky  
Mike Jolly  
Jackelyn Valladares  
David "Rockello" Rosen  
Darcy Harris  
Connie Acosta  
Alex Meza  
Ida Talalla  
Margarita Fernandez  
Michael Galano

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

None

**VOTE on original motion**  
**unanimous**  
**PASSED**

Yes Votes:

Kevin Fisher  
JohnMichael Hull  
Cheryl Ortega  
Richard Courtney  
Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal

Andrew Knauer  
Tad Yenawine  
Jeffrey Kontorovsky  
Mike Jolly  
Jackelyn Valladares  
David "Rockello" Rosen  
Darcy Harris  
Connie Acosta  
Alex Meza  
Ida Talalla  
Margarita Fernandez  
Michael Galano

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

None

7. Discussion and Possible Action: scheduling a time and location for a Board Retreat to discuss Neighborhood Council Budget Packet (Outreach Plan, Strategic Plan, Budget etc), Board Dynamics, Bylaws, etc. (This item was renamed Item 7b.) -- REVISITED

In response to a comment from Talalla, Soong said that she is correct. There is a personnel investigation happening. The Board retreat will discuss goals. Your budget packet is due September 1. We can do that at the retreat. He prefers doing it Saturday, July 16. July 9 is too soon and conflicts with the Lotus Festival.

15. Future Agenda Items

Yenawine suggested to schedule a joint meeting about having meetings instead of having a retreat as a separate thing. That provides scheduling flexibility. Yenawine is still chair of the Schools and Libraries Committee.

Ortega asked can you suggest a couple of dates via email? What is site of the next meeting? Soong said today was a bad day to get a location. Yenawine said that this location is available for the next meeting.

A Woman noted that the last Board never had a retreat. I hope it goes well.

Yenawine thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

Jolly asked a question about emails.

For future agenda items Courtney said he'd like to see a DONE report on what happened in exhaustive efforts.

Kevin Fisher asked about the location of the office for future meeting purposes.

Talalla said she wants a clean up and responses from the post office box.

#### 16. Adjournment

*Richard Courtney made a motion to adjourn. Cheryl Ortega seconded.*

The meeting ended at 10:24pm.