

GGPNC Governing Board Meeting Minutes
December 20, 2011

1. Call to Order

Present: Ostrow, Kornberg, Demmers, Bae, Menz, McCarthy, Price, Robbins, Ferris, Ghazarian, Iaderosa, DeOcampo

Late: Mauceri

Excused: Desai, Masi, Khanjian, Malhi, O'Grady, Campbell

2. Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

None.

3. Announcements from Government Officials

Paulina Velasco: Representative from Los Angeles Redistricting Commission. Meeting January 4, 2012, at 6pm at the Friendship Auditorium and seeking public input.

Ostrow: Noting that the board has acted in the past to give input on statewide redistricting, but that this is the first time City districts have been the subject of discussion.

Ferris: Ferris: Asking about Commission's independence from the council.

Eric Menjavid: Representative for Assemblyman Mike Gatto. Sharing updates on new district lines, new legislative calendar including budget.

4. California High Speed Rail Presentation

Alex Shoor, California High Speed Rail representative: providing overview of project and progress of Anaheim-Los Angeles section, including safety measures, environmental impacts, construction phases, cost projections, and business plan, which is open to public comment.

Mauceri arrives.

Menz: Asking about funding.

Bae: Asking about increased budget. Confirming that 6 billion raised so far will cover central valley construction.

Menz: Asking about eminent domain issues.

Ostrow: Noting that if money and political will run out, California would be left with a train to nowhere.

Ferris: Clarifying that high speed rail cannot travel on existing rail and vice versa.

Ghazarian: Clarifying that Amtrak can run on new track.

Price: Asking about eminent domain near Dodger Stadium.

Norma Zager, member of the public: Asking if there has been an effort to attract private funding. New business plan includes \$11 billion in private sector funding.

Bae: Asking about timeline – and 2030 completion date.

5. MetroExpressLanes Program Presentation

Ostrow: Representative from this program was unable to attend and will come to the January meeting instead.

6. Executive Committee Reports

a. President

Ostrow: Noting today's LA Times article about draft Hollywood Community Plan. Sharing experience of seeing a happy hour banner advertisement at the Vermont Restaurant after a representative from that business said otherwise during the meeting last month. The banner has now been removed. Noting that Ostrow, Demmers, and Bae will attend leadership breakfast with CD4 on January 12.

Ferris: Sharing concern that in private meetings with CD4 opinions be clearly expressed either as that of the board or as that of an individual.

b. VP Admin

Demmers: Thanking committee chairs who have worked to bring committees into compliance with Standing Rules in recent weeks. Providing updates on each committee's progress, including resignation of Nyla Arslanian as Culture & Events Committee Chair and non-compliance of Neighborhood Improvement Committee.

Also noting that for 10 weeks bylaws have been sitting with DONE. New reasons on why there has been continued delay in turning those back to us. But committee continues to stay diligent in efforts to get these processed.

Also noting city clerk election administration issue. Survey that City Clerk is doing will be the heaviest weighted item in the decision making process. Only 5 NCs have done the survey and only 15 stakeholders have done the survey. The GGPNC needs to do significant outreach to encourage individuals to submit.

De Ocampo arrives.

Bae: Asking realistically how this will end.

Demmers: Bulk of the cost is monitoring the polls. IEAs can perform this for substantially less than the city. Many councils had a very small turnout. Those councils could plausibly work by town forum. DONE has election funds and could possibly run elections.

Kornberg: Expressing concern that GGPNC election should proceed in March and election outreach should be underway in order to meet this timeline. Meanwhile survey period is open until mid-January and no decision to be reached in a timely fashion.

Ferris: Asking if the LFIA could be contacted and asked to participate.

Mauceri: Explaining history and predicting that this will work out with funding for the councils that have large turnout like the GGPNC.

c. Treasurer

Bae: Distributing new budget with additional copying charges included. Explaining that going forward any GGPNC representative who fails to sign the invoice will not get their CopyCat bills paid.

Ostrow: Noting DONE correction to accounting error that had held up neighborhood watch signs.

MOTION:

Kornberg moves to adopt budget. Menz seconds. No objection. Passed by consensus.

7. Committee Reports

a. Education

i. Committee Report

Price: Reporting on activity since last report. Two meetings since last report covered various topics including the setting of the committee appropriations request, communications with local principals, report cards from 4 local schools (Franklin API 899, Los Feliz 796, King 777, Marshall 697), and report from Franklin principal on need for additional printing supplies.

- ii. MOTION: The GGPNC will notify the Los Angeles City Council that we wholeheartedly support Council Resolution 11-0002-S123 “Corporate Activities in Electoral Processes,” and submission of identical CIS be appended to the City Council file recorded.

MOTION:

Price moves. Mauceri seconds.

Presentation by Julia Russell: Thanking education committee chair for facilitating this motion. Explaining her background in the neighborhood. Sharing view that individual freedoms have been curtailed by corporate influence. Organization called Move to Amend has a position on Constitution Amendment to define humans as people with constitutional rights and monetary expenditures as activity not covered by the 1st Amendment. The LA City Council is considering adopting this. Introduced through education committee because significant public education will be required for passage.

Questions:

Mauceri: Clarifying that the council has adopted this position and we are being asked to add our position to that.

Ostrow: Noting that at the previous meeting the whole council had a discussion about submitting letters for inclusion in the agenda.

Point of Order:

Mauceri: Letter requirement is not a standing rule.

Ostrow: Explaining that this ruling is consistent and correct with our rules.

VOTE TO OVERRULE:

In Favor: Price, Ferris, Mauceri

Opposed: Kornberg, Bae, Ostrow, Menz, McCarthy, Robbins, Iaderosa, Ghazarian

Abstain: Demmers, De Ocampo

Ruling upheld.

Question period continues.

Robbins: Confirming that this is not time sensitive.

Ferris: Confirming that this is formatted as a CIS.

Menz: Confirming that City Council has already passed this.

Bae: Clarifying that City Council approved corporate speech position and attached constitutional amendment language.

De Ocampo: Asking if this is in reaction to Citizens United

Menz objects.

Discussion.

Menz: Not in favor of recommending constitutional amendment without additional information.

Bae: Agreeing with Menz on needing additional background information.

Robbins: Arguing that grass roots support is necessary and therefore appropriate for GGPNC consideration.

Ferris: Also supporting initiative and motivation behind this, but noting that the LA City Council supporting this is a far thing from it happening. So there is plenty of time for this

to be considered. And in concept this is the type of thing that can be appropriate for future review.

MOTION TO TABLE:

Ostrow moves. McCarthy seconds.

Ostrow: Agreeing that the NC can take this kind of action, but that additional notice to stakeholders about the content of this action should be given before constitutional action is recommended.

Mauceri objects to tabling.

Mauceri: Arguing that this is an appropriate time to support this very simple idea.

Robbins: Disagreeing that this is the time to vote. There should be an attempt to communicate this to the community.

Ferris: Suggesting that this is a wonderful outreach item that many community members might wish to weigh in on.

Ghazarian: Agreeing that a poll would be good and an agenda item next month would be appropriate.

VOTE ON MOTION TO TABLE:

In Favor: Kornberg, Ostrow, Menz, McCarthy, Price, Robbins, Ferris, De Ocampo, Mauceri, Ghazarian, Iaderosa, Bae, Demmers

Opposed: None

Motion tabled by majority vote.

- iii. **MOTION:** The GGPNC will appropriate \$300 to Aimee Art Productions (Building Self-Esteem and Literacy Through the Arts). Aimee Arts is a highly successful program with a history in Los Feliz's public schools and the GGPNC grant money will fund Aimee Art's Winter production of *Oliver!* at King Middle School.

MOTION:

Price moves. Menz seconds.

POINT OF INFORMATION:

Kornberg: Asking if it is ok to use the word grant in this context

MOTION TO AMEND:

Kornberg moves to delete word grant. McCarthy seconds. No objection. Amended by consensus.

Ferris: Supporting.

Robbins: Calls the question.

VOTE TO CALL THE QUESTION:

In Favor: Kornberg, Menz, McCarthy, Price, Robbins, Ferris, De Ocampo, Mauceri, Ghazarian, Iaderosa, Demmers

Opposed: Bae, Ostrow

VOTE ON MOTION AS AMENDED:

In Favor: Kornberg, Menz, McCarthy, Price, Robbins, Ferris, De Ocampo, Mauceri, Ghazarian, Iaderosa

Opposed: Bae, Ostrow

Abstain: Demmers

Passes by majority vote.

b. Rules & Elections

- i. MOTION: To adopt the following Standing Rule: Any and all wide-distribution correspondence (origination and responses thereof), including email between a Board Member, Committee Chair, or Committee Chair and the Council's Governing Board and/or Committee Chairs and vice versa, or to any number of sitting Board Members totaling five (5) or more shall be facilitated through the Vice President, Communications with no exceptions.

MOTION:

Demmers moves. Bae seconds.

Demmers: Explains that this is already embodied in bylaw change and has been mostly followed.

Questions:

Robbins: Clarifying that this cannot restrict public email, but would apply to a board member who receives a mass email from the public and then replies all.

Kornberg: Asking for clarification on the language.

Ferris: Asking if there are committees with five or more board members on them.

Iaderosa: Asking about public safety alerts to large listservs.

Robbins: Asking if removing board members from her list would solve the issue.

Demmers: Clarifying that there would still be an issue emailing 5 voting committee members.

MOTION TO TABLE:

Bae moves. Robbins seconds. No objection. Tabled by consensus.

- ii. MOTION: To amend the GGPNC's bylaws adjusting adjacent NC boundaries, ceding area of Silver Lake neighborhood to the jurisdiction of Silver Lake Neighborhood Council (SLNC).

MOTION:

Demmers moves. Kornberg seconds.

Demmers: Explaining background and impact of this motion on boundaries as well as her view that this is a housekeeping matter.

Questions:

Bae: Asking if this was originally drawn this way in part due to the Bates Motel originally being included in our area.

Ferris: Asking if this will also be submitted to DONE.

Ostrow: Clarifying that this is being discussed at the GGPNC for the first time and that previous discussion has been at the committee level.

VOTE:

In Favor: Robbins, Ferris, De Ocampo, Mauceri, Ghazarian, Iaderosa, Kornberg, Ostrow, Demmers, Menz, Price

Opposed: Bae, McCarthy

Motion Fails.

MOTION TO RECONSIDER:

Mauceri moves. Ferris seconds. No objection. Motion to reconsider passed by consensus and board returns to question period.

Mauceri: Explaining that GGPNC incorporated before SLNC and took control of Bates Motel area because that was a concern of the neighborhood's at that time. Now that the SLNC is a vibrant and active board this no longer makes sense.

Ferris: Asking if this prevents the council from supporting events and causes in the ceded area.

Bae: Asking what cost is associated with keeping it.

Demmers: Noting that this area is no longer part of our assembly district area.

Discussion:

Ghazarian: Agreeing that election district lines reflect this delineation.

De Ocampo: Noting redistricting is truly a separate issue.

Ferris: Supporting this for the logical reasons already cited. Noting there is a precedent for this with Griffith Park and HUNC.

Kornberg: Supporting this, but noting that this is the area is blighted and it is a shame that it has not been able to enjoy the growth that the rest of Los Feliz has enjoyed.

McCarthy: Supporting this reluctantly because many businesses and residents in this area are associated with Los Feliz.

Ostrow: Supporting this reluctantly given disarray at DONE.

Bae objects

VOTE:

In Favor: De Ocampo, Mauceri, Ghazarian, Iaderosa, Kornberg, Ostrow, Demmers, Menz, McCarthy, Price, Robbins, Ferris
Opposed: Bae

Bylaw amendment passed by supermajority.

- c. Sports & Recreation Report: T.S. King Youth Basketball Access – Equipment and field signage, Vermont Tennis Court free access, Griffith Park ball fields Local Volunteer Neighborhood Oversight Committee (proposition k)

Price leaves.

Mauceri: Reporting on projects at King, school signage, Vermont Tennis, and Griffith Park ball fields (\$1,000,000 available to restore old fields through Proposition K)

De Ocampo leaves.

- 8. MOTION: To allocate up to \$500 for supplies and equipment necessary to clean and buff gymnasium flooring at T.S. King Middle School over upcoming holiday break in order to reduce risk of injury for youth basketball league.**

MOTION:

Mauceri moves. Bae seconds.

Mauceri: Explaining that cuts are undercutting basic functions. Refinishing would be the ideal, but it is too expensive.

McCarthy: Sharing personal experience with this issue.

No objection. Passed by consensus.

9. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes

MOTION:

Kornberg moves. Bae seconds.

Mauceri: Asking how corrections should be made.

Kornberg: Explaining that while draft minutes are on the site before agenda is published corrections may be submitted.

Ferris: Expressing discomfort with a system that would allow changes to be made without them being clearly marked as such.

Ostrow: Explaining that for now this is left to the discretion of the Secretary.

Demmers: Noting two corrections. First that the comment on submitting letters should be noted. And second that the comment requiring roll call should be noted.

Mauceri: Two corrections. First that the spelling of Peterson. And second in 5.E. changing plan approval to plan check.

Motion tabled until these changes can be incorporated.

10. Other Comments and Announcements

Robbins: Asking that redistricting be included in next outreach.

Ferris: Asking about parking in the lot after 8.

Mauceri: Incumbent on council to deal with budget cuts and election issue.

11. Adjourn

Kornberg moves to adjourn. Bae seconds. Adjourned 11:06 pm.