

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council

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Date of NC Board Action: 09/04/2012

Type of NC Board Action: For Proposal

Impact Information

Date: 02/05/2013

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 11-0002-S123

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Brief Summary: On September 4, 2012 the ERNC voted 7 yes 6 no to support this motion by City Council.

Additional Information:

EAGLE ROCK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
Held at
Eagle Rock City Hall 2035 Colorado Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90041
GENERAL BOARD MEETING
September 4, 2012

APPROVED

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Michael Larsen Pres. called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. with welcome and roll call.

Present: Michael Larsen, Pres; Michael Nogueira, Vice Pres; Robert Guevara, Secy; Osbaldo Luna, Interim Treasurer; Stephan Early, Immediate Past President; Peter Hilton, Caroline Roncalli, Duy Tran, Carolee Watson, Maria Nazario, Irena Seta, David Klinger, Jared Hardy, Brian Cawley. **Absent:** Oren Bitan, Alejandro Jimenez, Daniel Law, David Kofahl. **City Representatives:** Nate Hayward, Field Deputy, CD 14. Mark Schlageter, Policy Director for CD 14

NO QUORUM

Mike L: Please state whether or not you are running in the coming election

Running	Not Running	Undecided
Peter	Mike L	Carolee
Duy	Osbaldo	Caroline
Robert	Stephan	Maria
Irene	David Klinger	
Mike N.	Brian C	
	Jared	

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Frederick Pickel – DWP Exec Dir Rate Payer Advocate (PowerPoint): I was appointed on Feb. 14 to this new city position which was created for greater transparency of DWP. Position is to provide a public independent analysis of power and water rates. I look at the overall rates and also who pays what within the city – the residential customers vs commercial customers. Also I look at planning – the overall budget process, specific projects and DWP’s strategic plans. Other duties are complaint review and other special issues. There is a process for getting things to a vote to the full Council. I am currently working on a rate proposal and a water rate proposal and was provided the potential ordinances. I released my response on Aug 22, and it’s now available to the public via the City website. DWP will meet on Sept. 12 and City Council Energy Environment Committee headed by Councilmember Huizar on Sept. 19 and City Council will meet on it Sept. 24. I am recommending an increase on power for a 2 year period, since they have not had many increases. **Peter:** Coming to an ERNC meeting and pleading for a rate increase for DWP, is synonymous with banks pleading for more money. I have never seen DWP do anything for us. They say they are strapped but their employees and boards get raises, and they have their hand out to us. They need to give the people of this City a break. Anytime DWP comes with their hand out I say “no”. **Frederick:** DWP has a 2 year mandate to work on getting salaries and other things in line. Capital programs are the big money. **Peter:** You have your employees get a 26% raise that goes on their pension. **Frederick:** That is a long term labor agreement. **Robert:** The 15 councilmembers passed the duty to the one rate payer advocate. **Frederick:** I was on the NC and I am familiar with what was envisioned, there is not much on the specifics, we are making it up as we go along. **Mike L:** Are the Feds involved in any way; any help from them? **Frederick:** No it is all on us. **Bob Gotham, stakeholder:** If you put solar panels on your roof, it is likely that you will generate more power than you need and in some areas you can sell it back to the utility to lower your bill. **Frederick:** DWP is not

paying people to produce excess; it is a whole separate program. **Peter:** We have 2 or 3 companies that do that in Eagle Rock, and DWP's sign off is about 18 months. DWP does not want them on people's homes because it reduces their bottom line. **Frederick:** I have not heard that their backlog is 18 months. **Ruby DeVera, stakeholder:** Was this a ballot proposition? **Frederick:** This was a ballot proposition. It goes to DWP board, then to City Council and then the Mayor, the week of Sept. 24 or 25. **Tim Ryder, stakeholder:** What are the salaries now, about \$400K plus bonuses? **Frederick:** There is only one individual in that category. Online there is a link to job category salaries, compared to other utilities across the US. Also online there is a calculator to estimate your utility rates. **Mark Schlageter, Policy Director for CD 14:** The release of this being online is the new transparency that the Advocate office has been building. We now have more information available than we did before. That makes City Council's job easier.

QUORUM

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Osbaldo and I took the treasurer's training on Thursday and are now certified to pay people and turn in these reports and funding requests. We don't have a P card yet, it will come in about 10 days to me, as Osbaldo is not running again. We are working on the funding approvals of the last few months.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Osbaldo (handout): It is not as easy as before for NCs to give away money. You who want funding have to give us a lot more information now than in the past. Our new fiscal budget is \$37,000. **Maria:** Where is election on this? **Mike L:** That is a totally separate budget, we have it all. **Mike N:** There are a lot of people asking for money tonight. If we allocate every request tonight we would spend \$23,000 and this new president will have \$13,000 to spend for the rest of the year. **Maria:** We also have spending items to subtract that are not funding requests as well as what's in the budget pending. **Mike L:** We have \$16,000 for outreach – so we could put Veterans' Parade there, \$15,400 for Neighborhood Grants and Operations \$6,200 in the budget for minutes. That leaves us \$21,000 for grants. **Peter:** we need to go over our finances before we look at the fundraising requests.

MOTION by Mike N that we approve the budget dated September 4, as submitted.

SECOND: Stephan

VOTE: 10 in favor. 0 opposed. 3 Abstain: Jared, Carolee and Caroline.

4. LAND USE

Peter: We had a 7/11 rep come, but he did not want to make a presentation, so we tabled it. They are not coming before the board. We told the man who came he had to make a presentation before we could make a recommendation. **Nate, CD 14:** I was there and the guy did not want to get up, apparently he was new. **Peter:** We had an informal presentation on a 15 unit development on Tonawanda, and they will come back and make a full presentation. **Mike N:** This is near Toland Way. **Peter:** We told him what he needed to bring, plans, building size, parking, etc. **Mike N:** This was 4 bungalows they wanted to turn into 14 or 15 units but it was too small for parking; we told him to talk to the neighbors. **Mike L:** Organix Grocery has finally opened.

5. CD 14 REPORT

Nate Hayward (flyers): I am the new field deputy; I was covering Highland Park where I live. Regarding the 710 fwy project, some people in the area and Pasadena were worried the freeway would be going through their homes; a 6 lane highway around highway 64; and a tunnel that would exit in Eagle Rock by the Pilipino Church. The Councilman's office introduced a resolution opposing every route except for the main route Caltrans started building many years ago. He did not oppose that because we were promised information about that route. It was heard last Monday in the Transportation Committee. The amended resolution opposes all tunnels and routes. So if Caltrans goes forward and City of LA opposes it, then Caltrans has to go into negotiations with the City. On Sept. 19 will be a community meeting sponsored by Councilmember Huizar at El Sereno Senior Center. Come out and make your voice heard and get an understanding. **Peter:** I heard the EIR was going to be relaxed to get these things through. **Nate:** It got killed. The only thing that is getting through is Bike Lanes, everything else got killed in legislature. Only routes are straight ones A-B. A bus rapid transit and light rail, and transportation system management (striping). **Mike L:** We have a liaison, Nancy Campo, she can't make it on Tuesdays, but keeps us informed. We thank her for her help. We also want to thank the Council for acting quickly on this.

6. BUSINESS DIRECTOR VACANCY

Mike L: Nominations and self-nominations are open for anyone who wants to be business director for one month until the October election. Seeing none, nominations are closed.

7. LAPD BLEND FUNDING

Mike L: Sgt. Ruben Aellano is here for BLEND. They are asking for \$1,498.76 for their boxing program. We had a full presentation last month but did not have a quorum to vote on it. **Sgt. Aellano:** Our program is solely funded through the community. Two officers run the boxing program which has been very successful. When cadets worked the Dodger games they got paid, but that was discontinued. We have also had fundraisers. **Mike L:** This is open to all in Eagle Rock? **Sgt. Aellano:** It's open to everyone in the Northeast area. The only criteria we have is that kids keep their grades up. **Mike N:** How many NCs have pledged money in Northeast? **Sgt. Aellano:** Silverlake, \$900. Echo Park (\$3,000). Glassell \$2500.

MOTION by Peter recommending that the ERNC approve \$1,000 for the BLEND program

SECOND: Stephan

8. Kay Belchern, stakeholder: The Dodgers gave \$30,000 for that program, and now we are down to what we get from Neighborhood Councils and fundraising. This program gets kids off the street. I am on the board of BLEND. **Mike N:** Highland Park has not given yet? **Kay:** Yes they have. They Sgt is not the treasurer and we did not come with that information.

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT by Osbaldo recommending ERNC allocate \$1,400 for BLEND.

Peter: I reject the friendly amendment, as they can come back if they need more. That's the way we have to start doing business.

VOTE: 8 In favor. 3 Opposed. 2 Abstain: Osbaldo and Caroline.

9. MOVE TO AMEND STUDY GROUP

Ann Porter: I am here again to ask the ERNC to approve and submit a Community Impact Statement in support of City Council's Resolution which supports an amendment establishing that only humans, not corporations are persons entitled to constitutional rights. The City council passed theirs in 2011. (Read her statement)

MOTION by Stephan recommending that the ERNC approve a CIS in support of this amendment.

SECOND: Osbaldo

Open discussion about amendment and role of unions

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT by Osbaldo that the following language be included in the draft CIS statement to say "corporations and/or Unions"

Stephan accepts friendly amendment.

VOTE on Amendment: 5 in Favor. 8 Opposed. 0 Abstain. Amendment fails.

MOTION for Original Recommendation by Jared recommending that the ERNC approve the original CIS resolution as is

SECOND: Stephan

VOTE: 7 Yes. 6 Opposed. 0 Abstain.

10. VETERANS' DAY PARADE FUNDING REQUEST

Mike L: This is their 7th year of ERNC funding. Ruby is back asking for \$5,000. This is an outreach expenditure, rather than a Neighborhood Purpose Grant. **Maria:** I think this is in our budget as a line item. **Mike L:** It is in our budget for \$5,000. **Ruby DeVera, Parade Chair** (handouts): I approach other NCs for funding as well. The parade is run by about 60 volunteers starting in March. This year's theme, is "Honoring those who Served." This is a postcard flyer that can be returned if you want to recognize a veteran. This year we are approaching Highland Park, because of the route going through Veterans Sq. The route is Station 55 on York to Figueroa to Veterans Sq. This

year is the 125th anniversary of Oxy College and they are a major sponsor for \$2,000 and our grand marshal is an alumni of Oxy and a veteran. There will also be a free concert and presentations. **Mike N:** Have you received any money from Highland Park yet? **Ruby:** Nothing yet we asked for \$1,000. **Maria:** There is road construction on Eagle Rock Blvd. **Ruby:** They should be done before then. For the Souvenir journal last year we started charging \$100 to elected officials for their message, and it helps with costs. **Mike L:** We pay for outreach items that our name go on. So it is not a block grant. **Peter:** We have to look again, at what we are spending; only 2 blocks of the parade are in ERNC, and look at what the return is. **Robert:** The way Peter is looking at it is mapping, look at it as a NE event; as all communities are so close to each other, we are a neighborhood. **Peter:** Ruby, according to your application you got from Glassesll Park \$3,000; Cypress \$1500; Highland \$1,000. So if we balance out the giving, we should give them \$1,000 for outreach which is reasonable.

MOTION by Peter recommending that the ERNC approve \$1,000 for the Veterans' Day Parade

SECOND: Mike N

Robert: What was last year's funding? **Osbaldo:** I think she came in under at \$4500. **Kay:** I volunteer and this is a big parade, it is not a matter of what community, it has been in Eagle Rock all these years. We are celebrating and honoring our Vets.

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT by Osbaldo that because it is easier for us to pay a vendor I am recommending that ERNC approve the Veterans' Parade printing costs of \$1,500 with our ERNC name on it as well as flyers and postcards. Peter accepts.

VOTE: 9 in Favor. 0 -Opposed. 3-Abstain Caroline, David, and Peter

11. APPROVAL OF JULY MINUTES

Robert: I did not distribute July. Minutes tabled.

12. APPROVAL OF AUGUST MINUTES

Mike L: In August no quorum, so just notes.

13. ELECTION UPDATE

Mike L: 3 candidates so far were listed online; Nelson Grande, for President. Tim Ryder, Public Safety Director and Mat Herring. For our election we have the ad up on Patch.com, and some of you took election flyers to distribute. Oct. 6 we have to get organized for the music festival with materials about the election; we want to add candidates to our materials. Who will volunteer to coordinate a schedule – Maria volunteered and will include Alejandro.

The October meeting is the last full meeting of this board.

14. TAKE BACK THE BLVD REQUEST FOR FUNDING

Bob Gotham: (application, handout) We appreciate your funding from last year. We focused on community outreach. This is a legacy project, to change the character of Eagle Rock to a small downtown feel. I think you should approve our request, because when it is done, it is a gift that keeps on giving by changing the quality of life for years to come. Bill Roschen, Pres of Planning Commission said he thinks it is the most exciting transformation of an area he has seen. For the next year we will be identifying grants that address what we want to get done on the Blvd. We are asking you for \$4,900 to hire grant writers. We are working with DOT to see what we could get done for free. **Peter:** Where are grant writers coming from? **Bob:** We have a consultant, who has a list of grant writers. **Brian:** We interviewed several people to be consultants. **Osbaldo:** When was it launched and how many grants so far? **Bob:** TERA has given \$5,000 and Council gave us \$5,000 and some in-kind in printing and ERNC about \$2500 last year. This year so far Council will help us with \$5,000 and TERA \$1,000. **Robert:** What is bothering me is you are asking us to provide money to hire someone else to get a block grant. When you look at that we are funding a salary, if it were vendor fees then I would feel more comfortable. **Bob:** We don't know who will write the grant until we find a grant application to do. **Duy:** Expected completion date is 2014; are you expecting to come back next year? **Bob:** I am expecting to use what you give us this year.

[There may be a conflict of interest, with Maria because she is a board member of TERA and they are the sponsoring agency for Take Back the Boulevard. Michael L, David and Jared are also TERA members. Mike N

may have a conflict of interest because he is on the Chamber. Brian is ERNC liaison to Take Back Blvd. Mike L will ask the Attorney General to clarify who has a conflict of interest.

MOTION by David recommending that the ERNC approve \$4900 for Take Back the Blvd for grant writing services.

SECOND Brian C

7 in Favor. 3- Opposed 2 Abstain -Maria and Caroline

15. GLAAD FUNDING REQUEST

Elizabeth Luttrell, Greater LA Agency on Deafness: We are a one stop nonprofit for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. We provide referrals to other agencies and resources of information. We are asking for help with our production costs and equipment rental on Sept. 30 at the House of Blues. We want to provide captions on large screens so whether deaf or not person can enjoy the music. The benefit to ERNC, we do participate in this community, also your logo and information will be on our promotional materials and logo on our website for 1 year as well as our twitter account. **Peter:** I am currently undergoing certification for disaster relief. We use the GLAAD in disasters, they are invaluable, they volunteer most of the time. **Mike L:** We have also used their facilities in the past.

MOTION by Peter recommending that ERNC approve \$2500, to GLAAD for production costs and equipment rental for their Sept. 30th fundraiser.

SECOND: Mike N:

VOTE: 10 Unanimous. 1 abstain Caroline

16. EAGLE ROCK CHAMBER FUNDING REQUEST

Mike L (application): (Mike N recused himself, he is a Chamber member) This is for their 43rd annual Children's Tree Lighting and Christmas Event, \$876.50. We cannot pay \$200 for donations to a choir and police. **Kay Belchern, Chamber:** We have about 800 kids we buy gifts for and we serve hot chocolate and cookies. Last year the Council office helped. We have to pay for a stage this year and for the driver. We need \$756 for stage provided by Parks and Rec. **Mike L:** This is not a block grant, this is outreach. The stage would say ERNC. **Kay:** If you have a banner we can put that up. **Duy:** I don't see why we can't also fund the flyers for \$257.

MOTION by Maria recommending that the ERNC approve \$756.00 for the stage for the Chamber of Commerce Christmas Event.

SECOND: David

VOTE: 9 in Favor. 0 opposed. 1 abstain – Caroline.

Maria: We have spent \$11, 000 so far

17. PROPOSITION 30

Mike L: Stephan had to leave but he wanted to discuss Proposition 30. However, I found out we can't take a position on it unless we hold a forum.

18. EAGLE ROCK CITY HALL USAGE

Mike L: I spoke to Zenay about storage and all are taken, but she said she could find some space for us. We need to buy a few more tables for the City and put stickers on them.

19. ELECTION RETURN POSTAGE

Robert: It would cost a few hundred dollars for return postage for people who want to vote by mail. **Mike L:** What's the mechanism to get people the stamp? **Robert:** If you give the City money they will put postage on the mail in ballot. **Peter:** They will put a meter number on it and bill the City dept. **David:** If a person takes time to sign up online for vote by mail, they are more inclined to buy a postage stamp. **Duy:** If they don't use all the money for stamps will it come back to us? **Robert:** It will go back to City. No motion made on this.

Meeting adjourned 9:29

Joyce Clarke, Apple One Personnel Temp