

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: North Hollywood Northeast

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Date of NC Board Action: 07/18/2015

Type of NC Board Action: For

Impact Information

Date: 08/20/2015

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 14-1371

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Brief Summary: The North Hollywood North East NC supports the City Council's Earned Sick Day ordinance similar to the City's of San Francisco and Oakland with no less than 5 earned sick days for small business and 9 days for big business

Additional Information:

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA



NORTH HOLLYWOOD NORTH EAST NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL



P. O. Box 16478
North Hollywood, CA 91615-6478

Meets Third Thursday Night,
7:00 PM, LA Fire Station 89
7063 Laurel Canyon Bl., N.H. CA

Email:

NoHoNorthEastNC@gmail.com

Website: www.nhnenc.org

Message Phone (818) 627-8505

BOARD MEMBERS of NHNENC:

Ernie Moscoso - Pres.
Ben Moore – VP & Treas.
J. Eric Freedner – Sec.

Ruben Borges
Dr. Wung Chang
Florence Dorick

Salvador Guerrero
Judy Harris
Jack Lindblad
Chuck Loring
Inez T. Morin
Sarah Ramsawack
Ismael Rosales

**NORTH HOLLYWOOD NORTH EAST NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING/RETREAT MINUTES**

Saturday, July 18, 2015 – 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

**Los Angeles Fire Station #89 Community Room
7063 Laurel Canyon Blvd, North Hollywood, CA 91605**

Item #1 on the Agenda – Refreshments

Breakfast items were served.

Item # 2 on the Agenda – Call to Order – Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order by President Ernie Moscoso at 9:10 am and he led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item # 3 on the Agenda – Roll Call

Secretary J. Eric Freedner called the roll.

Present: Florence Dorick – At Large Representative
J. Eric Freedner, Secretary – At Large “
Chuck Loring – Community Interest Rep.
Ben Moore, Vice-Pres. – Resident Rep.
Inez Morin, Treasurer – At Large Rep.
Ernie Moscoso, Pres. – Business Rep.
Sarah Ramsawack – Community Based Organizations Rep.

Absent: Ruben Borges - Resident Rep. (unexcused)
Dr. Wung Chang – Resident Rep. (“ ”)
Salvador Guerrero – At Large Rep. (“ ”)
Judy Harris – Community Based Organizations Rep. (unexcused)

Jack Lindblad – Business Rep. (unexcused)
Ismael Rosales – Resident Rep. (“ ”)

A quorum was announced. Amber Meshack of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment also attended the meeting, and stakeholders Jose Flores and Imelda Padilla attended portions of the meeting.

Item # 4 on the Agenda – Public comments

None.

Item # 5 on the Agenda – Board Member Expectations

Ms. Ramsawack expected to learn some things, become more effective, and had expected every Board member to have been in attendance.

Mr. Freedner came with no expectations. Ms. Morin hoped to find out what’s new.

Mr. Loring was anxious to hear comments this morning; Ms. Dorick wanted to learn better ways to do things, Mr. Moore wanted to come together and discuss issues not raised at our regular meetings, and Mr. Moscoso wanted to see if more people could attend our meetings and assist the NC.

Item # 6 on the Agenda - Introduction

Brief introduction by Ms. Meshack. The Board then indicated it wanted to take up the financing and other items on the Agenda, and return to Item # 7 later in the morning.

**Item # 8 on the Agenda – presentation, discussion and possible action –
Monthly expenditures related to Board Administration**

- (a) Allocate \$40/month for copying (b) Allocate \$100/month for board meeting refreshments (c) Allocate \$100/month for storage space rental (d) Allocate \$150/month for minute taker (e) Allocate \$150 for web hosting (f) Allocate \$2500 for web upkeep (g) Allocate \$200 for misc. equipment (h) Allocate \$200 for PO Box rental and Allocate \$1000 for translation.**

Discussion as to whether all allocations were to be monthly, Mr. Moore said only the first four were recurring monthly costs. Mr. Moore further defined “miscellaneous equipment” as potential purchases of office supplies such as a stapler, tape, and reams of paper. Mr. Moscoso noted that the NC was billed for \$1,000 for a translator several months ago, but no translator had actually shown up at the meeting. General dissatisfaction with such a charge, Ms. Meshack said to contact DONE for an adjustment to billing or complaint about lack of services. Ms. Morin asked about hiring an Assistant Treasurer which had been discussed but not included in this item.

Motion by Ben Moore, seconded by Chuck Loring, to allocate each item as noted on the Agenda item, but to delete the word “monthly” from the Agenda item (second line) as being confusing.

7 AYES: Messrs. Dorick, Freedner, Loring, Moore, Morin, Moscoso and Ramsawack
0 NOES

ABSENT: Messrs. Borges, Chang, Guerrero, Harris, Lindblad and Rosales

VOTE: (7-0-0) MOTION PASSES

Item # 9 on the Agenda – Presentation, discussion, and possible action – Allocation of \$1200 for outreach to stakeholders regarding agenda items to be heard by the Land Use Committee (mailings, flyers, etc.)

Ms. Ramsawack explained that the prior allocation for the Land Use Committee, including money for possible translators, expired on June 30 and this new allocation was requested for the present 2015-16 fiscal year. They didn't use all of the \$1000 allocated, only about \$200, so this \$1200 was the estimate for a full year. Comment by Mr. Freedner, that he would like to see funds allocated for all committees and that the committees report to the Board, perhaps in six months, of funds spent and remaining such that the Board could reallocate unused funds. Mr. Moore said that this was done, but near the end of the fiscal year, and that about \$5000 was returned to the City as unspent NC funds. Further discussion, Mr. Moore suggested using the Land Use Committee as a sort of model as to funding and reporting of expenditures on a timely basis.

Motion by Ben Moore, seconded by Chuck Loring, to allocate \$1200 for the fiscal year 2015-16 to the Land Use Committee for outreach to stakeholders.

7 AYES: Messrs. Dorick, Freedner, Loring, Moore, Morin, Moscoso and Ramsawack
0 NOES

ABSENT: Messrs. Borges, Chang, Guerrero, Harris, Lindblad and Rosales

VOTE: (7-0-0) MOTION PASSES

Item # 10 on the Agenda – Discussion, presentation and possible action – Allocate up to \$2000 for clean up on/or about August 29, 2015

Mr. Moscoso suggested a commitment by the Outreach Committee for this event, but Mr. Moore said that in the past month, Outreach did nothing about it. Further discussion – around \$1,100 spent on last neighborhood clean-up, our NC will take the lead in this event – need specific budget and plan to be approved by DONE in time to fund, confirmed by Ms. Meshack – differences between this event and the barbecue planned at the Whitsett Slope by the Councilman's office – staging place to be Fire Station # 89.

Motion by Ben Moore, seconded by Chuck Loring, to allocate up to \$2000 for the proposed neighborhood cleanup on/or about August 29, 2015, covering Vanowen to Hart Streets and from Laurel Canyon to Lankershim Boulevards.

7 AYES: Messrs. Dorick, Freedner, Loring, Moore, Morin, Moscoso and Ramsawack
0 NOES

ABSENT: Messrs. Borges, Chang, Guerrero, Harris, Lindblad and Rosales

VOTE: (7-0-0) MOTION PASSES

Item # 13 on the Agenda – Presentation, discussion and possible action – Support Councilman Krekorian sponsorship of National Night Out with BBQ and community solicitation for clean-up group for Whitsitt slope on August 4 @ 6:00 – Allocate \$500 to purchase supplies and food (Also supported by NOHO West NC)

Discussion - very little clean-up proposed for this event, but selecting a group to clean and maintain the mural area in the future. Ms. Ramsawack and Mr. Freedner both noted that National Night Out originated by the police departments for Neighborhood Watch groups, and that message is being lost here.

Motion by Ernie Moscoso, seconded by Sarah Ramsawack, to allocate \$500 for purchase of food items for the August 4 2015 Whitsett Slope/National Night Out event planned by Councilman Krekorian's Office as sponsor.

6 AYES: Messrs. Dorick, Loring, Moore, Morin, Moscoso and Ramsawack

1 NO: Mr. Freedner

ABSENT: Messrs. Borges, Chang, Guerrero, Harris, Lindblad and Rosales

VOTE: (6-1-0) MOTION PASSES

Item # 11 on the Agenda – Presentation, discussion and possible action – support a Town Hall Community meeting on or about Aug. 27, 2015 on the LA City Minimum Wage Imitative questions and answers facilitation by LAANE (Imelda Padilla) allocated \$200 for refreshments

Ms. Padilla addressed the Board, thanking them for the Community Impact Statement supporting the \$15 minimum wage. The City voted that into effect and will create a new bureau concerning its enforcement. A sick-days policy is still to come before the City Council. A state bill proposes 3 paid sick days per year. She wants the City to legislate that for every 30 hours worked, an employee accrues 1 hour of sick pay. Concern by Mr. Freedner that business owners are not being represented by the NC, Mr. Moscoso replied that they can come and ask questions at the proposed town hall. Mr. Loring added that we are being called on to support an informational process.

Motion by Sarah Ramsawack, seconded by Chuck Loring, to allocate up to \$200 for refreshments at the proposed Town Hall Community meeting by LAANE on August 27, 2015.

6 AYES: Messrs. Dorick, Loring, Moore, Morin, Moscoso and Ramsawack

1 NO: Mr. Freedner

ABSENT: Messrs. Borges, Chang, Guerrero, Harris, Lindblad and Rosales

VOTE: (6-1-0) MOTION PASSES

Item # 12 on the Agenda – Presentation, discussion and possible action to CIS 14-1371 – The NoHo NE NC supports the LA City Council to pass and ordinance similar to San Francisco and Oakland with no less than 5 earned sick days for small businesses and 9 days for big business

Ms. Padilla told the Board that AB1522 is before the Assembly in Sacramento concerning this subject. Responding to Mr. Freedner's question, she said over 25 employees at a firm would make it considered a "big business."

Motion by Ernie Moscoso, seconded by Chuck Loring, to prepare the following Community Impact Statement regarding Council File 14-1371:

"Dear Honorable Members of the City Council,

The North Hollywood North East Neighborhood Council requests that the following Community Impact Statement be added to Council File 14-1371, regarding the City Council's effort to support Earned Sick Day Leave.

COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The North Hollywood North East Neighborhood Council supports the City Council's passing an Earned Sick Day ordinance similar to San Francisco and Oakland with no less than 5 earned sick days for small business and 9 days for big business.

This Community Impact Statement is based on the action taken at the Board Meeting on 7/18/2015. On 7/18/2015 the North Hollywood North East Neighborhood Council adopted the following motion by a vote of 5 Yes-1 No-1 Abstention, and directed that a Community Impact Statement be filed reflecting its position.

5 AYES: Messrs. Dorick, Loring, Moore, Morin, and Moscoso

1 NO: Mr. Freedner

1 ABSTENTION: Ms. Ramsawack

ABSENT: Messrs. Borges, Chang, Guerrero, Harris, Lindblad and Rosales

VOTE: (5-1-1) MOTION PASSES

The balance of the meeting was devoted to:

Item # 7 on the Agenda – discussion, presentation and possible action regarding general goals for the NoHo Northeast Neighborhood Council including but not limited to:

- a. 2015-2016 Strategic Plan**
- b. 2015-2016 Budget**
- c. Goals for Community Improvement and involvement**
- d. Outreach**
- e. Board and leadership responsibilities and success**
- f. How do we measure accomplishments and success**
- g. Review of Funding Documents (How to complete, what must be submitted)**

(The notes which follow are not intended to be all-inclusive, but a brief summary of the matters raised over approximately three hours.)

Ms. Meshack suggested that, as a goal of the Strategic Plan, we take time at every Board meeting to view how things were being done to reflect the Big Plan goals. Community surveys should reach at least 500 stakeholders. There should be at least 1 candidate forum, and a voter turnout of at least 50 persons.

Mr. Moore was concerned that the Board hears of expenditure requests for the first time at meetings, and long discussions or confusion then arises; there should be advance notice so that members can review them first.

Mr. Moscoso agreed to host an informational outreach table at five community events and prepare 1,000 informational flyers. Mr. Moore offered to co-ordinate the Spring 2016 election event. Mr. Loring offered to coordinate events contact and important issues and Mr. Moore volunteered to serve as "Solution Manager."

Ms. Meshack suggested that the Executive Committee meet to plan upcoming Board meetings, but Mr. Moscoso responded that he did not like Executive Committees in other NC's seemingly dictating what would and wouldn't come before their Boards at meetings; however, if such a Committee meets and plans the NHNENC agenda, no one should complain if there are omissions on the Agenda. Ms. Meshack said that

the Executive Committee need not meet every month, it could be once per quarter to discuss time, prioritization, and leadership.

A lengthy discussion ensued about the Minutes, as there has been widely differing and contentious expectation of what should be in them. Ms. Meshack suggested working from a template and that their purpose is to “record Council actions.” Mr. Moore suggested keeping the level of detail going into each motion minimal, arguments back and forth between members can be omitted. Requests for future motion actions, however, should be mentioned. Ms. Ramsawack complained that items were marked “tabled” without any date for when they would be brought back to the Board.

Mr. Freedner discussed how he takes Minutes, using Maggie’s draft as a starting point. However, he has to re-arrange agenda items to reflect the actual chronological order in which they were heard. Also, for the last meeting, he obtained a set of Santa Monica City Council Minutes to use as a template. These do not, for example, detail public comments, or Board member discussion. Also, listing governmental representatives’ comments on upcoming events is futile when those things take place within a month and the Minutes are not approved by the Board until after that month. Ms. Meshack said that the Minutes need to show action, who voted, how they voted and what the Board needs to do about the Motion. Other information may be added. Committee reports may be kept on a separate template and posted on the website, but not in the Minutes. It is not required to keep any record in perpetuity; and videos or transcriptions may be also used to keep a verbatim record of proceedings but do not take the place of written Minutes.

Mr. Moscoso said the Board was spending too much time on reviewing and arguing about the Minutes and corrections being requested to them. Ms. Meshack agreed there needed to be a “middle ground” between accuracy and perfection in the Minutes – correct only if a vote, action or statement was misrepresented. Spelling and grammar could be corrected later, or left as is.

Discussion on how Maggie is taking Minutes – Mr. Freedner said she is a professional and he has not told her how to “run her own business,” but Ms. Meshack suggested telling Maggie when her draft Minutes are due so that Mr. Freedner can then revise them and get them to the members within two weeks of each meeting. And, any additions to the Minutes must be made before each Board Meeting, not afterward, after the Board has voted its approval of them.

Ms. Ramsawack mentioned the events of July 2014, when she contacted Maggie to help her improve the Minutes, the Board did not approve of it, and she then resigned as Secretary.

Ms. Meshack then called for discussion of the roles and responsibilities of Board Members. Mr. Moore said the Agendas are too long, people run off on tangents. We might spend an hour discussing sidewalks but ten rushed minutes in tackling funding items at the end of the evening. Mr. Loring noted that we shouldn’t make decisions for the Board members not present – those present know the rules and responsibilities, the others need to read the By-laws. Ms. Meshack suggested

adopting standing rules, members should be responsible for reading the Agenda prior to the meeting; also they should read Committee reports and similar documents before meeting, so people will be informed of issues at the meeting and it can possibly run smoother and quicker.

Mr. Freedner said that, while he likes guest speakers and government representatives to attend, they often take up a huge portion of our meeting times; at least an hour. This causes stress and the need for the Board to rush through things afterward. He suggested occasional Town-Hall-style meetings with guest speakers and representatives instead. Mr. Moore added that Board members should be held to strict standards (including regular attendance) – he would rather see a vacant seat than an empty one where a member has not shown up. It was revealed that Sen. Herzberg's attendance the other night was on a spur-of-the-moment decision by the Senator, and not reflected on our Agenda – but all Board members should be advised of VIP guests' attendance. Ms. Meshack agreed, but added that members should attend not just for that reason, but to honor their commitment to the NC.

Ms. Meshack suggested that we “build capacity,” engage the President to resolve problems – conflict or anger is an inevitable part of the process – but we could use an orientation kit including By-laws, standards, and a mentoring program for new Board members. Also new members could be gotten through interested persons attending Committee meetings. Mr. Freedner suggested rotation of mentors so that one person alone is not trying to guide or teach new Board members.

Discussion about the four categories of Board members – Resident, At-Large, Business and Community-Oriented Representatives and what they mean. Ms. Meshack said the categories are used to build capacity but members are supposed to represent all stakeholders. Mr. Freedner indicated that sometimes a Board member may be at a conflict, for example, whether to side with residents or businesses. Mr. Moore asked what the terms of newly-elected Mr. Rosales and Dr. Chang were – he believed Mr. Rosales was elected only until 2016, Dr. Chang to serve until 2018.

Mr. Moore suggested holding “mini-retreats” to follow up on all the issues raised today.

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Eric Freedner, Secretary

