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Ron Ostrow

**VICE PRESIDENTS**  
Tor Hyams - Administration  
Luisa Nubaravacharyan - Outreach

**TREASURER**  
Christina Khanjian

**SECRETARY**  
Jessica Kornberg

GREATER GRIFFITH PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL  
*"Your Neighborhood. Your Voice. Your Council"*  
**GOVERNING BOARD MEETING**

## MINUTES

February 15, 2010 – 7:00 p.m.  
Los Feliz Community Police Center  
1965 n. Hillhurst Ave. (2<sup>nd</sup> floor of Citibank)  
Los Angeles, CA 90027



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### 1. Call to Order.

7:00 pm

Present: Ostrow, Hyams, Vukovic, Gardner, Masi, Bae, DeMonte, Khanjian, Nubaravacharyan, Kornberg, Malhi, Campbell  
Late: DeOcampo, Mauceri, O'Grady, Mims, Wilson

### 2. Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

Rex Link: Sharing information about Los Angeles Zoo. New parking lot design has fewer spaces, which causes traffic on the exit from the 5 freeway.

Gardner: Clarifying that the Zoo does not currently charge for parking.

Bennet Kayser, LAUSD Board of Education Candidate: Introducing himself, sharing his role in helping to certify the councils, domestic partnership benefits and living wage initiatives. [BennetKayserForSchoolBoard.org](http://BennetKayserForSchoolBoard.org)

### 3. Reports from Public Officials

Francisco Covarrubias, Staff to Mike Gatto: Introducing himself to the council and sharing details of the Representative's legislative package.

Ostrow: Inquiring about progress on legislative solution to "used car lot" on Los Feliz Blvd.

Covarrubias: Explaining that city attorney and county are both working on a solution. California Assembly ill-positioned to intervene. DMV has promised another raid in the near future.

DeMonte: Inquiring about free-speech protections at issue.

Mauceri arrives.

#### **4. L.A. County Strategic Plan for Economic Development Presentation (<http://www.lacountystrategicplan.com/>)**

Nhien Lasky, LACEDC: Introducing herself and her organization, a non-profit dedicated to advancing community economic interests in LA. Sharing 5-point plan: prepare an educated workforce, improve business climate, enhance quality of life (focus on recreation and mobility), improve infrastructure, and making smart land use decisions. Meeting with community organizations to identify partnerships to implement these strategies. Suggesting the council review the proposals and then follow-up with ideas for partnership and possible endorsement.

O'Grady arrives.

Ostrow: Recommending that any endorsement come through committee.

Arslanian: Inquiring about relationship to the city, since this is a county-wide plan  
Lasky: Explaining that city representatives were part of the plan's development and that partnership with cities continues. The City of Los Angeles unanimously endorsed the plan last year.

Bae: Sharing information about community college enrollment rising in the economic downturn. Questioning the guarantee of the community college enrollment to high school graduates.

Mims arrives.

Gardner: Noting the passing of Jack Kaiser, the chief economist for the LACEDC. Sharing community concern about commercialization of Griffith Park.

Mauceri: Clarifying the hope is that we will review the plan on the website and in committee and then endorse it at a later meeting.

Kornberg: Sharing emphasis on small and locally-owned businesses at the neighborhood council.

DeMonte: Noting efforts to bring together businesses from diverse communities and asking for continued assistance in that effort.

Lasky: Sharing proposal to streamline regulations to assist businesses and that this might be a common concern for all businesses in the area. Regional managers are assigned to each area and provide free consultations.

Wilson arrives.

Mims: Complementing general outline. Commenting on absence of emphasis on access to parks. Suggesting the streamlining efforts should focus on speed of regulation, as opposed to cost. Also commenting on the decline in the quality of education and access to higher public education.

Hyams: Clarifying how the plan is implemented and where LACEDC derives financial support.

Lasky: Explaining that implementation is a grassroots effort and that GGPNC could support ideologically and financially if they so desire. First of five year plan completed. Annual report forthcoming. County board of supervisors and private companies contribute funds.

Gardner: Asking about Southern California Association of Governments endorsement.

Lasky: Suggesting that this endorsement is forthcoming.

Mauceri: Asking if the plan is complete or a work in progress. Clarifying that the endorsement is for the goals, not individual projects.

Lasky: Explaining that goals are complete but implementation and outcomes continue to involve.

## **5. L.A. Children's Hospital New Building Presentation**

Mohan Kachgal, LACH: Introducing himself and sharing history of LACH. New building opening in July and will increase bed capacity by 317, 85% of which will be private beds. Noting that hospital design is specific to family care.

DeOcampo arrives.

Malhi: Suggesting Vermont/Sunset metro station could be more family friendly.

Hyams: Sharing his personal experience with a family friend.

Kornberg: Asking about plans for parking at the Circuit City and AutoZone/Ford lots.

Kachgal: Promising follow-up.

Mauceri: Sharing his personal experience with the hospital.

Arslanian: Clarifying the location and seismic retrofitting on the old building.

Wilson: Asking for more information about properties in the neighborhood.

Kachgal: promising follow-up

Mims: Sharing personal experience with the hospital.

Ostrow: Echoing Kornberg's point about parking.

DeMonte: Noting street lighting festival on Sunset between Lyman, and Hillhurst will result in street closures

Ostrow: moving Executive Committee reports up in the agenda.

## **6. Executive Committee Reports**

### **a. President**

Ostrow: Reporting on leadership breakfast - emphasis at this event on the budget crisis. Updating progress on Master Plan meetings. Distributing CD4 candidate forum flyers.

Sharing committee chair appointments: Laura Howe and Joe Young as Co-Chairs for PROS; Stephanie Widmer for Education.

Gardner: Clarifying Master Plan meeting communications. Reading City Council motion regarding funding.

Ostrow: Explaining that this document is not relevant. The GGPNC's role was to get more meetings scheduled.

Mims: Noting it was LaBonge's motion and LaBonge's letter, so the letter is the governing document because it is the more recent of the two.

b. Treasurer's Report

Khanjian: Thanking Ostrow for delivering items to DONE and updating report

Ostrow: Distributing Budget updates and sharing progress on payments. Expressing concern that unsubmitted items will not be honored in the next fiscal year.

Mims: Clarifying that submitted by email means that DONE has all documentation and the council is awaiting a response.

Gardner: Suggesting we use a packet that explains these requirements.

DeMonte: Explaining why some businesses may be resisting the documentation requirements.

Mims: Explaining that BTRC is nominal for small businesses and non-profits.

Mauceri: Asking about Dan Sandman's reimbursement item.

O'Grady: Noting eco-tour expenditures will be less than approved.

Khanjian: Noting we have a budget surplus remaining that we should aim to authorize before June.

Mims: Explaining that money was lost in the past when council was being fiscally conservative and thought money would be rolled-over.

**MOTION:**

Hyams moves to approve report. Gardner seconds. No Objection. Report approved by consensus.

**7. Motion to Reconsider January 18, 2011 Agenda Item 5.b.ii. to Amend the Bylaws.**

Ostrow: Explaining procedure for a Motion to Reconsider from Robert's Rules of Procedure, including that the motion must be brought by a member of the prevailing side, that the motion is not a discussion item, and that if passed the council returns to the previously considered item in the exact procedural posture at which it was left.

**MOTION:**

Bae moves. Malhi seconds.

**Vote:**

In favor: Hyams, Muaceri, O'Grady, Masi, Vukovic, Campbell, DeOcampo, Khanjian, Malhi, Bae, DeMonte, Nubaravacharyan, Kornberg

Opposed: Gardner, Arslanian, Wilson

**Return to Discussion of January Bylaw Amendment Proposal:**

Arslanian: Asking about Rules & Elections motion later in the agenda.

Bae: Explaining his reasons for bringing the motion to reconsider. Noting that there is only one page of real changes of substance and that is page four. Attended last week's rules and elections committee meeting to ask questions and gain insight into the process and substance of the proposal. Noting concerns raised at last month's meeting about rushed procedure have been fully addressed in the intervening time.

Arslanian: Revisiting her remarks from last month. Noting the extension of terms to four years from two may be onerous. Suggesting that making this many changes at once is unorthodox. Each change should be debated individually.

Malhi: Thanking Rules & Elections committee for their work. Recognizing Arslanian's concerns, but suggesting this process makes it easier for board members to engage in the process.

Gardner: Criticizing the change to an all-elected board in light of the last election's turnout from non-resident stakeholders. Sharing his experience in the bylaw drafting process.

Kornberg: Explaining her position on the scheduling of this change with respect to outreach that must be undertaken for the May appointment process.

**2<sup>nd</sup> MOTION to AMEND:**

Wilson moves to amend terms to 2 years instead of four years. Arslanian seconds.

Malhi: Asking about term of four years.

Hyams: Explaining reasons for 4 year terms was to stagger the transitions on the board.

Kornberg: Explaining that in addition to achieving continuity despite an all-elected board, the staggering of elections also protects against the formation of block voting.

Masi: Expressing his support for a four year term, because it takes so long to understand and impact neighborhood issues on the council.

Campbell: Expressing support for the 4 year term because it encourages long-term planning.

Mims: Arguing that the pro-four year term arguments might be better served by arguments against term-limits. Noting that when election are held every two years, board members are more directly accountable to stakeholders. Questioning the sincerity of Kornberg's argument about election slate.

Gardner: Agreeing with Charlie.

Ostrow: Clarifying that currently the stakeholders only get to weigh in on half the board. This proposal allows stakeholders to weigh in on all the board.

Arslanian: Sharing her experience with people who could not serve two years terms. Noting that if the solution to problems with the appointment process incentivizes resignations and appointments it's no solution at all.

Malhi: Asking about other councils.

DeMonte: Explaining other councils have 4 year terms.

Gardner: Noting Stephanie Widmer ran in the last appointment and is now chair of the Education Committee. Suggesting we get a standardized set of bylaws from the city.

Mims: Suggesting the reasons for setting House of Representative seats at 2 years apply to NCs. Also noting the election administration by the City Clerk has been heavily criticized and that action taken to answer those concerns may be futile if the city acts to completely change the election process.

Wilson: Disagreeing with the suggestion that there is such a shallow learning curve when so many new members have been productive. Arguing that long terms are more vulnerable to corruption. Noting that if this term had been suggested previously the votes would have been different.

O'Grady: Clarifying that achieving staggered elections was the reason for 4 year terms.

**VOTE on Amendment:**

Abstain: DeMonte, Malhi

In Favor: Wilson, Mims, Gardner, Arslanian

Opposed: Kornberg, Hyams, Mauceri, O'Grady, Masi, Vukovic, Campbell, DeOcampo, Nubaravacharyan, Bae

Amendment fails by majority vote.

**3<sup>rd</sup> MOTION to AMEND:**

Wilson moves to increase to 18 years the age to vote.

**POINT of ORDER:**

Mauceri clarifying that according to Robert's Rules of Procedure there are only 2 allowed amendments.

Ostrow: Ruling no more amendments are available. Returning to discussion.

**APPEAL:**

Mims appeals the ruling from the chair. Wilson seconds.

Ostrow: Explaining the procedure for an appeal will be one statement in favor, one statement against and a majority vote on the question.

**In Favor of Appeal:**

Mims: Explaining he believes the language in Robert's Rules contemplates returning to the motion as it was but starting that phase of the process anew – so that this motion would be eligible for 2 amendments at this time.

**Opposed to Appeal:**

Mauceri: Robert's Rules is clear on this point. This procedure was fully vetted in Rules and Elections committee. There is no ambiguity in the rule. There was one proposed amendment in January, which failed. One additional amendment was available at this meeting and it has failed.

**Vote on Appeal:**

In favor of Appeal: Mims, Gardner, Wilson, Arslanian

Opposed to Appeal: Hyams, Mauceri, O'Grady, Masi, Vukovic, Campbell, DeOcampo, Khanjian, Malhi, Nubaravacharyan

The Ruling from the Chair stands.

**Return to Discussion:**

DeMonte: Believes the GGPNC should move to an all-elected board – that this was the mandate of the last election. The factual basis question will be decided by the city. Happy that there has been plenty of notice both for this proposal and the rules and elections meetings. Hopeful that if the NCs are freed from the City Clerk elections, then the council can return to shorter terms.

Nubaravacharyan: Noting two email blasts over a period of more than a month to more than 1500 stakeholders.

DeOcampo: Opining that the process isn't perfect. The bylaws aren't perfect. But it's a vast improvement. There will be a new board elected in another 2 years and they can make yet more changes.

Mauceri: Opining that the current system is broken and this eliminates those issues. It's difficult to change course mid-stream. It took many months and a ripple effect through the document to do so. The public isn't as concerned with our internal processes. That's why they're not engaged in this debate. The council should adopt this proposal and move on from this debate to the issues of greater concern to the neighborhood.

Hyams: Sharing his experience on the board, including his past conflict with the previous VP of Administration who did not hold frequent Rules & Elections meetings. As VP of Administration he has held a meeting every month. There has been extensive public notice. This proposal cures the most serious flaws in our system.

Arslanian: Supporting many of the suggestions embodied here. Continues to object to the conglomeration of them in this process. This should be a stable document not subject to such violent changes.

Wilson: Noting that the current bylaws were cited as a model for other councils. Disagreeing that there were issues with the appointment process. The election process, in contrast was very messy. Unconvinced that this change makes our system fairer or better. Agreeing that our stakeholders care more about substance than process. But if the bylaws allow corruption to invade the process they will care.

Gardner: The election caused a lot of the problems being experienced here. The appointment process didn't. The bylaws are changes, not solutions and they come with their own hazards. Didn't attend the Rules & Elections committee meeting because he didn't think he would have any input.

Campbell: Noting that one of the reasons she ran was to make a significant change in our process and it was one of the reasons her neighbors came out to vote for her. Grateful for the work of the committee.

DeMonte: Explaining that the appointment process is significantly skewed towards those who the board already knows. There is an obvious advantage. And it's easy to criticize that system from the outside, but it's easy to fall into the same pattern.

O'Grady: Noting that this council had more appointments than any other. The last appointment process saw all incumbents appointed. This will be more open.

Mims: Opining that the former "anti-Armenian" board appointed two Armenians while the Los Feliz Forward slate trafficked in race baiting. Agreeing that the council should be debating the weaknesses of the current system more substantively. The most stable board members have been those who were appointed who were available to represent a specific interest, while some elected members have never come to a meeting and had to be replaced. Understands that a key point for the slate that ran was to move to an all-elected board. The issue with this proposal is the stakeholder and factual basis issue. If the council wants to ensure a democratic system that should be a primary issue. Finally this is a revision not an amendment and it should be given more deliberation.

Ostrow: Finding it unfortunate that the process always succumbs to discussion of the last election. Sharing that at the direction of Bernadette Soter in a previous board he performed a statistical analysis that demonstrated that in the appointment process there was self-appointment by consensus and a vulnerability for vote trading. While this proposal looks complicated it is really one significant change that results in other adjustments. This is one of the strongest councils because it always tries to improve. The document could still use improvement, including voter age and a tighter definition of a stakeholders. Those are items for future rules and elections meetings. Particularly pleased in the committee's work.

Gardner objects.

**VOTE on the MAIN MOTION (Supermajority required to adopt bylaw amendments):**

In Favor: Hyams, Mauceri, O'Grady, Masi, Vukovic, Campbell, Khanjian, Malhi, Bae, DeMonte, Nubaravacharyan, Ostrow, Kornberg, DeOcampo  
Opposed: Mims, Gardner, Wilson, Arslanian

Motion passes and bylaw amendments adopted by supermajority.

## 8. Committee Reports

### a. Public Safety

- i. MOTION: To authorize \$300 for two surveillance cameras for the Marshall Area Neighborhood Watch.

Withdrawn.

### b. Outreach

- i. MOTION: To authorize the use of all unexpended, allocated funds, without precluding the ability to request additional funds as necessary for the May 2011 Appointment process.

Malhi, Mims leave.

### **MOTION:**

Nubaravacharyan moves. Mauceri seconds.

Nubaravacharyan: Sharing information about printing and distribution costs for appointment outreach.

Ostrow: Clarifying that the motion is to use the remaining monies in the Outreach budget for this project.

Bae: Clarifying this will be both mailed and distributed.

Khanjian: Noting the council needs the outreach and needs to use surplus funds to avoid forfeiture.

Arslanian: Suggesting the postcard have broader outreach beyond the appointments.

Hyams: This is consistent with previous expenditures.

Campbell: Encouraging transition to electronic communication.

Wilson: Concerned about the suggestion that we should spend money to spend money.

Gardner: Noting this is asking for a vote of trust regarding an open-ended expenditure.

### **MOTION to END DEBATE:**

DeOcampo moves to vote. Campbell seconds.

In Favor: Mauceri, Gardner, Campbell, Nubaravacharyan, Vukovic, DeOcampo, Khanjian, Bae, DeMonte, Hyams

Opposed: O'Grady, Masi, Wilson, Kornberg

No Objection. Passed by consensus.

### c. Rules & Elections

- i. MOTION: The Rules and Elections Committee recommend to the GGPNC board that the League of Women Voters administer and moderate the GGPNC CD 4 candidates forum, and the program will follow the formatting and procedures the league feels appropriate for the scope of the event.

**MOTION:**

Hyams moves. Nubaravacharyan seconds.

O'Grady recuses himself and leaves the room.  
Vukovic leaves.

Hyams: Presenting information about the League of Women Voters.

DeMonte: Explaining that their format is similar to the candidate forums the GGPNC has had in the past.

Ostrow: Adding additional details about format and moderation

No Objection. Approved by Consensus.

- ii. MOTION: At the Appointment Process, the GGPNC will follow the prescribed procedures in Roberts Rules Of Order in regard to the use of vote counters and tabulators, who will reveal the outcome of the vote, but not the individual votes themselves until the entire appointment process is completed.

**MOTION:**

Hyams moves. Nubaravacharyan seconds.

Hyams: Explaining the procedure to tally votes, announce outcomes, and keep the information about who voted for which candidates undisclosed until the end of the entire appointment process.

Ostrow: Clarifying procedure and the prohibition against secret balloting for public appointments.

Wilson, Khanjian, Gardner: Clarifying minor points of procedure.

No Objection. Passed by Consensus.

- iii. MOTION: The GGPNC approves the following timeline for the May appointments
- Week ending March 4, 2011: Post in posting places and email notice to general list.
  - April 22, 2011: Deadline for applications to be received at PO Box.
  - April 26, 2011: Circulation of applications to Board and final posting on website (posting will occur within 3 days of receipt).

- May 7, 2011: Special Board meeting for candidate presentations.
- May 17, 2011: Board installation.

**MOTION:**

Hyams moves. Kornberg seconds.

Arslanian: Clarifying that appointees need not be present on the 7<sup>th</sup>

Campbell: Clarifying the meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> will commence at 1pm

Khanjian: Clarifying that no other Board business is contemplated for that meeting.

Arslanian: Clarifying 10 board members are necessary to hold the meeting.

Hyams: Explaining why a May date is necessary.

**MOTION to AMEND:**

Mauceri moves to approve all but the last two dates. Hyams seconds.

Ostrow: asking about how outreach is to proceed.

**WITHDRAWAL:**

Kornberg moves to withdraw. Hyams seconds.

MOTION to AMEND if Withdrawn.

**MOTION to AMEND:**

Arslanian moves to delegate choice of appointment date to the outreach committee.

Kornberg seconds.

No Objection. Amendment passed by consensus.

No Objection to Main Motion as Amended. Passed by consensus.

- iv. MOTION: That the GGPNC adopt the following **revised** bylaw amendments.

Hyams moves to table until next meeting. Kornberg seconds. No objection. Motion tabled.

**9. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION:**

Kornberg moves to adopt December minutes. Nubaravacharyan seconds. No Objection. Approved by consensus.

**MOTION:**

Kornberg moves to adopt January minutes. Bae seconds. No Objection. Approved by consensus.

Wilson: Complimenting Kornberg on the minutes.

## **10. Presentation on the proposed four lane road improvement through Griffith Park.**

Gardner: Sharing history of the park and current plans to increase commercialization in the park. Explaining current contours of the roads through the park serve park users and natural inhabitants. Noting programs like the Haunted Hayride and other public private partnerships that use city parks to generate funds in this manner are problematic. The public share of the revenue should go to the city's general fund, not in special non-profits or specific agencies. The Griffith Park Master Plan Working Group has met for three years to advise on this and other issues. Now their work is being re-characterized as a "vision" and downgraded in its import. This work may or may not be added to the master plan. Councilmember LaBonge funded the previous plan but ceding land in Griffith Park to Glendale.

Wilson: Suggesting this would be a good topic for the candidate's forum.

Arslanian: Asking that the written document be distributed.

Kornberg: Noting candidate questions cannot be candidate specific.

Masi: Asking for additional information about Griffith Park Working Group's proposal on this issue.

Gardner: Explaining that the working group recommended reorganizing the plan's presentation and maintaining the roads as is was the recommendation of the working group.

Ostrow: Confirming the motivation for the presentation was to maintain our current vigilance on this issue as opposed to in response to a new activity

Gardner: Explaining that the commercial events are increasing including Shakespeare, Haunted Hayride, and other events.

## **11. Other Comments and Announcements**

Ostrow: Representatives from 1031 productions will attend the March meeting to discuss the Hayride and other events.

Arslanian: LFIA forum is tomorrow.

Khanjian: Forum is in the Oral Presentation Room at Marshall.

Wilson: Asking about volunteering at the Forum.

## **12. Adjourn**

Kornberg moves to adjourn. Nubaravacharyan seconds.

11:08 pm