



# LOS ANGELES NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL CONGRESS

## Senate Meeting

Saturday, April 1, 2006

LADWP Building

Hope & First Streets, Los Angeles

## MINUTES

(As approved May 6, 2006)

### Member Neighborhood

#### Councils

Arroyo Seco  
 Atwater Village  
 Bel Air-Beverly Crest  
 Canoga Park  
 Central San Pedro  
 Coastal San Pedro  
 Del Rey  
 Downtown Los Angeles  
 Encino  
 Empowerment Congress SE  
 Area  
 Granada Hills North  
 Grass Roots Venice  
 Greater Echo Park Elysian  
 Greater Griffith Park  
 Greater Valley Glen  
 Harbor Gateway South  
 Historic Cultural  
 Historic Highland Park  
 Mar Vista  
 Mid City West  
 North Hills West  
 Northwest San Pedro  
 Northridge West  
 Pacoima  
 Pico Union  
 Reseda  
 Silver Lake  
 South Robertson  
 Studio City  
 Tarzana  
 United Neighborhoods  
 Valley Village  
 West Hills  
 West Los Angeles  
 West Van Nuys/Lake Balboa

1. Meeting was called to order at 10:13am by Chair, Leonard Shaffer
2. Minutes. The Chair brought a motion to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2006 meeting. It was noted that the minutes should be amended to correct the spelling of "amend", "amendment" and variants. As amended, the minutes were approved by unanimous consent.
3. Adoption of the Senate Agenda.
  - a. The Senator from the Winnetka NC, Ms. Ozanian, moved addition of the following item to the agenda: whether LANCC should do outreach at home shows at the LA Convention Center. The motion was seconded, and approved.
  - b. The Senator from the Mar Vista NC, Mr. Marsh, moved addition of the following items to the agenda: (1) providing comments re the 912 Commission; (2) certification issues and procedural strangulation of NCs by DONE; (3) reviewing City support of Charter Section 9; and (4) whether NCs should hold town meetings quarterly. The motion to add the first item to the agenda was seconded, but failed on a 9-9 vote. Mr. Marsh then withdrew the other three items.
  - c. The Senator from the Mid-Town North Hollywood NC, Mr. Baratta, moved addition of the following item to the agenda: presentation from Last Chance for Animals re elephants at the Los Angeles Zoo. The motion was seconded, and approved.
  - d. The Senator from the Reseda NC, Mr. Cohen, moved to add the following item to the agenda: consideration of the LA DWP Audit. The motion was seconded, but failed.
  - e. The Senator from the Historic Highland Park NC, Mr. Keifer, moved to add the following item to the agenda: issues related to fear of closure of Southwest Museum by Autry Museum. The motion was seconded and approved on a 13-3 vote.
  - f. The Senator from the Woodland Hills-Warner Center NC, Mr. Kulpa, moved to close the agenda. The motion was seconded and approved.
  - g. The Chair made a motion to adopt the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded and approved as amended.

4. Reports from Officers:
  - a. The Chair, Mr. Shaffer, reported that he had submitted a letter to the City Attorney's Office regarding the issue of potential personal liability on the part of NC board members who participate in LANCC.
  - b. The Vice-Chair, Mr. Gelfand, reported regarding the Agenda Committee, and agenda-setting process.
  - c. The Secretary, Mr. Jacobberger, reported that the Structure Committee is looking at rules regarding how NCs bring items before the Senate and how the Senate will handle items it is considering.
  - d. Mr. Jacobberger reported on behalf of the Treasurer, Mr. Strouse, that a major issue is whether LANCC should incorporate as a 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4), or incorporate two separate entities to permit LANCC to avoid violating any restrictions on lobbying activities
  
5. Reports of Standing Committees:
  - a. The Outreach/Communications Committee distributed a written report regarding its activities
  - b. The Chair of the Congress/General Assembly Committee, Brady Westwater, made a presentation regarding an apparent decision by DONE to limit LANCC's participation in the June 17, 2006 DONE Congress of Neighborhoods.
    - i. The Senator from Coastal San Pedro, Mr. Gelfand, moved to add this item to the agenda as unfinished business. The motion was seconded by the Senator from Greater Griffith Park, Mr. Mims. The Motion carried.
  
6. Official Communications From Member Neighborhood Councils:
  - a. Coastal San Pedro NC on "Clean Money"
    - i. Coastal San Pedro NC communicated that it supported in principle the plan for public financing of city elections according to the proposal set forth by the California Clean Money Campaign, and made a motion that the LANCC recommend that its member neighborhood councils consider taking a position of the Clean Money proposal in a timely manner.
    - ii. The motion was seconded by the Senator from Arroyo Seco, Mr. Murray.
    - iii. The Senate discussed the issue, including whether the motion related to the current effort to enact public financing for state elections.
    - iv. Julia Mar, from the California Clean Money Campaign, informed the Senate that the City Ethics Commission had voted 3-0 to recommend full public financing of City elections, and that the City Council likely would not take further action until Summer 2006.
    - v. The Senator from the Mid City West CC, Mr. Jacobberger, offered the following amended motion:

The LANCC recommends that its member neighborhood councils take up the issue of public financing of city elections, as being considered pursuant to Council File No. 05-11536;

The LANCC establishes an ad hoc committee, to be chaired by David Ty Vahedi, of the Westside NC, to put together a packet of information regarding proposals for public financing of City elections, to be presented at the next Senate meeting.
    - vi. The amendment was seconded by Greater Griffith Park (Mr. Mims).
    - vii. The motion to amend carried, with 2 opposing votes.
    - viii. The amended motion carried 23-1 (Woodland Hills-Warner Center NC opposed)
    - ix. The Chair requested the Communications Chair to communicate this matter to NCs and appointed Mr. Vahedi as chair of the ad hoc committee.

7. A brief recess was taken.
8. Public Comment:
  - a. Dr. Dan Wiseman, of the Van Nuys NC, commented that LANCC should address many issues, including the 912 Commission.
  - b. The Senator from Historic Highland Park, Mr. Keifer, discussed the issue of the Autry Museum's acquisition of the Southwest Museum, and the community's concerns about whether the Autry would continue to operate and maintain the Southwest Museum in Highland Park.
  - c. The Senator from North Hills West, Mr. Villegas, expressed his concern about a lack of a direct link from the City of Los Angeles website to individual NC websites.
  - d. The Senator from Mar Vista, Mr. Marsh, raised issues that the 912 Commission should look at the entire NC system, including the Mayor, Council and city departments; that the LANCC should look at DONE's use the certification/decertification process; and urged the promotion of NC "Town Meetings", where all stakeholders present would be entitled to vote on issues.
9. Unfinished Business:
  - a. Discussion of the Role of LANCC at June 17, 2006 DONE Congress of Neighborhoods
  - b. Mr. Westwater informed LANCC that DONE had informed him that LANCC would be permitted the use of a room at the LA Convention Center, but would not be included on the official agenda or in the packet of information/registration materials provided in advance to NC board members.
  - c. The Senate discussed how to address this issue at length
  - d. The Senator from Coastal San Pedro, Mr. Gelfand, moved that the LANCC Chair be empowered to draft a letter to the Mayor, and such other persons as the Chair chooses, seeking clarification of LANCC's participation in the DONE Congress.
  - e. The motion was seconded and passed 18-0.
10. New Business:
  - a. Outreach at Home Shows at LANCC: The issue was referred to the Communications/Outreach Committee for consideration and possible action.
  - b. Elephant Enclosure at LA Zoo: The Senator from Mid-Town North Hollywood, Mr. Baratta, presented information about the controversy over whether the LA Zoo should build a new elephant exhibit at a cost of \$28 million, or move the elephants to large reserves in rural California or Tennessee. Chris DeRose of Last Chance for Animals, presented and distributed information in favor of closing the elephant exhibit. The LANCC Senate took no formal action.
  - c. Southwest Museum: The LANCC Senate voted 11-0 to create an ad hoc committee, chaired by Mr. Keifer, to present additional information and recommendations regarding the Autry/Southwest Museum issue.
11. The Meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:30pm.