

# Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition: A Coalition of Councils

## Minutes from Meeting of Saturday April 6, 2024

1. Meeting called to order at 10:03
2. New BONC Commissioner, Doug Epperhart: Introduction and questions.

Doug had been a Commissioner before, from 2011-13, and much has changed. He expressed concerns about the lack of understanding between DONE and the NCs, clarified that BONC is not an oversight agency but needs to be responsive to NC and DONE needs, and wants to clearly separate policy from regulations, hoping to see changes and improvements.

Requests from LANCC attendees included a request that BONC meetings cancelled should indicate cause and responsible parties, if any; that it help a return to preferential time for NCs presenting on agenda items at City Council meetings; that BONC help facilitate collaborative problem-solving and include acting as an advocate for NCs among its obligations; help the City come up with solutions on problems NCs are facing from funding issues with the City Clerk's office through NEA interpretations of City Attorney determinations to clarifying challenges amending Bylaws and resolving suitable meeting places.

Several attendees made suggestion on the issues ranging from taking opinions from the City Attorney, NEAs, and others as advice to take or not at the NC's discretion, and routing suggested changes on issues affecting NCs through BONC which would give everyone an opportunity to weigh in during public comment instead of allowing DONE to proceed unilaterally.

3. Update Report from LANCC's WG4CC committee - Mihran Kalaydjian [lanccWG4CC@gmail.com](mailto:lanccWG4CC@gmail.com)

(a) Declaration Of Rights Motion from the Working Group for Constructive Change as the City prepares to welcome a new DONE General Manager, for LANCC to re-circulate the NC Declaration of Rights and the Neighborhood Councils take a more active role to influence the future of DONE and the Neighborhood Councils. Moved by Miran Kalaydjian with Lydia Grant seconding:

Discussion, including the need to obtain a current number of NCs in support, and to encourage discussion on NC rights in advance of any changes in the NC system, the need for NCs to have self-control, and the need for parties who are not stakeholders in a specific NC to refrain from advocating positions that might be contrary to those of actual stakeholders.

**Approved** with 20 for, no-one opposed, and 2 abstentions

(b) Motion for LANCC to take up the issue and concern of DONE's failure addressing Zoom Licenses to the NC costs/suggest one Zoom License to be provided by DONE per NC. For LANCC to clarify from DONE the correct status of the Zoom usage on the Neighborhood Councils. Moved by Miran Kalaydjian with Lydia Grant seconding: [check this, possibly Lionel?]

Discussion on on-going confusion on both process and payment, and the need for existing Zoom licenses to continue uninterrupted

**Approved** with 22 for, no-one opposed, and no abstentions

- (c) WG4CC MOTION for LANCC to take up the issue of DONE's failure to provide access to loss of quorum remedies as provided for in the BONC Loss of Quorum Policy adopted in 2010. Moved by Miran Kalaydjian with Lydia Grant seconding:

Discussion on issue, current problems, and ramifications led to an amendment with further detail: Motion for (a) LANCC to write a letter to DONE requesting they advise all NCs in writing what their remedies as provided for in the BONC Loss of Quorum Policy adopted in 2010; and (b) that LANCC to host a Town Hall on the Loss of Quorum Policy. Proposed by Tony Wilkinson with Liz Amsden drafting/seconding: **Approved** with 19 for, no-one opposed, and 3 abstentions  
Original motion incorporating the amendment, **Approved** with 21 for, no-one opposed, and 2 abstentions

4. Invite someone from DONE to attend LANCC to address DONE's failure to provide access to loss of quorum remedies:

The Acting General Manager has twice declined and once ignored invitations to enter into open discussion at LANCC on this and related issues.

5. New Code of Conduct: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/15Qje\\_7u0ElkK2-qDePDbwgtp1WvgkMXn/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/15Qje_7u0ElkK2-qDePDbwgtp1WvgkMXn/view)  
Discussion of procedures and concerns including the need to get stakeholder Planning and Land Use committee members appropriate training.

6. Update from Budget Advocates – Co-Chairs Glenn Bailey/Kay Hartman.  
Glenn advised that Budget Day on June 15, 2024 will be back to being in-person at City Hall as occurred prior to the pandemic, using the Council Chambers with Regional breakouts following on the 10<sup>th</sup> floor.

There is a new Congress-Budget Advocacy Contribution Form at <https://clerk.lacity.gov/clerk-divisions/nc-funding-program/documents> and NCs are asked to allocate support funding to Budget Day prior to the beginning of June.

Jack Humphreville addressed the urgent fiscal concerns facing the City due to the unbudgeted labor contract increases and the projected shortfall in income which will be between \$200 and \$300 million this year and balloon to \$700 million next year if the City has to take over financial obligations for the Mayor's programs for the homeless. The Mayor's budget is due to be released on or before 20 April (although it could be as late as 22 April since the 20<sup>th</sup> falls on a Saturday. The Budget Advocates will host a Budget Town Hall on 27 April to assess the budget, details to be posted on their website.

There are no easy fixes. Further information can be found in the Budget Advocate monthly reports posted on their website at <https://www.budgetadvocates.org/reports>.

7. Update from DONE – No-one present.  
(a) Update on the City Clerk Election Working Group.  
(b) Exhaustive efforts and meeting quorum.
8. Update from BONC Len Shaffer not being present, Doug Epperhart addressed the importance of the NC system  
(a) Ask the Commish.  
(b) Code of Conduct  
(c) ABLE

9. Congress of Neighborhoods

Quintus Jett advised the planning committee would be voting on the tag: Neighborhood Power Citywide Impact: The Next 25 Years Start Now to express a focus on looking forward. People are requested to take the planning survey at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSef2ojp0G28vd79qO9NCRqehu-XI1lv0Dn5XStApmAdQ5d3Q/viewform>, and NCs are requested to help with fundraising using the same form, different box, as for the Budget Advocates (link above) especially as the contribution promised by DONE may be axed in the Mayor's budget.

10. Update from any other NC regional alliance

The City Attorney will be attending the PlanCheck meeting on 13 April (meeting starts at 10 am with Heidi scheduled for 11), and the NCSA meeting on 14 April which starts at 6:30 pm.

VANC's meeting at 6:30 pm on Thursday, 11 April, will include discussion on the proposed monorail through the Sepulveda Pass.

11. Announcements

Scott Weiner, the developer advocate State Senator is pushing to eviscerate the Coastal Commission and other obstructions to rampant development along California's coast.

Concerns have been raised about the broadening of language in the Faith Based Incentive Program in the Housing Element that might allow any group identifying as a religious organization significantly reduced development regulations on properties across the City.

Meeting adjourned at 12:43 PM