

# Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition

## (Draft) Meeting Minutes for July 6, 2024

1. Welcome and roll call

Meeting called to order at 10:03

2. Discussion and possible action to approve minutes: <http://www.lancc.org/lancc-meetings.php>

Moved by Terrence Gomes (as LANCC chair), seconded by Miran Kalaydjian.

**Approved** with 9 votes for, no-one opposed, and 3 abstaining

3. Jamie Hwang, City Planning Associate, Government Relations, Los Angeles City Planning  
Introduction, overview and a brief update from Planning Department; expressed concerns about ability to reach NC board members with the loss of the DONE e-mail forwarding system, working on compiling own list, at least of the NC Planning and Land Use chairs, will evaluate adding the NC Presidents to their list. For City planning information, check: <https://planning.lacity.gov/resources/publications>

4. Report from LANCC's Working Group for Constructive Change: [lanccWG4CC@gmail.com](mailto:lanccWG4CC@gmail.com)

Brief report on current issues being addressed by the Working Group

- (a) Motion to have LANCC write a letter to DONE and the City Clerk in support of allowing any Neighborhood Council that so chooses to use the 'Stipulations Worksheet' process, as developed and promulgated in previous Neighborhood Council Election Procedures, to opt out of the City Clerk-run elections in 2025 and use the selection process for its board members and officers. Moved by Miran Kalaydjian (as Working Group facilitator), seconded by Tony Wilkinson

Extensive discussion with concerns raised about if the selection process was as democratic as other forms of voting

Amendment suggested by Liz Amsden and seconded by Tony to change the language of the final phrase to 'selection process for its board members and, *where applicable*, officers' with no objections

**Approval** of the amendment with 9 votes for, one opposed, and 3 abstentions

**Approval** of the initial motion incorporating the amendment with 14 votes for, 2 opposed, and 3 abstaining

- (b) Motion that for LANCC and the Neighborhood Councils request that, moving forward, BONC adopt an approach focused on proactively supporting the Neighborhood Councils including promulgating their mission as independent advocates for their communities through identifying best practices to be shared grassroots-style amongst the Neighborhood Councils. Furthermore, to the extent legally possible, BONC should strive to protect the independence and rights of Neighborhood Councils by encouraging self-regulation rather than endorsing a series of rules that don't always apply to specific situations, can create roadblocks, and/or encourage infighting. Instead, every effort should be made to prioritize inclusivity and treating people fairly. Moved by Miran Kalaydjian (as Working Group facilitator), seconded by Bob Gelfand

Discussion of various concerns ranging from the phrasing of the motion, to the need to reboot the best practices list that was deleted from the DONE website a number of years ago along with a great deal more institutional knowledge of the NC system and procedures, to the function of BONC in the NC system.

**Approved** with 7 votes for, 3 opposed, and 4 abstaining

5. Update from the Budget Advocates <https://www.budgetadvocates.org/>  
Recap of the first in-person Budget Day since 2019 at City Hall on June 15, 2024, with Controller Kenneth Mejia as the keynote speaker; video available at: <https://www.youtube.com/live/NBu-MSNN9d8>  
Elections for the 2024-2026 Budget Advocates and their officers were held immediately following the event with Jay Handal replacing Kay Hartman, who had stepped down as a Co-Chair, and Glenn Bailey continuing; several regions are missing one or more Budget Advocates and anyone interested should contact the Budget Advocates at: [LABudgetAdvocates@gmail.com](mailto:LABudgetAdvocates@gmail.com) to express interest and learn what steps to take to join them.
6. Update from DONE. None – no representative was present.
7. Update from BONC
- (a) Having met with the new GM, Len Shaffer feels that Carmen Chang is genuinely interested in getting to know the NC system and its history; Doug will be meeting with her on Tuesday; she reportedly listens more than she talks in meetings so far, a change from her predecessor
  - (b) NCs who have contracts that end June 30<sup>th</sup> need to act quickly to ensure they are extended
  - (c) BONC is currently trying to address the Censure Policy which needs updating and improvement

- (d) the City wants to impose a removal of voting privileges from board members who do not taking all 5 trainings and, possibly, the Code of Conduct; those affected would still be allowed to participate in board discussions
  - (e) BONC will be nominating commission officers at its next meeting on Monday, July 15<sup>th</sup>
  - (f) Doug was the only Harbor area outreach person to attend a discussion with DONE on election procedures, it was a productive meeting but whether the poor turnout was due to board member apathy, a poor choice of time, or bad communications should be addressed
  - (g) concern was raised about language DONE has tried to force into NC Bylaws that is perceived by some as excluding participation
  - (h) DONE needs to be reminded that they should avoid schedule regional meetings that conflict with existing NC board meetings
  - (i) NCs and board members should check their trainings status on their rosters since DONE has removed completion dates from those who completed an out-of-date Code of Conduct that was incorrectly posted on their website from March to June; threats of suspension have been sent out, and the issue needs to be resolved
  - (j) a suggestion was made that best practices for NEAs be posted; some go the extra mile, others seem to be out of touch with NC needs
8. Congress of Neighborhoods - The update from Quintus Jett – tasked with organizing Congress; sessions have yet to be finalized so submissions can still be made reviewed but there is no guarantee they will be accepted; looking for mosaic of voices, not two opposing sides, and broad-based enough to appeal to all regions, discussions that lead to consensus and new solutions
9. Update from any other NC regional alliances:
- (a) VANCC – the new DONE General Manager, Carmen Chang, will be at their next meeting on Thursday, July 11<sup>th</sup>, people with questions for the GM, please e-mail them to Linda Gravani
  - (b) NC Emergency Preparedness Alliance will have a presentation on effects geomagnetic storms may have on LA's electrical grid at their meeting on Saturday, July 27<sup>th</sup>
10. Announcements
- (a) Young people, late teens through mid-20s, may be reaching out to Neighborhood Council in the next few months, reflecting a growing interest in civic participation which could help grow the grass-roots nature of the NC system
  - (b) NCs and their sustainability committees should consider submitting comments on the City Council's file 24-0602 regarding Artificial Turf addressing concerns about its environmental impact, health concerns especially on hot days and/or when it is deteriorating, as well as the high cost of replacement when it does break down

- (c) Our Neighborhood Voices is a state-wide ballot initiative to return planning to local communities – contact Lydia Grant if interested in additional information or getting involved at [Fivegrants@msn.com](mailto:Fivegrants@msn.com) or (818) 470-6629
- (d) There is growing concern and protests opposing Scott Weiner’s push to strip the Coastal Commission of its authority so developers can build on certain San Francisco land parcels, which would set a dangerous precedent for further encroachment on the environmentally sensitive California coast
- (e) the Presidents’ Council is starting up again to increase communications between NCs on citywide issues

The meeting adjourned at 12:42.