

BHNC General Board Meeting, 10/23/2013

BOYLE HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Meeting of the General Board

Wednesday, October 23, 2013 at 6:15PM

Boyle Heights Senior Center, 2839 E. Third Street, Los Angeles, CA 90033

1. Meeting to be called to order – 6:18 p.m.
2. SPOTLIGHT (5 minutes): New Executive Board Introductions
3. Pledge of Allegiance (1 minute)

Philip Del Pozo,

4. Roll Call (2 minutes) – 6:20 p.m.

- Rafael Chagoya
- Eddie Padilla
- Sierra Jenkins
- Veta Gashgai
- Martha Pelayo
- Diana Del Pozo Mora
- Carlos Montes
- Danny Bozarth
- Carmelo Alvarez
- Joel Ulloa arrived at 6:26, during public comment
- Azul Amaral arrived at 6:45 p.m.
- Aurelia Salgado arrived at 8 p.m.

Absent: Margarita (Mago) Amador, Joe Diaz, Aurelia Salgado, Kenneth Wyrick, Luz Montoya-Ruiz, Jose “Carmelo” Alvarez, Erika Trevis, Olivia Rubio

5. Discussion and Possible Action (5 minutes): Agenda Review and President’s report and Review of code of civility Guidelines for Behavior
6. General Public Comment for Items not on the Agenda (10 minutes total: 1 minute per speaker with a speaker card)
 - Pete Nishimura, Boyle Heights Sports Center: Requesting \$500 to help for the Holiday Toy Giveaway for LA Parks.org – through a non-profit organization
 - Geza Gedeon, Joint River Oversight Committee: Former member of BHNC board, now serving on Downtown board, put together a joint river oversight committee for the two to bring comments to the Army Corps of Engineers. Gave a big presentation last week and will be collecting public comments through Nov. 5. Several proposals were created. Ecological studies on the river, came up with 20 different plans – inviting everyone to a meeting at the Vortex, 2341 E. Olympic, 90021, corner of Santa Fe, Monday at 7 p.m.
 - Lorena Hernandez: USC Medical Center Master Plan: Invite to the last community meetings presenting the plan – Oct. 26, 10-11:30 a.m., second Weds. Oct. 30, 6-7 p.m. – same info will be presented at both meetings

- Erick Rivas, Councilmember Huizar's office: Street improvements are continuing, Update on bulky items, Eric has contacted some outside providers, but many don't service Boyle Heights – Also contacted Caltrans and they cleaned up easements on Cummings and Whittier.

7. Government Reports (10 minutes)

8. Discussion and Possible Action (10 minutes): Motion to approve minutes of meeting of June 26, 2013, August 28, 2013 Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council General Board meeting and September 25, 2013.

Carlos motioned for Item #20 to reflect that at the June 26 meeting that Mago Amador made two motions to postpone the item that did not pass. Sierra Jenkins motioned to postpone the item to the August meeting and that passed and that Danny Bozarth was present at the June 26 meeting.

- Yes: 9
- No: 0
- Abstain: 1

Sierra moved to approve the June minutes, Diana seconded.

- Yes: 8
- No: 0
- Abstain: 1

Eddie moved to approve the August minutes. Diana seconded.

Carlos: I want to move to correct the minutes of Aug. 28 to show three additional items that all passed: a community impact statement related to Norfolk Street, a Community Impact Statement for Exide to close and a motion for an educational campaign to pick up dog poop.

Veta: Both Azul Amaral and I were elected to the BHNC board in August.

Carlos moves to approve the minutes as corrected. Martha seconded.

- Yes: 9
- No:
- Abstain: 1

9. Discussion and Possible Action (10 minutes): Motion that the Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council approve the September 2013 Purchase Card Reconciliation Report.

Azul Amaral arrived at 6:45 p.m.

Danny motioned to approve. Azul seconded.

- Unanimous: 11

10. Discussion and Possible Action (7 minutes): Motion to select new Planning and Land Use Committee members \ one board member and two stakeholders to join the Planning and Land Use Committee

Eddie moved to postpone this item to the November meeting as there are currently enough people on the committee to function and we haven't had any applicants. Martha seconded.

- Unanimous: 11

11. Discussion and Possible Action (10 minutes): Motion to increase Neighborhood Purposes Grant Budget from \$4,000 to proposed \$6,000 or more depending on board approval by moving unused Outreach dollars from the Outreach budget line item because Neighborhood Purposes Grant applications received to date exceed the \$4,000 budget allocation.

Danny motioned. Carlos seconded.

Public comment:

- Teresa Marquez: The outreach committee needs something. They haven't been very successful in getting people – it's always the same people. I think outreach should keep the money and find better ways to do outreach to bring people to the meeting so don't cut their funds. I would like to hear their plans for the next six months before we do this.
- Dolores Mejia: I think it's important we share what funding is available for those of us who want to do outreach in the community. I'm very opposed to this. I would go to the media with this if we shift funding from our community. We could have made copies of the Exide claim form. Absolutely not – switching funding like it's a slush fund.
- Rosalie Gurola: I think the money should be used for the general good of Boyle Heights and the BHNC should come up with ideas that will benefit all of Boyle Heights. I think you should consider that instead of switching it out.
- Elvira Pozo: Outreach hasn't done much to show. What's happening? I know that money is there and it will be gone in June if it's not used. If there is a way to use the money, then we should use it.
- Tam Nguyen: You really need to address the people who live and work here and how it affects the community. You're damned if you do or if you don't. You should prioritize the categories because it is a limited budget.

Eddie: I'm torn because I think we need the money for outreach for elections in the spring.

Carmelo: I'd like to hear a report from the Outreach committee. I motion to postpone the item to the next meeting. Carlos seconded.

- Yes: 9
- No: 2
- Abstain: 0

12. Discussion and Possible Action (5 minutes): Motion that the BHNC approve a \$1,250 NPG for the Salesian Boys and Girls Club for the free community Holiday Event.

Danny moved, Azul seconded.

Nobody declared a conflict of interest on this item.

Public comment:

- Rosalie Gurola: I absolutely support the Salesian Youth Center, but I also support the parents who have their children there to support what's going on there and take initiative, not just dropping off their children. Have they done any fundraising? I know they have connections with significant people. They should involve parents in fundraising.

- Tam Nguyen: I'm director of the program at Roosevelt. Our grant is looking at a service-learning project to come together to give back to the community. We would solicit toys from different sponsors and connections. We've run community events during the holiday times to give back. This year, we are creating an experience for the seniors to give out.
- Dolores Mejia: send the kids out to help clean up the streets and instill the ideas we support, instead of toys.

Carlos: I was at the event last year and helped. Can I ask, how much money do you have each year? We only have \$30,000 to give each year and I think we should give it to grassroots organizations that are dealing with local issues. I believe you get a lot of money.

Tam: All non-profits are struggling, even if the economy is struggling. We all struggle to serve the families and kids. Some of our funding is federal and restricted so we have to solicit other types of funding for these sorts of activities.

Eddie: I support this, particularly because it is supporting youth. There is a lack of programs for youth in our community.

Martha: I also support this – it's a great activity that brings the youth and families together, but I agree that we need to focus on opportunities that will be more sustainable.

Azul: I agree this is valuable to support. \$3,000 seems high for the item on red wagons, t-shirts, etc. in my professional opinion.

Danny: It's an opportunity for outreach – we do outreach and I want you to know that.

- Yes: 10
- No: 0
- Abstain: 1

Sierra moved to reconsider the August minutes because Eddie said there were some significant discrepancies due to some cut and paste issues. Azul seconded.

- Yes: 9
- No: 1
- Abstain: 0

Azul briefly

Eddie moved to postpone the August minutes to the November meeting to correct the minutes, including the various issues raised during discussion. Martha seconded.

- Yes: 10
- No: 1
- Abstain: 0

13. Discussion and Possible Action (5 minutes): Motion that the BHNC approve a \$1,000 NPG to Breed Street Shul Project, Inc. to help cover the cost of materials for safety canopies.

Joel Ulloa recused himself due to a conflict of interest because he held a paid position with the organization in the past.

Danny motioned. Eddie seconded.

Public Comments:

- Sherry Marks, Breed Street Shul: The Shul is an historic landmark recognized at the state and federal level. It used to be a synagogue and a school, but there aren't many Jews here anymore so we're trying to refurbish the building for arts and recreation. We had been using a building until April of last year to put on community events like the Boyle Heights History Day, youth orchestra rehearsals. We're trying to put in a handicap ramp. Once that is done, because the brick building in the front is unreinforced masonry, we have to put a canopy up during the construction. Labor is covered by a CRA grant, but we have to raise \$10,000 in materials fees. The canopy will be up for a long time. We will have a \$15 million capital campaign for the front building and that will take a long time. I think the canopy is a good investment in the safety and accessibility of our community. YouthBuild will be supplying some of the labor to build the canopy.
- Kenneth: I feel that \$1,000 – there are a lot of people in this community that can provide a lot of money for that building if the people make the phone calls. We have student, senior issues and I believe the money would be spent better on that.
- Terry Marquez: I read an article about a tour of Boyle Heights and they talked about how the building looked run-down. I want that building looking presentable.
- Rosalie Gurola: The Shul is a significant building. People deserve to know the Jewish history of Boyle Heights. However, I believe they have connections with other people who agree with me and should also match that money.
- Dolores Mejia: I think there has been much ado about this and I think there is enough funding out there. There should have been a reserve for instances like this. When our community funds go to this project, there should be a commitment from them.

Carlos: What's your total income per year?

Eddie: It sounds like many people aren't familiar with the Shul. The front building has been in process for many years and they have been working to fundraise. The active space is behind that building. Unfortunately, due to lack of information, there have been a lot of attacks on that building. Stained glass buildings have been broken because people think it is an empty building. Many groups have been having activities here. I'm in support of the application because I have seen former neighborhood council members active and participating in the Shul.

Martha: I'm a believer that we can't erase our history and that's what the tours are about. As Eddie mentioned, maybe if we can have a formal presentation – I don't know how time-sensitive this is – to address more issues, what will be done, how does the NC fit into the whole picture. I would like to motion

Sherry: The project has to be finished by Dec. 31 for us to collect the CRA grant.

Martha motioned to postpone to the next meeting. Azul seconded.

Danny: The NC has to be opposed to everything. It's so hard to get anything done. We're always postponing items that are time sensitive. This has to do with outreach. I've been to the Shul and events there – it serves people in Boyle Heights.

Carlos: I support the motion to postpone.

Azul: I would like to postpone – why didn't you come two months ago?

Carmelo: I want to postpone because I think it's an issue of creating more of an education to learn about each other's culture and history.

Eddie: Even if it gets approved tonight, it still doesn't happen before December because it takes a long time due to the processing. They have been to every meeting this year.

- Yes: 3
- No: 5
- Abstain: 2

Call for the vote:

- Yes: 7
 - Azul
 - Martha
 - Eddie
 - Danny
 - Rafael
 - Diana

- Abstain: 1
 - Carmelo
- No: 2
 - Veta
 - Carlos

- Recused: 1

14. Discussion and Possible Action (5 minutes): Motion that the November BHNC General Board meeting be rescheduled in consideration of Thanksgiving.

Carlos motioned to move the November meeting to the third Wednesday, Nov. 20. Sierra seconded.

Eddie: That would affect our executive committee meeting as well.

Sierra took the motion off the table.

Sierra motioned to move the November general board meeting to Nov. 20 and the executive committee meeting to Nov. 14.

- Unanimous - Yes: 10
- No:
- Abstain:

15. Discussion and Possible Action (5 minutes): Motion that the Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council establish an Elections committee.

Eddie motioned. Azul seconded.

Public Comment:

- Terry Marquez: I totally disagree with this because you have a standing committee for elections and my understanding of the bylaws is that you are in violation for not having that committee meet.

Ivan: Should terminate two months after the election to handle orientation, swearing in, etc.

Eddie amended his motion to indicate that it will be terminated two months after the establishment of the new board.

- Yes: 9
- No: 0
- Abstain: 2

President deferred appointment of Ad-Hoc chair to Vice President, Eddie Padilla. Eddie Padilla appointment co-chairs Philip del Pozo and Vera del Pozo.

No board opposition.

16. Discussion and Possible Action (5 minutes): Motion that the Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council establish an Ad Hoc committee to explore and recommend solutions to posting locations issues.

Eddie: I asked for this and I want to make the motion because we have five posting locations, some of which are hidden during certain hours and it really takes leaps and bounds to comply with Brown Act posting.

Ivan: The requirements are five locations, one 24-hour, plus website and e-blast.

Eddie: I withdraw the motion and will take it back to the Neighborhood Committee.

17. Discussion and Possible Action (5 minutes): Motion that the BHNC General Board establish an Ad Hoc Arts Committee to exist until disbanded by the General Board or a newly elected board is seated

Eddie: This comes from the neighborhood committee.

Eddie moved, Aurelia seconded.

Eddie: Purpose of the committee is - To coordinate, unify, support and amplify already existing arts community efforts while supporting the mission of the Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council to be a link between the community and local government. Suggestion is that the committee be co-chaired by a non-board stakeholder along with a BHNC board member

Public Comment:

- Terry Marquez: The arts committee is important and it will need a lot of time and a lot of people to make this work. I'm asking you to look at the committees that are already standing and make them happen and make the meeting happen or work with the committee to change the bylaws to make it work. The bylaws state you must have meetings for those committees. I will volunteer as long as there are no questions of violations of any kind.

Eddie: We do need to look at absences and see if some of the committee chairs need to be adjusted.

- Yes: 11
- No: 0
- Abstain: 1

Diana appointed Azul chair. He accepted.

18. Presentation (written Q & A only – please fill out a speaker card): (5 minutes): University of Southern California Health Sciences Campus Master Plan Update regarding Norfolk Street options

Presenters: Craig Keys, Brian League, Executive Director Real Estate Development, Real Estate and Asset Management, USC

An issue was raised regarding extending Norfolk to Soto.

We have done additional community outreach which is still ongoing. The community did not want the street extension through city owned land to Soto. They also did not want the handball courts demolished. They want to see improvements to park, local job hire and recreational programs for youth.

This is a proposal, an option we're exploring. We don't know if it is feasible. This wouldn't be on the park land. This would provide an additional eight street parking spots. We are looking at a drop-off area. There would be eight additional street lights for safety at night and 8-11 new street trees. There are potential legal obstacles like a covenant on the existing land so would have to have that waived or removed. City would have to rededicate Norfolk on to USC-owned land. We are trying to determine the feasibility of this option – the city would have to approve. We are working with the Councilman, the City Bureau of Engineering.

Public questions:

Scott Johnson: Your schematics – do you propose a greenbelt between the street movement to the north and the park to the south.

Craig: It already is green belt. Would have landscaping.

Peter Galindo: How many square feet of property has USC donated to the park?

Craig: None.

Terry Marquez: There is a 1% back to the community for the project – I think the BHNC should request that money to focus on Hazard Park to restore the wetlands and the play area – focused only on that park.

Rosalie: How will this impact traffic on Soto Street?

The additional vehicular access would facilitate people going to USC health sciences and Bravo and alleviates congestion at Alcazar intersection. The traffic on Soto will have two options – currently they only have one. I think it would actually reduce congestion on Soto.

Dolores Mejia: What is the big urgency in creating another street access? What about restoring the wetlands? Are you building over the stream? Are you working with community groups that are restoring the waterways?

We have consulted with the Park Foundation and taken care that during construction and afterwards, the flow to the wetlands will not be disrupted.

Joel: What considerations are there for multi-modal access, crosswalks?

There will be a signalized crosswalk, bike lanes and

Lia: What are immediate next steps?

We are working with other city agencies. If the proposal is accepted, 12-18 months for engineering review and feasibility. Outreach is continuing.

Veta: Is there a traffic signal that will be there?

Yes and Soto will be improved next to USC property to allow space for a right turn lane.

Azul: Who are you working with on the wetlands?

We've had a meeting with the LA Parks Foundation, a private non-profit foundation, and we've consulted an engineering firm that is expert with wetlands issues to advise us on the issue to maintain the water course. That's why we're here tonight.

19. Discussion and Possible Action (5 minutes): Motion that the BHNC randomly select an Ad Hoc Grievance Panel as per bylaws to address new grievance filed against the Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council (three stakeholders needed)

Eddie motioned, Rafael seconded.

Gloria Leonard administered the public lottery:

- Moon Moreno
- Terry Marquez
- Kenny Morales

Alternate: Sufia Toorawa

20. Presentation, Discussion and Possible Action (8 minutes): Motion the Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council sign a draft letter in support of CATCHE's efforts to get the CSULA Chicano/a Studies Department to expand its course offerings.

Carlos moved to postpone, Eddie seconded.

- Yes: 12
- No: 0
- Abstain: 0

**Old business must be at the top of the agenda

21. Announcements (5 minutes)

- Carlos: The California Driver's License bill which we have supported has passed the first part in Sacramento, we have pet waste outreach materials for free.
- Eddie: We are encouraging people to visit our website and Facebook page. Please share our Facebook page. On Saturday, Nov. 2, the Metro Linkages is doing a study on how they will link local communities to Metro. We want to have the biggest turn-out from Boyle Heights. There will be churros. You can do a survey. All info is on our website.
- Aurelia: Many exciting community events this weekend and next
- Terry Marquez: There will be a demonstration in the City of Vernon in front of Exide – please get a group to come. 4 p.m., walk and press conference. Oct. 30. People have received forms from the Maryland bankruptcy court- you must file the form by Oct. 30. You should have received in the mail and it is also on Kevin De Leon's website. Come to Resurrection Neighborhood watch with any questions.
- Danny Bozarth: Bureau of Street Services – on Nov. 13, a truck will be in Boyle Heights repairing asphalt, sidewalk and curbs. We have until Nov. 5 to give input on the top eight streets.
- Phillip Del Pozo, Jr.: Could you give a wreath of flowers for Veteran's Day? We've done it annually.

Diana: Unfortunately, not agendized.

- Dolores Mejia: I appreciate you being here and I know you are all volunteers. Spread the word about the Exide bankruptcy forms.

24. Adjournment -

Eddie motioned to adjourn, Joel seconded.

Unanimous.