

FINAL DRAFT

Wednesday, June 4, 2014

BOYLE HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (BHNC) SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
Fiesta Hall, 1868 East First Street, Los Angeles, California 90033

1. Meeting to be called to order and roll call.

Leyla Campos, Senior Project Coordinator of the City of Los Angeles Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, called the meeting to order at 6:02PM.

Eleven Council members were in attendance; hence a quorum was declared:

Rafael Chagoya	Joe Diaz	Fanny Ortiz
Diana del Pozo-Mora	Mynor Godoy	Rita Rodriguez
Phillip del Pozo	Nicole Martin	Marisol Sanchez
Vera del Pozo	Carlos Montes	

Azul Amaral arrived to the meeting at 6:08PM and Luz Montoya-Ruiz arrived at 6:19PM. This brought the council member meeting attendees to 13.

The following four council members were absent:

Margarita Amador	Erika Trevis
Steven Almazan	Amanda Mejia

Approximately six stakeholders were attendance; a translator was also here, with headphones for our Spanish-speaking attendees.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Rafael Chagoya lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. General Public Comments

Leyla announced that speaker cards are not mandatory for this informal portion of the meeting. However, they provide contact information for our stakeholders.

Members of the general public are limited to two minutes.

Stakeholder Teresa Marquez mentioned that:

- She has participated in these meetings since 2006
- She welcomes the new board members
- She gave a thank you to our returning council members for their continued support
- She asked the new members to learn the bylaws and familiarize themselves with the Brown Act.

4. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Approval of Minutes for the May 28 Board Meeting.

Rafael Chagoya made a motion to discuss the minutes; Vera del Pozo seconded the motion.

Two comments were:

- Bylaws should be one word, rather than hyphenated.
- Training for Potential Board members should reflect nine stakeholders, rather than citizens.
- There was a confusion regarding Ms. Rubio's title as commissioner.
- A reference was made to The Neighborhood Council Board Member development handbook, which is a multi-page (135) document , but the document was not properly identified

Rafael Chagoya made a motion to approve the minutes; Vera del Pozo seconded the motion.

YES (12)	Azul Amaral, Rafael Chagoya, Diana del Pozo-Mora, Phillip del Pozo, Vera del Pozo, Joe Diaz, Mynor Godoy, Nicole Martin, Carlos Montes, Fanny Ortiz, Rita Rodriguez, and Marisol Sanchez
NO (0)	
ABSTENTION (1)	Luz Montoya-Ruiz

The motion carried.

Diana del Pozo-Mora issued a concern if people who were not at the meeting could vote for the minutes. Leyla mentioned that it was okay if non-attendees voted to approve or disapprove the minutes.

5. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Selection of Executive Officers of the Board

David Cid and Rafael Cabrera submitted their BHNC Candidate Filing Forms to be considered for the factual seat position on the BHNC.

Leyla asked the two applicants to explain their reason to serve.

- David Cid is an educator and student at California State University, Los Angeles. He has resided in Boyle Heights nearly his entire life, and attended Roosevelt High School. He resides in the middle of some of the changes that are taking place, and wants to be a part of that change. In addition, he supports our migrant workers who need a voice.
- Rafael Cabrera is a community organizer who works with focus groups and the police department. Since graduating from Los Angeles Trade Technical College, he has been involved in community clean-up activities, and feels this is his passion.

Leyla opened it up to public comments.

Teresa Marquez asked them to explain a factual basis. Leyla answered that a factual basis refers to someone who has an interest in the community, although not a resident or business-owner.

Public comment is closed.

Vera del Pozo mentioned that the agenda referenced community interest seat, is that the same as factual basis? Yes.

Diana asked if they would be available to attend the meetings on the 4th Wednesday of each month:

- Both David and Rafael answered in the affirmative.

Luz Montoya-Ruiz asked what changes would they make:

- David mentioned that he was concerned about clothing boxes that are an eyesore, attracting trash and graffiti. In addition, David would address merchant's concerns.
- Rafael is concerned about marijuana dispensaries, liquor stores, homelessness, as well as public access to libraries and hospitals.

Rafael Chagoya asked what could you do to increase the participation in the BHNC?

- Rafael Cabrera mentioned that as a community organizer, he listens and has experience reaching out to people.
- David Cid mentioned that it is important to continue working with current existing groups. As a parishioner at St. Mary's, he feels the churches are already organized. Last week, there was an arts group at Mariachi Plaza, let's work with events such as that.

Fanny Ortiz asked about the candidates' employer:

- Rafael works for the Social Model Recovery Systems.
- David mentioned that he works for Cal State LA, as well as various groups throughout Cal State LA, such as Casa del Pueblo. Previously, David worked for grassroots organizations, including national Chicano organizations.

Carlos Montes asked about subcommittees, especially the education subcommittee

- David feels that education is the pathway to success. Perhaps we can establish an ad hoc education committee alongside the principals. There is a pipeline between lack of education and prisons.
- Rafael is very interested in working with education and gangs, 1:1, to offer direction. As dropout rates are very high, this should be brought up to community supervisors.

Marisol Sanchez asked them why did they choose to run for the BHNC at this time?

- Rafael has been seeing a great many lay-offs around the Lincoln Heights neighborhoods (where he resides); he feels his experience could be a fit.
- David has been living and working around Boyle Heights for over twenty years, and this has been a long-time coming. The choice to run is not something that he just came up with.

Leyla called the election:

For David Cid to serve on the BHNC:

YES (9)	Rafael Chagoya, Phillip del Pozo, Vera del Pozo, Mynor Godoy, Nicole Martin, Carlos Montes, Luz Montoya-Ruiz, Fanny Ortiz, and Marisol Sanchez
NO (3)	Diana del Pozo-Mora, Joe Diaz, and Rita Rodriguez
ABSTENTION (1)	Azul Amaral

For Rafael Cabrera to serve on the BHNC:

YES (4)	Azul Amaral, Diana del Pozo-Mora, Joe Diaz, and Rita Rodriguez
NO (8)	Rafael Chagoya, Phillip del Pozo, Vera del Pozo, Mynor Godoy, Nicole Martin, Carlos Montes, Luz Montoya-Ruiz, and Marisol Sanchez
ABSTENTION (1)	Fanny Ortiz

David Cid was elected new BHNC member, and his name was added to the attendance and vote tally sheets. (Council members meeting attendees is now 14.)

6. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Selection of Executive Officers of the Board

Leyla asked if there was any public comment. No public comment hence closed.

Diana del Pozo-Mora asked to waive a description of each job descriptions.

President

- Rita Rodriguez nominated Carlos Montes
- Fanny Ortiz nominated herself.

Leyla asked the two candidates to explain their reason to be president.

- Carlos has a history with the community, and has been active all his life. Most recently, he was involved with the transportation committee, and fought for immigrant rights, against USC, as well as involvement with the AQMD.
- Fanny feels we must be involved with all our community stakeholders. As we have over 80,000 residents, we should have more turn out in elections.

Luz asked, What do you plan to do to take on the problems within the community?

- Fanny mentioned that she does a great deal of street organizing throughout the community, and she hopes to be more involved with small business owners.

- Carlos said he has learned to listen to people and the issues that they bring up. He brings concrete proposals, not merely ideas. He has many examples of what he has done for Boyle Heights.

Azul Amaral mentioned that we are all passionate grass root organizers, and asked how would your organizational skills make you a better President?

- Carlos mentioned that he realizes passion must be organized through proposals. He cited as an example a campaign he organized to clean up a swimming pool.
- Fanny mentioned that you must connect with people. She has the ability, while listening to the community. Many residents are most concerned with going to work. She takes the time to attend meetings because that is what the community wants.

Joe Diaz asked, “What is the importance of the neighborhood council?”

- Carlos – To deal with issues that are important to the community. We were elected by the community to handle issues.
- Fanny – To connect to the community; I want to be that person who connects with the community.

Stakeholder Teresa Marquez felt it was important to know how the candidates would run their meetings:

- Fanny mentioned that we are learning as we speak. If there is a mistake, I will learn by the next meeting. I do not expect everyone to do a perfect job.
- Carlos mentioned that he would ask that all board members understand the bylaws and procedures. Realize that we have many strong people, raise their hands before speaking, and be respectful.

A stakeholder has seen council members push their own agendas, rather than the agendas of the public; what would the Presidential candidates do about that?

- Fanny – I reach out to people in the community, and invite them to our meeting.
- Carlos – I would publicize the agenda. If there were something very important, I would strive to get the most attendees. Make certain our public announcements would have a full media blast in English as well as Spanish.

Leyla called the Presidential election

Carlos (11)	Azul Amaral, Rafael Chagoya, David Cid, Diana del Pozo-Mora, Phillip del Pozo, Vera del Pozo, Joe Diaz, Nicole Martin, Carlos Montes, Luz Montoya-Ruiz, and Rita Rodriguez
Fanny (3)	Mynor Godoy, Fanny Ortiz, and Marisol Sanchez

Carlos Montes was elected President, BHNC.

Vice President

- Marisol Sanchez nominated Mynor Godoy
- Luz Montoya-Ruiz nominated Rafael Chagoya
- Diana del Pozo-Mora nominated Joe Diaz

Leyla asked the three candidates to explain their reason to be vice president.

- Mynor mentioned that he sees this as an opportunity to engage the younger generation. The median age of this neighborhood is 25, yet we are not seeing those people here at our meetings.
- Joe feels the vice president gives us the opportunity to bring more community awareness and to show Boyle Heights who we are and what we can bring.
- Rafael mentioned that he has brought leadership to Boyle Heights since his election. He is very pro community, working as a member of his church, as well as throughout his neighborhood. He feels he is ready for this type of leadership.

Vera del Pozo asked about the responsibilities of second signatory and attending meetings.

- Mynor mentioned that he already has experience being at all meetings on time.
- Rafael mentioned that as a disabled veteran, he has the time to attend every meeting, as well as all the other responsibilities to attend to the duties of vice president.
- Joe Diaz mentioned that he has the time, as he has been a member for two years. To serve under Carlos would be an honor to be a part of something bigger.

Carlos Montes mentioned that the vice president chairs the neighborhood committee, which we have not been able to get going. How would you get that committee going?

- Joe replied that the number one thing is to get more stakeholders involved; he would accomplish this by going out to the community.
- Rafael said that he would be doing outreach with all the means that he has available, including flyers and Internet. He has the people skills to explain to the stakeholders “this is our Boyle Heights, and we must preserve it for future generations”.
- Mynor mentioned that we are not currently doing enough to get people to attend our meetings. He will take the message out to kids, parents, and schools.

Leyla called the Vice Presidential election

Joe (6)	Azul Amaral, Diana del Pozo-Mora, Phillip del Pozo, Vera del Pozo, Joe Diaz, and Rita Rodriguez
Mynor (4)	Mynor Godoy, Fanny Ortiz, Marisol Sanchez, and Nicole Martin
Rafael (4)	Rafael Chagoya, David Cid, Carlos Montes, and Luz Montoya-Ruiz

Joe Diaz was elected Vice President, BHNC.

Leyla opened nominations for secretary:

- Diana del Pozo-Mora nominated Phillip del Pozo; there are no other nominations, the nominations were closed.

Phillip was elected secretary, by unanimous decision. (14 yes)

Leyla opened nominations for treasurer:

- Carlos Montes nominated Vera del Pozo; there were no other nominations, the nominations were closed.

Vera was elected treasurer by unanimous decision. (14 yes)

Outreach/Special Events Officer

- Azul Amaral nominated Mynor Godoy
- Marisol Sanchez nominated Nicole Martin
- Vera del Pozo nominated Diana del Pozo-Mora

Leyla asked the three candidates to explain their reason to be Outreach/Special Events Officer.

- Mynor mentioned that the BHNC needs to stress that our meetings are a place for public comment, and we should do a better job of the agendas.
- Nicole mentioned that she has a degree in political science, has worked for over six campaigns, and has the ability to reach out to people. She stressed that it is crucial that we reach out to people, as well as have business cards and elevator speeches ready.
- Diana feels we can do a great job if we know where we have been and where we are going. She has experience as an effective leader, and previously held this position.

Azul has noticed a lack in the engagement of people; what key tactics do you have in mind to change this?

- Nicole – It is very important that we engage all types of social media. We must give our contact information to people in Spanish and English, attend PTA meetings, and reach out to schools, community colleges and USC.
- Mynor – I definitely have the experience in the promotion. When the 98-cent store has better advertising than the BHNC, that is a problem. We should make certain our meetings and agendas are easier to find.
- Diana – it is not just the officer who is responsible for outreach; we also need more postings.

Luz Montoya-Ruiz asked, “How they would make flyers? How will you get the resources? How will you be able to get the budget?”

- Nicole – As we currently have \$37,000, the primary purpose of the council is outreach. We must make certain that we are part of the budget and strategic plan. This past year, a majority of the budget was spent at the end of the year. Outreach should be an ongoing activity.
- Mynor – It is about planning together and advocating for the neighborhoods.
- Diana – These past six months, as president, I was able to make certain that what we promised was released. This is an opportunity to put out a strategic plan. We are all outreach, and we can all do this together.

Stakeholder Teresa Marquez asked, “In the past, we had chairmen who never held meetings; this is a violation of the bylaws. What is your commitment that you will have meetings on a timely basis?”

- Diana – If we can have it set up as a regular time schedule, at a regular location and time, than we can send flyers to alert people.
- Nicole – It is key that we have regularly scheduled meetings at the same location.
- Mynor – Consistency and following the bylaws is key. If not, perhaps that person should be removed from their position for not having regularly scheduled meetings.

Stakeholder Peter Nishimura mentioned that he works for the city, can make photocopies, and asked that they reach out to him.

Leyla called the Outreach/Special Events Officer election

Diana (8)	David Cid, Diana del Pozo-Mora, Phillip del Pozo, Vera del Pozo, Joe Diaz, Carlos Montes, Luz Montoya-Ruiz and Rita Rodriguez
Mynor (3)	Azul Amaral, Mynor Godoy and Fanny Ortiz,
Nicole (3)	Rafael Chagoya, Nicole Martin and Marisol Sanchez

Diana del Pozo was elected Outreach/Special Events Officer, BHNC.

Planning and Land Use Committee (PLUC) Officer

- Fanny Ortiz nominated Mynor Godoy
- Vera del Pozo nominated Rafael Chagoya

Leyla asked the two candidates to explain their reason to be PLUC Officer.

- Mynor – We must continue to discuss the many things that are changing throughout Boyle Heights.
- Rafael – I was previous chairman of the PLUC Committee. I have had relationships with city officials. I realize this takes time to coordinate meetings with safety and other related areas. I have the time to take care of these tasks. Boyle Heights is long overdue for declaration as a historical neighborhood.

Carlos mentioned that PLUC has been very controversial, and asked how will they reach out to make certain people are not ignored.

- Mynor suggested that meetings must be more open, out in the public area for the community.
- Rafael mentioned that he has done outreach for the PLUC, has taken the time to do the work and attend meetings at the city level.

Luz Montoya-Ruiz asked, “If you were selected, how would you make certain the community benefits from new construction?”

- Rafael – It all boils down to the outreach. Must go out there and talk to people. The only way to do this is to just do it.

- Mynor – To ensure that any new development can be shared with the community. Some people do not feel involved with the process. Although everyone wants to see prosperity in the neighborhood, they also want to be involved.

Leyla called the PLUC Officer election

Mynor (7)	Azul Amaral, Joe Diaz, Mynor Godoy, Nicole Martin, Fanny Ortiz, Rita Rodriguez, and Marisol Sanchez
Rafael (7)	Rafael Chagoya, David Cid, Diana del Pozo-Mora, Phillip del Pozo, Vera del Pozo, Carlos Montes, and Luz Montoya-Ruiz

This resulted in a tie vote. There was discussion regarding options:

- Could we have co-chairs?
- Continue voting until the tie is broken?
- Table the vote until you have additional council members present?
- Could we have one chairman, the other as an alternate?

At that time, Rafael conceded to Mynor, giving his vote to Mynor. The modification to the vote is Mynor 8, Rafael 6. Mynor Godoy was elected chairman of PLUC.

Leyla turns over the meeting to the newly elected president, Carlos Montes.

Joe Diaz, Luz Montoya-Ruiz, and the translator left the meeting. (8:24PM)

7. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Selection of Four Community Officers, Members of the BHNC Executive Committee.

This meeting is scheduled the 3rd Thursday of each month. They set the agenda for the monthly meetings.

- Vera del Pozo nominated Nicole Martin.
- Azul Amaral nominated himself.
- Mynor Godoy nominated Marisol Sanchez. Marisol was concerned that she was also an area officer; in a review of the bylaws, it was determined that it was okay.
- Phillip del Pozo nominated Fanny Ortiz.
- Rita Rodriguez nominated Rafael Chagoya

Rita Rodriguez makes a nomination to close the nominations; Rafael Chagoya seconded the motion.

It was determined that the current four members of the executive committee cannot vote for these four.

Each eligible voting member names four of the five candidates.

Leyla called the PLUC Officer election

Nicole (8)	Rafael Chagoya, David Cid, Diana del Pozo-Mora, Mynor Godoy, Nicole Martin, Fanny Ortiz, Rita Rodriguez, and Marisol Sanchez
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Rafael (8)	Azul Amaral, Rafael Chagoya, David Cid, Diana del Pozo-Mora, Mynor Godoy, Nicole Martin, Rita Rodriguez, and Marisol Sanchez
Azul (7)	Azul Amaral, Rafael Chagoya, David Cid, Diana del Pozo-Mora, Fanny Ortiz, Rita Rodriguez, and Marisol Sanchez
Marisol (7)	Azul Amaral, Rafael Chagoya, David Cid, Mynor Godoy, Nicole Martin, Fanny Ortiz, and Rita Rodriguez
Fanny (6)	Azul Amaral, Diana del Pozo-Mora, Mynor Godoy, Nicole Martin, Fanny Ortiz, and Marisol Sanchez

Nicole Martin, Rafael Chagoya, Azul Amaral, and Marisol Sanchez were elected the four community officers

8. Discussion and Possible Action to Select and Appoint the Secondary Signatory of the BHNC

In a review of the bylaws, this is not true that the 2nd signatory is automatically the vice president.

Rafael Chagoya made a motion that Joe Diaz be appointed second signatory; Rita Rodriguez seconded the motion. A vote to name Joe Diaz as second signatory was unanimous. (12 yes)

9. Discussion and Possible Action – Approval of the BHNC Monthly Expenditure Report for May 2014

Vera del Pozo submitted this report for approval. The budget is on the website. Monday, June 16, Vera will hold a meeting at the Benjamin Franklin Library to go over this budget. At that time, we can make recommendations and changes. Last year, we had a balance of \$2,500; this was utilized for community improvement.

Diana del Pozo-Mora made a motion to approve the May expenditure report; Vera seconded this.

YES (9)	Azul Amaral, Rafael Chagoya, Diana del Pozo-Mora, Phillip del Pozo, Vera del Pozo, Nicole Martin, Carlos Montes, Fanny Ortiz, and Marisol Sanchez
NO (0)	
ABSTENTION (3)	David Cid, Mynor Godoy, and Rita Rodriguez

10. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Changing Posting of Notices Requirement to One Location, Pursuant to Board of Neighborhood Councils (BONC) Policy.

Diana del Pozo made a motion that the posting of notices from BHNC to be at the LAPD's Hollenbeck Station; Rafael Chagoya seconded this.

Stakeholder Teresa Marquez was concerned that this is a police station; who goes to a police station? She felt these postings should be shown at the library.

Carlos replied that he has posted the BHNC notices at Ben Franklin Library; yet the notice gets mixed in with the many other notices.

Mynor Godoy mentioned that the Hollenbeck Station is good because it is accessible 24/7, which is required. We are at liberty to also post at additional sites.

Rafael modified the motion that we also, in addition to the 24/7 posting at the Hollenbeck Police Station, post it in Spanish. There is no second to the amendment to post it in Spanish.

Peter Nishimura suggested that the park has a bulletin board, visible 24/7.

Azul Amaral made a motion to select Hollenbeck Police Station as the 24/7 posting location. Vera del Pozo seconded this motion. The vote was unanimous. (12 yes)

Mynor Godoy had to leave to go to the airport.

11. Discussions and Possible Action Regarding BHNC Website Procedures

Rafael Chagoya made a motion to table this action to a future meeting. Azul Amaral seconded this motion. The vote was unanimous. (11 yes)

12. Announcements

Nicole Martin attended the Bond Committee meeting on Tuesday, June 3. Among the topics discussed were new checking accounts.

Fanny Ortiz mentioned that they are considering raising the minimum wage for hotel workers. This may be placed on the agenda at a future meeting.

Phillip del Pozo mentioned that on June 28, there will be an event at Hollenbeck Park. The BHNC should prepare with the booth, bags, and other outreach actions.

Philip also mentioned that August 5 is "National Night Out"; there will be multiple functions for families and children.

<http://natw.org/>

13. Next General Board Meeting

The next meeting of the BHNC will be on the 4th Wednesday, June 25, at Boyle Heights Senior Center at 6:15PM.

14. Adjournment

At 9:21PM, Rita Rodriguez made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Vera del Pozo seconded this.