



MID CITY WEST COMMUNITY COUNCIL

543 N. Fairfax Avenue, Suite 106 Los Angeles CA 90036
323-651-3512 www.midcitywest.org

Beverly Center • Beverly Grove • Burton Way • Carthay Circle • Fairfax District • Melrose • Miracle Mile • Park La Brea

Bylaws/Grievance Committee Minutes

Monday, August 9, 2010 (7:00 p.m.)
543 N. Fairfax Avenue, Suite 106
Los Angeles CA 90036

1. Call to Order; Roll Call – Meeting called to order 7:05pm. All 4 committee members were present—Chair Lindenblatt, Abrahams, Baughman and Eisenhower.
2. Approval of Minutes of 10/06/09 Meeting – Eisenhower moved approval of minutes, Baughman seconded, minutes approved on 3-0-1 vote.
3. Public Comment Period - No public comment.
4. Chairman's Report - The Chair thanked the Committee for their assistance with putting together the meeting. He said the Committee takes Grievances seriously, and said that he will make every effort to be fair and impartial in the course of consideration of matters.
5. **Initial review of the complaint filed August 2, 2010 by MCWCC Zone 3 Representative Yuval Kremer regarding MCWCC 2nd Vice Chair Thomas "Tom" Eisenhower.**
Consideration of this item only included the following:
 - a. Determination of whether or not the complaint that was filed is in compliance with Article V., Section 10 in accordance with MCWCC grievance procedure prescribed by Article V., Section 10b.

At this point, Eisenhower recused himself from these two sections, as he was named in the complaint under consideration.

The Committee initially gave 5 minutes for each side to present, and ultimately allowed each side 15 minutes to present their side.

Following questions from the Committee members, the Committee began to deliberate.

First, it determined that the complaint met the requirements of Article V., Section 10a.

Next, it determined that the complaint met the requirements of the first sentence of the first paragraph of Article V., Section 10, but then deliberated at some length as to whether the complaint met the requirements of the second sentence of the first paragraph of Article V., Section 10, and ultimately Abrahams moved, and Baughman seconded, that the complaint is in compliance with Article V., Section 10 of the bylaws; motion passed 3-0.

- b. If the complaint is found to be compliance, Committee will determine the affected parties, and approve service, in compliance with MCWCC grievance procedure prescribed by Article V., Section 10c. (i.-iii.) .

Lindenblatt moved, and Abrahams seconded, that the affected party is Thomas “Tom” Eisenhower, and that we approve service, in compliance with MCWCC grievance procedure prescribed by Article V., Section 10c.iii.; motion passed 3-0.

- 6. **DONE’s Proposed Neighborhood Council Bylaws Template Language.** Discussion and Possible Action on Motion for Mid City West to take a position.

Eisenhauer rejoined the Committee.

Lindenblatt moved and Baughman seconded, motion for consideration:

MOTION TO OPPOSE BYLAWS STANDARDIZATION EFFORTS BY THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES’ BOARD OF NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONERS (BONC) AND THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES’ DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT (DONE), SPECIFICALLY: A) THE 2010 PROPOSED NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL BYLAWS TEMPLATE LANGUAGE, and B) THE 2010 PROPOSED MANDATED TABLE OF CONTENTS OF THE 2010 PROPOSED NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL BYLAWS TEMPLATE.

The Mid City WEST Community Council Bylaws/Grievance Committee moves as follows:

The Mid City WEST Community Council Board of Directors opposes/supports the bylaws standardization efforts currently under consideration by the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (BONC) and the City of Los Angeles’ Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE), particularly the 2010 Proposed Neighborhood Council Bylaws Template Language and 2010 Proposed Mandated Table of Contents, for several reasons:

(1) DONE staff worked to develop the 2010 Proposed Neighborhood Council Bylaws Template Language, without significant consultation with the neighborhood council leaders who worked to develop the voluntary bylaws wireframe.

(2) A specific comparison of the proposed mandated bylaws changes in the 2010 Proposed Neighborhood Council Bylaws Template Language, with that of the Mid City West Community Council’s (MCWCC) bylaws, reveals significant language differences from our bylaws, which would have significant impacts on our council’s operations.

(Comparisons of provisions relating to absences, censure and removal between the DONE template and MCWCC bylaws then listed here...)

3) Our bylaws are functioning reasonably well for us as is, and mandating reorganization of them would take considerable time away from our being able to do the other important work of the community.

A friendly amendment was offered to insert a period after contents, and moving everything after that to the Background, as Section C. Reasons for Supporting the Motion.

More discussion ensued, when Lindenblatt offered a motion to insert “proposed mandated” between the words “oppose bylaws” in the motion above. It died for lack of a second.

Eisenhauer then offered a substitute motion, seconded by Abrahams:

MOTION TO OPPOSE ANY EFFORT BY THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES BOARD OF NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONERS (BONC) AND THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES’ DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT (DONE) TO MANDATE BYLAWS CHANGES, AND TO SUPPORT THOSE ENTITIES’ EFFORTS TO PROVIDE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS WITH VOLUNTARY GUIDANCE REGARDING BYLAWS.

The Mid City WEST Community Council Bylaws/Grievance Committee moves as follows:

The Mid City WEST Community Council Board of Directors:

- Opposes any effort by the City of Los Angeles Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (BONC) and Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) to require neighborhood councils to adopt a standardized set of bylaws; and
- Supports BONC's and DONE's efforts to provide a bylaws template, and any other relevant guidance, that neighborhood councils can use voluntarily.

Abrahams offered a friendly amendment to insert “—or any portion thereof;” into the motion above, following the words “standardized set of bylaws”.

The substitute motion passed 4-0.

7. **MCWCC Bylaws Review:** Discussion and Possible Action Recommending Possible Bylaws Amendments for Future Consideration by this Committee. Discussion will follow the order of the outline of the bylaws, as follows:
 - a. Article I – Name, Purpose, Description
 - b. Article II – Membership and General Organization
 - c. Article III – Meetings
 - d. Article IV – Voting
 - e. Article V – Elections/Officers/Administration

After some discussion, Eisenhauer moved, and Baughman seconded, a motion to table this item for a future meeting. The motion passed 4-0.

8. Adjourn -- Meeting adjourned 10:30pm.

For information on the Process for Reconsideration, MCWCC Stakeholder Grievance policy or any other procedural matter related to this Council, please consult the MCWCC Bylaws by clicking on the www.midcitywest.org or visiting the MCWCC Office at 543 N. Fairfax Avenue, Room 106.