Minutes of the Northridge East Neighborhood Council DONE Training Meeting

Wednesday, June 20, 2012

1. Meeting called to order by President Steve Patel at 7:06 PM
2. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Ramirez
3. Roll Call/Determination of Quorum – Present: Steve Patel, Alice McCain, Peter McCarty, Don Dwiggins, YJay Draiman, Danielle Parga, Steven Ramirez, Kelly Lord, Ahmer Qureshi, and Lucille Meehan; Absent (Excused): Brittny McCarthy and Nestor Fantini; Also Present: Leyla Campos (DONE), Darren Martinez (Managing City Attorney Darren.Martinez@lacity.org), Capri Maddox (Deputy CA Regional Attorney Capri.Maddox@lacity.org) (EmpowerLA Staff).
4. General Public Comment – Leyla Campos (DONE) makes an introduction explaining how NENC has been placed in “Exhaustive Efforts Status.” (The Board had a period of financial irregularity, causing it to be audited, then was placed in Exhaustive Efforts Status.) She states that part of the procedure for the Council to be returned to a state of sustainability includes training with a refresher on legal guidelines to address issues and taking a closer look at their Bylaws for language that can create problems. Since December the Board has been requesting a letter from DONE stating exactly what they need to do to resolve their funding issues which began back in September, to no avail. No clear response has ever been received with regards to this dilemma. Leyla Campos then promises to give the NENC their requested information, in writing, by the end of the week.
5. Discussion – Discussion with the Office of the City Attorney regarding the Charter, Plan for a Citywide System of Neighborhood Councils, the Administrative Code provisions applicable to NCs, the ethics laws applicable to NC board members, the Brown Act, the Public Records Act and the board’s bylaws. This item is intended to provide the board with a general understanding of the legal framework applicable to Neighborhood Councils. Speakers include Deputy City Attorneys Mr. Darren Martinez and Ms. Capri Maddox. Please note that this training does not fulfill the requirement that board members also take the mandatory 2 hour ethics course.
6. Discussion – The Board arranged to hold a full meeting (regarding Neighborhood Council Funding Program, including an overview of the permissible and impermissible activities with respect to spending board funds; this training will be conducted by a staff member of DONE) on Tuesday, 7/3, to approve a budget to send to DONE, and to take any other actions needed to get funding restored.
7. Discussion – Discussion and possible action selecting vendors who engage in outreach activities for NC elections, including advertising, door-to-door distribution, and other mechanisms included Daily News, North Valley Community Connection, and more. The election committee (Mr. Lord and Mr. McCarty) will be taking this up in more detail.
8. Adjournment – MEETING ADJOURNED (by unanimous vote) at approximately 9:20 pm.