

**Palms Neighborhood Council
Area Representatives**

Randell Erving Jr., President
Danya White, Vice President
Helen Tocco, Secretary
Kay Hartman, Treasurer
Matthew Wait, Community Org. Rep
Helen Tocco, Secretary
Nicholas Smith, Residential Rep. A
Vacant, Residential Rep. B
Gabriela Sotomayor, Residential Rep. C
Jessalyn Waldron, Residential Rep. D
Kristen Chiarello, Residential Rep. E
Josh Nadel, Business Rep. 1
Natasía Gascón, Business Rep. 2
Vacant, Youth Representative

**CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA**



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PALMS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Special General Assembly Meeting Agenda

Saturday, January 29, 2022 – 10:00 a.m.

Zoom Meeting Online at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8263219749?pwd=T1U0RjZES3dOSWw4WjBwN0pGcU1tOT09>

or by telephone, Dial +1 669 900 6833 to join the meeting

Enter this Meeting ID: 826 321 9749 Then enter this passcode 9749 and press #

The toll free call-in numbers are: (833) 548-0276, (833) 548-0282, (877) 858-5257, and (888) 475-4499

Press *9 to raise hand for public comment

The Neighborhood Council system enables meaningful civic participation for all Angelenos and serves as a voice for improving government responsiveness to local communities and their needs. We are an advisory body to the City of Los Angeles, comprised of stakeholder volunteers who are devoted to the mission of improving our communities.

VIRTUAL MEETING TELECONFERENCING NUMBER FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN CONFORMITY WITH THE SEPTEMBER 16, 2021 ENACTMENT OF CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLY BILL 361 (RIVAS) AND DUE TO CONCERNS OVER COVID-19, THE PALMS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED ENTIRELY WITH A CALL-IN OPTION OR INTERNET-BASED SERVICE OPTION.

Every person wishing to address the Palms Neighborhood Council must join the zoom meeting at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8263219749?pwd=T1U0RjZES3dOSWw4WjBwN0pGcU1tOT09> or dial +1 669 900 6833, and enter 826 321 9749 Enter this passcode 9749 Then press # to join the meeting. Instructions on how to sign up for public comment will be given to listeners at the start of the meeting.

AB 361 Updates -Public comment cannot be required to be submitted in advance of the meeting, only real-time public comment is required. If there are any broadcasting interruptions that prevent the public from observing or hearing the meeting, the meeting must be recessed or adjourned. If members of the public are unable to provide public comment or be heard due to issues within the Neighborhood Council's control, the meeting must be recessed or adjourned.

Notice to Paid Representatives -If you are compensated to monitor, attend, or speak at this meeting, City law may require you to register as a lobbyist and report your activity. See Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 48.01 et seq. More information is available at ethics.lacity.org/lobbying. For assistance, please contact the Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960 or ethics.commission@lacity.org

1) CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL:

- a. Call to Order (Erving)
- b. Roll Call (Tocco)

2) ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Round 3 Applications are being accepted for the City of LA [Comeback Checks](#) grants, businesses can apply for COVID-19 financial assistance through February 7, 2022
- b. COVID-19 emergency assistance is available for those who qualify and need help paying rent or utility bills apply at today at [Housing is Key](#)

3) INTRODUCTION TO MEETING

- a. Purpose

4) GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS & MULTIPLE AGENDA ITEM PUBLIC COMMENT

5) GUEST PRESENTATION

- a. Eli Lipman Board of Neighborhood Commissioners President and former Palms NC President

6) DISCUSSION Share your reflections on your time on the Board this term

- a. What are 1-2 goals that you have for the next 6 months?
 - i. How might we support you in achieving your goals?

7) MOTION: To appoint Markhum Stansbury Jr as Area B Representative for the Palms Neighborhood Council

8) MOTION: To remove Kristen Chiarello as the Area E Representative, and as Member of the Outreach and Green Committees and thank her for her service to the Palms community

9) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: Ad Hoc Bylaws Committee Updates

- a. **CONSENT ITEMS (PART A)**
 - i. See supplemental attachment
- b. **DISCUSSION (PART B)**
 - i. See supplemental attachment

10) DISCUSSION Suggested Palms NC Representative Activities

- a. Area Representatives (revisit)
- b. Community Based Org Representative
- c. Business Representatives
- d. Youth Representative

11) DISCUSSION Budget Update (Hartman)

12) DISCUSSION: Outreach Strategy Brainstorm (White)

- i. General Palms NC Outreach
 - 1. Social Events
 - 2. MAIA Outreach
 - 3. Other physical locations we may add in 2022
- ii. Committee Member Recruitment

13) DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION: To remove Randell Erving, Jr. as WRAC Representative and appoint a new primary representative and an alternate representative

14) ADJOURNMENT

The next virtual Palms NC General Assembly Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 2, 2022 at 7pm

Time allocations for agenda items are approximate and may be shortened or lengthened at the discretion of the President. Public comment will be taken for each motion as well as for any item in the consent agenda prior to Board action. The public is requested to fill out a "Speaker Card" to address the Assembly on any item of the agenda prior to the Assembly taking action on an item. Comments from the public on Agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the Agenda that is within the Assembly's subject matter jurisdiction will be heard during the Public Comment period. Public comment is limited to 1 to 2 minutes per speaker, at the discretion of or unless waived by the Assembly. In the interest of addressing all items on the agenda, time limits for individual comments and discussion may be set at the discretion of the President. All items on the consent agenda will be

determined by a single Committee vote and without Committee discussion. Committee members may request that any item be removed from the consent agenda and considered individually at any time prior to that vote.

Per Board of Neighborhood Commissioners Policy #2014-01, agendas are posted for public review at: 1) Woodbine Park Kiosk, 3409 S. Vinton Ave.; 2) Palms Neighborhood Council website, www.palmsnc.la.

In compliance with Government Code section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the board in advance of a meeting may be viewed at Woodbine Park Kiosk, 3409 S. Vinton Ave, at our website: www.palmsnc.la or at the scheduled meeting. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please contact the Secretary at secretary@palmsnc.la

Palms NC Board and Committee members abide by a code of civility (<http://empowerla.org/code-of-conduct/>). Any person who interferes with the conduct of a Neighborhood Council meeting by willfully interrupting and/or disrupting the meeting is subject to removal. A peace officer may be requested to assist with the removal should any person fail to comply with an order of removal by the Neighborhood Council. Any person who resists removal by a peace officer is subject to arrest and prosecution pursuant to California Penal Code Section 403.

As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services, and activities. Sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability of services, please make your request at least 3 business days (72 hours) prior to the meeting you wish to attend by contacting the Secretary at secretary@palmsnc.la

SI REQUIERE SERVICIOS DE TRADUCCION, FAVOR DE NOTIFICAR A LA OFICINA 3 DIAS DE TRABAJO (72 HORAS) ANTES DEL EVENTO. SI NECESITA ASISTENCIA CON ESTA NOTIFICACION, POR FAVOR LLAME A NUESTRA OFICINA AL secretary@palmsnc.la

Palms NC Bylaws Changes Discussion for Palms NC Retreat

Part A can be grammatical and easier items. The Bylaws Committee will provide their rationale for Part A items, but there will not be discussion unless a Board Member opts to push it into Part B.

Part B can involve items of more discussion. Josh says some of these items might be ideal for the retreat discussion.

Part C involves items that were worthy of discussion but deemed not be as important as the items in Part B and are being noted for discussion for the next Bylaws Committee (whenever that happens). Part C could also be placed on the retreat agenda after Part B and only discussed until whatever time limit the NC President deems sufficient. The committee decided to split Parts B & C to conserve time and discuss the more important with more time

PART A – NON-CONTROVERSIAL ITEMS DEEMED TO NOT NEED DISCUSSION

Article V Governing Board

- Section 7 should remove the language “without an excused absence” because Palms NC does not have specific criteria for defining excused absences.

o *It is easier to not have excused absences than to have detailed description along with a compliance notebook. The detail is needed in case there is ever a controversy over a lack of a consistent policy – “Why does XYZ get excused absences and retain their Board Seat, while I did not? This is not fair. I am suing etc.”*

o *Board Members should not regularly be missing meetings and missing 3 or more in a row is problematic regardless of the underlying reasoning. That is why this item was deemed “non-controversial and not worthy of full discussion”*

Article VII Committees and Their Duties

- Section 2 should add language to define the time limitations of an Ad Hoc Committee. The Bylaws Committee should consider a limit on number of active Ad Hoc Committees at any one moment in time.

o *We should come up with a limit on the number of active items and time. Non-controversial. Suggest that we end the committee when the term ends.*

- Section 3C is not clear on whether the President or the Committee Chair should appoint members. It is clear that the Palms NC Board needs to vote on it either way, but language should be added to make that clear whether the President or the Committee Chair appoints committee members.

o *Josh says he suggests that either one can recommend committee members. This is non-controversial.*

- Section 3D should add language exempting Ad Hoc Committees from Brown Act requirements as a suggestion from the DONE Bylaws Template

○ This should be non-controversial. Freddy says this is conditional on the members of the committee being ONLY board members. If there is a stakeholder on the committee then you have to follow Brown Act.

Article VIII Meetings

- Section 2 should add the following language to allow Stakeholders the ability to add agenda items ” Any Stakeholder and/or Board members may make a proposal for action by the Council by submitting a written request to the Secretary/President. Stakeholders can also make such a request during the public comment period of a regular Council meeting. The Secretary/President shall promptly refer the proposal to a Standing Committee or, at the next regular Council meeting, the Board shall either consider the proposal or create an Ad Hoc Committee to consider the proposal. The Council may consider the proposal at a Committee or Board meeting.”

○ The committee agrees that this could be valuable. Committee agrees this is non-controversial.

- Section 4 should add the following language about Reconsideration. ”The Board may reconsider or amend its action through a Motion for Reconsideration process defined in its Standing Rules and either during the same meeting where the Board initially acted or during the Board's next regularly scheduled meeting that follows the meeting where the action subject to reconsideration occurred.”

○ The committee likes this and agrees it is non-controversial.

○ Currently this item reads as “Intentionally left blank”, which limits the ability of the NC to reconsider items, which is a power the NC should have.

Article X Elections

- Section 6 should remove 6B, 6C, and 6D. 6F should be re-worded to Elections Committee Chair

○ The 2021 policy is already in effect. Moving forward all boards will take seats July 1 of the fiscal year moving forward. We agree pulling these/changing these is non-controversial.

Article XII Parliamentary Authority

- Section A should remove the phrase “these Bylaws” from that Section

○ Non-controversial.

Article XIV Compliance

- Section 3 should change the language from “Shall” to “May”

○ Freddy says they haven't been able to enforce the self-assessment so far so that is why this was changed to “may” in the template. Freddy says they haven't had the resources to meet the requirement. Agree this is non-controversial.

PART B – ITEMS FOR GREATER DISCUSSION

Article III Boundaries

- Section 1 should add the area containing Palms Park because it is contiguous with current boundaries and adds a full sized park to the NC, allowing for more and varied events for residents.

- Would need to be appealed to BONC to have a shared area with another NC. It is worthy of discussion but non-controversial.
- Freddy says BONC would have to be included in the Bylaws process and he would need to help advocate for that change, though we could send 1-2 Board Members to explain our rationale.
- Both Neighborhood Councils would have to agree to have that shared boundary.

- Section 1 should add the Westdale area, whose boundaries are roughly Charnock Road to the South, Sepulveda Blvd to the West, National Blvd to the North, & Overland Ave to the East. Westdale has been a part of Palms for over 70 years, and this would be correcting the NC maps to align with the City maps

○ This item is rather controversial, as it would mean that Mar Vista CC would have to cede control over Westdale to the Palms NC, with additional BONC approval. This is being done to see what can happen during the negotiation period.

○ KEY ITEMS:

-Westdale is the only portion of Mar Vista CC that is in CD5 or East of the 405

-Westdale has been in the process of leaving the Mar Vista CC. They would prefer to form their own NC, but do not come anywhere near the minimum population needed on their own

-There is another bylaws item dealing with changing the composition of the GA Board if this change is approved. The amount of new Board seats can be used during the negotiation phase, like "If Westdale joins the Palms NC, we will add 1-2 Area Reps for that area, 1 new business rep (and all 3 now represent areas, with one for all of Westdale), 1 new community org rep for the westdale area, etc etc"

-Mar Vista CC has a tradition of never paying for events and it is not clear if anything from the NC has ever been done in the Westdale portion outside of Election info and PLUM decisions

-Worst case scenario is things stay "as is", while Best case scenarios have Palms NC being composed of the entire Palms neighborhood as listed on City Maps

Article V Governing Board

- Section 1 should be changed if the Article III changes are approved. One more Residential Area Rep should be added for all of Westdale. One more Business Rep should be added because more businesses are being added. Optionally, one more Community Org rep could be added and a new position representing the Homeowners Association could be added

○ This would be added if Westdale was added. This is a controversial item.

○ This item is only to be dealt with if the Westdale area is added, otherwise this item is moot

- Section 1 should also add the following language "Any member of the Board who ceases to be a Stakeholder is required to submit his or her resignation to the Board. However, Board Members who remain stakeholders but whose stakeholder category has shifted may serve out the remainder of their term in the seat to which they were elected or selected."

○ This would allow an Area Rep who moved to a different area to still serve out their term.

- Section 11 should get discussed at the GA as to how the Board wishes to interpret that clause. The Bylaws Committee should send a motion for the next GA meeting.

○ This is about “having a system of outreach to inform stakeholders as to the existence and activity of the Council”

○ Discuss whether we should get rid of it or if anyone knows what it means – light discussion.

Attachment B

- Consider adding language that Executive Officers have some status greater than “Stakeholder”. Possibly “Reside, Work, or Own Property” would work better instead.

○ Discussion of what type of stakeholder can run for executive committee. Freddy says this would be a good opportunity to clarify and this is part of a larger discussion.

PART C – ITEMS FOR THE NEXT BYLAWS COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER

Article VI Officers

- Section 3 is selection of Officers. Currently stakeholders vote in executive officers, but it could be changed to same number of board seats, but the executive ones would switch to other designations (at large is easy but they could be more specific too). The Board would vote on Executive Officers from the pool of all Board Members. This should be discussed at the Bylaws Committee and possibly should send a motion for the next GA meeting. This would involve changing Article III to match the provisions as well.

○ Josh says this is discussion-worthy because it would change how our elections go. Are our voters as knowledgeable about positions? This would look to change the structure of the board. This would change the mix and then you would vote on officers. Freddy says BONC would have to consider this.

○ Flag for next year’s Bylaws Committee.

- Section 4 deals with Officer terms getting switched annually. This is a further consideration of Section 3 above.

○ Officer seats can be switched annually. This is an option we’re not using. Josh suggests we should talk about it to confirm whether we like what we have. The Executive Officers would be selected from the pool of candidates, this could change each year. Helen notes that it takes some time to learn the ropes of each position.

○ Flag for next year’s Bylaws Committee.