

Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council Rules Committee Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2012

Present were:

Janet Dodson, Rick Marquez, Paul Bonsell, Teri Bonsell, Nancy Wyatt, Tony Howard

Minutes of Nov. 11, 2011 meeting were approved

1. Discussion and Motion: Approve DONE changes in Proposed HHPNC Bylaws, and prepare them for presentation to the HHPNC Board for approval.

Each change proposed by Grayce Liu was discussed.

The following changes were approved:

- Changes in the form of the outline, addition of page numbers in the Table of Contents, capitalizations, and the addition of numbers in parentheses after written numbers
- Deletion of the Glossary, as Attachment 3, and references to the Brown Act, and their inclusion instead in a Policies and Procedure
- Article IV, definition of Stakeholder shall be the exact language used in the April, 2011 DONE Template.
- Article V Section 1 deletion of the language-allowing there to be more than nineteen members of the Board until April election, as it is a moot question now. BONC has approved the change in size of the board to be nineteen, and we currently have eighteen members.
- Article V Section 3 remove six as the requirement for a simple majority vote of board members present in case there are empty Board seats
- Article V Section 9 paragraph 1c remove thirteen as a requirement in case there are empty Board seats
- Article VI Section 3 delete language referring to the City Clerk holding elections
- Article XI Removal of references to LA Plan Charter, State law etc, as Neighborhood Councils do not have standing to arbitrate anything but their Bylaws and Policies and Procedures
- Article VII, Opening paragraph the maximum number of Board members allowed in any committee shall be four

We did not agree to the following two items. A meeting shall be requested with Ms. Liu to discuss them

- Article V Section 7. Ms. Liu strongly suggested we add a definition of a regular meeting to the section. This raised the question about the Glossary. If we may not have definitions in the Bylaws, why add only one? May we not then also add definitions everywhere? Our reason for having a Glossary in the Bylaws was to help anyone reading a section have one place to look for a definition instead of flipping through the Bylaws searching. Perhaps we may add a reference to the Glossary in the Policies and Procedures everywhere there is a term which needs defining? We find this to be inconsistent and unhelpful to the reader.
- Article VII Ad-hoc Agenda Committee. Ms. Liu's objection to having an Ad-hoc Agenda Committee is that Ad-hoc Committees must have a specific purpose, and limited term of existence. We object to having one person be in charge of the content of the Agenda. The Board has stipulated the order of the Agenda. Board members and Stakeholders have free access to the Agenda. Why should the Agenda Committee meet, post the meeting publically as there is nothing to discuss beyond the language of an item, and the order in the Agenda? The Committee suggests the Agenda Committee remain Ad-hoc. It already has a specific purpose, to write the Agendas, and can have a 6-month term of existence. Every January and June, the Board shall close the committee, and open a new one.

We will ask Ms. Liu to address these two objections.

The Committee will present these proposed recommended changes to the Board for approval March 15, 2012.