

MINUTES
CITY OF LOS ANGELES
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION.
200 N. Spring Street, Room 1050, City Hall
December 21, 2006

Present: Misty Sanford, President
Alina Bokde, Vice President
M. Teresa Villegas, Commissioner

Absent: Maria Armoudian, Commissioner
Joyce M. Perkins, Commissioner

Keylaundra McClelland, Acting Commission Secretary –
(213) 978-2366

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** President Sanford called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.
2. **CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:** Commissioner Sanford recommended that the Commission review and approve the minutes of November 9, 2006 at the January 18, 2007 meeting, Commissioner Bokde so moved and Commissioner Villegas seconded.
3. **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:** None.
4. **GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT:** Karin Christie, Division Director of the Environmental Business and Neighborhood Services Division (EBNS) provided the Commission with an update of departmental activities.
5. ITEMS OF DISCUSSION:

Discussion of goals and strategies of the EAC- Commissioner Sanford stated that the Commission has been working with the Mayor's Office and the Department to determine the platform for the EAC. Proposition 84 (The Water Quality, Safety and Supply, Flood Control, Natural Resource Protection Park Improvement Bond) passed in the November 7, 2006 election, which authorizes \$5,388,000,000 in general obligation bonds, payable from the state's General Fund, to fund projects relating to safe drinking water, water quality and supply, flood control, waterway and natural resource protection, water pollution and contamination control, state and local park improvements, public access to natural resources, and conservation efforts. The Proposition includes approximately \$90

million for “urban greening” and approximately \$90 million for “land use planning”. Commissioners Sanford and Bokde stated that there may be a role for the EAC to assist the Mayor’s Office and the City departments in identifying projects for the “urban greening” and “land use planning” portions of the bond monies.

Commissioner Villegas agreed that EAC could help in developing criteria and projects that would benefit communities in Los Angeles, Proposition 84 is not yet defined so the EAC has an opportunity to play a major role in the implementation and development process. The EAC could provide a resource of information to communities throughout the City.

Commissioner Sanford added that EAC’s role could consist of pulling together ideas from the community, other City Departments, and Commissions to help establish the City as a competitor in accessing Proposition 84 funds. The EAC could also use this opportunity to continue discussions with the Departments of Recreation and Parks, the Planning Department, and Department of Transportation (DOT).

Commissioner Villegas added that focusing on this bond measure is needed, because several portions of the bond act need enabling legislation. The City of Los Angeles can take advantage of this by creating sustainable communities, urban greening, and urban parks that are needed within the City. The EAC could work closely with community groups to help allocate a portion of the money to local non-profit community groups. Commissioner Villegas stated that the bond money could go into per capita for some portion of the money. In the event that it does, when the City receives its portion, it is important to work closely and collaboratively with community groups so money is flushed out faster and not at some unforeseeable time in the future.

Commissioner Sanford stated that we need to flush out questions and clearly define EAC’s role. She stated that it would be in the best interest of all if EAC would develop a specific list of questions and define what their role would be in this process to measure results at the end of this project. Commissioner Sanford added that it is important for EAC to play a role in the enabling of legislation and setting forth the criteria in making sure that it coincides with the Mayor’s Green Agenda (e.g. Million Tree Initiative, Unpaving Paradise etc.) and getting feedback from our partners in other departments and with for-profit and nonprofit entities. She added that the second step in this process once monies are received (through a competitive or per capita process) is where the City needs to focus on strategically to put those funds.

Commissioner Bodke stated that EAC should not give the impression to community groups that the Commission has any leverage in terms of

money distribution (whether or not projects receive funding). She stated that we should state firmly that EAC's role would be strictly guiding organizations toward properly and efficiently accessing the funds.

Romel Pascual of the Mayor's Office addressed the Commissioners adding that there are a number of ways to approach the issue. Mr. Pascual stated that he believes the EAC does have the ability to bring together organizations, identify priority projects and offer suggestions to the Mayor's Office. Once criteria is developed the City would already have a list of projects from various organizations ready to go due to efforts provided by the EAC. He suggested drafting a memo to the Mayor's office with final recommendations in regard to which organizations bond monies should go to. These efforts will help to allocate bond money more efficiently. Romel recommended that the EAC engage in discussions with community organizations and focus on specific projects.

Commissioner Sanford stated that she would like the Commission to focus on targeting areas in the City where there are no projects. EAC would like to go out and find where those communities are and start putting together partnerships with those communities, so when funds start to channel they're ready to compete towards getting money for their community projects.

Commissioner Bodke stated EAC should make sure criteria established by the City acknowledges urban areas also. She added that she would like to include urban parks as a policy piece focusing on where they do and don't get placed within the City. Commissioner Bokde Would like to address policy issues with respect to pocket parks (issue of not wanting to care for pocket parks or not providing adequate resources for pocket parks).

Commissioner Sanford agreed that the lack of urban parks ties into the Prop 84 bond measure and begs the issue of what the City needs to do criteria wise in order to make the Prop 84 funds available for projects like pocket parks.


Finally, Romel added the Commission should use past bond measures such as, Propositions K, 12, 40 and 0 as learning examples of the kinds of obstacles organizations will face with Prop 84, so that they will have an advantage when funds become available.

Commission stated they would like to have an in-depth education session on Prop 84. Invite someone from within the City or outside agency to come and address the Commission on Prop 84 at the next meeting on January 18, 2007. If necessary, the EAC may hold a Special Meeting on January 25, 2007 to explicitly define the role EAC will play in Prop 84.

A sub-committee for Prop 84 project was formed and will consist of Commissioners Sanford and Bodke.

6. **COMMISSION OLD BUSINESS**: Status Report on public comment period of October 19, 2006 (Elephant Hill Project and Hope Beautification and Cultural Society Complaint).
7. **NEW COMMISSION BUSINESS**:
8. **FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS**: Green LA, Green Agenda, Bay Area Green Business Program, EAD to compile a list of ideas for future program projects
9. **ADJOURNMENT**: The meeting adjourned at 10:54 a.m.

AN AUDIO RECORDING OF THIS MEETING IS AVAILABLE FOR THIRTY (30) DAYS BY CONTACTING THE COMMISSION SECRETARY AT (213) 978-2366.

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