

Neighborhoods Commission (NC) monthly meeting, Sept. 9, 2015  
informal notes by L. Ames

>[Agenda](#)< and supporting materials are [officially posted online](#)

Staff Ernest Guzman is away for an extended period. Michelle McGurk selected by City Manager's Office (CMO) to serve in the interim.

### **Order of the meeting:**

Item g(1) taken after (a):

Presentation by Liz Klotz, city staff, on the Brown Act.

Standard presentation on the rules on conducting meetings in public; limitations on private discussion, including emails and sequential conversations.

[I learned that members of public can not formally serve on NC subcmtes, although they can attend, participate, advise: the recommendation from subcmte to NC is to be by Commissioners.]

### **Public comment:**

Janice Rombeck, staff to Co. Sup. David Cortese, says that BOS mtg 9/15/15 is likely to be interesting, with discussions on the Housing Task Force, Gender Pay Equality, Immigration, and "Whole Bail".

### **Liaison Report:**

Jaki discussed the impact of the 5 letters the NC wrote last year:

- NC letter Oct. 14 on Council Policy 0-4 (rules for Commissions): NC comments included in draft ordinance in March, sent to Council in April, still a work-in-progress.
- BART & changed plans re: Alum Rock Station: NC letter was not "published", not formally sent to VTA; was mentioned at their May 14th mtg.
- UAS ("drones"): included in the Aug. recommendations to Council. Most points were accepted. (See [LLA-notes](#)). SJPD is to report back to Council as they finalize their plans in advance of use.
- Budget (May 26th): seen and considered.
- Fireworks: was sent directly to Mayor & Council: not "published", but was read. Fireworks is prioritized in City's "top 10".

### **NC Agenda:**

1: NC has desire to learn more about Brown Act. Subcmte of Pete Kolstad (lead) and Joe Horwedel formed to collect and direct follow-up questions to City Staff and/or outside groups. Expectation: short report at Oct. NC mtg.

2: Work Plan (WP). Chair presented [chart-set](#) on process to date: selection of topics by NC; authorization for Chair, VC & Staff to fold topics into calendar; insight into sequencing process; final recommendation.

Discussion:

- delete reference to Police Chief selection criteria: topic is not official yet. (Item can be added later as appropriate.)
- "Gang & Crime Prevention" should be "Police Deployment & Strategies".
- Question as to whether topics such as Homelessness and Illegal Dumping can be neatly wrapped up after couple Cmsn and subcmte mtgs. Answer: won't have final answer, but can make some progress. If left open-ended, might never get closure or report findings. Need to clear-the-deck for the next set of topics. Can revisit topic in future Work Plans.

Public comment: NC should request to have a Cmsnr be a member of the City's Police Chief Selection Cmte (if/when cmte is formed)

Action: WP approved, w/ direction to Staff (Michelle) to reformat information into appropriate form for Council acceptance.

- 3: NC Processes. Review and discussion of [report](#) prepared by David Dearborn and Nichole Edraos.
- Cmsn decided no need to establish subcmte to rewrite it; voted to accept the report as “Working Paper”, to be reviewed and finalize in 4-5 months.
  - Subcmte to coordinate the future review: David Dearborn, Nichole Edraos, and Pete Kolstad.
  - Request: have report translated into Spanish and Vietnamese, so that it can be shared w/ neighborhoods – help facilitate their linking to the City.

- 4: Preliminary Discussion on Homelessness
- Norma Callendar has met & discussed topic w/ Councilmember Ash Kalra
  - Staff has arranged for SJ Homeless Staff, Ray Bramson, to attend Oct. NC mtg.
  - Discussion on “safe parking” or “micro-housing” and how some Council Districts are saying “not in this district”. NC can help share info, maybe defuse a pervasive NIMBY.
  - NC appoints subcmte: Norma Callendar (lead), Richard Giammona, Nick Labosky, Moses C. Ramirez, and Linda Locke. Subcmte tasked w/ learning issues (contact County Staff Ki Lee, attend City’s “Nghbrhd Services & Education Cmte” meetings, review past mtg notes, etc.); help formulate questions and guide discussion at Oct. NC mtg.
  - NC won’t solve homelessness by Oct., but perhaps we can figure out questions and determine whom to ask.

5: Items for next month’s agenda. Short discussion on process; intend to have on all future agenda: from the WP, plus new topics from Staff, plus requests from Cmsnrs. No guarantee everything can be fit, given time constraints.

- Drop “NC Process” from Oct: we accepted the report this month.
- Add “follow-up questions on Brown Act”
- Cmsnrs note that Oct. looks “sparse” -- might want to get a jump-start on Nov. by setting up subcmtes in advance.

Note that NC Nov. mtg is presently scheduled to be on a City Holiday. Options:

- reschedule for Wed. a week earlier
- reschedule for another day that week
- skip Nov. and hold Dec. instead. (Not liked!)
- keep the date but find a non-City mtg venue.

Staff to research venue options. To be decided at Oct. NC mtg.

### **Staff Report:**

Michelle McGurk introduced herself. Has worked for City 1995-2000 and 2007 to present; Staff to D6 CM Frank Fiscalini; Staff to Mayor; now in CMO.

Not taking title “Interim” to mean “temporary substitute”; will work hard.

### **Announcements:**

“Large Item” trash pick-up program to begin Sept. 30th. Free once-a-year pickup of up to 3 items (single pick-up).

- Downtown, N, E, and S SJ: call California West at 408/213-7800
- West SJ: call Green Team at 408/282-4400.

~Larry Ames, 9/10/15.