



CITY OF LOS ANGELES

EAST HOLLYWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL Joint Executive & Governing Board Meeting Minutes



ERIC GARCETTI – MAYOR

**EAST HOLLYWOOD
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
CERTIFIED COUNCIL #89
APRIL 19, 2007**

**Tuesday, July 7, 2020
Call to Order 7:04pm
Minutes Approved August 17, 2020**

GOVERNING BOARD OFFICERS

Arasele Torrez - President
Ninoska Suarez - Vice President
Rogelio Pardo - Treasurer
Gesselly Marroquin - Recording Secretary
Jeff Zarrinam - Corresponding Treasurer
Faye Altobar - Corresponding Secretary

GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS

Daniel Strongman
Shahan Suzmeyan
Lynn Campbell
Doug Haines
Jillian Schultz
Kyle Gregory
Lisa Scott

**P.O BOX 292359
LOS ANGELES, CA 90029**

**ehnc@easthollywood.net
www.EastHollywood.net**

This Governing Board meets the third Monday of each month at 7:00pm.

- I. Call to Order at 7:04 p.m.
- II. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:

None.
- III. Roll Call:

NAME	VOTE	NAME	VOTE
Arasele	yes	Shahan	Absent
Nina	yes	Lynn	yes
Rogelio	yes	Doug	Absent
Jeff	yes	Jillian	yes
Gesselly	yes	Kyle	yes
Faye	yes (8:47 recording time)	Lisa	yes
Daniel	yes		

In addition, candidates present were: Aditia Bahiri, Skylar Summers, C. Chelsea Modern. Also present was Stakeholder Angela Currasco.

President Arasele Torrez announced that attendance at this meeting was optional and not required for board member attendance. Because it is a Joint Special Meeting and not a Governing Board Meeting, lack of attendance will not affect board members' records.

IV. Action Items

A. Discussion and possible action regarding potential candidates for EHNC Youth Rep.

Candidate Statement: Jocelyn Torres was born in East Hollywood and wants to be the voice for people and friends her age.

Discussion on whether to confirm the candidate now, or later in July. Arasele Torrez determined it was necessary to call this Special Meeting to appoint candidates in accordance with the Brown Act, as well as to make sure that the actions were transparent and involving input from the board. Kyle confirmed details regarding the Brown Act.

Jocelyn Torres is running for Youth Rep unopposed.

Nina motioned to add the name Joceyln Torres to Action Item A only.
Jillian seconded.

Arasele motioned to appoint Jocelyn Torres as EHNC Youth Rep.
Nina seconded.

Kyle Gregory took Roll Call vote for Motion 1:

NAME	VOTE	NAME	VOTE
Arasele	yes	Shahan	Absent
Nina	yes	Lynn	yes
Rogelio	yes	Doug	Absent
Jeff	yes	Jillian	yes
Gesselly	yes	Kyle	yes
Faye	yes	Lisa	yes
Daniel	yes		

MOTION PASSED. Unanimous vote, with 12 yeses, 2 absences.

This vote was found to be in error, due to the president needing to make the appointment.

Arasele motioned to appoint Jocelyn Torres as the Youth Rep for EHNC.
Nina seconded.

Kyle Gregory took Roll Call vote:

NAME	VOTE	NAME	VOTE
Arasele	yes	Shahan	Absent
Nina	yes	Lynn	yes
Rogelio	yes	Doug	Absent
Jeff	yes	Jillian	yes
Gesselly	yes	Kyle	yes
Faye	yes	Lisa	yes
Daniel	yes		

MOTION PASSED. Unanimous vote, with 12 yeses, 2 absences.

Jocelyn Torres was appointed Youth Rep.

B. Discussion and possible action regarding potential candidates for EHNC Student Rep.

Kevin Acevedo is running for Student Rep unopposed. He had originally announced his candidacy for District 5.

Arasele Torrez motioned to appoint Kevin Acevedo as EHNC Student Rep
Nina seconded.

Public Comment: None.

Kyle Gregory took a Roll Call vote:

NAME	VOTE	NAME	VOTE
Arasele	yes	Shahan	Absent
Nina	yes	Lynn	yes
Rogelio	yes	Doug	Absent
Jeff	yes	Jillian	yes
Gesselly	yes	Kyle	yes
Faye	yes	Lisa	yes
Daniel	yes		

MOTION PASSED. Unanimous vote, with 12 yeases, 2 absences.

C. Discussion and possible action regarding potential candidates for EHNC Faith Based Community Services Rep.

Ryan Parker is running for Faith Based Community Services Rep unopposed. Ryan Parker has been a resident of East Hollywood for six years, in District 3.

Arasele Torrez motioned to appoint Ryan Parker as the EHNC Faith Based Community Service Rep. Gesselly seconded.

Public Comment: None.

Nina Suarez said one of her concerns is that the candidate indicated his church doesn't reside in East Hollywood, but that he has a small group that attends his home.

Arasele Torrez said the candidate was faith-based and that, since he's a stakeholder in East Hollywood, he was allowed to show his interest for this seat. Additionally, no other candidates showed interest for the seat.

Kyle Gregory took a Roll Call vote:

NAME	VOTE	NAME	VOTE
Arasele	yes	Shahan	Absent
Nina	yes	Lynn	yes

Rogelio	yes	Doug	Absent
Jeff	yes	Jillian	yes
Gesselly	yes	Kyle	yes
Faye	yes	Lisa	yes
Daniel	yes		

MOTION PASSED. Unanimous vote, with 12 yeses, 2 absences.

D. Discussion and possible action regarding potential candidates for EHNC Indigent Services Rep.

Candidate Statement:

Amanda Caswell: Thank you for the opportunity. I tried to get involved quickly after moving to the area and I discovered your organization. I have a breadth of available time to commit to this. I have attended every board meeting since I found out about the Neighborhood Council. I'm very invested in the different initiatives you have underway and I respect the different opinions of this board and the Community Impact Statements you've taken the time to support and write. I think this is a progressive group of people that I would be honored to be a part of. I plan to participate either way. Hopefully my knowledge working as a fellow for the regional planning agency, SCAG, for Southern California (I have a bit of knowledge on planning and policy, especially for Southern California) – the Regional Housing Needs Assessment and the different initiatives underway that are involved in that high level regional perspective. I wanted to join the Neighborhood Council to get a local perspective in the community that I live in and interact with on a daily basis. I would like to bring the experience I have in planning. It affects everybody, housed and un-housed. I'm especially interested in promoting the health of the environment and community residents across the board.

Questions:

Rogelio Pardo: I'm a fellow SCAG alumni. I'm curious about your role and the types of projects you're working on. I'm wondering what lessons you may have and I'm curious what you may want to bring to East Hollywood to build up the voices of the community members.

Amanda Caswell: I think SCAG has really pushed forward with their participation plan and by engaging with community-based participation programs more recently. I started working with them in 2019, but, since that time, I have seen their perspective shift to engaging with community-based organizations more than previously and I've seen them focus more on community outreach. One of the projects I assist on is the climate adaptation framework for vulnerable communities across Southern California. So I've supported a public outreach strategy in the form of a pop-up box. Across the region, we've put on different community events to get the perspective of community members, because it's such a small segment of the population that has the time to do that, when many community members don't. So I think that taking the time to do that for the community is very important. I'm proud of SCAG. It's definitely trying to take the initiative. And COMÉ and President Richardson are very progressive leaders and will lead SCAG to a very progressive approach that will lead to a more progressive approach across the region.

Nina Suarez: What is SCAG? And how do you plan to incorporate your urban planning background in terms of homeless? I'm chair of homelessness committee. We'll be meeting on Monday. I want to know how they could intersect and how you could use your background to mirror the two things together in East Hollywood.

Amanda Caswell: SCAG is the Southern California Association of Governments, the Metropolitan planning organization for Southern California. Their Emphasis is in transportation. They focus on planning for Ventura County, Los Angeles County, Orange County, Riverside County, San Bernadino County and Imperial County. (So most of Southern California, except San Diego.) They have their own NPG. I am specifically placed with the sustainability department with a focus on climate focus resilience for vulnerable communities. Un-housed community members and neighbors experiencing homelessness are the most vulnerable. This has prompted my volunteer work with SELA and it has given me opportunities to meet people on the ground and to speak with people to see what they're wanting. Often it's just a shower, more than a meal. It's those little nuances that SCAG has maybe missed because it's such a large region and organization that they're trying to tackle. And then speaking with Janet (Los Feliz NC), she said, "If you really want to get involved, if you really want to make a difference, get involved with EHNC."

Jillian Schultz: I want to state that Amanda attended the Public Health Safety and Sustainability meeting and very generously volunteered to be involved in the Slow Streets Initiative as a block captain. And she's already shown up.

Arasele Torrez: Where were you living before moving to East Hollywood last winter?

Amanda Caswell: I finished my undergrad at UCSB last September. I was supposed to start another AmeriCorp program in Mississippi, but I struggled with being so far from home, so I moved back to California. Then, when I got the fellowship with SCAG, I moved up to L.A. I had a friend living on the West Side of L.A. I'm originally from Huntington Beach and Nebraska, so it's a mixed bag. After moving to LA to be able to save, and touring a lot of apartments, I found a great place in East Hollywood on Madison. I've been here since. I don't have a car, but the Metro is right on Vermont and I take it every day. I love the neighborhood. My other motivation is to join this committee and board. I think it's a cultural gem that I'd love to be a part of.

Candidate Statement:

Jeff Malone: The board has heard from me previously and has my statement. I have a background in un-housed community. I'm part of a non-profit called Resisterhood L.A., which works with SELA – I've been with them for three years, since the start of it and I'm currently on the board of Resisterhood. We currently do events that cater to the highest need of that community by catering to the different non-profits. It's a very grassroots effort of trying to solve the housing crisis here, before expanding to outside areas, so it's just in L.A. County. Outside from that, I've lived in East Hollywood for six years. Now I live in Virgil Village. I've seen the community change over time. It doesn't take long to notice how the displacement of our community is affecting the housing crisis, which is leading to disproportionate representation in our un-housed community. That has motivated me to come into our Neighborhood Council and run for this position because we all see it every day and it's hard not to be emotionally affected by it. As a housed person, we have our own privilege that's allowing us to be in that position and I want to be able to use that privilege to speak for our neighbors who

sometimes have no one to speak for them and to fight for real change. Amanda is fantastic and equally as excited. In mentioning about the SELA showers - as private citizens, we forget those basic needs. We have a responsibility as private citizens to help with these things. I was motivated to become part of the homelessness committee, which I will be attending next week. I'm also interested in increasing East Hollywood's voice for the LGBT community. East Hollywood has this unique presence for the queer community, because it's always been a queer community. I want to make sure there's a voice for that with the decisions that are being made.

Questions:

Nina Suarez: As chair of the Homelessness Committee (our ad hoc homelessness committee) we've put in our bylaws to make this committee permanent. What are your goals for this committee? I've kind of inherited it. I didn't have a background in it.

Jeff Malone: When it comes to being un-housed and to dealing with homelessness, we need to focus on high speed. We're trying to have discussions to find real solutions to focus on housing. It's going to be a difficult thing as a Neighborhood Council and there are going to be limitations on what we can do. But I know that we can advise Mitch O'Farrell's team and have conversations with his representatives that hopefully we can get more involvement from in our community so we can be representing what they are wanting from it. Ultimately we need to be focused on housing. I would love if we could get more involvement from local non-profits that are doing groundwork in East Hollywood. Working with Resisterhood, you notice there are certain hubs where there's service and there's definitely a deficit in East Hollywood. We can't speak on behalf of the community when it comes to approving housing projects. Lately, the taxation bill going through City Council is a big issue. If we can get more involvement from the community - if they support that vacancy tax, that's a huge impact on our housing crisis and on getting the involvement in that and especially on getting on-profits involved. We can support them, especially when it comes to supporting our un-housed community.

Arasele Torrez: What first got your interest in helping the un-housed community and what has been most rewarding in your volunteer experience?

Jeff Malone: I got started in 2017 with Resisterhood. A good friend of mine is the founder. We both had conversations about feeling really helpless. It feels really overwhelming. In 2017, I started to notice the housing crisis happening even more severely in Los Angeles. She lives in the Valley and she asked if I wanted to go serve food with her. It was a really good one-on-one experience with un-housed individuals. But most impactful experience I had was last winter (this past winter). We partnered with The Center in Hollywood and they were doing this sobriety event for a few of their members. It was celebrating them going through the process of sobering up and getting drug free and we were their wait staff. And the whole theme of the night was about them having choices. It's something that I took for granted - that the power of having some kind of autonomy as an un-housed individual helped them more than the meal we served them. It helped them feel wanted and deserving of a choice and having that power. And I was able to sit down with them at the meal and have conversations. It was a humbling experience to realize that I take so much for granted. Asking them if they wanted water or tea - it makes them feel like they belong and that they have power over their situation.

Arasele Torrez: If you became the Rep, what are some things you would like to do in East Hollywood directly with the community? I live in Virgil Village and I know it's a continuous growing issue.

Jeff Malone: One thing I personally see as a goal is becoming very familiar with what our City Council members are going to be reviewing monthly and quarterly and making sure that we are discussing those items in the committee meetings, so that we're ahead and we're able to write Community Impact Statements if our community has something to say about it. If we have our community able to speak up about saying that "we have nowhere to live, there's all these vacant units, we're being displaced" (when big unaffordable housing projects are replacing previous housing) and if we can tax the vacant units so the people can afford to live there, that's the kind of thing I personally want to see happening. Where I do the ground work for them of saying "here's the things that are going to be affecting the un-housed community that City Council is going to be talking about. What can we as a Neighborhood Council say on behalf of our constituents in order to impact that and show Mitch that this is what our neighbors want. I think that we're able to bolster those voices in a really special way.

Arasele Torrez motioned to give both candidates an opportunity to attend more events and more meetings. Discussion on the motion.

Rogelio Pardo motioned to appoint Jeffrey Malone to this position.
MOTION WITHDRAWN.

Arasele Torrez motioned to appoint Jeff Malone as Indigent Services Rep for EHNC. Rogelio Pardo seconded.

Kyle Gregory took a Roll Call vote:

NAME	VOTE	NAME	VOTE
Arasele	yes	Shahan	Absent
Nina	yes	Lynn	Abstain
Rogelio	yes	Doug	Absent
Jeff	yes	Jillian	yes
Gesselly	yes	Kyle	yes
Faye	yes	Lisa	yes
Daniel	yes		

MOTION PASSED, with 11 yeses, 1 abstention.
Agreement that this is a two-thirds vote.

E. Discussion and possible action regarding potential candidates for EHNC District 5.

Six Candidates:
Aditia Bahiri
Alberto Sanchez
Susan Winford
Skylar Summers
C. Chelsea Modern
Erika T. Patterson

Former Candidate Ken Acevedo withdrew from the running. Only candidates who spoke at the last EHNC board meeting in June were considered.

Candidate Statement:

Aditia Bahiri: My name is Aditia, but I go by Adi. I've been a resident of East Hollywood for more than two years now. The primary reason I want to run is that I believe I bring a unique set of skills and abilities that would be tremendously helpful in terms of gauging how good our community is by using technology and standards to be able to meet those goals. I would love to be part of the technology committee and to help the board enhance their use of technologies and also look at how analytics can help us moving forward. I believe one of the biggest lessons we can learn is what the best communities are doing and how they're doing it. I've been a volunteer mentor for Imagine L.A. and I've worked with a couple other organizations for food redistribution. I would bring that knowledge of working with those organizations and their people in a boots-on-the-ground manner and I would bring in expertise and knowledge that we could use to the betterment of our community at large. I would also bring in diversity. I grew up in a small town in India. Back home in India I had also been involved in non-profit organizations and community based groups. I'm used to working with teams with very low resources and extremely stringent deadlines. A lot can be learned in those conditions. I would bring that expertise. I know I can contribute.

Questions:

Nina Suarez: I'm impressed with your statement and about your experience working in a small town in India with restricted resources. EHNC has a very low-median income. There's been an increased need of resources for our stakeholders here. With your background, which committees were you interested in and how can you use your experience with living in a different country and what do you have to bring to the table?

Adi Bahiri: Income is on the lower end and high school graduation rates are also pretty low here, compared to other parts of the city. I believe those are correlated. Lack of prosperity is often correlated to poor performance in education. East Hollywood has been historically underserved in terms of the attention, or in the kind of resources it gets from the city. This has been the sort of imbalance that contributes to metrics like that. I aim to be a part of a couple committees: Youth and Education, Technology, and the Business Committee. I believe my start up experience and my education will help me a lot, in terms of trying to nurture new ideas that come out of East Hollywood. The number of registered businesses in East Hollywood alone is close to 20,000. That points to a community that has a lot of business ideas. I think the Neighborhood Council can play a very active role in connecting entrepreneurs to resources in the city, or in other part of the city, and in sharing information with them that would probably prove helpful to them and that could bring startup competition to the community. These are things that we could actively work on and build a reputation for East Hollywood as a community that builds and creates. The other aspect is that one of my startup trials right now has involved high school students and it's basically using machine learning to understand high school students better and to connect them to resources that could probably help them make better choices. So a huge part of this is working with students, teachers, counselors, and people involved in the education system on a day-to-day basis. I believe that knowledge will be very helpful to the youth and Education Committee and that it could potentially help us start understanding the problem of why students in East Hollywood High School are performing poorly, and

what can we do to help that. I believe it would definitely be a combination of factors, like socioeconomic and personal factors, where the idea is to understand the problem and then to go ahead and try to solve it. I think solving the education and business problems would then solve the median income problem, which was your original question.

Jillian Schultz: I'm thrilled about your interest in the IT committee, but we just revamped the bylaws and eliminated it. Whoever is ready to pitch it is doing these things, so it doesn't have to go through a committee. Would you be comfortable in getting involved even outside of a committee function?

Adi Bahiri: I'm very excited about using these ideas to help the community. It doesn't matter whether I'm a part of a committee or not. The main idea is to bring it to the community to help. As long as it helps the community, I'm super happy.

Gesselly Marroquin: I'm a member of the Youth and Education Committee. In my career for the past nine years, I have worked in the Out of School, After School and Before School field. You mentioned that afterschool enrollment rates have correlation to income levels, but I'm more interested in what kind of work you've done with kids in our community, if any at all.

Adi Bahiri: I've done very limited work as far as implementing the actual app or product goes. But in building the app, a lot of research was involved in giving these surveys and questionnaires to students and in teaching high schools and public schools in L.A. and San Diego – primarily LA. These questionnaires revolve around a) “what factors contribute to a student's success or failure when it comes to completing high school” and b) “do these factors have a correlation with what they do after high school.” The idea is to understand if a potentially brighter future could be served through information to the students of today. If you enroll in an education pathway, it doesn't have to be university. It could be a college, it could be an internship, it could be a co-op, it could be any sort of pathway that involves learning. The idea is if we surround the student with opportunities, with potential like this, would that lead them to a better outcome with their high school? Would that lead them to perform better, would that affect their motivation levels and their scores, indirectly? This is the area that my startup focuses on. We're trying to get machines to understand the students' profile and then feed out recommendations and link them to resources and send them information. That would probably help make a difference to the students' future. Because what we're noticing is that lot of students belong to single parent homes and to low income families and it's hard for them to sustain motivation and stay targeted and focus. In a lot of cases, they drop out of high school or discontinue education after high school because they lose trust or faith in education. They believe it's not going to be worth it, enrollment is not going to worth it, it's just going to sink them in debt and they want to avoid it. So the idea of it is to try and solve that problem.

Arasele Torrez: What part of East Hollywood do you live in? What do you like the best about East Hollywood since living here the past two years?

Adi Bahiri: There are so many things to pick from. Honestly, I believe that East Hollywood gives the best haircuts all over the city. I think there's a lot of talent there in terms of hair cutting and hair art. And, course, I love the music and the food. I like the people and the fact that I can probably hear four different languages when I walk my

dog in the morning. It reminds me of how diverse we are and it really feels special. That's probably my favorite thing. I live on La Mirada Avenue.

Daniel Strongman: Being that you own an educational startup, the EHNC is bounded by the rules of the Brown Act. Since you've shown interest in the educational committee, you would have to ensure that nothing you brought forward would be able to benefit your work or yourself. It couldn't be in conflict of interest. Do you see any of that arising?

Adi Bahiri: Not necessarily. The startup is not an established company now. It is an idea with wheels. Me and my team are working toward making it a reality. As far as bringing those apps or thoughts or ideas into the mix, it's not going to happen. We have a lot of other data we could use outside of California to be able to not mix the two and to keep a clear distinction without having a problem. So we are compliant with the existing rules. The existing rules are pretty fair and pretty easy to understand and follow and I think we could do it.

Arasele Torrez: Keep in mind that you're in District 3 and that elections are coming up next year. So in case you're not appointed to this board seat, there's a chance for you to run in the near future.

Candidate Statement:

Chelsea Modern: I'm currently the grants manager for a large homeless non-profit that serves the San Fernando Valley area. I've been looking for ways to get more involved in my own neighborhood as well, which is East Hollywood. Being in my role, I have a kind of a broad understanding of the homeless services in L.A. and of affordable housing. We're also an affordable housing developer, but I also do feel a little bit disconnected from the direct service work that a lot of our program staff do and I think that working with the NC's you can really kind of see the disconnects in how large non-profits like mine don't serve the tiny parts of the community like you do. When we were talking last week, we were talking about how a lot of people who were picking up the food produce box from Rick's don't have transportation, so they were carrying them – that's just something that a non-profit of my size doesn't have the knowledge of. And that's where you come in as really crucial to be able to provide that knowledge and to give that feedback. The other thing that came up was creating the Safe Streets area for people to be able to walk, since East Hollywood does have a lack of green space – and just creating these really creative solutions to immediate problems. That doesn't really happen, at even a local government level. That really does have to happen at the Neighborhood Council level. Prior to my current role I worked primarily in women's health and in LGBTQ rights in my previous jobs. And at all three, my favorite parts of the jobs were always getting to attend the Neighborhood Council meetings, or the City Council meetings, to give public comment on public housing and affordable housing in the neighborhoods that we were speaking with; canvassing or phone banking for endorsed candidates; or working with elected officials to advance legislation and our shared goals. I'm excited at this opportunity to do this from the other side for a little bit. And I think East Hollywood has a really rich history and a diverse culture and I know that it's changing really quickly and I know that I'm part of that. And I want to really be aware of that and find a way to showcase and support some of the businesses that have really been around for decades, and some of the businesses that are new and that are definitely also struggling, especially amid COVID-19. There's always that saying that equal rights aren't a pie – there's enough for everyone and I just would love to find a

way to showcase all of the businesses and make sure that businesses aren't getting displaced as new people and new businesses are coming in.

Nina Suarez: I'm very impressed. I'm working in the non-profit world, as well. It's great to potentially have a fellow no-profit be on our board. I know you've worked in homelessness and women's rights and LGBTQ rights, but what are your goals in terms of this Neighborhood Council? Which committee would you like to be involved in, how do you use your non-profit background to advocate for the stakeholders of East Hollywood?

Chelsea Modern: I had listed that I would be interested in Community Outreach, Planning and Entitlement, Public Safety and Arts and Culture, but I'm kind of open. I think when I looked at the list, I didn't even see the Homelessness Committee, and I know that it's still kind of ad hoc. So I think that I'm still kind of flexible, where you need me. I think that's the benefit of being in a non-profit. A lot of times they are kind of small and all hands on deck, so I think that I have a lot of flexibility in terms of what I'm able to do and what I'm interested in. I know that I'm interested in working in homelessness. I hadn't applied for that specific position because I don't work for a non-profit that serves East Hollywood, but I know it's something I'm interested in. I have a pretty good knowledge of affordable housing and homelessness. I listed the Arts and Culture committee as well. Prior to moving to East Hollywood, I lived in Los Feliz for a number of years. Last year their Neighborhood Council put together a street fair with lots of food vendors. It was really fun. I think that was something we could really benefit from, just because we have lots of really cool business that I think aren't traditionally thought of. Like I love the pupusa lady on my street, but it's hard to advertise for her. So if she was there, then people would know what corner she was on. Those are some of my initial thoughts.

Questions:

Nina Suarez: Before COVID, we had Virgil Village First Fridays, and that was something we had wanted to ramp up.

Arasele Torrez: If you were appointed to the seat, how would you try to get stakeholders in your surrounding areas involved? This is one of the Districts that has been least involved with our NC.

Chelsea Modern: Especially during COVID, all I've been doing is taking very long, lengthy neighborhood walks, so I feel like I've built a very decent rapport with some of the neighborhood small market owners, and the business owners on my street and in my neighborhood. So I feel like working with them, too, if there's something we're trying to do, like put up signage in there, to have them talk about it. Because I know that they have a decent amount of sway. Like the liquor or grocery store right on the corner of Santa Monica and Normandie has always had a line out the door. So I think working with some of the businesses to get them involved in whatever it is we're trying to promote would be really key.

Nina Suarez: I think one of our goals as a Neighborhood Council is to do outreach to our community. So what are your suggestions, since you recently found out about us (I assume). What do you think we should be doing as a Neighborhood Council to let people know that we're here to serve?

Chelsea Modern: I think that's a good question. I definitely did find out about it just recently. With everything going on in the world, there's just been an intense need to feel involved and to feel like I'm making a difference. But that also comes from a place of having worked with Neighborhood Councils before and knowing that they exist. So I think maybe looking into some of the different meetings and the different non-profits, and maybe forming a better relationship with some of the other no-profits that serve East Hollywood and making sure that they're a resource and that they can rely on us and that we can work with them. Because they have really deep roots with the communities that live here. So I think definitely getting really involved with the non-profits. Not to harp on the businesses, but making sure they know that if they have a business interest that they want promoted, they can talk to us about it, come to our meetings, provide public comment on things. Those are two of the bigger things. I think you just need buy-in from some of the organizations and businesses that people already know and trust and rely on.

Candidate Statement:

Skylar Summers: I've been a resident here for 26 years, since I was born. I went to Longwood, I went to King, I went to Marshall, and then I graduated and I went to LACC for my Associate Teacher's Certificate for preschool. When I first started going to LACC, I was involved in the NC. I helped organize the basketball tournaments we had in Lemongrove Park and I helped organize some of the art walks that we had on Santa Monica Blvd. I think the wonderful thing about having me on board is that I'm a child of immigrant parent. My parents came to his country from Mexico a long time ago and then they go their residency after a lot of hard work. I think I would also be the first trans woman on the board. And I think that would be an awesome thing to say, that I would be one of the only trans board members in the entire country. But it also doesn't have anything to do with that. I just think that it is a lot of progress. So on top of being a transgender women, I also have certification with helping LGBT youths and, throughout my college life, I helped other trans women and trans men get access to hormones by calling their insurance and changing their provider from a provider that didn't give them the access to it, into a provider that would, and who would help streamline their transition. I've been a preschool teacher for two years. I work at the hospital at the LACC USC medial center and I teach the children of the doctors who are there. To me, this community is just so sacred because I grew up here. This community is the one that has let me come out and be the person that I am. And I honestly feel like I owe so much to East Hollywood, because it raised me. There are programs that raised me in school and kept me motivated. I feel like I'm 100 percent ready to commit to the board.

Kyle Gregory: Please continue your thought about Outreach and your vision for increasing that in the community.

Skylar Summers: Luckily, it's been through me that my 16-year-old sister has been very excited to want to join the youth seat. I feel like having her and having her be able to reach out to her classmates at Marshall would really open us up to other opportunities. I also feel like it would be nice to take classes at LACC once in a while, or try to get more people in there that are involved with the Neighborhood Council. I just think it's an amazing opportunity for people to know that there's this group of people who really care about our neighborhood and that you could be a part of it. And it could even be transitioned into a sort of club, or something.

Nina Suarez: I'm very excited to have a candidate that's an educator. I think we've had a very inactive Youth and Education Committee and I would love to see it activated. What is your vision, in terms of what you would do if you were to come on board to East Hollywood? What is your vision in terms of education? And then – you talked a little bit about your background, but I know you have a unique perspective to East Hollywood. Would you elaborate on that? And also – I'm also Co-chair of the Outreach Committee: what would you do specifically to educate our Latinx Community about East Hollywood?

Skylar Summers: For the education part of the question, I think it's important to be very involved with the elementary schools that are specifically in our district. That would be Dayton Heights, and that would be Lockwood and Ramona (on Santa Monica and Mariposa). I think it would be important for us to be able to figure out ways to supplement those after school programs. I remember when I was younger and going to those programs, sometimes we wouldn't have balls, or we wouldn't have board games, or we would be missing pieces. I think that our elementary schools should know that they have an NC behind them. And that could drag in the moms that were in the programs. I feel it's important to use the people who are bilingual or trilingual, such as myself and – and this connects to Outreach – be able to just go and try to convince people to hear us out, or voice their opinions and give us examples of things that we can do for them. We're open to new ideas. More specifically, in Outreach, I think it's really important for us to really give ourselves a presence in social media. Just having more pictures of our community and sharing things as much as we can so people know, "We give out free groceries on Sundays," or whatever other project we have. And they're able to just come and know about it. Or their children are able to come and know about it.

Nina Suarez: Since you've worked on East Hollywood prior to this board, what do you think are the right things we're doing as a board and what do you think are the wrong things we're doing as a board, in terms of outreach?

Skylar Summers: I really don't see anything wrong. Back then, I wasn't on the board. I was thinking about running and I just kept hearing that it wasn't a very connected board. And I feel the difference between now and then, that there's a lot more communication, in a positive way. It doesn't seem like everyone's trying to eat each other. The one thing I would say as criticism is that I feel like there was more of a presence when it came to events. We knew when things were coming up. I don't even know how, but just like – street closures are a really great way to tell people, "We're in East Hollywood, this is what we do." I just think that, once we're out of the COVID situation, I think having some sort of event that we can close down the street for would be good. That way people are like, "What's going on here? Oh, there's a fair, let's go check it out."

Jillian Schultz: Speaking of street closures, I want to shout out Skylar for attending the Public Safety and Sustainability meeting and volunteering to get more involved in Slow Streets meeting. And I thought all of your comments and contributions during that meeting were super resonant and helpful. And thank you for already starting to show up in this Neighborhood Council.

Skylar Summers: It's my pleasure to participate in Slow Streets. I think that's a really great way that people are going to be able to know the EHNC is there for them.

Arasele Torrez: I know you're in education. I used to be an educator. Before that, I was a Student Rep and I used to be in the Education Committee. We used to have annual Town Hall meetings. I'm not sure if Gesselly and others would be interested in helping to bring back the annual Town Hall Meeting –of course, hoping COVID will be gone soon. In addition, I know you were involved with former Board members Jennifer Moran and David Bell and helping with the Art Cycle. That's an event where it was pretty much the Santa Monica/Madison block, up to Lexington that was closed down for Arts Cycle events. So I saw you were interested in the Arts and Culture Committee. So I'm not sure if you'd like to help Lynn, who's our chair for that committee bring back Arts Cycle to have another street event. In addition to that, Lynn (previous to the COVID-19 pandemic) was also helping with the Virgil Village, which I believe was every First Friday of the month – and helping promote local business. So if you could just address those three things, if you'd be interested in helping bring those three things back, or in participating.

Skylar Summers: I would love to participate in all of them. Especially in making sure that our Youth and Education Committee is running at full capacity. I'm excited to try and bring back Arts Cycle, because I think that was such an awesome event – and having artists come and show what they have is just an amazing opportunity again. And yeah, I live across the street from LACC. And Virgil Village is where I grew up. I'd be happy to help with that as well.

Arasele Torrez: I want to mention the other candidates who presented at the June 4 meeting who weren't able to make it tonight:

Candidates:

-Alberto Sanchez: Has been an East Hollywood Stakeholder for 25 years and lives in Little Thai Town.

-Susan Winford: I thought she would be disqualified, but she might qualify as being a volunteer for the conservatory Naceum, which is on Hollywood and Vermont

-Erika T. Patterson: She has lived in East Hollywood for seven years.

Arasele Torrez motioned to appoint Skylar Summers as the EHNC District 5 Rep. Gesselly seconded.

Public Comment:

Nina Suarez: I don't want to make an appointment tonight. I would like to hear again from our other candidates that didn't speak. And, because there's so much strong interest, I would like to see if they would continue going to the committees that they are interested in. Because there's so much interest in this board seat versus the previous one, where the only two candidates were present. I feel we didn't give those other three candidates the opportunity.

Arasele Torrez: I feel the other candidates were here in June and we heard from them then. And these candidates are here and made the decision to attend tonight.

Rogelio Pardo: Would you state reasoning for the choice of your top three candidates?

Arasele Torrez: Skylar was born here and grew up in this neighborhood for the past 26 years. She has also previously been involved with the Neighborhood Council and she's an educator. Also, Skylar got her sister, Jocelyn Torres, interested in the Neighborhood Council and that's the reason why we appointed her tonight. Also because of her past experience. Also because we've never had a trans person on the board before. I think that's really important for us in East Hollywood – being diverse. East Hollywood is very diverse and is home to the LGBTQIA+ community. And Chelsea I like for the fact that she lives in the district and for her involvement so far. And Erika T. Patterson has lived here for seven years.

Nina Suarez: As someone who's lived here in East Hollywood for a long time, I feel like sometimes I want to give people opportunities who have recently moved in, not just long-time stakeholders. Just because we've lived here the longest doesn't mean we represent our community the best. I've lived here all my life and I only got involved recently in the last few years. So just because a person lived here the longest doesn't indicate that they're going to be a great candidate. I concur with Arasele about Skylar and Chelsea – I would love to see more non-profits be more involved in our Neighborhood Council. I'm a little bit more inclined to Chelsea because of her grant writing experience and I think it's important to have a little bit more rounded people just to help with the stabilization of our organization. In East Hollywood I feel we're sometimes a little disorganized and it would be nice to have more structure. I think I've learned a lot from this board because they've come from diverse backgrounds and worked in a very different professional capacities and I feel like that's made me a strong leader because they expect more from leadership. And I really would love whoever takes over this position to really challenge us as leaders – to make us better leaders, so we can properly represent our stakeholders.

Rogelio Pardo: I would just second a lot of what Nina said. I don't think that being a lifer, or however many years you've lived in East Hollywood, would necessarily be a top consideration. That's not stated as a consideration in our bylaws and I don't think we should hold it as a consideration in a metric. I also have Chelsea and Skylar as my one and two, in no particular order, and I agree with Nina's assessment. I would love to see Chelsea be involved based on her involvement in non-profits. Her work on homeless issues is something we could really use. And there's a lot of interest in the board, as well as a lot of other committed members in that committee. So it could really be great to see how a robust group of people could potentially be involved here as well.

Arasele Torrez: All candidates please keep in mind there are a lot of committees you can be involved with. And keep in mind these committees are only temporary because we don't have that many months left. We're going to have NC elections around May. We have them about every two years. If you don't get appointed tonight you could still stay involved with the committee. Committees are a good start and, once the running process comes back around, you would be more qualified. We like to see that you've stayed involved and become more involved.

Gesselly Marroquin: One of the things I've been most impressed with in the Los Feliz council is they have such big non-board member committee involvement – a group of 20 people that are on their Arts and Cultural Affairs Committee. So I think one of the silver linings of the COVID-19 crisis is virtual meetings – it's easier to become involved. And we've seen a really large uptick in participation. Many candidates and board members have spoken to expanding our outreach. I know there are issues with tech

access for sure, but I'm also seeing numbers in engagement that we have not seen before. So I hope that we can continue to galvanize that forward momentum. And even if you don't get appointed, please join a committee. You can be officially elected a member of a committee. You can vote. I've been really impressed with everyone that has spoken thus far. So thank you so much to everyone for showing up and joining us in this undertaking.

Daniel Strongman: My top pick would probably be Skylar, as a member of the LGBTQ community. We need more representation in our NC system. So Skylar is someone I would definitely choose.

Rogelio Pardo: I just want to make sure that folks are not posting that as their only reason. We want to avoid tokenizing folks.

Kyle Gregory took a Roll Call vote:

NAME	VOTE	NAME	VOTE
Arasele	yes	Shahan	Absent
Nina	no	Lynn	yes
Rogelio	Abstain	Doug	Absent
Jeff	no	Jillian	yes
Gesselly	yes	Kyle	yes
Faye	Absent	Lisa	no
Daniel	yes		

MOTION FAILED, with 6 yes, 3 no and 1 abstention.

Arasele Torrez motioned to appoint Chelsea Modern as the EHNC District 5 Rep. Jeff seconded.

Public Comment: None.

Kyle Gregory took a Roll Call vote:

NAME	VOTE	NAME	VOTE
Arasele	Abstain	Shahan	Abstain
Nina	no	Lynn	Abstain
Rogelio	Abstain	Doug	Absent
Jeff	yes	Jillian	Abstain
Gesselly	no	Kyle	Abstain
Faye	Absent	Lisa	Abstain
Daniel	no		

MOTION FAILED, with 1 yes, 3 no and 6 abstentions.

Nina motioned to consider Skylar and Chelsea as remaining candidates and to be able to vote on them in the next governing board meeting. (In July, in about 2 weeks.) Jeff seconded.

NAME	VOTE	NAME	VOTE
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Arasele	yes	Shahan	Absent
Nina	yes	Lynn	no
Rogelio	yes	Doug	Absent
Jeff	yes	Jillian	yes
Gesselly	yes	Kyle	yes
Faye	Absent	Lisa	yes
Daniel	yes		

MOTION PASSED, with 9 yes and 1 no.

V. New/Old Business

Nina Suarez: Today I got the flyer from Gillian for the produce box giveaway. It's in both English and Spanish. We're moving forward with it. It will be three dates. George confirmed that they will be participating with us this next time. They won't be matching the full amount, but they will match half the amount. Sqrl reached out to us and decided, with a non-profit, to donate some special items that will go into the produce boxes. So they will be helping us out and they will be in our flyer. It'll be on Sunday the 12th, the 19th and the 26th and it'll be \$100 each Sunday. And we'll have the same procedures as we had before. I won't be there this Sunday. Rogelio has graciously offered to coordinate on site and I was wondering if anyone else is available to help him out. Currently Mayra has been helping us with contacting volunteers and drivers for this event and has said she'd do it again to help coordinate that. I would need help from the board too, to help organize the volunteers on site, make sure things run smoothly, make sure that everyone gets the boxes and be there to do the social media posts. These flyers look amazing.

Jillian Schultz: It was Ale who made these flyers. She came to one of the produce box giveaways to volunteer, then mentioned that she was a graphic designer. So I started working with her. This isn't finalized, so don't send it out yet. This looks really good and I love that it's playing off lime and avocado and our green color. Thank you to her.

Nina Suarez: We've had a massive increase in volunteers, one of them being Olga from the Children's Hospital who says she can have 20 volunteers. So I'll definitely be brainstorming ideas for our outreach meeting on Monday for how we can keep engaging these volunteers. Because we have amazing volunteers who have been with us since the beginning, like Caitlyn and Jenna and Mayra. And they've been amazing in everything, from helping to make sure that everyone's safe at the produce box event, to just emailing people, and I'm very appreciative to these volunteers, whether they're donating their time virtually, or being present at our events. But I'm really seeing a huge community with a lot of growth and a lot of people caring about each other. I'm very happy and comforted to see that, that there are so many people who care.

Kyle Gregory volunteered to be at the event on Sunday.

Arasele Torrez: I want to say thank you to Gillian and to all those who have participated. Just to clarify, for each date it's going to be 100 boxes, correct?

Nina Suarez: Yes, I'm still going to be reserving about 10 boxes for delivery, because there are those individuals that, just due to mobility, cannot be there because of their health, or because they don't have cars. Someone reached out to me this week that there's a family in

East Hollywood where one of their family members has COVID. So obviously they can't leave their home. So I would love to get them a box, if possible. Because this family is in need and they can't do any of their shopping because they have a family member that is not doing very well. So I think it's important to still keep the delivery system going. So at least 10 boxes. We've seen families and people who have made comments on our Google form when we signed them up wanting to know more about our Neighborhood Council. So I think this is a great opportunity to outreach to our community about what we do and how we can be of service to them.

Arasele Torrez: I will be there. I also wanted to bring up the fact that, since I've been there, we haven't been that strict about individuals being an East Hollywood stakeholder. So I don't know if the board feels that it's right that, regardless of where people come from, we should still continue giving them a box.

Nina Suarez: How would we restrict it? Do they need to present an ID?

Arasele Torrez: the first time I went, I noticed the first person I helped out was from a zip code way out of the area, not even nearby. But I didn't want us to be mean and turn people away because I know there's such a high need. So I was wanting some feedback and to see what the board thinks. Because I know our funds are usually for stakeholders within the boundaries. It would make sense to reserve boxes for stakeholders of CD-13, because Mitch has funded some of this. But then there's people coming way outside the 12 districts.

Nina Suarez: But how do we know they're not stakeholders? How do we measure who a stakeholder is? Is it address? Is it if they work at a business in the area? Also, I see people who are in need and it breaks my heart when I have to turn people away.

Arasele: I agree and that's why I've been okay with it, the times I've helped out. I just want to see how the rest of the board feels.

Nina Suarez: I can pull up the stats and, honestly, I think it's very minimal, the people coming who are not stakeholders. Is that helpful?

Daniel Strongman: What we control is where we market, and we market on our Facebook page and by distributing flyers within our community. So the likelihood is that the people who see our flyers or our Facebook page live within our district. Also, I would say if somebody is driving from far away to get free boxes of food, they probably need it a lot.

Nina Suarez: I remember at one of our first events, I had someone show up from Boyle Heights, which is clearly on the other side of the river, on the other side of town. But I've seen that the majority of them are from East Hollywood. I'll pull up the numbers. If anyone wants access to these numbers, they are more than welcome, I'll give them access to it. I know that it's not a lot of boxes – it's 100 – but it really makes an impact on the person that's in need. I talked to one lady who said, "I'm an older person." And she clearly was a stakeholder from East Hollywood. "And I just don't want to go to the grocery store. I know I'm going to get quality products from you guys and I'm concerned for my health and this is why I'm going here." So I think it's something that we should consider – if we want to do a threshold...

Jeff Zarrinam: If someone is standing in line – what Rogelio said, they're probably in need. And when we hold other events, like when we did the Thai New Year's Festival, we didn't hold

out shirts that costs the EHNC money and then say, “Wait, wait, wait, are you a stakeholder?” So it didn’t matter at that event. And I don’t know why it should matter at this.

Arasele Torrez: I just wanted to get a feel for the board. As long as the rest of the board is okay with taking anyone who comes in.

Jillian Schultz: How many flyers would we like to print?

Arasele Torrez: I think it’s based off of how much funds we’ve advocated.

Nina Suarez: This is based off of the 6/14 dates. The majority were from 90029, which is a zip code in East Hollywood. So is 90004. These are the English ones, I can go back and look at the Spanish ones.

Gesselly Marroquin: It sounds like we’re all okay with it. I appreciate seeing this date and I think you should share it with folks, but let’s wrap it up, if we can.

Arasele Torrez: Going back to flyers, I guess it depends on how many funds we’ve allocated, or how many can we get printed.

Nina Suarez: Thanks to Rogelio, we now have a card on file with CopyCat, so it’s not like its difficult. It’s me sending them the file and calling them and saying, “This is how many we’d like.” I can get a quote. I know we’ve allocated funds for dissemination of this sort of material and we don’t have any other planned events upcoming, especially ones that would require actual paper flyer outreach. So I think it’s about how many are useful. We would want at least enough to go in every box, right? And then – are there other places that they’re being used?

Arasele Torrez: I don’t think so, I think most of our outreach has been digital and online. And I think since there are going to be 100 boxes, I think we should have at least one flyer per box with our info and future dates.

Skylar Summers: I wanted to say I fully agree that we should just let anyone who needs the boxes take them. But I also agree that if we really want more stakeholders to come and get them, we should encourage some of the people that are in our neighborhoods to get here a little bit earlier to get in line. Especially if someone has to drive from one of our neighborhoods to get here. So to be fair, that’s how we can navigate around that.

Nina Suarez: People have been coming at 9:00 a.m. to be there for us at 11:00a.m. So by the time 11:00 rolls by, the majority of the boxes have been already called for. And we’ve been letting our partners know – Rick’s and Mitch O’Farrell’s office, which has a bigger database than we do and so the majority of people have heard from word of mouth really. So we can see where people have been getting their information and I can say that 70 percent of it has been word of mouth. Which is great, that’s amazing.

Arasele Torrez: So Skylar, if you have any local stakeholders, let them know. But just to follow up on that, it’s been sad that we’ve had to turn people away at the end, because we’ve had no more boxes. We try to make people feel a bit better by telling them that we’ll be having it again and giving them the date and telling them to come earlier. Another concern is that it’s supposed to be one per household, but there have been a few people who have taken advantage. Also when they take a ticket, we have to make sure that they only take one box, not more than one.

Jillian Schultz: I was there last on the 21st, but Reuben, one of our volunteers, came up with a great system of numbering people when they arrive. He's been getting there earlier than the 10:00 call and trying to make sure that people are trying to social distance and giving them a number. And people have been cutting in line and saying that they're here for one, and then bringing a buddy in later. So we've been trying to minimize that. And the volunteers have had amazing ideas. So if anyone else has an idea on that day, definitely share it with the team. And they're very flexible, and they're great at following directions. They're really looking to the board as leadership for what to do in those situations.

Rogelio Pardo: This is all great feedback. I would like to make the statement that this feedback doesn't have to be given at our meetings and if this feedback could be provided by e-mail, as you make these observations, so we can troubleshoot within the e-mail, that would probably help us make the best of our time.

Gesselly Marroquin: A reminder we're redoing the website and making great progress, but that we want to include bios of everybody. And I'll nudge that to the top of everyone's inboxes, but it would be great to have a 200-word bio of you to include on the website for greater transparency, and so our community and stakeholders can know who we are. So please put that on your to-do list, so I can get those all together. It's due as soon as you can. I had wanted them at the end of June. I'll follow up at the 20th board meeting.

Gesselly Marroquin: Arasele will be following up with Lorenzo and with the newly appointed individuals.

VI. Adjournment at 9:33 p.m.

AGENDAS & PUBLIC COMMENT: Public comments on agenda items will be heard when the item is considered. Public comments on other matters within the council's jurisdiction may be made during the Public Comment period. Public comments are limited to two minutes per speaker. Action may be taken on any agenda item except Public Comment, announcements and reports. Actions may be reconsidered only if a motion for reconsideration is adopted at the same meeting where the action was taken. You may request a copy of printed materials that are distributed at the meeting. You may record the meeting by audio, video or photographic means as long as it is not disruptive. Meeting notices and agendas are posted at various locations (see list below). If you believe the council is not following the law or its own rules you may file a grievance in writing with copies to both the Chair and the Secretary. Please be respectful of others, even when you differ with them.

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