

LHNC Bylaws Committee

Friday April 10, 2026 at 6pm

## MINUTES

Present: Dydia DeLyser, Chair; Fernanda Sanchez; Selena Ortega.

### Executive summary:

**The Bylaws Committee proposes to reduce the size of the Board in order to reduce the size needed for quorum so that we can successfully conduct the community's business. The Committee insists on doing this fairly and equitably: no one on the current Board will lose their seat; the balance of power between categories of Board members will remain the same.**

### FULL MINUTES:

The Bylaws Committee of the Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council recognizes that over a period of two years when we would be expected to have held 50 meetings we were only able to hold 25 meetings, and that this occurred for lack of quorum — because our Council has so many members and not enough of us can always attend meetings.

The Bylaws Committee reviewed the make-up of other NCs, and saw that even though they are smaller boards they manage to represent their communities equitably. With that in mind, the Bylaws Committee explored multiple avenues by which the LHNC could retain its representative nature and yet also reduce its quorum size, and hope by doing so to be able to more successfully hold meetings, and carry out the neighborhood's business.

In order to ensure equity as we decrease the size of our Council, the Bylaws Committee recommends *reducing the number of seats in every category except Youth Representative*. We recommend the following changes that reduce quorum while retaining equity:

Executive Committee: President and Vice President to be popularly elected; Secretary and Treasurer (as labor-intensive administrative positions) to be voted for from among seated Council members and with a recommendation made by the President.

Area Representatives: No change. 1 representative for each of our 7 areas who is a resident of that area.

At Large Area Representatives: Instead of electing 7 At Large Area Representatives, elect 4 At Large Area Representatives. At Large Area Representatives may come from any stakeholder group (residents, business owners, community based organizations, or youth). This was not previously known by the members of the Bylaws Committee: we all believed that the At Large Representatives were also resident positions!

Business Representative: decrease from 3 to 2.

Community Based Organization: decrease from 3 to 2.

Youth Representative: Keep at 2.

In the language of the bylaws the Bylaws Committee proposes we consider a motion to change our bylaws FROM:

- A. Executive Officers: Executive Officers to be elected at large are President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary.
- B. Area Representatives: Two (2) representatives from each area will be elected. One (1) must be a resident of the area; the other may be a resident or from any other eligible category of Stakeholder.
- C. Business Community Representatives: There will be three (3) Board members elected at large from this category. Prospective representatives from the business community must either be an owner of a business located in Lincoln Heights or must be an employee of such business and have written authorization from the owner to use employee status in claiming eligibility for election to the LHNC Board.
- D. Community Based Organizations Representatives: There will be three (3) Board members elected at large from this category. Prospective representatives from a Community Based Organization must either be the head (as defined in its charter) of an Organization that maintains a physical office or space located in Lincoln Heights or must be an officer or member (as defined in its charter) of such Organization and have written authorization from the Organization head to use officer or member status in claiming eligibility for election to the LHNC Board. This classification can include, but is not limited to, youth associations, scholarship organizations, churches, schools, social service providers, nonprofit organizations, etc.
- E. Youth Representatives: There will be two (2) Board members elected from this category. These Board members will be elected by the youth of the community and must be in high school with a minimum age of thirteen (13), but not older than seventeen (17) years and eleven (11) months. The Youth Representatives will be elected to a full four (4) year term as long as eligibility is met at the time of election and until he/she graduates or leaves high school.

TO:

- A. Executive Officers to be elected at large are President and Vice-President. Treasurer and Secretary to be elected by the seated members of the Council from among the seated members of the Council following a recommendation from the President.
- B. Area Representatives: One (1) representative from each area will be elected for a total of seven (7) Area Representatives.

C. Business Community Representatives: There will be two (2) Board members elected at large from this category. Prospective representatives from the business community must either be an owner of a business located in Lincoln Heights or must be an employee of such business and have written authorization from the owner to use employee status in claiming eligibility for election to the LHNC Board.

D. Community Based Organizations Representatives: There will be two (2) Board members elected at large from this category. Prospective representatives from a Community Based Organization must either be the head (as defined in its charter) of an Organization that maintains a physical office or space located in Lincoln Heights or must be an officer or member (as defined in its charter) of such Organization and have written authorization from the Organization head to use officer or member status in claiming eligibility for election to the LHNC Board. This classification can include, but is not limited to, youth associations, scholarship organizations, churches, schools, social service providers, nonprofit organizations, etc.

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F. At Large Area Representatives. There will be four (4) additional Representatives at large who will be elected from any category of Stakeholder as long as no single stakeholder group shall hold a majority of seats.

After rich discussion a consensus was reach and a vote of affirmation was held. Motion to change the bylaws as written above made by DeLyser, seconded by Ortega. Votes in favor: DeLyser, Ortega, Sanchez. Opposed: zero. Abstain: zero. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05pm.