



MINUTES
Ad Hoc LADBS Policies Committee Meeting
Thursday, March 4, 2021, 4 PM-5 PM

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call:** Stella Grey, Committee Chair, called meeting to order at 4:00 PM.
10 Present: Leslie Weisberg, Robin Greenberg, Cathy Wayne, Stephanie Savage, Bobby Kwan, Maureen Levinson, Bob Schlesinger, Barbara Dawson, Gail Sroloff;; Shawn Bayliss; Nikkie Miner
1 Absent: Michael Schweitzer
2. **Motion:** Approve proposed March 4, 2021 Ad Hoc LADBS Policies Committee meeting Agenda.
Moved by Stephanie Savage; **seconded** by Cathy Wayne; **10/0/0 passed.**
3. **Motion:** Approve February 17, 2021 Ad Hoc LADBS Policies Committee meeting minutes.
Moved by Cathy Wayne; **seconded** by Bob Schlesinger; **10/0/0 passed.**
4. **General Public Comments**
None.
5. **Discussion:**
 - Gail: Suggested to clarify whether we are an investigative body or a lobbying group.
 - Leslie: We can report code violations and lobby for code enforcement
 - Stella: Suggested a process where we can compile a list of specific violations by type, add suggestions on how to address the problem, obtain approval of BABCNC board and support of CD4 and CD5, and finally contact one of the City departments with our suggestions.
 - Leslie: How can we address systemic corruption
 - Stella: It is possible that, as the result of our work on code violations, corruption may be exposed.
 - Maureen: We should ask for more transparency from LADBS when they address reported violations. Maybe make more detailed information available on ZIMAS
 - Gail: It has been difficult to have building inspectors to respond to complaints regarding construction violations. LADBS puts a burden of proof of certain violations on the neighbors instead of verifying it themselves.
 - Stephanie: One of our goals is to point out systemic mistakes that plan checkers make. 85 houses in various stages of construction have been identified as missing entitlements and being over the allowed by BHO height. Plan checkers shall be properly trained to understand and apply hillside ordinances while reviewing projects.
 - Cathy: Planning Department only reports to the Mayor and may not be thorough in their reviews. Shortage of LADBS inspectors contributes to contractors committing construction violations without consequences. We need to address these problems.
 - Stella: Maybe we should concentrate on a few issues in order to be more efficient. I will share a spreadsheet of permits due to expire and each of the committee members can contribute to it. The more systemic the violations appear the higher our chances are to promote a change.

- Lesly: There will be no reduction in revenue in LA and construction was not shut down during COVID. It is not clear why LADBS furloughs its personnel
- Maureen: LADBS and BBSC are working for the developers. To challenge developers, we are forced to raise our own funds. Also, suggested to support proposal of the environmental ad hoc committee to the Board that the LA Department of Building & Safety hire a specific inspector who would be trained and responsible for all tree and environmental related issues in the hillside areas. We recommend that this position be funded through a special assessment for all developers who apply for a building permit in the hillside areas. Propose to write a letter to our council office and all other appropriate offices making this recommendation.
- Bob: Suggested to share information via a drop box and organize it by property address, ZA numbers and areas.
- Leslie: Suggested that we engage one of former LADBS employees to give us a strategic advice. Shawn and the others supported this idea and will look for someone. Shawn will reach out to possible candidates.
- Stephanie: She and Michael are working on missing and underestimated fees. Another issue – expeditors that are not registered as lobbyists.
- Unanimous decision was made to hold the next meeting in one month.

6. Adjournment The meeting adjourned at 5 PM.

Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 at 4 PM