
Economy & Efficiency Commission Meeting Minutes

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY COMMISSION

JUNE 6, 1990

ROOM 839, KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 West Temple St., Los Angeles, CA 90012

Editorial Note: The following minutes were taken from the tape of this meeting. Unfortunately, the tape does not normally identify the speaker and subsequently, with the exception of the Chairman, it is often not possible to identify individuals by name. Where individuals were identified we have done so

I. CALL TO ORDER

With the presence of a quorum, Chairman Peever called the meeting to order.

II. INTRODUCTIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Peever asked those present to introduce themselves. Chairman Peever welcomed Commissioners Emma Fishbeck and Robert Philibosian.

III. APPROVAL OF COMMISSIONER'S ABSENCES

Chairman Peever asked for a motion to approve absences. It was Moved, Seconded, and Adopted: The members requesting an excuse are excused.

IV. APPROVAL OF APRIL 4, 1990 MINUTES

Chairman Peever asked if there were any corrections or amendments to the minutes of the April 4, 1990 Commission meeting. The following motion was Moved, Seconded, and Adopted: The minutes of the April 4, 1990 Commission meeting be approved.

V. OLD BUSINESS - TASK FORCE REPORTS

Security Systems

Commissioner said the Task Force conducted interviews with Health Services and the Court Security Task Force. There is a tremendous amount of awareness where in the past this was not the case. Commissioner noted that major improvements are in the court house security; referencing the new court house in Van Nuys with state of the art security equipment. The Task Force that operates in the court is an appropriate working template for the overall

County system.

An evaluation from Mr. Dave Hetzel, the County government consultant to all the departments stated there's been a lot of progress but the way the system addresses security problems has not changed. Commissioner noted that one of the major recommendations was creation and adoption of a Standards & Procedures document. She said that these standards would also apply to contract workers. Commissioner said they are having trouble getting the Standards done by the CAO in part due to work loads and inexperience in the security arena. Creation of a draft document incorporating the pros & cons and projections of the future direction of the system is in the works for Commission review.

Parks and Recreation

Commissioner Trotter said the Board of Supervisors asked the Commission on April 17th to review and report on the consolidation of the department of Arboreta, Botanic Gardens and Museum of Natural History. The Task Force met with the acting director for a Q&A session. During the same time a letter from the Director of the Natural History Museum was received by the Board of Supervisors stating their Board does not support a consolidation effort.

Commissioner asked what the reasons were given by the museum for the opposition. Commissioner Trotter read from the letter stating that if merged both could suffer in the loss of good will and support from the community.

Alcohol and Drug Abuse

Commissioner said they met with the Commission of General Oversight Responsibility for Treatment Programs. That Commission has a subcommittee which is looking into contracting of drug abuse programs. In addition the Department of Health Services has hired a consultant to investigate the operations and determine any additional feasibility into contracting services. The Task Force is awaiting inputs from other Commissions. The primary difficulty with the Drug Abuse Program office is with organization.

Asset Management

Commissioner said a plan has been laid out and the members of the Task Force had been selected. Commissioner noted the Task Force will begin in June.

Inventory Management

Commissioner stated that there were no new developments.

Family and Children Services

Commissioner said the status report is the same as last month. The Board of Supervisors accepted the Commissions report, the CAO's recommendations and established a Blue Ribbon Committee. This committee has six months to come up with a recommendation on interagency consul to oversea children and family needs in the county.

Executive Structure

Commissioner said the interview process is virtually completed. Outstanding are the Bar Association Task Force which is looking into the same issue and one or two elected officials from Sacramento and Washington to get their perspective. Coming out of the interviews the task force formulated what the major challenges facing the County over the next 10 years. The main issue was the lack of predictability and control of funding in conjunction with the overall lack of funds. Commissioner stated that County revenue has grown faster than GNP and personal income. An exception to this is the passage of Proposition 13 and the municipal court funding.

Commissioner noted the primary challenge does not appear to bring more money into the County but to increase the amount of control over received funds. A truism regarding incoming money is that a high percentage comes with strings attached. Generated revenue from the property tax side is not as significant as the state funding. The majority is from the state either rebating property tax revenue with conditions or California's share of the sales tax or grants from their other sources of income and the Federal government. The income from property tax used to be 40%-50% whereas now it's 25%. In conclusion the ever present lack of strategic planning is a critical issue which the County has not yet addressed. The Task Force believes the County needs an Executive whom the department heads report to. This recommendation would require a Charter Amendment; the Task Force would prefer that this issue goes to the Board of Supervisors by August.

Executive Committee

The Board of Supervisors has asked every Commission in the County to establish a Sunset date at which time the

existence of Commission's would terminate or continue. Commissioner said this is a great way to take the inventory of the County and bring an added level of efficiency to the whole operation.

Commissioner made the motion to accept the proposal of a County wide Sunset Review. The following motion was Moved, Seconded, and Adopted. The Sunset Review Proposal is approved.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Discussion of Pending Commissions Studies by the Board of Supervisors

Commissioner stated the County has a policy of potentially contracting with private firms. Companies bid on the requests for proposals by the County. The County made the determination that almost all overhead costs are unavoidable; the consequence of this was the contractors bidding price would have to be better than the County's direct cost. Supervisor Edelman asked the Commission if the in home support service workers which include adult, senior citizens and public social services.

The Second issue speaks to the operations of the Flood Control District within the new Department of Public Works. The County created the Public Works Department based partly on the reorganization recommendations of the Commission during the early 1980's. Complaints have been lodged in the past months by people working in the system about the effectiveness of the management of the spreading ground operations. Supervisor Edelman is concerned over the reports coming from workers, union members and retired personnel since they contradict reports coming from management. He feels the Board of Supervisors is unable to make an independent assessment of what the reality is and has asked the Commission to take a look at this issue.

Commissioner said that during organizational change which brought the group that manages the spreading grounds into the Public Works area some control was lost. Commissioner said this project is right for the Commission to undertake. Commissioner noted this issue brings to light the organizational flaw in the executive structure of County since the Board of Supervisors has no means of obtaining independent input outside of the Economy & Efficiency Commission.

Commissioner asked if the CAO has the ability to address the same issues that come before the Commission. Commissioner said the CAO does have the authority to do so but the difference comes when you have an enduring debate on an issue. The Board of Supervisors receives reports from management but the accuracy is challenged due to the fact that the Supervisors continue to receive reports from other sources.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Peever adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.



Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, Room 163, 500 West Temple St.,
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Phone (213) 974-1491 FAX (213) 620-1437 [EMail EEComm@co.la.ca.us](mailto:EEComm@co.la.ca.us)
WEB eec.co.la.ca.us