

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY COMMISSION

ROOM 163, HALL OF ADMINISTRATION / 500 WEST TEMPLE / LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012 / 974-1491

M I N U T E S

FULL COMMISSION MEETING

DATE: April 30, 1975
PLACE: Hall of Administration, Room 864

Maurice Rene Chez
Chairman

Muriel Pfaelzer Bodek
Catherine Graeffe Burke
John D. Byork
Rudolph A. Cervantes
Anne S. Collins
Dr. Robert J. Downey
Jerry Epstein
Theodore S. Flier
Milton G. Gordon
Mrs. Ray Kidd
Joseph A. Lederman
Leo A. Majich
William S. Mortensen
Robert Ruchti, II
Earl J. Sachs
Dr. Warren H. Schmidt
George Shellenberger
Larkin Teasley
Bryan Walker

Burke Roche
Executive Secretary

Members Present:

Maurice Chez, Chairman
Muriel Bodek
Catherine Burke
John Byork
Anne Collins
Robert Downey
Jerry Epstein
Mary Jane Kidd
Joe Lederman
Robert Ruchti
Warren Schmidt
George Shellenberger
Bryan Walker

Members Absent:

Rudy Cervantes
Ted Flier
Milton Gordon
Leo Majich
Earl Sachs
Larkin Teasley

Mr. Chez called the meeting to order at 9:37 a.m. He introduced new member Bryan Walker who was appointed by Supervisor Schabarum. Mr. Walker is the President of Betsy Ross Ice Cream and Coffee Shoppes.

Mr. Chez asked Mrs. Burke to present the task force Report on a Separate Auditor Department which had been mailed to all members last week. The other task force members are: Muriel Bodek, John Byork, Anne Collins, Earl Sachs, Larkin Teasley, and Bryan Walker.

Mrs. Burke reported that the 1973 Grand Jury had recommended that there should be a separate auditor department in the County, and the Board of Supervisors had referred the question to the E & E Commission for study and report. She read the two recommendations in the report and explained how the task force had arrived at its conclusions.

The task force had been concerned mainly with the effectiveness and independence of the auditor. It had found that the present organization was effective. The County problems were more a result of no action being taken on the auditor's reports. It also found that the present set-up operated in a highly independent manner with only three areas of potential conflict of interest or bias. These were in checking the Board offices, Chief Administrative Office, and the Controller side of the Auditor Department. It concluded that until there is a separation of powers in the County the only way to insure an independent audit in these three areas would be to bring in an outside auditor. Since the Grand Jury was independent, it was agreed that the contract auditor for the Grand Jury should conduct these audits at least once every three years.

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The task force also considered the financial aspect of separating the Auditor from the Controller. It was estimated that it would require approximately \$142,000 each year for a separate department. The Grand Jury could perform the audits for approximately \$50,000 a year.

There was also the consideration of the legal changes which the County Counsel advised would be considerable, since they would involve changing the County Charter as well as the State laws.

After a question and answer period, Mr. Shellenberger moved that the report be adopted as written and the task force congratulated for its report. The motion was seconded by Muriel Bodek and Robert Ruchti and passed unanimously.

Progress Report on the Arboreta and Botanic Gardens - Members of the task force are: Mary Jane Kidd, Chairperson; Robert Downey, Catie Burke, Joe Lederman, and Earl Sachs.

Mrs. Kidd reported that the Board of Governors of the Arboreta had been unhappy with the changes in the ordinance as recommended by the E & E Commission. As a result, the Board of Supervisors requested the E & E Commission to review the recommendations and report back.

The Governors are unhappy because they have lost their stipends, lost their authority to appoint the director, and do not relish the duty of fund-raising. When Mrs. Kidd met with them she pointed out that removal of the stipend was done to bring them in line with the other cultural organizations; and she reminded them that they had not appointed the present director.

Mrs. Kidd said that the task force will be meeting next week to consider a draft of the report, but she doubts that the Governors will support even the modification which the task force had agreed on.

Progress Report on the E & E Commission Priorities and Procedures - Members of the task force are: Warren Schmidt, Chairperson, Robert Downey, Jerry Epstein, Ted Flier, Milton Gordon, Mary Jane Kidd, Earl Sachs, George Shellenberger, and Larkin Teasley.

Dr. Schmidt reported that the task force is looking into how the commission operates, how it elects officers, how it uses its staff, and is attempting to formulate the criteria for selecting the most effective areas of study. The task force feels the commission should set an example for other commissions in reviewing its own operations.

He said that several of the issues considered by the task force were being implemented today. In order to bring the full commission into more active participation in the task force reports, the reports will be presented to the commission in Xeroxed form rather than being printed before being acted upon. This will make it easier for the commission to suggest changes. Also, regular monthly meetings will be scheduled, and the task forces' chairpersons will make progress reports on their studies.

Initiation of the Study of the Paramedic Committee - Burke Roche reported that the Commissions and Committees Task Force would direct this study. This task force just completed the Report on the Emergency Medical Care Committee and it stated in that report that it would immediately start the study on the Paramedic Committee. The task force members are: Robert Downey, Chairperson; Anne Collins, Ted Flier, Mary Jane Kidd, Joe Lederman, Robert Ruchti, Earl Sachs, Warren Schmidt, and George Shellenberger.

The staff has been setting up interviews and have gathered material which will be presented to the task force in a few weeks. The problems of the Paramedic Committee are quite severe and the task force will probably be making recommendations on the composition, responsibilities, and principles of operation.

Report of the E & E Commission Chairperson - Maurice Chez reported that Dr. Downey had made a very effective presentation of the Report on Emergency Medical Care to the Board of Supervisors on April 8. It was adopted with the exception of Supervisor Schabarum's opposition to Recommendation 5 regarding the Paramedic Committee. Mr. Chez thanked the members of the Commissions and Committees Task Force which directed this study.

He announced that the E & E Commission nominates one member to the Public Administrator-Public Guardian Advisory Commission. Dr. Bollens has been serving as the E & E Commission nominee but is now taking a leave of absence and will be unable to serve. Mr. Chez appointed Anne Collins to replace Dr. Bollens, and her name will be submitted to the Board of Supervisors for appointment.

Mr. Chez reviewed the problems leading up to the resignation of the Employee Relations Commissioners. He read the E & E Commission statement which had been sent to the Supervisors prior to the Commissioners' resignations. The Supervisors received the statement but did not act on it. Instead, the Board adopted Supervisor Hayes' motion directing the Chief Administrative Officer, the Director of Personnel, and the County Counsel to meet with the unions to try to resolve the problems of the Employee Relations Commission. The report was due yesterday, but the Chief Administrative Officer asked for a week's postponement, which was granted.

Mr. Chez reported that the Chief Administrative Officer had submitted a report to the Board of Supervisors on the Architectural Evaluation Board (AEB) in which he recommended essentially the same composition of the Board as originally recommended by the E & E Commission. Supervisor Ward thought there should be more public members on the board and brought in a motion to change the nominating groups and the composition.

At yesterday's meeting of the Board of Supervisors, the AEB was represented by Walter Hagedohm, Chairman of the Board; Maurice Chez represented the E & E Commission, and Stephen Koonce, Director of Facilities Department, also testified.

After a lengthy debate and discussion, Supervisor Ward amended his motion. He moved adoption of the Chief Administrative Officer's report but also added two public members to the five-member board. One member would be required to have a degree in the field of architecture and the other member to have a degree in business administration. They would be nominated by the Board of Supervisors acting as a committee of the whole. The motion was adopted.

Mrs. Bodek asked to be excused at 11:30 a.m. to keep another appointment.

Mr. Chez reported on Supervisor Edelman's recommendations regarding the appointment of members to County commissions and committees. He had asked the E & E Commission for comment on his original recommendations, and Mr. Chez and the staff had suggested some deletions. The amended recommendations were passed by a 3-2 vote, and the County Counsel was directed to draw up the forms and documents. Mr. Chez asked for the privilege of reviewing them when they are ready. He told the commission members he would send them copies as soon as he could.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.