
Economy & Efficiency Commission

Meeting Minutes

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY COMMISSION

10:30 A.M. WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1997
WATER FRONT RESTAURANT AND BREWERY

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Abel called the meeting to order at 11:05.A.M.

II. ATTENDANCE

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

David A. Abel
Benjamin F. Breslauer
Gunther Buerk
John Crowley
David Farrar
Louise Frankel
Christopher W. Hammond
Chun Lee
Tony Lucente
Michael A. Jimenez
Robert Philiposian
Marc A. Seidner
H. Randall Stoke
Julia E. Sylva
Tony Tortorice

COMMISSIONERS EXCUSED

Richards D. Barger
Jonathan Fuhrman
Carole Ojeda-Kimbrough
Roman Padilla
William Petak

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Fred Balderrama

Moved, Seconded and Approved: The Commission members noted above be excused.

III. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

Moved, Seconded and Approved: The minutes of the November 5, 1997 Commission Meeting be approved as submitted.

IV. INTRODUCTION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Staniforth introduced Commissioner Ben Breslauer, the previous year's Chairperson of the Grand Jury, who was appointed to serve on the EEC by the Board.

Chairman Abel introduced Mr. Fred Silva, Former Executive Director of the California Constitution Revision Commission and Visiting Policy Analyst of the Public Policy Institute of California who will be making a presentation to the commission today.

Chairman Abel introduced Prof. Steve Erie of UC San Diego who is also doing work in the area of constitution revision as well as Los Angeles County infrastructure.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Collections Project

Task Force Chairperson Jimenez reported that he expects to have the final request for additional time and funds completed this week to continue work on the Board directed study. He reminded the commission that this project focuses on outstanding debts to the County of Los Angeles.

3. Employee Suggestion Program Investigation

Mr. Staniforth stated that the Commission's report was sent to Supervisor Antonovich, the CAO, and other interested parties. The Commission has completed its work on this project.

Quality and Productivity Liaison Commissioner Hill stated that it is important to note that every person involved in the Employee Suggestion Program is essentially acting in a volunteer capacity. All individuals involved in the program are full time employees who have a number of additional duties.

Commissioner Frankel asked Commissioner Hill if she thought there are too many people involved in the process and could one person be charged with the responsibility of the program. Quality and Productivity Liaison Commissioner Hill agreed and stated that she recommended that the EEC's recommendations include a "tracking checklist" to ensure due process of all suggestions.

Commissioner Stoke stated that participation required by individuals in the Employee Suggestion Program should not become a "volunteer" activity, it should be included in their job description.

5. Real Asset Management

Task Force Chairperson Farrar stated that he is extremely pleased with the way the CAO's office is handling real asset management. He feels that the methodology used by LA County to inventory real assets could well become a model for local governments nationwide. The creation of a task force, recommended by the EEC, to oversee the County's handling of real asset management is now being formed. This task force, comprised of members from several county commissions and chaired by the Real Asset Management Task Force, is called Asset Management Oversight Task Force (AMOTF). Task Force Chairperson Farrar stated that he is impressed with Real Asset Management Task Force leadership role in AMOTF. Chairman Abel stated that Task Force Chairperson Farrar and Commissioner Lucente are the EEC appointees to this task force.

Commissioner Frankel asked if AMOTF will be reviewing individual leases and contracts to make sure they are good for the County. Task Force Chairperson Farrar stated that this was actually the previous focus of the Real Asset Management Task Force prior to AMOTF. The goal is now to have a more universal approach of real asset management.

Commissioner Buerk stated that, in the past, many department heads had viewed buildings, etc. as their property not the County's. He asked if this attitude was changing. Task Force Chairperson Farrar replied that this attitude is slowly changing.

2. Constitutional Revision Commission

Mr. Staniforth reported that the CAO is taking action on the EEC's report. Mr. Janssen is currently reviewing the recommendations that deal with the creation of task force. Mr. Jim Smyth has been hired as a consultant. Mr. Smyth, Chairman Abel, Mr. Janssen and his staff, and Mr. Staniforth met recently to discuss direction for a draft report. When a draft of this report is ready it will be sent to the task force.

VI. PRESENTATION -

[Mr. Fred Silva Former Exec. Dir.,
CA Constitution Revision Commission
Visiting Policy Analyst for the Public Policy Institute of CA
Topic: Struggling Toward Reform - Lessons from the California Constitution Revision Commission](#)

On a related matter, Chairman Abel asked EEC visitor Prof. Steve Erie to share with the Commission what he has been working on. Prof. Erie stated that he has been working on a study through Claremont Graduate School, funded by Haynes, that examines the impacts of a set of state actions. Some of these actions have been by initiative, some legislative, some judicial. His study has examined the local fiscal impacts on revenue, expenditures, and debt in the County of Los Angeles, the City of Los Angeles, Covina, Torrance, and Rancho Palos Verdes.

In the County of Los Angeles' budget, since 1978 there has been a \$1 billion shortage due to state actions. Non-mandated services such as: parks and recreation, libraries, tree trimming, street repair, etc. are the first to be cut when funds are tight.

In a month, a white paper will be available to the EEC on revenue, service, and debt impacts. One of the major problems this study has identified is that local governments are mortgaging the future to balance the books today. This system is fine during economic recovery but will be detrimental during the next economic down turn.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Web Page Development

Commissioner Lucente stated that several web page designers were requested to provide bids for the redesign of the Commission's web page. Six responses have been received and are currently being reviewed. Commissioner Lucente asked the EEC to authorize the subcommittee to select a vendor. Commissioner Philibosian asked how much money was allocated. Commissioner Lucente responded that \$5,000.00 has been allocated for the redesign of the Commission's web site.

Moved and seconded that: The Commission authorize the sub-committee to select a vendor to redesign the Commission's web site. Motion passed.

2. Request by the Local Government services Commission that the EEC forward the 96-97 Grand Jury Recommendation concerning combining city/county licensing agencies regulating charitable solicitations to their commission.

Mr. Staniforth stated that the EEC previously decided not to act on the Grand Jury's recommendation concerning combining city/county licensing agencies regulating charitable solicitations, and the Local Government Services Commission requested this recommendation be forwarded to them. Commission Philibosian stated that was not the EEC's responsibility or authority. The Grand Jury Report is a public document. Chairman Abel requested staff to send a letter to the Local Government Services Commission indicating this viewpoint.

3. Campaign Contributions by Commission Members

Commissioner Stoke stated that EEC was not a named Commission and therefore Commissioners are not restricted from making campaign contributions.

4. Civil Service Commission

In Commissioner Fuhrman's absence, this matter was held until the next meeting. Commissioner Seidner stated that each district needs to decide who will represent them on the nominating committee. Mr. Staniforth added that each group of appointees must decide who will serve from their district on the Chair nominating the committee, and the nominating committee will select a slate of candidates who will be voted on by the Commission at the January meeting.

Currently, the nominating committee consists of: Commissioner Lucente (3rd District), Commissioner Padilla (1st District), Commissioner Lee (2nd District), Commissioner Seidner (5th District), and the 4th District will chose a member in the near future.

IV. INTRODUCTIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS (continued)

Chairman Abel introduced Mr. Ernie Frankel, Commissioner Frankel's husband and welcomed him to the Commission.

Moved, Seconded and Approved: That the Commission go on record to thank Commissioner Frankel for her many years of service and dedication to the EEC.

Commissioners Stoke and Philibosian commended Commissioner Frankel for her magnificent contributions to the EEC and other commissions that she has been involved with through years.

Chairman Abel presented a scroll to Commissioner Frankel, signed by all five supervisors, for her service on the EEC.

Vice-Chair Farrar read two letters received by the EEC commending Commissioner Frankel's service on the EEC, one by her appointing supervisor, former Supervisor Edelman, and the other by former Commission Vice-Chair Betty Trotter.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

X. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion from the floor, Chairman Abel adjourned the meeting at 12:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted.



Bruce J. Staniforth
Executive Director

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