

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE GATEWAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Cerritos Senior Center
12340 South Street
Cerritos, California
June 1, 2005**

President Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

PRESENT: President Edward H. J. Wilson, City of Signal Hill
Vice President Greg Nordbak, City of Whittier
Board Member Larry R. Nelson, City of Artesia
Board Member John Pratt, City of Bellflower
Board Member John Crawley, City of Cerritos
Board Member Robert Fierro, City of Commerce
Board Member Frank Gurule, City of Cudahy
Board Member Anne Bayer, City of Downey
Board Member Elba Guerrero, City of Huntington Park
Board Member Diane DuBois, City of Lakewood
Board Member Frank Colonna, City of Long Beach
Board Member Bonnie Lowenthal, City of Long Beach
Board Member Fernando Pedroza, City of Lynwood
Board Member Samuel Pena, City of Maywood
Board Member Gordon Stefenhagen, City of Norwalk
Board Member Gene Daniels, City of Paramount
Board Member Betty Putnam, City of Santa Fe Springs
Board Member Gil Hurtado, City of South Gate

ABSENT: Board Member Ralph Morrow, City of Avalon
Board Member George Cole, City of Bell
Board Member Daniel Crespo, City of Bell Gardens
Board Member Lillie Dobson, City of Compton
Board Member Leonard Chaidez, City of Hawaiian Gardens
Board Member Stan Carroll, City of La Habra Heights
Board Member Bob Chotiner, City of La Mirada
Board Member Edward Vasquez, City of Montebello
Board Member David Armenta, City of Pico Rivera
Board Member William Davis, City of Vernon
Board Member Don Knabe, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

ALSO PRESENT: Signal Hill City Manager Ken Farfsing; Lakewood Director of Community Development Charles K. Ebner; La Mirada Director of Public Works Steve Forster; Downey Deputy City Manager James Makshanoff; Long Beach Traffic and Transportation Manager Sumire Gant; Robert Garcia, Office of Long Beach Councilmember Frank Colonna; Ruth Garcia, Transportation Planning,

Port of Long Beach; Connie Sziebl, Field Representative for Supervisor Don Knabe; Brad McAllester, Deputy Executive Officer, LACMTA; David Hershenson, Community Relations Manager, Metro Gateway Cities Service Sector; Kristine Guerrero, Regional Representative, League of California Cities; Patrician Price, Public Affairs Specialist, South Coast AQMD; Darin Chidsey, Member Relations Officer, SCAG; Jerry Wood, Acting Executive Director, I-5 Joint Powers Authority; Chris Wornum, Cambridge Systematics; Frank Osgood, Author, Region Aroused; GCCOG Executive Director Richard Powers; GCCOG Deputy Executive Director Jack Joseph; GCCOG Director of Program Development Deborah Chankin; GCCOG General Counsel Richard Jones.

Roll was taken through self-introductions.

Member Pratt led the pledge of allegiance.

President Wilson announced that Item 8F would be taken immediately following the consent calendar.

There were no comments from the public.

It was moved by Member DuBois, seconded by Member Crawley, to approve the consent calendar as presented. The motion was approved unanimously.

The General Counsel gave a report on the documents that were under consideration for amendment. He explained that it was an amendment to the By-laws that established the Executive Committee as the Nominating Committee for the purpose of nominating officers to be voted on at the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors. He said that if the Board wished to eliminate the Executive Committee acting as the Nominating Committee it could do so by an affirmative vote of 15 Board members voting to amend the By-laws. Should the Board not vote to eliminate the Nominating Committee, the Committee would meet immediately following the conclusion of tonight's Board meeting to nominate officers for 2005-06.

The General Counsel explained that since the Executive Committee was created by the Joint Powers Agreement, if the Board wished to abolish the Executive Committee an amendment to the Joint Powers Agreement would need to be submitted to the city councils of the member cities. A majority of the legislative bodies would have to approve an amendment to the Joint Powers Agreement.

It was moved by Member Lowenthal, seconded by Vice President Nordbak, to waive further reading and adopt the resolution to amend the By-laws to abolish the Nominating Committee. A roll call vote was requested by President Wilson.

RESOLUTION NO. 2005-03

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE GATEWAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS AMENDING ITS BY-LAWS WITH RESPECT OT THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SERVING AS THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

AYES : Members Nelson, Pratt, Fierro, Gurule, Bayer, Guerrero, DuBois, Colonna, Lowenthal, Pedroza, Pena, Stefenhagen, Daniels, Putnam, and Hurtado; Vice President Nordbak; President Wilson.

NOES: Member Crawley.

ABSENT: Members Morrow, Cole, Crespo, Dobson, Chaidez, Carroll, Chotiner, Vasquez, Armenta, Davis, and Knabe.

The General Counsel announced that the amendment to the By-laws had been approved.

Member Colonna recommended that volunteers from the Board meet to review and recommend a refining of the positions that are elected. He said that the COG is involved in so many activities now and there are so many “moving parts” that it may be decided that the Board needs to have more committees and chairs of committees.

Member DuBois said that since the Executive Committee only meets in the absence of a quorum of the full Board, a hurried action may not be needed. She suggested looking over the role of the Executive Committee over the next year.

Member Pena said that other COGs have more officers. He said that perhaps the Executive Committee should consist of just the officers.

President Wilson said that he would like to avoid going back to the individual cities with an amendment to the Joint Powers Agreement. He said that the Board could add officers without going back to the cities with an amendment. He said that the COG needs to encourage continuity and should consider going to two-year terms.

Vice President Nordbak said that they all agree that the Board is functioning well. He said he agreed with Member Colonna’s recommendation of creating more committees. He said he likes the idea of having an Immediate Past President and a President-Elect. However, he does not like the idea of two-year terms because it would take too long for officers to rotate through the positions

Member Lowenthal said she agreed with Vice President Nordbak that terms should remain one year. She said two-year terms would take away leadership opportunities. She said that she like the model of the South Bay Council of Governments. She said that the position of Immediate Past President adds continuity. Having four, rather than

two, officers would give more members the opportunity to participate. She said she thought that a Housing Committee and, possibly, a Legislative Committee would be good additions to the Transportation Committee

Member Daniels stated that as Vice President he recommended that President Colonna serve an additional year since they were in the middle of the I-710 project.

Vice President Nordbak said that he, too, liked the South Bay model, but that he also liked the Western Riverside COG model. He said he didn't like two-year terms because of what happens when you have turnover of leadership.

Member DuBois said that there is nothing that prevents a president from running for a second term.

Member Colonna said that since a two-year term would require a JPA Agreement amendment he wouldn't want to go back to the cities with just that one item. He said that perhaps committees would give the opportunity for people to serve more than one year.

The General Counsel said that, if positions are added, the JPA can provide either that officers move up through the positions or that they are voted on annually.

President Wilson asked if there was a motion to eliminate the Executive Committee. There was no motion.

It was moved by Member Colonna, seconded by Member Nelson, to have a draft created of a recommended course of action brought back at the next meeting of the Board. Member Colonna suggested that action could wait because it was not time sensitive. Member Nelson said he had no desire for a JPA amendment and didn't think a change was needed.

Member Pratt said that the Executive Committee could be made up of the officers and the committee chairs. He said he thought the By-laws could be changed to designate the Executive Committee members.

The General Counsel said that an amendment to the By-laws could be presented at the Annual Meeting creating two new positions, Immediate Past President and Second Vice President, from within the Executive Committee.

The motion from Members Colonna and Nelson was approved unanimously.

Member Gurule questioned how this direction fits in with the desire for full participation. Vice President Nordbak responded that the Executive Committee would only meet in the absence of a quorum of the full Board.

Signal Hill City Manager Ken Farfsing suggested that the Executive Committee could

consist of five committee chairs (Transportation, Housing, Environment and Air Quality, Economic Development, and Legislation), four officers, the Mayor of Long Beach, a County Supervisor, and the remaining three seats at large.

After discussion among the Board members, it was moved by Member DuBois, seconded by Member Nelson, to select June 29, 2005, as the date for the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors. The motion was approved with two members voting no.

It was moved by Member Pratt, seconded by Member DuBois, to vacate the July 6th monthly meeting date for the Board. The motion was approved unanimously.

President Wilson left the meeting at 7:12 p.m. The chair was assumed by Vice President Nordbak.

The Director of Program Development presented a report from the Conservancy Committee. She said that the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy Board had recommended that projects from the cities of Bell, Bellflower, Downey, Lakewood, Long Beach, and Montebello to be included in the next round of grant awards. The Board also awarded a grant of \$450,000 to the City of Whittier for development of the Pio Pico State Historic Park connection to the San Gabriel River bikeway. It was moved by Member Nelson, seconded by Member Pedroza, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Jerry Wood, Acting Executive Director of the I-5 Joint Powers Authority, presented a status report on the I-5 project. He said that the Orange County section of the project should be under construction in the beginning of 2006, the Carmenita Bridge widening in 2007 or 2008, and the rest of the project up to I-605 in 2009. He reported that the contract for the "mini-study" on the I-5/I-710 interchange had been awarded and that work would commence next week. It was moved by Member Nelson, seconded by Member Gurule, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Executive Director reported that the four funding partners, LACMTA, Caltrans, SCAG, and the COG, were working on the governance structure that would oversee the next stage of the I-710 project, the environmental impact analysis phase.

The Executive Director said that the cities involved in the SR-91/I-605 Needs Assessment study would be holding their first meeting in Cerritos on June 16.

It was moved by Member Nelson, seconded by Member Gurule, to receive and file the reports on the I-710 and 91/605 projects. The motion was approved unanimously.

There was no report from the Transportation Committee.

There were no reports from the SCAG Regional Council.

There were no reports from SCAG policy committee members.

There were no matters from the President.

Member Pena said that he would be meeting with Senator Soto in Sacramento on Friday regarding AB 11, which pertains to compensation for Redevelopment Agency members.

There were no additional matters from staff.

Adjournment: The meeting of the Board of Directors was adjourned by consensus at 7:46 p.m.