

PPCC Officers' Election Process Summary

PPCC's officers are elected every year by the board. It seems that very often in connection with the officers' elections, not-quite-accurate information about the process is disseminated, at times leading to misunderstanding and/or confusion. We hope this summary will provide clarity.

1). PPCC's bylaws provide for election of officers in the spring of each year, to serve one-year terms beginning on July 1¹ (process extended in 2020 due to the pandemic conditions). Our bylaws, like those of many other governing boards, require appointment of a "Nominating Committee," whose members' obligation is to ascertain and nominate well-qualified individuals to best serve as PPCC's officers and to lead the organization most effectively going forward. In fulfilling its duties, the Nominating Committee works independently of the Executive Committee; the Chair is not permitted to attend the Committee's meetings or participate in its deliberations although he appoints its members. The current Nominating Committee, appointed by PPCC Chair David Card, consisted of respected board members: Sue Kohl, Chair (Area 5 Representative); Steve Cron (Area 2 Representative); and Cathi Ruddy (PP Woman's Club/Service Clubs Representative). On June 30, 2020, the Committee announced its decision to nominate the current officers for another term, as permitted by the bylaws. To our knowledge the Committee members were not influenced by any considerations other than who would be best qualified, in their judgment, to lead the organization going forward.

2). The PPCC Executive Committee consists of the four officers, the Chair Emeritus, one organizational representative and one elected representative. In 2019 though 2020 (as of this writing), the Executive Committee was made up of the four officers named below; Maryam Zar (Chair Emeritus); John Padden (PRIDE/Civic Organizations Representative); and Joanna Spak (Area 1 Representative). The Executive Committee's members are *not involved in the Nominating Committee's process*. They are free, as are all voting board members, to nominate other individuals who in their judgment might also be qualified for officer positions. Per PPCC's bylaws, nominations from board members were called for at the July 9 Zoom meeting but none were made.

3). PPCC's officers for the coming term will be elected at the PPCC meeting on July 23. If any offices had been contested, a candidates' forum would have been required. In the case of uncontested offices, the election may be by acclamation, but such procedure is neither automatic nor required. A motion for a vote by acclamation must be made, seconded and passed and officers must otherwise be elected by at least a majority vote of the board. At in-person meetings, the vote in a contested election is to be held by secret ballot (a common practice in election voting); during exigent circumstances when a virtual meeting must be held, the bylaws permit the Executive Committee to decide on an alternative voting method.

4). Would the process be different if PPCC were an NC? PPCC is one of fourteen member-councils in the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC). All of the member-councils (eleven Neighborhood Councils/NCs and three Community Councils/CCs) have governing bylaws, many of which were modeled after PPCC's bylaws and all of which are individual to the respective councils. For those who might wish to compare PPCC's processes with those of other WRAC member-councils, WRAC member bylaws are available to the public and can be easily found on the councils' respective websites and/or the Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment website.

¹ The Chair and Vice-Chair may only be elected to two consecutive terms; there is no term limit for the other offices.

5). Almost all WRAC member-councils' bylaws (11 of 14)² provide for election of officers *by their board members* (not by residents or other stakeholders). This is typical of many if not most governing boards and councils. An example: in the case of the Los Angeles City Council, the *Councilmembers* (who are themselves elected by the public) elect the City Council's President and Vice-President.

6). Some community members have expressed a desire for a different process and possible election of PPCC officers by residents or other stakeholders. PPCC's process allows eligible residents and other stakeholders to run and/or vote for *nine elected representative seats on the board* – the eight Area Representatives and one At-large Representative. Thus, the entire community will have an opportunity soon to run for office and/or to vote for their Representative on the PPCC board. The PPCC Executive Committee has proposed a schedule for the election of Area and At-large Representatives which the board ratified at the July 9 Zoom meeting. That election process will begin in a few weeks, culminating with elections to take place in September. **Eligible persons are invited to run for these offices**, to vote, to get involved, and if elected to present any case they may have for possible changes in PPCC's structure, bylaws and/or election processes – and most importantly, for preserving, protecting and improving the community! Look for notices about the coming Area and At-large Representative elections in the coming days.

July 10, 2020

By current PPCC officers:

David Card, Chair

David Kaplan, Vice-Chair

Richard G. Cohen, Treasurer

Chris Spitz, Secretary

² In 2015 (revised in 2016), Chris Spitz (then Chair/President) prepared a summary of the then-thirteen WRAC member-councils' governing structures: <http://pacpalicc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Summary-PPCC-Composition2.pdf>. A new council, North Westwood NC, was formed in 2018 and became the fourteenth WRAC member-council in 2019. NWWNC's bylaws provide that its officers are elected by its board. The other member-councils' bylaws provisions have remained the same vis a vis election of officers (there have been revisions in other portions of some of the bylaws). Thus, *eleven of fourteen WRAC member-councils provide for officers' elections by their respective boards*, not by residents or other stakeholders.