

PPCC Organizational Composition – Considerations/History/Timeline

Considerations

Pacific Palisades has undergone massive change since January 7, 2025. Post-Fire, three new, active community organizations have formed and are in the forefront of recovery efforts. The Bylaws Committee urges the Board to approve adding Pali LTRG, PRC and Team Palisades as PPCC member organizations. It is imperative, at this critical time, to provide opportunities for more organizations to participate. Simply put, allowing *more voices of active organizations on the PPCC Board* benefits the entire community.

The Committee's goal is to create categories with no fewer than two, nor more than three, member organizations (except for the Education category, which as a practical matter cannot be changed due to the number of Palisades schools) – while at the same time preserving the nine categories of *appointed* organizational representatives which balance the nine *elected* representative positions (Areas 1-8 and At-large). PPCC has sought to maintain that important balance for many years.

We've taken a hard look at the status of PPCC's organizational members (Appendix A to the Bylaws), and have concluded that **in order to add the new organizations while providing maximum ability for all organizations to participate**, it is necessary to make changes in many of the categories in Appendix A, including the two remaining categories with "standing" (non-rotating) organizations: Historian – Pacific Palisades Historical Society (PPHS); and Residents Association – Pacific Palisades Residents Association (PPRA).

According to PPCC historical documents and minutes, both PPHA and PPRA in the past have been included in rotating categories in the PPCC Bylaws (see Timeline below). In fact, *organizational member positions on the PPCC Board have always been fluid, as part of a constant ebb and flow of members since the Council's formation*. As explained at a PPCC "Town Hall" in 1994 – when the Board was then considering a major change in composition (removing HOAs and adding elected Area seats to represent residents, under then-Chair Randy Young and Bylaws Committee Chair Joan Graves)¹:

"The Community Council . . . **has never been static** The composition of the Community Council has changed over the years as **groups have been added, subtracted, given and lost permanent seats, moved into categories and then back again, etc.**" (Emphasis added; see Timeline below.)

Changes in Board composition have continued until the present time, with previous and/or current "standing" members (Chamber of Commerce, Civic League, TCA, PPHS, PPRA), and others, being added, subtracted, removed, or moved from permanent to rotating seats and vice versa (as demonstrated by the Timeline).

Now, the Bylaws Committee recommends placing PPHS and PPRA, respectively, in "two-organization" categories, in which both organizations would always be "on" the Board, alternating between the voting and alternate positions every year, *i.e., neither ever rotates "off" the Board: they are not "removed" and for the foreseeable*

¹ The proposal at the time was apparently resisted; Committee Chair Graves "quipped that she would greatly appreciate it if they [attendees] would leave their assault weapons, bricks, bats and tomatoes outside," and remarked that there was "a **great deal of resistance to upsetting the status quo** – since no one wants to behead themselves" (emphasis added). In contrast, today the Bylaws Committee does not recommend or propose "beheading" or removing PPHS or PPRA; both are respected community organizations and **would continue to serve and participate on PPCC, without a pause, if the amendments are approved.**

future would always have a seat at the table.²

Most importantly, **this change will in no way diminish these respected organizations' ability to participate, to do good works and to serve the community**, whether in any given year they are serving as a primary (voting) member or alternate member of PPCC.³

We emphasize that *no PPCC member organization is more important than others*; the relative importance of community organizations was not a factor in the Committee's Bylaws amendment discussions.

For a historic perspective and illustration of the ebb and flow of PPCC organizational members' status over the years, please see the **History/Timeline**,⁴ following on pp. 3-5.

² If the compositional changes are not made and PPHS and PPRA were to remain in "standing" seats, spaces in *other* rotating categories would have to be found for the three new organizations, *reducing participation not only for the new organizations, but also for other organizations in current rotating categories, i.e., "turns" to be "up" in the rotation would take longer, in some cases not for several years – an unfair result that is antithetical to the Committee's goal of broadening participation at this unprecedented time in our history.*

³ In any given organizational category, the vote is **1 of 23 votes**, with a 2/3 majority required for adoption of policy positions. While individual votes are of course important, in most cases one vote will not determine the outcome of a motion. PPHS and PPRA can always advocate for their positions and for votes on core issues they support (*e.g.*, preservation and education about history in the case of PPHS, and protection of and advocacy about public safety in the case of PPRA) – whether serving as the voting member or alternate. Should there be a concern that a vote would be lost if neither the voting member nor alternate could attend a given meeting, the Bylaws Committee has proposed new Standing Rule 16, allowing for appointment of a temporary representative in that circumstance. And, both organizations proposed to correspond with PPHS and PPRA (respectively, the Friends of the Library and Team Palisades) have graciously agreed to continue as alternates in the new categories through the end of the 2026-27 organizational term (i.e., postponing their rotations to the voting member position, which would otherwise ordinarily occur, and allowing PPHS and PPRA to continue as the voting members for an additional year).

⁴ Based on facts recited or contained in historic documents and minutes on the PPCC website:
<https://pacpalicc.org/index.php/documents/historic-documents-ppcc-est-1974/> and
<https://pacpalicc.org/index.php/area-representatives/previous-meeting-minutes/>.

History/Timeline

- 1974-75: Earliest available PPCC Bylaws: **Neither PPHS nor PPRA were listed as organizational members of PPCC, in any category.** TCA was listed as rotating in the Environment Category with two organizations that were later suspended or expired (per the Secretary of State): No Oil, Inc. and Friends of the SM Mountains. The Chamber of Commerce was listed as having “Merchants” as members. The Cultural category listed several rotating members, including the Garden Club, Theatre Palisades, Friends of the Library (still PPCC members) and Palisades Beautiful (removed in 2023); the only “standing” organizations listed with no rotating members were the Civic League, Human Relations Council and Ministerial Association (the latter two organizations dropped off the Board in later years; *the Civic League was moved to a rotating category in 2011; the Chamber became fully “standing” in 1983, returned to rotating again in 2022, became a placeholder in the Business and Commerce category, and later was readmitted as a new organization in that category in 2025; see below*).
- 1983: Amended Bylaws: Both the Chamber of Commerce and Civic League were listed as standing organizations; TCA continued to be listed as rotating (with No Oil and Friends of the SM Mountains) in the Environment category; **PPHS was then listed in the Cultural category with 9 rotating members**, including Friends of the Library, Theatre Palisades and the Garden Club (all still active) and other organizations that have since dropped off; **PPRA again was not listed in any category.**
- 1973-85: Historic Review of PPCC Activities: Document distilling all PPCC decisions over this period, prepared by a student hired by PPCC to provide “a foundation of facts and past knowledge for future Boards.” Neither PPHS nor PPRA appears in any of the “membership” listings, *i.e.*, there were **no references to either organization as a Board member during this 10+ year period** (in contrast, the Chamber, Civic League, TCA, Human Relations Council and Ministerial Association are listed as having representatives at meetings). There was one reference to PPRA and No Oil objecting at a meeting in 1983 to a change in quorum requirements, and two references to PPHS seeking landmark status for certain sites in 1983 (the Long Wharf and Business Block), but again, no references to them acting or attending as Board members. (Note: It is possible that PPHS’s turn to rotate in the 9-member Cultural category, added in 1983, had not yet arrived.)
- 1994: Bylaws Goals and Amendments (5/7/94): These amendments proposed a major change in PPCC’s membership structure: adding new elected Area and At-large representative positions in place of HOAs on the PPCC Board. As to organizational positions, **PPHS was proposed as a “standing” organization** (along with the Chamber and Civic League, *i.e.*, PPHS no longer rotating in the Cultural category); **PPRA was listed for the first time as a rotating member with TCA** in the Environment Category (TCA no longer rotating with No Oil and Friends of the SM Mountains); the “Ministerial Council” (formerly listed as the Ministerial Association, a “standing” organization) was then listed with 5 rotating members in the newly named “Culture, Ethics & Aesthetics” category; the Human Relations Council was no longer listed.
- 1994: Town Hall re Bylaws Amendments (5/12/94): PPCC meeting following issuance of the above Bylaws Amendments document (Randy Young, PPCC Chair; Joan Graves, former PPCC Chair and then-Bylaws Committee Chair). A summary (meeting notes) of the “Town Hall” was published, which highlighted the proposed amendments and the fact that **over time there had been many changes to PPCC’s Board composition** (*see quotes from Chair Young and/or Committee Chair Graves on p. 1 above*). The amendments are believed to have passed, as the Board structure did change (with

elected representatives replacing HOAs). Meeting minutes through 2000 are unavailable, but longtime TCA board members now advise that TCA was a “standing” PPCC organizational member by 1996 and continued as such until 2022; see below); it is unclear whether PPRA was seated in or about 1994 in the category with TCA (see references below to PPCC having been on “hiatus” for a 12 year period, and *requesting to be added as a rotating member* in 2006).

- 1986-2000: No record of PPCC activities (other than as detailed in 1994); hard copies of PPCC meeting minutes before 2001 were not retained.
- 2001-2005: Minutes posted online (ongoing through 3/26/26): 10/21/01 – Palisades P.R.I.D.E. was placed in the Cultural (rotating) category; references in the minutes to the Chamber, Civic League and TCA essentially as “standing” organizations; **no references during this period to PPRA being a PPCC member** (rotating or otherwise).
- 2006: Minutes: March-Aug. 2006 – **PPRA request to be added as a rotating member organization**. After a series of discussions, motions and procedural hurdles over the course of several months (Kurt Toppel, PPCC Chair; George Wolfberg, former PPCC Chair and then-Bylaws Committee Chair), **PPRA was eventually added as a “standing” member** in a new category, with TCA remaining “standing” in the Environment category (note: the minutes are unclear as to why “standing” status was granted to PPRA when the original request was for rotating status; George Wolfberg explained at a later PPCC meeting in 2015 that until its admission in 2006, **PPRA had been on “hiatus” from the Board for 12 years**). 10/23/06 – the Chamber, Civic League and TCA (but not PPRA) were referenced as organizations that “do not rotate.”
- 2011: Minutes: 12/08/11 – Bylaws were amended (Janet Turner, PPCC Chair; George Wolfberg, Committee Chair) and **P.R.I.D.E. was moved** from a rotating position in the Culture & Aesthetics category, to a rotating position in the Civic Organizations category, with the **Civic League (no longer a “standing” organization)**.
- 2015: Minutes: 3/12/15 – Opinion of the Board sought on possible comprehensive Bylaws amendments (Chris Spitz, PPCC Chair). As a result, the Bylaws Committee (Richard Cohen & Jennifer Malaret, Committee Co-chairs; members included George Wolfberg, Maryam Zar and Reza Akef) was directed to explore modifications, including as to whether “the four categories which currently have one organization (“standing seat”) should be reconstituted such that those categories have multiple organizations and rotate appointment as presently do the other five multiple organization categories.” Sept.-Oct. 2015 – Following the March opinion of the Board result and directive, the Bylaws Committee recommended **comprehensive amendments to Appendix A**, including **changing the then-four “standing” categories to rotating**, with *two organizations only* proposed in each category (so that none would be “off” the Board). PPHS and PPRA strongly objected to removing their respective organizations’ “standing” status (the Chamber supported the amendments; TCA did not take a public position). After considerable and at times heated discussion at two PPCC meetings, the motion obtained a simple majority vote but failed by 3 votes to achieve the required 2/3 majority. Thereafter, until 2022, subsequent Bylaws Committees did not recommend similar changes to the “standing” organization categories.
- 2022: Minutes: 3/24/22 and 4/14/22: A new organization, **Resilient Palisades, was admitted** and Bylaws were amended (Dave Card, Chair; Richard Cohen, Committee Chair; members included Andrew Wolfberg and Chris Spitz), with changes to Appendix A, including **adding Resilient Palisades** to the

Civic Organizations category with the Civic League, and **moving P.R.I.D.E.** into the Business and Commerce category with the Chamber of Commerce, thus **removing the Chamber's status as a "standing" organization** (the Chamber at the time was effectively dissolving but also contemplating a merger with the Malibu Chamber of Commerce; its seat essentially became a placeholder until the merger occurred and the new Chamber organization was eventually readmitted in 2025).

- 2022: Minutes: 9/22/22: Bylaws were amended (Maryam Zar, Chair; Dave Card, Committee Chair; members included Randy Young and Andrew Wolfberg), with more recommended changes to Appendix A, including **moving the American Legion** from the Service Clubs Category into the Civic Organizations category with the Civic League, and **moving Resilient Palisades** from the Civic Organizations category into the Environment category with TCA (thus **removing TCA's status as a standing organization**). TCA objected to removal of its standing status while the other standing organizations were allowed to retain that status (PPHS and PPRA), but the Board voted to approve the Bylaws Committee's recommendations.
- 2023: Minutes: 3/23/23 and 4/27/23: Bylaws were amended (Maryam Zar, Chair; same Committee Chair and members as in 2022). **PAPA and the PFC were added** as rotating members in respective categories (Service Clubs, Culture & Aesthetics); **Palisades Beautiful was removed** from Appendix A (Culture & Aesthetics category) as it was no longer active and was not in compliance with the organizational certification requirements.
- 2025: Minutes: 9/11/25 and 9/25/25: Bylaws were amended (Sue Kohl, Chair; Committee Co-Chairs Chris Spitz and Maryam Zar; members James Alexakis, Quentin Fleming, Andrew Wolfberg). The **Malibu-Pacific Palisades Chamber of Commerce was added** to the Business and Commerce category and the **Westside Waldorf School was removed** from Appendix A (Education Category) as it was no longer active (school had been destroyed and did not intend to return to the Palisades).⁵

PPCC Bylaws Committee: Co-Chairs Chris Spitz & Maryam Zar*; members James Alexakis, Quentin Fleming, Daphne Gronich,* Andrew Wolfberg,* Sue Kohl (*ex officio/non-voting*)

(*Voluntarily recused themselves from determinations regarding PRC (Zar), Team Palisades (Gronich) and Pali LTRG (A. Wolfberg), due to respective affiliations with or memberships in these organizations)

Prepared in connection with the Bylaws Amendments Distributions, April-May 2026

⁵ Other organizations that were removed for inactivity or non-participation in the past ten years include Palisades Beautiful (as formerly constituted), the Masonic Lodge and the Lion's Club, all of which were also listed as members in the early 1974-75 Bylaws.