

POLICY MOTION

DIRECTOR'S MOTION: Jakob Meuser

TITLE: Bylaws Amendment: Addition of Youth Board Seat

PURPOSE: To amend the MVCC bylaws to include a Youth Board Seat pursuant to Los Angeles Administrative code §22.814.

BACKGROUND: A similar motion was approved by a 2/3 vote of the council. However, the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners has since clarified that abstentions count in the negative specifically when dealing with amendments to the MVCC Bylaws. Since the MVCC was unaware of this ruling at the time of the original vote, the above director brings this motion again.

Generally, to be elected to the board of a neighborhood council a stakeholder must be at least 18 years of age. However, a Neighborhood Council may create up to one "Youth Board Seat" which may be occupied by a minor. Such a seat may only be occupied by an individual who is at least 14 years of age, but not older than 17, on the day the election for that seat occurs. Additionally, stakeholders as young as 14 years old may vote in the election for a Youth Board Member. The MVCC Bylaws already contemplate the addition of a Youth Director position in Article X, Section 3.

There are many potential benefits to adding a Youth Director seat. Doing so would increase civic engagement among young people in Mar Vista. Many young people in Mar Vista want to get involved in their local government and see their views properly represented: this would be a great first step. 16- and 17-year-olds are already permitted to vote for directors, so there should be a seat that they can run for themselves. As contemplated in § 22.814, Angelenos at least 14 years of age will benefit the community by participating in elections and getting engaged.

THE MOTION: Article V, Section 1: Composition, currently reads as follows:

"Number of Directors: The Board shall be comprised of fifteen (15) Directors, including the five (5) officers described in Article V. Of the fifteen (15) Directors, one (1) shall be elected "Community" Director, seven (7) shall be elected "At -large" Directors and seven (7) shall be elected "Zone" Directors."

This motion would amend Article V, Section 1 to read as follows:

"Number of Directors: The Board shall be comprised of sixteen (16) Directors, including the five (5) officers described in Article V. Of the sixteen (16) Directors, one (1) shall be elected "Community" Director, one (1) shall be elected "Youth" Director, seven (7) shall be elected "At -large" Directors and seven (7) shall be elected "Zone" Directors.

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Youth Director: Candidates for Youth Director must be Mar Vista Stakeholders and at least fourteen (14) years of age and no more than seventeen (17) years of age, at the time of election or selection."

Article X Section 3: Minimum Voting age currently reads as follows:

"Except with respect to a Youth Board Seat, a stakeholder must be at least 16 years of age on the day of the election or selection to be eligible to vote. [See Admin. Code §§ 22.814(a) and 22.814(c)]"

This motion would amend Article X, Section 3 to read as follows:

"Except with respect to a Youth Director Seat, a stakeholder must be at least 16 years of age on the day of the election or selection to be eligible to vote. To vote for a Youth Director a stakeholder must be at least 14 years of age. [See Admin. Code §§ 22.814(a) and 22.814(c)]"

DIRECTED TO: MVCC Board of Directors