

Final Sabbatical Report
In fulfillment of the AFT Contract
Section 8.6.A. Accountability

Background

In Spring 2020 I began a semester length sabbatical which would focus on local government, specifically participation/involvement at the local level and how competing interests found solutions to issues facing the community. My timeline was to engage in reading of background research in January 2020 and to start attending Neighborhood Council meetings. The bulk of the meetings would be attended in February and March of 2020. With the closure of all public meetings due to COVID at in the second of March the last public meeting I was able to attend was March 10th bringing an end to the meeting attendance portion of my sabbatical for the remainder of the semester. Fortunately, I had been following my timeline and was able to attend a variety of committee meetings at a variety of neighborhood councils. To summarize I attended:

- Committee topics Environment
- Education
- Governance
- Homelessness
- Land Use

proposal I had several goals that I wanted to accomplish. First, I wanted content to include real world examples of local matters and provide students a clear explanation of how Neighborhood Councils affect their lives. Second, I wanted to create a simulation to support a learning environment in class accomplished both things. I had also wanted to develop content that would expand our student's opportunities for internships at the local level. Unfortunately, due to the shutdown, I was unable to do this towards the end of my meeting attendance and therefore was not able to accomplish the simulation.

Work Completed

- o List of meetings attended
- o Annotated Bibliography
- o Simulation material prepared for PS 110

Sabbatical Leave Final Report:
Meetings Attended

Date	NC	Committee	Audience #:
8-Jan	Northridge	Education	2
9-Jan			

Sabbatical Leave Final Report: Annotated Bibliography

Bryer, Thomas A., and Terry L. Cooper. "Challenges in Enhancing Responsiveness in Neighborhood Governance." *Public Performance & Management Review*, vol. 31, no. 2, 2007, pp. 191-214.

The authors conducted created an experimental design in an attempt to see how neighborhood councils worked with local government agencies. Several neighborhood councils and two public agencies (Department of Public Works and the Department of Cultural Affairs) were chosen to work together. Researchers from the Collaborative Learning Project at USC established parameters for the experiment and observed the results. The intent was to examine how responsive local governments were to neighborhood councils and how the two entities interacted with each other. The researchers looked at how responsive administrators of government agencies would be to neighborhood councils. They conducted interviews of all participants as well as observing interaction between NCs and administrators as several joint meetings. The results indicated that responsiveness to NCs depended heavily on the leadership and culture of the local government agency. Agencies in which leadership was supportive of NCs had better communication with NCs and made policy changes that reflected feedback from constituents.

Chen, Bin, et al. "Spontaneous or Constructed? Neighborhood Governance Reforms in Los Angeleshotd hia-29.5 (cngTn2 [(A)-nF)-2.3 (.)12.6 (gTn1-2.3 00 -1.206 Td nub-20.3 (.)-2.3 (.)-9.8 (

environment while segregating occupants from surrounding neighborhoods. The other example compares post-WWII temporary housing units and Rodger Young Village.

Dierwechter, Yonn; Coffe Brian. Assessing the effects of Neighborhood Councils on urban policy and development: The example of Tacoma, Washington. *Social Science Journal* September 2010, Vol. 47 Issue 3, p401, 21p; DOI: 10.1016/j.soscij.2010.01.007

This research addresses the concern that neighborhood councils does not address the inequalities that exists within its neighborhood because an unrepresentative group of individuals generally leads the boards and attends meetings. They study this concept i Tacoma by interviewing 65 individuals from NCs, local government and city employees. They follow the distribution of public funds by neighborhood councils to determine if the funds are being used to help alleviate inequalities. The article examines how they spend their allocation of money between 1994-2005. They found no patter in how NCs spent money based on the socioeconomic conditions of each neighborhood.

Kathi, Pradeep Chandra, and Terry L. Cooper. "Democratizing the Administrative State: Connecting Neighborhood Councils and City Agencies." *Public Administration Review*, vol. 65, no. 5, 2005, pp. 555-567.

This article details the theory behind the establishment of NC and administrative partnerships in the city of Los Angeles. The article provides a background to the evolution of the administrative state. More specifically, it discusses shifting attitudes by bureaucrats as to the role the public should play in local government. Traditional administrative theory gives the public very little role in affecting administrative decisions and implementation of policy. Often there was an antagonistic relationship between bureaucrats and the public. Bureaucrats tended to view the public as an obstacle to overcome the public's participation in decision-making and implementation was something to be minimized. Starting in the 1980s and accelerating in the 1990s was a reform movement to insist upon more citizen involvement at the administrative level. The focus of the article turns to looking at NCs in Los Angeles and an experimental design in which administrative agencies and NC members were brought together to discuss the provision of services. The experiment provided a facilitated, professional system in which both parties could discuss, create and hopefully implement a mutually acceptable working relationship. The end result of this facilitated discussion was for

Placeframes describe how local organizations such as neighborhood councils and nonprofits attempt to create a sense of community based upon the concept of place. The author looks at four organizations in St. Paul's Frogtown neighborhood. One organization was a neighborhood council while the other three organizations focused on issues such as housing and neighborhood appeal. The author found that in all cases the organization attempted to appeal to people based upon their common place they were all residents of the same place.

Sabbatical Leave Final Report: Simulation

NOTE: This material is solely for private classroom instruction by the author. Permission to use must be requested by emailing lballester@vcccd.edu

Description and Purpose:

This simulation is designed to give students an opportunity to improve their communication and conflict resolution skills by engaging in discussions of real world dilemmas facing local governments. In this simulation student will research a specific scenario, provide talking points either for or against a policy position and persuasively argue their position in an effort to achieve their policy goals. This simulation will require at least six separate class days. Some days will only require a small portion of the class while other days will require the entire class period. Students will also be expected to do outside research on their assigned topic.

Important Documents to Read please see the Canvas shell for all documents:

- Bylaws of Godric's Hollow NC
- Demographic data for Godric's Hollow
- Map of Godric's Hollow NC
- Budget of Godric's Hollow NC
- Organizational structure of NCs and the City of Los Angeles

Activity #1-Bylaws revision and approval

Purpose:

Every Neighborhood Council (NC) has its own set of bylaws that are reviewed and revised on a regular basis. Bylaws are the rules by which a NC functions. All committees and members must follow the bylaws. For the first activity, you will get in to groups of 5. Each group will review an assigned section of the bylaws and make suggestions for change. If there are no suggestions for change, you must explain the purpose of your assigned section and why you felt the proposed bylaws were sufficient. Final, revised

Activity #2-Role assignment

Activity #2-Role assignment (con't)

Godric's Hollow neighborhood council representative 1: _____

Godric's Hollow neighborhood council representative 2: _____ drcis

Activity #3-Committee assignment

FAILURE TO ATTEND AND/OR LACK OF PREPARATION WILL RESULT IN A ZERO (0) FOR YOUR ENTIRE PARTICIPATION GRADE FOR THE SEMESTER.

Each GHNC member must sit on one committee. Each committee must have a minimum of five members. You may NOT switch committees. Assignments to committee will be posted on the Canvas shell.

GHNC Committees

1. Homelessness The mission of the GHNC Homeless Committee is to inform and educate the stakeholders of Godric's Hollow on the issues of homelessness issues in the West San Fernando Valley, connect those experiencing homelessness to resources, and advocate for the effective use of government resources to contend with the problem of homelessness in the area.

Member 1: _____

Member 2: _____

Member 3: _____

Member 4: _____

Member 5: _____

Community Interest Group A member : _____

Community Interest Group B member: _____

Chamber of Commerce member: _____

2. Land Use and Planning Deals with planning, zoning and other issues that affect the GIB community, including proposals for new projects, zoning changes and variances, proposals for tenant improvement (T.I.) construction, building improvements and special uses, development of new business etc.

Member 1: _____

Member 2: _____

Member 3: _____

Member 4: _____

Member 5: _____

Community Interest Group A member : _____

Community Interest Group B member: _____

Chamber of Commerce member: _____

Activity #3-Committee assignmen(con't)

3. Outreach Deals with outreach to inform the GHNC community about board meetings, elections, committee meetings, projects and special events. Host/promote events that support community development and help people in the neighborhood become informed about services and support provided by the city ith8i

Activity #3-Committee assignment(con't)

5. Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness. The mission of this Committee is to interface with the Los Angeles Police Department, the Los Angeles Fire Department, hospitals and other agencies on matters relating to the safety of the Stakeholders.

Member 1: _____

Member 2: _____

Member 3: _____

Member 4: _____

Member 5: _____

Community Interest Group A member : _____

Community Interest Group B member: _____

Chamber of Commerce member: _____

Activity #4-Committee Scenarios

Each committee will be assigned a scenario which will be posted on Canvas. It is the responsibility of the committee members, including Community Interest Group A, Community Interest Group B and the Chamber of Commerce member to become familiar with the scenario. This may involve having to do outside research in order to become informed so you are prepared for Committee Day (Activity #5).

Activity #4 Committee Scenarios Homelessness Committee

The city of Los Angeles is considering putting a homeless shelter in the neighborhood of GH. The shelter would have approximately 300 beds. In addition to social service workers who will staff the shelter, the city has promised to place local law enforcement personnel at the shelter. City shelters forbid the use of alcohol or drugs on property and cannot be within 1 mile of a school or park. Be sure to review the [neighborhood data](#) found in the course shell.

- What problems would be solved in the neighborhood if the shelter is placed in GH?
- What problems would be created in the neighborhood if the shelter is placed in GH?
- What questions/concerns might the GHNC board raise at the full board meeting? How will you address these questions/concerns?

Activity #4Co

Activity #4 Committee Scenarios Legislative and Policy Impact

The committee has been asked to review a proposal by the city of Los Angeles to revise the Vacation Rental Ordinance. The revised ordinance would cap the number of vacation units available for short term rentals at 1%26.5 (o)1.8C-40.742 (i)-5.9 t

Activity #4 Committee Scenarios Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness

Activity #5-Committee Day

FAILURE TO ATTEND AND/OR LACK OF PREPARATION WILL RESULT IN A ZERO (0) FOR YOUR ENTIRE PARTICIPATION GRADE FOR THE SEMESTER.

The purpose of this day is for each committee to meet in order to discuss your committee's assigned scenario. The committee should start by assigning a note taker who will record the vote and take the meeting minutes Each GHNC should come to class prepared to discuss in committee your position on the issue. You will be required to vote on the issue. A majority of the committee is required to recommend the policy to the full board. No abstentions are allowed. Even if committee does not recommend the policy to the full board, you must still record your vote and the reasoning behind the vote.

The responsibilities for each role as it relates to the scenario are below:

GHNC members You are responsible for becoming informed on the consequences of the policy on your neighborhood. You should consider things like: will it have an economic impact on citizens, will it have any safety impact on citizens, how hard will it be to implement the policy, does the policy solve a problem that our neighborhood currently faces or may face? You should ask the Community and Chamber of Commerce members for their opinions and follow up with them if you have questions.

Community Members A and B You are responsible for articulating your position on the issue. If you are assigned the 'pro/yes' position, then you must support the issue and if you are the 'con/no' position, then you must oppose the issue. In doing your research, you must be able to articulate AT LEAST two reasons why you oppose the issue You do not have to have both reasons prepared for Committee Day but **MUST** have both reasons prepared for the Full Board Meeting Day.

Chamber of Commerce member You are responsible for explaining to the committee the impact of the issue on businesses/the economy in your neighborhood. In doing your research must be able to articulate AT LEAST two impacts that the issue could have on business in the neighborhood. You do not have to have both reasons prepared for Committee Day **MUST** have both reasons prepared for the Full Board Meeting Day.

Activity #5-Committee Day(con't)

Committee name: _____

Member 1: _____

Member 2: _____

Member 3: _____

Member 4: _____

Member 5: _____

Community Interest Group A member : _____

Community Interest Group B member: _____

Chamber of Commerce member: _____

VOTE (record yea and nay votes for each GHNC member):

Meeting Minutes: You are to provide a summary of why the committee supported or opposed the issue. THIS WILL BE COPIED VERBATIM AND PROVIDED TO THE ENTIRE CLASS. Feel free to use the back of the page if needed.

