

10-26-98

The commission meeting didn't end until 11 p.m. Thank goodness for Pink's around the corner. I didn't get home until 12:45 a.m. because CalTrans closed the freeway and didn't provide any detour directions. But that wasn't as bad as the meeting itself.

Without Gloria Romero, it appeared that there weren't the votes for the Wachs plan alone, so a vote wasn't attempted.

They started off with, and adopted by an 8-4 vote, the Widom plan from last week to place the Wachs plan in the base charter, and provide for a separate ballot measure that would give the voters the ability to replace participatory with elected. No votes were Hahn, Fleming, Boland, and I think Kayser.

They then went on with a discussion that lasted the rest of the meeting to determine what the elected alternative would look like.

They settled on 7 members elected at large for as many community councils as there are city council districts; limited voting, meaning each voter can only vote for one person, and the top 7 finishers are elected; vacancies filled by the Mayor with approval of the community council; CC=s would get a small percent of the city=s budget for discretionary use to buy additional city services from the city.

Giving them land use authority failed to be adopted 6-3, but because the majority present favored it, the vote carries over the next meeting. The motion was to give them front end authority over variances, CUPs, projects of less than 40,000 sq. ft., and anything else the City Council wants to give them.

Tony Alperin warned that this voting raises serious Voting Rights Act questions. It depends upon the demographics, so the questions can't be answered right now.

Next meeting will be 5 p.m. on Monday (the day before election day) at DWP.

At this meeting, they allowed those who haven't spoken to take 3 minutes. Those who spoke before had 2 minutes. Commissioners could ask questions.

Failing any attempt to get the commission to reconsider its position to offer the voters only the ability to choose elected over participatory, we may have to wait until the two commissions get together and try to come together. Details to follow. The whole thing was surreal.