

# CITY OF LOS ANGELES

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## HOLLYWOOD STUDIO DISTRICT NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL CALIFORNIA

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Nathan French  
Steven Whiddon  
Thomas Meredith

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## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

### HOLLYWOOD STUDIO DISTRICT NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (HSDNC) Assistance League of Southern California, 1370 N. St. Andrews Place, Los Angeles 90028

**August 13, 2012**

1. **Meeting called to order**, welcome remarks by Chair 6:40
  - Please place all electronic devices to off or silent so as to not disturb the meeting. If you must answer, wait until you are outside to start speaking.
  - Signature clarification on written communications  
Remember to separate personal opinions from official communications. Jirair asked if there was an incident; Steven said there had not been. But offered sample letter from Silver Lake Neighborhood Council re what that might look like.
  - “Watch For Kids” Signs in the office for distribution  
If you want to take some, come by the office after the meeting and pick them up.
  - Deadline for submitting HSDNC Election Candidate form is **August 17, 2012**.  
Election Coordinator Christine Jerian is here tonight to answer any questions.
  - Introduction of stakeholders/visitors
  - HSDNC Bylaws require each HSDNC Board Member to take training; update by Vice Chair on enforcement of non-voting status for those not current
  - DOT Mobility Study “Great Streets Great Neighborhoods” due September 1 –  
Frank Valenti, Mobility Study Chair, absent, Jirair will shepherd it
  
2. **Approval of Minutes** for Board Meetings of June 11, 2012 6:45

M/S/P (Tom, Kenneth)  
Abstained: Tom, Maria  
Motion carries, 7-0-2
  
3. **Approval of Minutes** for Board Meetings of July 9, 2012 6:47

M/S/P (Tom, Kenneth)  
Abstained: Kenneth, Maria, Christina  
Motion carries, 6-0-3

4. **Roll Call** 6:49  
 Alex Alferov  
 Felipe Corrado – arrived at 7:00  
 Christina  
 Leila Forouzan  
 Nathan French - excused  
 Efrain Gonzalez – excused  
 Tom Meredith  
 Jen Weatherholtz – excused  
 Ken Ostrow  
 Juri Ripinsky  
 Manny Rodriguez – excused  
 Andy Schwartz – excused  
 Jose Torres  
 Jirair Tossounian  
 Frank Valenti – excused  
 Luke Vincent –  
 Steven Whiddon  
 Maria Yepremian  
 Bill Zide – arrived at 6:53
5. **Report by City Officials** 6:50  
 • Christine Jerian re HSDNC Elections  
 If you decide you want to be a candidate, talk with her. Only requirement is to be a Stakeholder of the District. She has a list of the board seats that are open, and what it takes to qualify. The election will be Sunday, September 16. They will be finalizing the location by the end of the week. Tom asked if they will make an announcement when the location's secured; she will. It will probably be at a school, but the classes are just starting, and they want them to get settled. It'll be from 10-2. They are checking locations to make sure the locations are sufficient. Tentatively, they're looking at the Santa Monica Charter School. Tom said it will go up on the website and will also send an email blast with Leila. Christine encourages everyone to run. They are asking everyone for a statement of candidacy of 150 words and a picture, if desired. Correction, election will be from 12-4. Questions, contact her at [Christine@empowerla.org](mailto:Christine@empowerla.org)
6. **Public Comments** on Non-Agenda Items (2 min. per) 6:43  
 None
7. **Meet – Greet** – Enjoy Refreshments 6:55
8. **Report by State Officials** - Lauren Pizer Mains 7:08  
 Things have been very busy at State Senator Curren Price's office. This week in the Appropriations Committee they have several bills. Price's bills pertain to entertainment. SB789 would create a creative and arts index for the schools that would go through a superintendent's office. SB 1185, Price authored, with Jerome Corbin, who chairs board of equalization, to address piracy and combat that issue. Also, if there are any recommendations of restaurants that have made healthier changes to their menu as a consequence of the Senator's bills, let her know. Juri wished to extend thanks for Sen. Price's outreach to neighborhood councils, and asked who to

contact with what is going on in the Governor's office. Ms. Pizer Mains suggested he call her at the office.

9. **Presentation (update) by** Brian Stratford/Megan Foret re High-Speed Rail System 7:12  
Works for the consulting firm that is doing the part of the outreach for the project, specifically the Palmdale-LA segment. The high-speed rail system will connect San Francisco to LA to San Diego to Sacramento. It will use Clean Power, and go up to speeds of 220 mph. Importantly, it will create jobs. Why we need it? Right now the State's population is approx. 38 million but it's expected to go up to 60 million by 2050. It will create 100,000 jobs during construction and, when done, will increase energy independence. The Palmdale to LA section has three sub-sections. Union Station to San Fernando Valley. It will bridge to Bakersfield and Palmdale, by 2022. Then it will be extended to San Jose, by 2027. San Francisco to LA should be completed by 2029. The initial estimated cost of \$98b has been reduced to \$68b. Juri asked about the projected ticket cost. Answer, about 80% of plane ticket for the same distance. Some investment may be private. Steven pointed out that the costs are astronomical and he asked if we've been in contact with developers in other countries, like Japan, who have done it at a fraction of the cost? Brian said there have been meetings but there are challenges to developing high-speed that is unique to California. Steven said he'd still like to know if there will be foreign partnerships. Jackie asked about where they "found" \$68b. Juri asked about Prop 1A. Megan said we hear more about the Olympics in the news than about this. Stakeholder asked about the completion date. Brian reiterated that it will be in 2029. Genelle asked about the drop in the ticket price since she first saw the presentation. Brian has no answer about that. Stakeholder asked for clarification re jobs. For whom? People who have jobs? Or people who don't have jobs? Brian said they're looking at contractors, but the jobs must have vets, minorities, et al. Donny suggested everyone go to the High Speed Rail Authority's website: [www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov](http://www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov).
10. **Presentation** by candidate Matt Szabo (5 min. + Q & A 5 in.) 7:33  
Began by talking about the high rail connector, mentioning right now you can go from Pasadena to USC. He believes overall it'll be a massive boost to LA, esp. with construction jobs. His background, he was a deputy of Budget and Finance to Mayor Villaraigosa, esp. with respect to transportation and development. He also negotiated with labor unions. He is running because he believes we are at a real critical juncture in the City, especially having all the infrastructure and services done right. We have to be in a position where we need to rethink government. In order to get the streets paved, we need a whole coalition and six weeks to get a call back. Measure J will transform how we can reinvest in our infrastructure. Stakeholder asked what he was running for. He is running for Garcetti's seat on the City Council (CD13). Bill asked he feels about how the neighborhood councils are working with the council, and how his thoughts on the hiring freeze of LAPD/LAFD. Response: this district is the future of Los Angeles. To be able to take the concerns of a particular neighborhood and move through a complicated process. He doesn't believe you should have to buy access to City Hall. We have to hire firefighters. It was a miscalculation by the former Chief when he presented budget reduction plan; it hasn't worked. We need more paramedics, particularly in the areas where we are experiencing growth. He has been the strongest advocate, too, for hiring at the LAPD.
11. **Presentation** by "Pink Lady" Jackie Goldberg re "Rocking with the Ages" production 7:47  
A few years ago, when she was in her 70s, she reinvented herself to be an actress, producer, etc. She believes we are still vital in our older years. She is promoting her show, "Rocking with the Ages: The Beat Goes On." She is looking to have a senior theater that's open all year long. She

drew a winner for a pair of tickets. October 4-November 11, at the Theatre of Arts Arena Stage, 1625 North Las Palmas Ave., Hollywood.

12. **Presentation** by candidate Emanuel Pleitez (5 min. + Q & A 5 min.)  
7:35 – Not here

13. **PLUM**

7:52

- a. Old Spaghetti Factory Letter

Juri re point of letter our concerns re development and how developer has handled demolition, etc., so far. Bill raised points about property tax and not to tear down the façade of the restaurant. The City fought against the neighborhoods that objected to the development, and it did so without a permit. But it's a fairly diplomatic letter. It's one of the largest developments, with 17 entitlements. The letter asks for more information. Tom asked what Bill thought could be stronger in the letter? Maybe that CIM was aware of this agreement about the façade, and they violated that without a permit, which is dated two months later. Tom pointed out the official who approved it, Michael LoGrande, is no longer in office. Steven went to paragraphs on page 2 that addressed the permit issue and thinks it's clear. Juri said there would be other reports, and once we get more info, we can always send another letter.

Motion to send letter as is:

M/S/P (Luke, Tom)

Abstaining: Christina, Jirair

Motion carries, 10-0-2

- b. Discussion and possible action re Sober Living Network on Council File 11-0262, as recommended by PLUM committee 8:02

Kerry Morrison, Los Angeles Homeless Authority Commission, et al, presentation. It's well documented that people rely on shared living arrangements: vets, students, those who are mentally ill, those coming out of homelessness. We have nuisance abatement procedures that aren't being enforced, and Ms. Morrison there should be a blue ribbon task force that can solve the problem that this ordinance is intended to solve. She feels this is going to have the unintended consequences of affecting affordable housing.

Cindy Cleghorn, Sunland-Tujunga, their residents are impacted by those homes which have 60 people or more, and urges support of the ordinance.

Nicholas Earl, 17, he's a resident of a sober living house. There are only 7 or 8 people, and it works. Just because you're trying to get clean doesn't mean you're affecting another community in a negative way. It's far better to provide treatment and sober living alternatives; otherwise, people only have the option of going back to what they know. He barely has sober friends, and being at the sober living home gives him a positive environment.

Paul Dumont. West Neighborhood Council. There are already laws on the books. There's no need to pick on anyone. It's about the number of leases on the property, and it won't be allowed in an R-1 zone. Every law firm that has looked at this has said it is illegal, and strongly urges that HSDNC not support it.

Maria Fisk, Old Granada Hills, passed out a brief summary of the ordinance and crime summary chart. Argues this is not discriminatory because there are places for multi-use buildings to be built for the homeless, et al.

Juri read from a suggested letter that the HSDNC oppose this ordinance. Jirair asked questions of Maria and of Nicholas to get clarification of what their points-of-view are. Alex asked Mark Szabo for his position on this; he said LA stands for second chances, so he opposes the ordinances. Cindy said that State Law allows up to 6 different people living in the home, and that would trump a city ordinance. Jose said he thinks it's a hard comment, requiring more time to think about because it's emotional. Per Paul, it's in Herb Wesson's hands and he wants a deal worked out before it hits the floor. It's been vetted in committee. The other neighborhood councils are all over the board on it. Steven pointed out we've been debating it for months, and out of respect for people's time who have been to the board and committee meetings, he believes HSDNC should move forward with the vote.

Letter from HSDNC opposing the ordinance

M/S/P (Luke/Bill)

Abstain: Alex Christina, Jose, Jirair

No: Tom

Motion Carried, 7-1-4

- c. Nariya Tai Cuisine, Liquor License 8:27  
License will be full spectrum provided one is eating at the premises; no liquor would be sold if one is ordering take-out. Jirair points out there's a liquor store downstairs, but if they've been selling liquor illegally for 10 years... ? Maria thinks HSDNC should look into it.
- d. Next PLUM Meeting, October 10

- 14. **Discussion and possible action** to recognize Frank Valenti's neighbors for their "courageous acts" of saving his animals and working to save his house as a result of the recent fire 8:33  
Steve thinks it'll be a great first award to give to those involved.  
M/S/P (Steve, Alex)  
Abstaining: Christina, Jose  
Motion carries, 10-0-2

15. **Budget and Finance** 8:10

- a. **Discussion and possible action** re approval of \$40 fee for attendance at HPOZ conference on May 19 for Jirair Toussounian and Courtney Hukel 8:10  
M/S/P (Steve, Leila)  
Abstaining: Christina, Jirair, Maria  
Motion carries, 9-0-3
- b. **Discussion and possible action** re purchase of Ricoh Aficio 2035e copy machine w/collator for \$350 (researching maintenance agreement cost)  
Maintenance agreement is not yet in place. It's used and being liquidated from a production office which is the only reason it's available. Jirair asked to table it until we get a price. Cindy reviewed the specs of the machine and said she believes it's a great deal.

Says an all-inclusive service contract under \$80 would be ideal. She also recommends going through the City to get the contract as Ricoh has an existing contract with it.

M/S/P (Tom, Jirair)

Abstaining: Steven, Christina, Maria

Motion carries, 9-0-3

- c. **Discussion and possible action** authorizing up to \$150 for truck rental to transport equipment (copier)  
Felipe has a truck to transport the copier and the men volunteer to move the copier, so the motion has been withdrawn.
- d. **Report and possible action** on Budget for new fiscal year  
Those are due ASAP. We need to have those on the agenda next month.
- e. **Discussion and possible action** re funding up to \$500 for September 22 Congress of Neighborhoods  
Cindy Cleghorn. Hopes everyone will be there. There will also be a mayoral candidate forum at the end of the Congress. There will be 27 different workshops. Alex asked if we had the money; Steven said we do. Christine said the D.O.N.E. initially ran it, but now it's evolved to being run by neighborhood councils.  
M/S/P (Steve, Jirair)  
Abstaining: Maria, Christina  
Motion carries, 10-0-2
- f. **Discussion and possible action** to fund up to \$1,000 for an HSDNC banner to be placed at the Helen Bernstein High School Athletic Field  
NOTE: The banner needs to have anti-graffiti coating and grommets, as well as plexi-glass to protect it from vandals.  
Steve has sent this out. Helen Bernstein is reaching out to us. Feels it's a great place for us to show support. This is for a front banner so it'll be visible on Sunset Blvd and on the track. Bill asked how our finances were overall. Steve said HSDNC is at the beginning of its fiscal year. Last year hired a professional to get financial house in order. Ended the year with a surplus and seem to be doing well with money. Internet is covered. Holiday Party costs were reduced from \$7,000 to \$4,000 by partnering with other neighborhood council.  
M/S/P (Tom, Kenneth)  
Abstaining: Christina, Jose, Jirair, Maria  
No: Luke  
Motion carries, 7-1-4
- g. **Discussion and possible action** to fund up to \$250 for the creation of the banner to hang at the Helen Bernstein High School  
Jirair asked why this was separate. Steven responded that it was only for the space. We now need to create it.  
M/S/P (Steven, Alex)  
Abstaining: Christina, Maria  
No: Jirair, Luke  
Motion carries, 8-2-2
- h. **Discussion and possible action** to fund up to \$1,250 for Children's Arts Festival on August 12.

Steven said it was vetted and agendaized in committee. Last year, HSDNC spent \$2,500, but that was covering for last and the prior year. Luke clarified that this was at Paramount. Tom said we had no presence there. Kenneth said it's hard to support that. Steven recommends we participate because it was in our backyard. Alex proposed \$500. It is a great event.

M/S/P (Alex, Luke)

Abstaining: Christina, Maria, Jirair

Motion carries, 9-0-3

## 16. Outreach

9:15

- a. Open Neighborhood Wi-Fi Update – No Updates  
Steven asked Christina to contact James for an update. Now that it's been funded, want to make sure it's up and running.
- b. Neighborhood Groups Update (Melrose Hill, NU-LA, Santa Monica & Western, 4 Squares)

Patrick re Santa Monica & Western, went door-to-door to get funds for Relay for Life, raising \$932.

Jirair re Melrose Hill, Saturday Night Lights. Everyone is welcome to participate. Games. Free food. Food is being donated.

Tom said the Hestor Street Fair is this coming weekend. There will be a booth to with info about the neighborhood council and upcoming election, 11-7 on Saturdays.

Alex talked about the Community Garden, on the 26<sup>th</sup>, at 2:30 p.m., 5620 Fountain Ave. (at St. Andrews). It will be opened up. There will be a barbecue, and people pick things from their plots and grill. There's an art wall that Paramount has built for them. There will be some workshops. Steven said it's one of the most beautiful gardens and encourages everyone to go.

## 17. Proposed Agenda Items for next Board meeting are due by September 10

9:25

## 18. Other

9:26

Steven presented posters that Charles is printing at no cost to remind people not to leave values in their cars. Take however many you want.

## 19. Adjournment

9:30

### HOLLYWOOD STUDIO DISTRICT NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Contact info: [www.hsdnc.org](http://www.hsdnc.org)

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