

# CITY OF LOS ANGELES

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## HOLLYWOOD STUDIO DISTRICT NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL CALIFORNIA

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Andy Schwartz	Kenneth Ostrow
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Efrain Gonzalez	Manny Rodriguez
Felipe Corrado	Maria Yepremian
Frank Valenti	Nathan French
Jennifer Moran	Steven Whiddon
Jirair Tossounian	Thomas Meredith
Jose Torres	

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## HOLLYWOOD STUDIO DISTRICT NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (HSDNC) REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

**Monday, September 10, 2012, 6:30 p.m.**

Assistance League of Southern California, 1370 N. St. Andrews Place, Los Angeles 90028

- 1. Meeting called to order**, welcome remarks by Chair 6:44  
Introductions by newcomers. "Watch For Kids" Signs in the office for distribution.  
Announcement of Sunday September 16 HSDNC elections, 12-4pm at Santa Monica Boulevard Community Charter School, 1022 N. Van Ness Ave, L.A., CA 90038. Update on grievance filed by stakeholders Ziggy Kruse & Bob Blue on 5/24/12. \_ \*Steven made mistake on the date, the correct date that grievance was filed was July 6, 2012. \_As soon as the new board is seated, and elect a Recording Secretary, he/she can put out a call for volunteers to serve on the grievance board. **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** Bulletin Board material has to be removed next week. \*Jirair offered truck, Bill & Steven volunteered to help. Also, Council District 13 sent out a survey to be filled out. The information is on the table if you like. Whoever is elected on the next board, please remember to partner with the East Hollywood Neighborhood Council re auto show.
- 2. Roll Call** 6:40  
Alex Alferov  
Felipe Corrado– excused  
Christina Derenthal  
Leila Forouzan  
Nathan French – excused  
Efrain Gonzalez  
Tom Meredith - excused  
Jen Moran  
Ken Ostrow – arrived late  
Juri Ripinsky  
Manny Rodriguez  
Andy Schwartz – excused  
Jose Torres – not excused  
Jirair Tossounian  
Frank Valenti  
Luke Vincent  
Steven Whiddon

Maria Yepremian  
 Bill Zide

3. **Public Comments** on Non-Agenda Items (2 min. per) 6:50  
 Mr. Park reported on a break-in at his home. He returned earlier than usual and the door was open. He contacted the owner of the house and 911. He saw the burglar still in the yard. Jirair encouraged Mr. Park to get involved in our NC and serve on a Safety Committee. Steve talked about the importance of a Safety Committee.

Frank Valenti spoke on the advertising plastered around Van Ness and Sunset; he believes it's blocking the school. *Glee* films there so there are other ways for it to make income. The aesthetics of it is ugly. He asked for the Board's position. Steve said many schools seek advertising from local businesses to participate and support athletics, etc. Since HSDNC had an opportunity to put its sign there, it will also have one up. But as a private citizen, Mr. Valenti can contact Miss Block and complain.

Mr. Samir Srivastava of ABS Mayer Bricker, LLC passed out a development plan for the property at 1657-1661 N. Western Avenue. He is looking at two buildings, with intent to tear them down, temporarily use the property for parking, and then develop it. The architect has contacted Hollywood Heritage to confirm they are not historic buildings and if they would support them. Alex asked if it was going to be a public and/or fee-based parking lot, and was there going to be greenery or beautification? He would like it at least landscaped, especially since there are apartments and the metro across the street. Mr. Srivastava said it is necessary to provide parking for the buildings next door. The structures themselves should come down because they are unsafe. His long-term plan is to build affordable housing. Since the parking is just going to be a lot, there will be perimeter landscaping. Manny asked if the new building would have parking? Mr. Srivastava said, yes. He sees it being a place for metro riders to also park. Jen asked how long it would be a parking lot? Mr. Srivastava said it would take about three years to complete the project. It is within the Hollywood Plan update. He also wants to have a courtyard where the alley is for a coffee shop, etc. Frank asked about competitors for the property? Mr. Srivastava said he doesn't know who they are. Luke said the parking there is badly needed, and asked how long until it would be available? Mr. Srivastava said it will take about 45 days to close on the buildings, and then getting the permits after acquisition will take another 45 days, therefore approx. 90 days until teardown. He wanted to give notice to the HSDNC early.

4. **Approval of Minutes** for Board Meeting of August 13 7:05  
**Yuri and Maria**  
**Abstaining: Christina, Efrain, Jen, many and Frank**  
**Motion Carries, 8-0-5**
5. **Meet – Greet** – Enjoy Refreshments 7:13
6. **Report by Officer Julie Nony** 7:26  
 Officer Nony spoke on car break-ins. It's happening everywhere because of the prison releases. They are rolling out a "Lock it/Hide it/Keep" campaign and presented the flyer. It is available in several languages and colors. The next stage is to get the station on board with a banner. There's going to be a new, Hollywood-style marquee over the Hollywood Station. From the reports, both residents and tourists are leaving things in their cars. To cover costs, they are going

to all of the neighborhood councils. The banner alone costs \$500. They will be meeting with the Deputy Chief soon. Frank asked about decoy cars. Officer Nony said they, “bait” cars and bikes, do exist and are being used. Yuri asked about the posters? Officer Nony said there are 40 of each. And some of them are being backed with cardboard backings, so that delayed them. Jirair asked which DOT poles they will be on and can HSDNC help put them up? Officer Nony said not yet because each pole has to be approved, but once the approval is there, yes they would welcome the help. Juri suggested Julie come back at the next meeting and that the Board then consider a grant of \$1000 for the banner, the printing of more posters, etc. Officer Nony then invited everyone to the station fundraiser BBQ on Wednesday, 12-7p, the proceeds of which will go to fund the officers’ holiday party. The children’s party is separate from that; it is usually subsidized by a big donor, but it might not happen this year. Officer Nony also extended thanks to Steve and the outgoing neighborhood council.

**7. Assistance League**

7:40

Janet Harrison introduced herself. She is the Assistance League’s Director of Communications. She wants to know what is going on in the neighborhood, so she expects to be at more meetings. If anyone wants to know more about the Assistance League, call her.

**8. Genelle LeVin**

7:42

Steve publicly thanked Genelle for her time as the Administrative Assistant, asking that the Board please keep her in their thoughts and prayers due to her sister’s illness.

**9. Volunteers and Banner**

7:43

Steve thanked everyone who volunteered for the Hester Street Fair, etc. He then showed everyone the banner that will be hung near the school. It cost over \$500; Charles paid the difference because we had only approved \$250.00

**10. Candidate presentations**

7:44

Mary Pat Donovan, previous founding Board member. She is running again after surgery. The free Wi-Fi for the community is a really great idea. The Christmas party for the community is crucial, especially around Lemon Grove because their median income is below \$17,000 for a family of four. There’s more HSDNC can do, including partnering with corporations, using resources and skills to move the poor in the community forward.

Glenda Kelly is also a former Board member. She is running after a two-year absence.

Jennifer Christie was the former Administrative Assistant. She and her daughter teach art at the farmer’s market, volunteers at a couple senior centers.

Susan Foster is participating for the first time. She owns a boutique hotel on Harold Way, off Gower and above Sunset, and other property in the area, so she has both an emotional and financial investment here.

David Bell has been serving on the East Hollywood Neighborhood Council. Since his wife Jen Moran is on this board, he likes the group. Being involved has made his life better. One of the things he’s done well on the EHNC is to reach out to everyone to get things done. He is also running in the East Hollywood Neighborhood Council race.

Charles Puree owns a promotion and decorating company. He started the community center on Sunset and Highland. He used to do design and printing for other groups. He is very active with the Hollywood Police, very active in the community to help and feels it's time he gets directly involved with the HSDNC.

Donald Pecano is married to Leila Forouzan and has been tangentially involved. He is running because it's a really cool neighborhood but can be a better place to live. It will be developed further and needs to be done in a reasonable and careful manner. His background is in City Planning and non-profit/affordable housing.

Don Durkee has lived in the community much of his life. He has been active as a neighborhood watch captain. Lived through the periods when gay men were picked up by the LAPD in sweeps of the gay community, etc.

*Steve then invited those board members who are running for re-election to speak.*

Alex Alferov shared that he moved here when in Junior High School. He's a professional artist. Across the street, is the Community Garden where he is the master gardener. Grassroots means something to him. He extended thanks to Mary Pat for the support in getting the Fountain Community Garden started.

Leila Forouzan represents District 1. She has enjoyed her time on the board. She has been working on the e-newsletter and updating the website, tabling at the neighborhood events and building the contact list, working on press releases, etc.

Juri Ripinsky is a commercial property owner. He is one of the continuously serving Board members. He has seen it from its birth to what it is now. He gives a lot of acknowledgement to everyone who has served on the board. Even though everyone may come from a different background, they all have the HSDNC's best interest at heart. There's more development coming over the next couple years. His purpose is the safety and quality of life in Hollywood.

Luke Vincent has been in the area for 30 years, and he was with the HSDNC at the beginning. He reminded everyone that even if they weren't on the board, the committees are still very important.

Bill Zide had worked on the 2010 census and his territory was this district. He knows the makeup of the neighborhood and learned how to deal with those in the neighborhood. He also said that even though opinions have differed, they have all come together.

Efrain Gonzalez got involved because of the gangs and prostitutes in the neighborhood. He hopes he gets elected again.

Steve read Tom Meredith's statement. He has been serving as Vice-Chair. He was local Census 2010 leader. He has been involved in the HSDNC the past two years, and has applied his knowledge of Census information to improve the HSDNC's Outreach and greater improvements for the entire Board and District.

Steve Whiddon had been involved since HSDNC was Hollywood Together. He moved away in 2004, and came back when he was appointed to the Board in 2008. He said it has been an honor to serve as Chair and, if he wins, he only wants to be on the Board about another year. He just wants to see certain projects through to completion and then hand the torch to the newcomers.

Christina Derenthal works for Paramount doing Communication Outreach.

Maria Yepremian is a recent high school graduate and is running for Youth Representative. She had gotten involved with the HSDNC when her team needed backing. They were so helpful and she learned so much. She looks forward to continuing with the board.

Jirair Tossounian lives and represents sub-District 7. He is interested in chairing the proposed Safety Committee.

**11. Report by City Officials**

8:25

- Christine Jerian re HSDNC elections – not present  
Steve gave her report. They need 3-6 volunteers to work at the polls and count ballots. Recommended that HSDNC swap candidates with other Districts to work at the polls. Christine can be contacted at (818) 497-6313 or christine@empowerla.org. Jennifer Christie added that Hollywood United Neighborhood Council is also looking to swap poll workers. Steve said if anyone sees Jose Torres, to please remind him to return the HSDNC directional sign because it will be needed for the elections.

**12. Presentation** 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

8:31

He thanked everyone for their support, saying it was very humbling to see the outpouring from neighbors to help. The fire occurred while he was out of town. A child saw the fire, wet down the house and rescued one of his dogs. He's doing something special for those kids.

**13. Discussion and possible action – Motion on official endorsement of David Bell as Interim General Manager, DONE**

8:50

Mr. Bell is a trial lawyer for the Labor Commission. He knows how to manage and supervise people, and is a fighter. What he would do as a manager of DONE, is to increase its visibility and fight for the neighborhood councils.

Harry asked if Mr. Bell has reviewed the job description? Mr. Bell said no, but he knew the previous manager and spoke with him over the years. He honestly doesn't think there is one. He would be willing to stop legal practice for a while. Jirair asked whether it was a conflict if he is elected to the neighborhood council as well as to DONE? David said he would quit the neighborhood council. Steve asked if he has a signature project? Mr. Bell said he supported more outreach and letting citizens know about the neighborhood council system, as well as simply getting the job done.

**Bill/Frank**

**Abstaining: Christina, Jen and Juri**

**Motion Carried, 10-0-3**

**14. Budget and Finance**

8:42

**a. Treasurer's Report – Motion to Approve 2012-2013 HSDNC Budget**

Steve said the budget is flexible and can be amended at any time. There are some variables with Apple One and Steve has raised some suggestions to its representative; e.g., total spent to-date.

**Yuri/Steve**

**Abstaining: Christina**

**Motion Carried, 11-0-1**

Per Steve, there must be a quorum to seat the new Board, so he asks that everyone attend the next meeting. Also, everyone who has served this term will receive a Certificate.

**b. Discussion and possible action** to approve monthly maintenance agreement re Ricoh Aficio 2035e copy machine. Fund up to \$100 monthly.

Steve thinks it will be best to have the new Board analyze and approve the maintenance agreement; therefore the maintenance agreement is tabled. Also, he thanked Jirair for loaning HSDNC his truck to pick up the copier. Steve said the p-card could not be used to replace gas for Jirair, so suggests HSDNC should buy Jirair a \$15 Starbucks gift card as a thank you.

**15. Outreach**

8:53

**a. Open Neighborhood Wi-Fi Update**

They are still moving people around at the offices. Former contact Rita Moran said it is done and vetted, and just needs to be signed off on. The latest communication is that Jeff Brill is back, and he is going to work on it tomorrow and have it completed by Thursday. If that happens, then the check is cut. Paramount will let HSDNC mount an antenna, TBD. A second location is this close to being identified.

**b. Neighborhood Groups Update (Melrose Hill, NU-LA, Santa Monica & Western, 4 Squares)**

Per Jirair, Melrose Hill meeting is on Sept. 24. On Oct. 27, Melrose Hill will have a block party, and everyone is invited. Officer Nony will be there. She also reminded everyone that it's also the Day of the Dead, so the Hollywood Cemetery will be busy. Bill Zide asked about safety because the neighborhood was upset. Officer Nony said, last year, they picked up one drunk. It was safe.

**16. PLUM**

9:00

**a. Discussion and possible action and update** on project at 6104 Hollywood Blvd, case and ref numbers: CPC-2008-3087-ZC-HD-ZAA-SPR, VTT 70119-1A, Council File #11-0317. Link to HSDNC's community impact statement:

[http://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2011/11-0317\\_cis\\_4-12-11.pdf](http://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2011/11-0317_cis_4-12-11.pdf)

Steve said HSDNC's opposition is on record. There were questions re their environmental impact report, etc. on the 20 story mixed-use building at Hollywood/Gower. The Judge ordered them to have a new EIR. Juri pointed out that the letters have been getting sent out for the past couple years.

**17. Other**

9:05

Steve said the bulletin board materials needed to be moved, adding that HSDNC needs storage space. Juri offered HSDNC free storage space for three months, which was accepted. Steve asked if Jirair's truck would be available again to help move things to storage, and Jirair said it would be. Another \$15 Starbucks gift card is suggested for the use of his truck.

**18. Discussion and possible action on 2010-2012 HSDNC Board accomplishments and continuing projects**

9:10

Steve then read a list of the Board's accomplishments, which will be posted on the website. Juri added that PLUM can add to its accomplishments: (a) the reputation for consistency, (b) ability to facilitate projects and requests, (c) promoting an environment to create. Steve added that the PLUM Committee has been complimented on its articulation in letters and has received respect from the City departments with which they've dealt. Juri suggested the accomplishments should be read at the next meeting passed on to the next Board when the torch is passed.

**19. Adjournment**

9:26

The public is requested to fill out a "**Speaker Card**" to address the Board on any agenda item before the Board takes an action. Public comment is limited to two (2) minutes per speaker, but the Board has the discretion to modify the amount of time for any speaker. The public may comment on a specific item listed on this agenda when the Board considers that item. When the board considers the agenda item entitled "Public Comments," the public has the right to comment on any matter that is within the Board's jurisdiction.

In compliance with Government Code section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the Board in advance of a meeting may be viewed at the scheduled meeting or by prior arrangement by contacting the HSDNC at 323.450.5097. In addition, anyone who would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda; please contact the HSDNC at number above. The Hollywood Studio District Neighborhood Council will announce at this meeting the location, day and time for its regular meetings and may also call any additional required special meetings in accordance with its Bylaws and the Brown Act. The agenda for the regular and special meetings is posted for public review at the following community locations: 1) Tidal Wave Restaurant, 2) Bernstein Corner Grocer, 3) Lemon Grove Park, 4) Produce For Less Market, and 5) Sunshine Thai Restaurant

The Hollywood Studio District Neighborhood Council complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and does not discriminate on the basis of any disability. Upon request, the Hollywood Studio District Neighborhood Council will provide reasonable accommodations to ensure equal access to its programs, services, and activities. Sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure the availability of services, please make your request at least 3 business days (72 hours) prior to the meeting you wish to attend by contacting HSDNC at **(323) 450-5097**, or please send an e-mail that states the accommodations that you are requesting to [chair@hsdnc.org](mailto:chair@hsdnc.org)

**HOLLYWOOD STUDIO DISTRICT NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

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