

# CITY OF LOS ANGELES

## OFFICERS:

## HOLLYWOOD STUDIO DISTRICT NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL CALIFORNIA

## Board Members:

**Steven Whiddon**  
Chair

**Thomas Meredith**  
Vice Chair

**Felipe Corrado**  
Treasurer

**Vacancy**

Recording Secretary  
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ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA  
MAYOR



Alex Alferov  
Andy Schwartz  
Bill Zide  
Christina Derenthal  
Efrain Gonzalez  
Felipe Corrado  
Frank Valenti  
Jennifer Moran  
Jirair Tossounian  
Jose Torres

Juri Ripinsky  
Kenneth Ostrow  
Leila Forouzan  
Luke Vincent  
Manny Rodriguez  
Maria Yepremian  
Nathan French  
Narine Chobanyan  
Steven Whiddon  
Thomas Meredith

## HOLLYWOOD STUDIO DISTRICT NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (HSDNC)

Monday **June 11, 2012**, 6:30 p.m.

Santa Monica Blvd. Community Charter School, 1022 N. Van Ness Avenue, Los Angeles, 90038

## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Items are listed for reference only and may be discussed out of order.

- Meeting called to order** at 6:35 p.m. by Chair Whiddon. Welcome and introductions of new attendees.
  - Reminder to fill out speaker cards so we can keep you informed of events.
  - Relay for Life Hollywood will be July 28, 9 a.m. to July 29, 9 a.m., Helen Bernstein High School. We hope you will participate by forming your own team or join HSDNC's. Visit [www.relay4life.org/hollywoodca](http://www.relay4life.org/hollywoodca) to sign up!
- Roll Call:** Present: Alferov, Chobanyan, Gonzalez, Moran, Ostrow, Ripinsky, Rodriguez, Schwartz, Torres, Tossounian, Valenti, Vincent (arrived 8:15), Weatherholtz, Whiddon, Yepremian, Zide  
Absent – all excused: Corrado, Forouzan, French, Meredith,
- Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items** (2 min. per)
  - Ziggy Kruse: Took a walk of the community and Board meeting agendas were not posted at some specified locations (i.e. Sunset Thai, Bernstein Corner Grocer). Some locations had a first page only available for view; need to post additional pages.
  - Doug Haines, from EHNC: Safety Committee – extortion of day laborers at Home Depot on Sunset; getting robbed by gang members. Need to encourage workers to go to work center on De Longpre; drop off workers at the center, not on the street. Police don't have resources to handle, we can help publicize work center.  
**Steven:** HSDNC has spoken with Assistance League and offered to partner.
  - Steven Whiddon, speaking as a stakeholder not HSDNC Board Chair: Recent accusations towards the Board in not being transparent in meetings. All Board members are volunteers working to better our community; Board is not perfect, but let's work towards a solution, not create extra work.
- Meet – Greet** – Enjoy Refreshments  
**Public Comments, Continued**
  - Announcement: Congrats to Youth Board Member Maria for upcoming HBHS Graduation!
  - Patrick Agerkop re: Food bank on Bronson Ave. Sending to Neighborhood Council. Why has this not been posted to the NC website? Aware of presentation at last month's meeting.  
**Jenny:** We have posted this in the past; apologies if we missed any events.  
**Juri:** can we post this a few months in advance? It is a standing distribution?

- Lauren Pizer Mains from Senator Price’s Office. Honored to be here on behalf of the Senator; he takes his commitment to the community very seriously. Send any community info/updates to her so their office can share resources. Engaged in getting communities healthier and would love to collaborate with HSDNC on some ‘walk and talk with the Senator’s events.  
\*Outreach committee – follow up with Lauren; add her to database.
5. **Approval of Minutes** for Board Meeting of May 14  
**Motion** by Alferov, seconded by Weatherholtz, that the Minutes be approved for May 14  
 YES: Alferov, Chobanyan, Gonzalez, Ostrow, Ripinsky, Torres, Tossounian, Valenti, Weatherholtz, Whiddon, Yepremian, Zide  
 NO: None  
 ABSTAIN: Moran, Rodriguez, Schwartz  
 Motion carries  
 Chris Shabel: Confusion on Board Membership
6. **Report by City Officials** – CD 13 – Angela Motta/Ryan Carpio – No one present for report.
7. **Presentation by City of L.A. DOT** re “Watch the Road” program  
 Bruce Gillman gave an overview of the program; only 15 NC’s requested the 100 free personalized signs and HSDNC was one, so we are above average. When they arrive, signs should be placed on private property within our NC area ASAP. Additional signs are available for a nominal cost at: [www.ladot.lacity.org](http://www.ladot.lacity.org)
- Question about 1 hr parking on Hollywood Blvd. – more input  
Suggested contact Jeannie Shen in Tom Labonge’s office who is the area representative; have a counter open three days a week for information and service requests
  - LAPD Commission not DOT runs valet parking; DOT does grant temporary no parking signs for special events.
  - Speed humps are paid for by gas tax; has not been paid in two years by State; 75% of residents on affected streets would need to sign petition for speed humps, which cost about \$1200 - \$1500.  
DOT will partner with third party vendors
  - Frank: Would like to take overseeing these fines into parking/transportation committee. Hope Senator Price’s office will work with us and the DOT to address these concerns. DOT priority list?
8. **Presentation by Armen Makasjian** re Route 66 Car Show – gave an overview of project:  
 Education/Building Community/Clean Up; Engaging the Community; Economic Alliance; Working with non-profit partner. \*Route 66 Car Show – in planning stage; working to collect sponsors and publicize. Hope to give publicity to the EHNC area.
9. **Budget and Finance** (Steven gave update in Felipe’s absence)
- Felipe, committee chair, is not here – out of town, planning a wedding
  - Met deadline for demand warrants; three items pending: (all being processed): HPOZ conference for Jirair, Security for PLUM committee, \$1000 for Henry printing for Election Outreach
  - P Card will be cut off on June 15<sup>th</sup>; 3 weeks without credit card
  - Have started proceedings to renew lease at Assistance League
- Motion** by Ripinsky, second by Whiddon, that budget line items be continued until amended budget can be finalized.  
 YES: Alferov, Gonzalez, Moran, Ostrow, Ripinsky, Rodriguez, Schwartz, Torres, Toussounian, Valenti, Weatherholtz, Whiddon, Zide  
 NO: None  
 ABSTAIN: Chobanyan, Yepremian  
 Motion carries.
10. **Outreach** (Jirair and Bill)
- a. **Co-Chair Status Update** – Nathan is stepping down as Committee Co-Chair; Tom will continue to chair the committee; Nathan will stay on to oversee the Open Neighborhoods Wi-Fi project; Facebook and Twitter Accounts? Community walks – more to have; Community bulletin boards: materials

ordered, need to be constructed and installed; Jirair to step up and oversee more of the communications duties for Outreach committee

- b. **Discussion and possible action re approval of up to \$1,000** to sponsor stage for Make Music LA at Hollywood and Vine Metro Plaza on June 21. Request is withdrawn because couldn't work out details with Metro
- c. **Discussion and possible action re request from stakeholder Albert Tsao** to fund up to \$500 for food, beverages, and supplies for neighborhood clean up at Lemon Grove Park on July 28.
  - Eric Kinzh spoke on the community clean up day, requesting assistance for food/water/barbeque for all volunteers; organized by group of churches and community members in conjunction with City (Albert lives in EHNC area but lives adjacent and has kids in pre-school in HSDNC.) Organization is Servethecity.org. Asked for HSDNC volunteers

**Motion** by Ripinsky, seconded by Zide, amended to fund up to \$250 for food, beverages, and supplies for community clean up on July 28.

YES: Alferov, Chobanyan, Gonzalez, Moran, Ostrow, Ripinsky, Rodriguez, Schwartz, Torres, Toussounian, Valenti, Weatherholtz, Whiddon, Zide

NO: None

ABSTAIN: Yepremian

Motion carries.

11. **PLUM** Committee – has not met for two months, so there is no update.

- a. Discussion re Old Spaghetti Factory lot sale and tax assessment issue – Bill Zide gave an overview of issues: Broken agreement with Hollywood Heritage; property tax issue; downgrades value
  - Bill will draft letter for presentation to PLUM Committee. Juri recommends collecting information/documentation from City to assure we have done our homework before issuing a letter
- b. Next PLUM meeting Saturday, June 16, 9:30 a.m.

12. Bylaws / Elections Committee

- a. Discussion and possible action re proposed revision to Article X, Section C, Officers:

Discussion and possible action re proposed revision to Article X, Section C.,  
Officers:

1. After the election and appointment of Board Members, the Board by simple majority will vote to elect from among its Members the following officers, at a public meeting: Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Treasurer. The Officers will serve for a term of two (2) years or until the next regularly scheduled election has been certified and Board Members seated and will serve at the will of the Board.

**Proposed new provisions:** "To qualify to serve as such, the Chairperson must have served as a Board member for at least one year prior to being elected by the Board. All other Officers may serve without having previously served on the Board."

**Public Comment:** Ziggy Kruse – shocked that this verbiage is still on the Agenda as there has not been a Bylaws committee meeting to discuss this. She said she had volunteered to serve on the Committee and has never been contacted. If committee has met since March without committee members then who was attending these meetings? Who is making these decisions? Could not find the Agendas or Minutes from any Bylaws meetings.

**Response:** Committee Chair **Ken Ostrow** said the committee had met on August 3, 2011, September 28, 2011, and January 17, 2012. No meetings since this time.

**Steven Whiddon:** This Board does not conceal information or hold secret meetings; 12a is on the agenda because it has not been voted on by Board since last committee meeting. This idea was vetted by the committee and recommended.

Suggestion is to send 12a back to committee to revise language to include "if none of the new Board has served for one year, than this requirement is null and void.

**Motion** by Whiddon, seconded by Ostrow, that 12 a be approved, subject to language clarifying exception to this requirement to be vetted in committee

YES: Alferov, Chobanyan, Gonzalez, Moran, Ostrow, Ripinsky, Rodriguez, Schwartz, Toussounian, Valenti, Vincent, Weatherholtz, Whiddon, Yepremian, Zide

NO: Torres

ABSTAIN: None

Motion carries

- b. Discussion and possible action re resignation of Jenny Weatherholtz as Business Tenant Governor
- Steven thanked Jenny for her years of service and hundreds of hours in assisting w/development of new website and training.
  - Alex thanked Jenny for her unwavering support within the community, but especially at the Fountain Community garden
  - Genelle thanked Jenny for much appreciated technical support.
- c. Discussion and possible action re applicant Christina Derenthal as Business Tenant Governor to fill seat vacant by Jenny Weatherholtz
- Jenny said she believes Christina will continue her dedicated community support and will be an asset to HSDNC

**Public Comment:** Ziggy Kruse: When was this hear by committee:

Committee Chair: Ken Ostrow: There is no Bylaw requirement for candidates to be vetted in committee.

**Kruse:** recommends that this be listed in a different portion of the Agenda so it is not misleading; feels this is a defective part of Agenda

**Toussounian:** disagrees with Ziggy

**Whiddon:** We are always open to helpful suggestions; changed the Agenda to group items based upon the area that they relate to. This falls under the prevue of the Elections area.

**Kruse:** suggests “update” be removed so that the listing is presumed to be a summary of action taken

**Motion** by Whiddon, seconded by Rodriguez, that Christina Derenthal fill the vacancy

**Vote:** Unanimous in favor

- d. **Discussion and possible action** re Grievance filed 1/15/12 – Suspected Brown Act Violation re second Moratorium letter
1. Discussion and possible action re challenge to the agenda dates November 14, 2011, item numbered 10.4 and the subsequent board action taken creating discrepancies in our boundary description of previous letter dated June 7, 2011.
  2. Discussion and possible action to set aside action taken approving the letter dated 11/14/11.
- Steven read supporting documents and letters. In consulting with City Attorney it was confirmed that a Brown Action violation did exist in the second letter not being properly agendized and a different area of exemption was included in the second letter.
  - Two letters in question – dated 6/27/11 and 11/14/11; City Attorney recommends rescind second letter dated 11/14/11
  - Would need to submit a new letter – one is included in agenda with preface stating as such.

**Public Comment:** **Doug Haines:** would like to request that language of citation law be included in the letter.

**Ripinsky:** Does the HSDNC Board not have the right to correct a clerical error during a meeting?

Yes. Board members have attended community meetings, meeting with the LA City and more.

**Motion** by Whiddon, seconded by Rodriguez, that action be set aside and that HSDNC Board approved letter dated 11/14/11

**Vote:** Unanimous in favor

**Motion** by Schwartz, seconded by Ostrow that letter included in the Agenda be written with date correction of June 27.

Vote: Unanimous in favor

- e. Introduction of Christine Jerian, Independent Election Administrator/Central Region #5
- Christine reminded the group of her background working for DONE, etc. She said elections for Region 5 are scheduled for September 16; Election stipulation worksheet to be approved
  - Also need an outline plan for Outreach
  - Election day logistics needed by July 1; Aiming to bring together all Region 5 NC's – to pool outreach opportunities.
  - July 18 – Aug 17: want to have a pool of candidates; Aug 18<sup>th</sup> – candidate filing forms due.
  - Include vote by mail? August 18<sup>th</sup> would be deadline
  - If decision cannot be reached by July 1<sup>st</sup>, default to DONE – 4-hour election & no vote by mail.
  - Time and Location: Sunday 9/16 (first day of Rosh Hashanah) – potentially move to 9/15
  - \$500 start up fee for vote by mail; plus fee per vote & postage
  - Decisions Tonight – Assistance League or Santa Monica Blvd. Community Charter School  
**Motion** by Whiddon, seconded by Yepremian, that the elections be held at SMBCCS; 4-hour window 12 pm to 4 pm  
**Vote:** Unanimous in favor
  - Vote by Mail:  
**Motion** by Valenti, second by Schwartz to include Vote By Mail (w/fee of \$500)  
YES: Chobanyan, Gonzalez, Ostrow, Schwartz, Torres, Valenti, Zide  
NO: Alferov, Moran, Rodriguez, Tossounian, Vincent, Weatherholtz, Yepremian  
ABSTAIN: Whiddon  
Default vote so NO Vote By Mail
  - Self-Affirmation of Stakeholders  
**Motion** by Schwartz, seconded by Alferov, that voters be allowed self-affirmation  
YES: Alferov, Chobanyan, Gonzalez, Moran, Ostrow, Ripinsky, Rodriguez, Schwartz, Torres, Vincent, Whiddon, Yepremian, Zide  
NO: Tossounian  
ABSTAIN: Valenti  
Motion passes
13. **Parking Transportation Traffic Committee** (Frank)
- Exciting meeting last month. Summary: Possible actions of campaign on smart park Postcards with information & include HSDNC contact info – simple and informative; Discussion and possible action on parking concerns as a result of LA Reality Church around Helen Bernstein HS each Sunday. Board recommends writing letter to LAUSD re: these parking concerns  
**Steven:** 13a, parking permit questions should be sent directly to Ms. Shen (process was already started; Steven to forward Frank the documentation).
  - HBHS administration was invited, but is not in attendance tonight.
  - 13c: create postcard and present to next Board meeting for approval; money is budgeted for printing.
  - 13d. Committee recommends letter of support to LAPD in support of no left turns from Melrose to Romaine from 11p – 7a daily, excluding Melrose Ave.  
**Motion** by Schwartz, seconded by Valenti, that letter be written requesting no left turns as noted above  
YES: Alferov, Chobanyan, Moran, Rodriguez, Schwartz, Tossounian, Valenti, Vincent, Weatherholtz, Yepremian, Zide  
NO: Gonzalez, Torres  
ABSTAIN: None  
It was recommended that the policy be re-evaluated within 1 to 2 years.  
\* Request: Officer Nony to send us official copy – what is being installed and when.

Meeting Adjourned: 10:12pm  
Send July agenda items ASAP