

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

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HOLLYWOOD STUDIO DISTRICT NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Board Members:

CALIFORNIA

Steven Whiddon
Chair
Thomas Meredith
Vice Chair
Stanton Hamilton
Treasurer
Jenny Weatherholtz
Recording Secretary
MAIL: P.O. Box 85098
Los Angeles, CA 90072
PHONE: 323.461.0773



ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA
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Alex Alferov	Kenneth Ostrow
Andy Schwartz	Leila Forouzan
Bill Zide	Luke Vincent
Efrain Gonzalez	Manny Rodriguez
Felipe Corrado	Nathan French
Frank Valenti	Phillip Avanian
Jennifer Moran	Stanton Hamilton
Jenny Weatherholtz	Steven Whiddon
Juri Ripinsky	Thomas Meredith

HSDNC Board Meeting Minutes – December 12, 2011

1. Call to order by Chair Steven Whiddon at 6:38 p.m.

Remarks by Chair: Introduction of anyone attending meeting for first time

Introduction of Michael, Spanish translator for this evening

Reminder to Board Members: Complete ethics training! This needs to be done every two years; DONE can revoke Board member voting privileges, so please comply now.

Moving into office space (newly painted): this week

Would like volunteers to help Genelle get unpacked, settled, organized (board and non Board members!)

City Policy on Under-Age person voting on funding issues - Steven noted an item at the November meeting included a funding issue. It was brought to the attention of the Board that anyone under the age of 18 cannot participate in voting; Bylaw section is quoted here:

- City policy on under-age person voting on funding issues

- Article VII. Section A.7.b (page 6) of the current HSDNC Bylaws – the Section providing for the “Youth” Board member – provides as follows:

“If the Youth Board Member is less than [sic] 18 years of age, he/she may not vote on the expenditure of funds, the entry into contract, or recommendation to enter into a contract.”

The voting to authorize the expenditure of funds for banners was changed to indicate that the Youth Board Member (Phillip Avanian) abstained.

Retreat: January 15 or 22 – By show of hands, the date of Sunday, January 15 was selected, 1 - 4 p.m., at the Assistance League. The purpose is to discuss where we are and to set goals.

2. Roll Call

In attendance: Alex Alferov, Phillip Avanian, Felipe Corrado, Nathan French, Efrain Gonzalez, Stanton Hamilton, Tom Meredith, Ken Ostrow, Juri Ripinsky, Manny Rodriguez, Jenny Weatherholtz, Steven Whiddon, Bill Zide

Absent: Jen Moran (excused), Leila Forouzan (excused), Andy Schwartz, Frank Valenti, Luke Vincent

6. Report by City Officials – CD 13 Deputy Angela Motta reported on a project aiming to increase bike usability in LA City, from bike lanes and bike paths. Proposing bike paths on Gower from Santa Monica to Melrose; removes 28 parking spots. Asking residents to look at maps and offer feedback. Connecting smaller bike paths. Timeline is ASAP; decision by beginning of 2012.

Negotiating opening parking lots to community? Angela asked for community feedback; decision will be delayed until she is satisfied interested stakeholders have weighed in on the proposal. Among some stakeholders present there was comment against it as proposal would push parking into the residential areas.

Alex Alferov: There are bicycle areas near the Community Garden and numerous bike/car accidents and injuries have occurred. He asked for more signage to raise biker awareness.

* Street Services is collecting downed palm leaves (from wind); please place in one location and call City with address for removal.

* Angela offered to include HSDNC items in CD 13 e-newsletter; please send by Wednesday for inclusion in that week's edition.

3. Public Comment on Non-Agenda items:

Doug Haines, member of East Hollywood N.C., said EHNC has supported a ban on marijuana dispensaries. Councilmember Huizar has proposed a ban on the dispensaries for LA. This isn't about medical marijuana access, it is about regulation of the facilities. Currently LAPD has no clear direction on how to regulate/enforce the facilities or the marijuana.

Nathan French: Supports regulation of these facilities, but does not want more people in our overcrowded jail system.

Doug: would not criminalize and send to prison; would allow LAPD to shut facilities down. Asking for a motion for HSDNC to support legislation that would ban these facilities.

Steven: item will be agendaized for the January meeting

4. Break for 10 minutes for socializing and reviewing bike plan maps

3. Public Comment (continued)

Ed Hunt, Melrose Hill resident.

a. Re: map of 7 district areas. Please name "District 6" as "Melrose Hill" District. Encourage all districts to come up with a name.

b. Posting of Agendas: In neighborhood from "mandatory" to "voluntary". Would like Lemon Grove to be "mandatory".

c. Group Email: What is the hold up?

*An unidentified individual said he does not feel that Ed Hunt represents the Melrose Hill neighborhood.

Responses from HSDNC members:

a. **Ken Ostrow:** Has labeled District 6 as Melrose Hill listing in our newly approved Bylaws.

b. **Nathan French:** Will give update on posting locations, which were changed in an attempt to have increase visibility in more high traffic areas; trying to finalize tonight.

c. Email group: Waiting for word from the City on use of this type of service.

Steven Whiddon said he would like to see community forum; would like community newsletter, billboard on website. Matter pushed to Outreach Committee.

7. Presentation by Alex Shoor and Jimmy Diaz re California High-Speed Rail proposal on Palmdale to Los Angeles segment. PowerPoint with maps and new 2012 business plan. Anyone can sign up for email updates at www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov. Why we need it: population growth, mobility, jobs and environment

(**Jenny Weatherholtz** left the meeting at this time.)

4. Approval of Minutes of November 14 meeting

Motion by J. Ripinsky, seconded by T. Meredith, and unanimous vote to approve.

3. Public Comment on non-Agenda items (continued)

Leopoldo Gonzalez (assisted by translator) commented that he lives in the Wilton and Monroe neighborhood and would like to have help with the Spanish-speaking community because they are not getting the communications; Hispanic Community is not well connected. The majority of residents surrounding the area need to know what is going on in these meetings.

Steven Whiddon encouraged Mr. Gonzalez to apply for a vacant seat on the HSDNC; current Board member Efrain Gonzalez will assist in the process.

8. Discussion and possible action re consistency and clarification of boundaries on both Moratorium letters [front yard violations]. New motion to include approved boundaries from Moratorium request letter dated June 13, 2011, to be consistent with letter issued at November 14, 2011 meeting.

John F. John: Hundreds of signatures were obtained and a larger portion do not agree with original boundaries majority of stakeholders are in favor of the Moratorium.

Ed Hunt: Issue is that a decision was made in June; received two Agendas that had vague Boundaries; he wrote for clarification.

Lisa: This matter affects the whole community.

Steven Whiddon: He has received emails and calls; it is clear some people agree with Mr. Hunt's views

Juri Ripinsky: Does not see reason to make change.

Alex Alferov: Uncomfortable with many people trying to get point of view across; suggests letting City decide the issue.

Steven said we painstakingly tried to get this issue right.

Motion: by S. Whiddon, second by M. Rodriguez that the boundaries listed in the letter to the City In November re Moratorium on Front-Yard Violations be consistent with the boundaries in the letter of June, 2011.

Roll Call:

Yes: Rodriguez, Whiddon

No: Alferov, Corrado, French, Gonzalez, Meredith, Ostrow, Ripinsky, Zide

Abstain: Avanian, Hamilton

Motion fails.

9. Election of new Board Vice Chair – Steven thanked Manny Rodriguez for stepping up when times were difficult and accepting a leadership role on the Board, but he has asked that someone else assume this position at this time.

Steven nominated Tom Meredith, seconded by Juri Ripinsky

Efrain nominated Jen Moran [who is out of town and not present]. **Steven** said he had talked with several Board members about this and doesn't believe that Jen would be able to accept the position because of other obligations.

The vote was unanimous and Tom Meredith was elected to serve as Vice Chair.

10. Treasurer – Update on Reconciliation of funding and Budget and Finance Committee meeting announcement. It's been a chore to get everything in order but we are just about ready to transfer everything into the hands of the new Treasurer, Stanton Hamilton.

11. Outreach Committee:

- a. **Report on Children's Holiday Event** at Lemon Grove Park – Manny thanked the Board who worked in conjunction with Lemon Grove Park staff, East Hollywood N.C. and Paramount, to put on a great annual event. About 750 gifts and lunch boxes were distributed to guests. Families came together. He praised Nathan French, Tom Meredith, and the Park staff who were well organized. There were lots of smiling faces. He said he's never seen the N.C. so well represented at any event.

Tom said that 77 surveys were collected, which was about the same as last year but noted there was an increase in awareness of the N.C. **Nathan** said everyone registered; it was an unscientific observation but more people were approachable this year than in the past.

Patrick Agerkop suggested that people be contacted by phone who do not have email.

- b. **Update on Seily Rodriguez Park Improvement Project** – **Patrick Agerkop** said there are no funds at this time for this project; CD 13 is being approached for funding a swing; he's looking into possibility of adding a Toddler Park at Lexington Park.
- c. **Discussion and possible action re identification/finalization of contacts at the approved HSDNC Agenda posting locations** – **Nathan** said they are working on obtaining official permission from the businesses; only have three at this time. **Felipe** said he would arrange for info to be included with other promotional materials of customers of his family's market. Genelle will forward the Agenda in Word format for Spanish translation for this purpose.

Agreed-on responsibility for postings: Helen Bernstein High School – Ken Ostrow

Sunshine Thai – Efrain Gonzalez

Produce for Less – Efrain Gonzalez

Tidal Wave (Gower Gulch) – Nathan French

Lemon Grove Park – Genelle will email to Park Director

- d. **Update on Outreach to 7 Sub-Districts of HSDNC** – **Nathan** said everything's just about wrapped up; new logo was created, as well as brochure and business cards. There were a series of successful events over the summer. Will continue communication and organizing.

Steven acknowledged Tom for donating Best Buy gift cards which were used as incentives to register at the Holiday event. It was good to see Board members in their HSDNC tee-shirts; commented on the good printed materials. It was a real neighborhood event and he was pleased to see so many Board members participate.

12. PLUM Committee – **Juri** said the Committee discussed formulating two letters:

- a. Re Target project; will be discussed further at the January meeting
- b. Re Sign Ordinance

There will be follow-up on the Community Plan. He also noted the scheduled December 15 meeting re CRA design.

13. Bylaws/Elections Committee – Report, discussion and possible action re Bylaws revisions.

Discuss next committee meeting date to finalize the suggested changes for approval to the full Board and confirmation that all proposed Bylaws and Standing Rule changes will be circulated to the public (posted on HSDNC website) for review and discussion before Board approval.

Ken reported the next meeting is scheduled for January 16, 6:30 p.m. at Denny's.

14. **Transportation and Parking Committee** – Report on last meeting – Valenti
Frank was not present so discussion did not take place.
15. **Discussion and possible action re request by Studio City N.C.** for support of opposition to Municipal Code Section 62.104, shifting responsibility for sidewalk repairs to the property owner.
Steven referred to communication, asking the HSDNC and individuals to contact their local City officials urging that this switch in responsibility not happen without first exploring alternative options which are fair and equitable for everyone.
Motion by J. Ripinsky, seconded by T. Meredith, that HSDNC oppose Municipal Code Section 62.104.
Roll Call vote:
Yes: Alferov, Avanian, Corrado, Hamilton, Meredith, Ostrow, Ripinsky, Rodriguez, Whiddon, Zide
No: None
Abstain: French, Gonzalez
Motion passes
16. **Discussion and possible action re request by Department of Environmental Affairs** for assistance in canvassing the HSDNC area in an effort to gain permission to plant trees.
Steven will ask for volunteers.
17. **Discussion and possible action re request by City to provide letter of support in the City's efforts** to clean up the property located at 5753/5755 Camerford Avenue.
Steven referred to communication from LADP Senior Lead Officer Julie Nony, asking for Assistance.
Public Comment from adjacent resident **Phil Hutson**, who reiterated the need for this action.
Motion by S. Whiddon, seconded by B. Zide, and unanimous vote to send the letter requested By LAPD.
18. **Proposed Agenda** items for next Board meeting on January 9 – There were none.
19. **Announcement** – Outreach Co-Chair Nathan said the committee would meet on December 29 ,if application for new Board member is to be considered.
20. **Adjournment** – Meeting was adjourned at 9:42