

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

OFFICERS:

HOLLYWOOD STUDIO DISTRICT NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL CALIFORNIA

Board Members:

Steven Whiddon

Chair

Thomas Meredith

Vice Chair

Felipe Corrado

Treasurer

Charles Puree

Recording Secretary

1370 N. St. Andrews Place

Los Angeles, CA 90028

Phone: 323.450.5097



ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA
MAYOR



Alex Alferov
Bill Zide
Christina Derenthal
Efrain Gonzalez
Felipe Corrado
Jirair Tossounian
Jose Torres
Don Durkee
David Bell

Juri Ripinsky
Leila Forouzan
Luke Vincent
Maria Yepremian
Steven Whiddon
Thomas Meredith
Sun Yu
Johana Juarez
Charles Puree

HOLLYWOOD STUDIO DISTRICT NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (HSDNC) Monday, December 10, 2012, 6:30 p.m.

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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

- Meeting called to order at 6:42**, remarks by Chair Whiddon
 - There is now a Facebook page. Harry Semerdjian is administering and further developing the page. Reminder to look at it and hit "LIKE."
 - Business cards for Board Members are ordered, but D.O.N.E. is backed up so Semerdjian does not know when they will arrive.
- Roll Call**
 - Alex Alferov
 - David Bell
 - Felipe Corrado – excused absence
 - Christina Derenthal
 - Don Durkee
 - Efrain Gonzalez
 - Johana Juarez – will send a letter re absences
 - Tom Meredith
 - Charles Puree – absent
 - Juri Ripinsky
 - Jirair Tossounian
 - Luke Vincent
 - Steven Whiddon
 - Maria Yepremian – excused absence
 - Sun Yu
 - Bill Zide

3. **Approval of Minutes for Board Meetings of October 8, 2012, November 12, 2012 and the “Special Meeting” of November 15, 2012.** Whiddon reminded everyone that reviewing Minutes is expected. Meredith/Bell moved to approve the 10/8/12 Minutes. Motion approved 10-0-2, by hand vote. (Derenthal and Ripinsky abstaining). Bell/Alferov moved to approve the 11/12/12 minutes. Motion approved 9-0-3, by hand vote. (Gonzalez, Ripinsky, and Whiddon abstaining). Bell/Zide moved to approve the 11/15/12 “Special Meeting” minutes. Motion approved 9-0-3, by hand vote. (Gonzalez, Meredith, and Ripinsky, abstaining)
4. **Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items**
 - a. **Albert ___**, presented an update on the November 17 BBQ and basketball tournament: it was raining, but turnout was perfect with 67-70 attending. Whiddon asked for him to provide any pictures to put them up on the website. Albert announced that there will be free a holiday event on Sunday, December 16, from 6-9 p.m., at 1615 N. Cahuenga Blvd., to support the Movement to End Homelessness.
 - b. **Drew Peterson**, representing Discovery Outreach for Reflection (DOOR), in District 4, introduced himself. They are trying to create a positive influence on youth there. They can play ball or do homework. They are looking for a partnership between DOOR and the HSDNC and he would like to be on the Board. Whiddon said this is not yet agendized because HSDNC first wants to refer interested parties to the Bylaws Committee for an application. Durkee asked if DOOR was asking for money; Peterson responded he is only running for a seat. Zide asked if DOOR was a religious association; Peterson responded that it is, Presbyterian/Mennonite. Peterson asked if there was a problem with a Board member having a religious affiliation; Whiddon, et al, responded no.
 - c. **Mitchell O’Farrell**, candidate for CD13, introduced himself. He has spent the past 10 years on Eric Garcetti’s staff. Several people have qualified for this primary. Meredith asked if there would be any candidate debates; O’Farrell responded that there would be.
 - d. **Greg Smith**, candidate for City Attorney, introduced himself. He is an attorney who represents police officers. Whiddon asked about prostitutes and drug dealers being arrested but not prosecuted because there is a lack of attorneys; Smith responded the AB109 realignment has caused the release of many non-felons who are finding their way to Hollywood. He wants to bring in neighborhood prosecutors. Zide asked about his stance on electronic billboards; Smith responded that he does not yet know enough to have a position but, while he thinks they have their place, it should be up to the neighborhoods.
5. **Meet – Greet – None**
6. **Discussion and possible action** to process grievance filed by stakeholders Ziggy Kruse & Bob Blue on 7/26/12. Due to the Holiday Season, HSDNC will have to postpone the processing of the above-mentioned Grievance until the January 14, 2013, Board meeting. The Recording Secretary, Charles Puree, will begin to compile a list of stakeholders who wish to serve on the Grievance Panel. Five people are needed. If anyone interested, please contact either Whiddon or Puree. Durkee asked for a copy of the Grievance. Whiddon said he will make it available to him and to the Grievance Panel volunteers.
7. **Report by Government Agencies – None Present**
8. **Presentation by Emile Mack, Candidate for LA Council District 13 – None Present**

9. **Presentation** by Mitch O'Farrell, Candidate for LA Council District 13 – Refer to 4.c.

10. **Budget and Finance**

- a. **Treasurer's Report** – Corrado has been away but told Whiddon he would be coming into the office this week to complete it. It should be completed in a week or two.
- b. **Briefing from** Budget Advocates Felipe Corrado & Nathan French – None Present
- c. **Discussion and possible** action to fund up to \$250.00 for Aztecs Risking. Whiddon stressed that there are many details to running HSDNC and, unless Board Members handle these details, HSDNC has to pay people to do them, which costs money that could otherwise go towards projects. Ripinsky and Meredith both agreed with Whiddon. Meredith further suggested that a duty requirement be added to the bylaws. Ripinsky agreed but said he believes those taking minutes or drafting letters should be neutral and not a member of the Board; there are many other roles that Board Members could fill. Alferov suggested HSDNC stop buying pizza and taking a break in future meetings. Durkee said he liked the break; it is "agendized spontaneity," and lets everyone informally talk to each other, meet guests, etc. Whiddon said some other councils get food donated; someone could step up to do this. By hand-vote, the HSDNC unanimously elected to not order food for the next meeting.

11. **Outreach**

- a. Open Neighborhood Wi-Fi Update (stakeholders encouraged to email DONE for final approval: jeff.brill@lacity.org and carmen.hawkins@lacity.org) Meredith and Zide met with Angela Mota, Garcetti's deputy. Bell asked what the hold up was; Whiddon responded that it is about the contract. They are waiting on the City Attorney's office. Bell said he recommends everyone email jane.usher@lacity.org. Durkee asked about going door-to-door with petitions. Everyone was enthusiastic. Bell asked if it was possible to also make it available online; Whiddon asked Harry to add it to the website. Alferov suggested contacting Puree re also making a poster about the WiFi to be hung around the District.
- b. Neighborhood Groups Update
 - i. Melrose Hill – Tossounian said they have been working with the City Council office re the median at Ardmere/Marathon. It needs to be cleaned up and beautified. If the City can't do it, perhaps HSDNC/District 6 can. The LA Garden Club is willing to maintain it. Whiddon reported that that intersection had been beautified at the cost of \$30,000 and another City department came and took it out. Nevertheless, there will need to be some proposal to see if the HSDNC wants to participate. Meredith encouraged Whiddon to agendize it.
 - ii. Santa Monica & Western – Gonzalez reported that the prostitution and drugs are getting worse. There is not a lot of police; that's a major problem. Whiddon said the more everyone is willing to pick-up the phone to call the LAPD, the more of a presence it is towards improvement. Meredith said his neighborhood had had a trash-picker problem. A group formed to take pictures of the violators and sent their pix to the LAPD. It was very effective.
 - iii. NU-LA – Yu reported that they went to City Hall to acquaint themselves with the departments and process.
 - iv. Turkey Distribution - Meredith mentioned that HSDNC has established a great relationship with Assemblyman John Perez. The vouchers for the Turkeys were a surprise, so he just handed them out at the BBQ. Durkee said he knows many in his neighborhood who are in need so, if HSDNC receives any more turkeys, please let him know so he can help provide names.

12. **PLUM** – None Present
13. **Bylaws/Elections**
 - a. **Discussion and possible action** on meeting day/time/location – The next meeting is scheduled for January 10, 2013 at _____.
14. **Parking Transportation Traffic** – None present
15. **Executive Committee**
 - a. **Discussion and possible action** to schedule Committee Chair meeting
Whiddon reported that the Committee Chairs are himself, Zide, Meredith, Ripinsky, Tossounian and Jackie. The next PLUM Committee meeting is Saturday 12/15; would the Chairs be willing to meet before the PLUM meeting, at 9:00 a.m.? The respective chairs said they could. Whiddon then asked for help posting notice at the five locations; Durkee offered to do this.
16. **Proposed Agenda Items** for next Board meeting on January 14, 2013
Meredith reminded Board Members to show up on time and/or let the other Board Members know if a later start time is necessary to accommodate their schedules. Gonzalez said, as a small business owner, he does get delayed but did not feel a later start time was necessary at this time.
17. **New Business**
Durkee asked who is doing the website and newsletter now that Forouzan has moved on; Whiddon responded Semerdjian has been handling the website and Yepremian will be doing the newsletter. Durkee offered to be trained to update the website.
18. **Meeting Adjourned at 8:43 p.m.**