

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

OFFICERS:

HOLLYWOOD STUDIO DISTRICT NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Board Members:

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Steven Whiddon

Chair

Thomas Meredith

Vice Chair

Felipe Corrado

Treasurer

Charles Puree

Recording Secretary

1370 N. St. Andrews Place

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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, November 12, 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 6:37**, remarks by Chair Whiddon
 - Each Board Member briefly introduced her-/himself.
 - Whiddon thanked Puree for enlarging the agenda and creating the placards.
 - There is now a Facebook page. Harry Semerdjian is administering and further developing the page.
 - Felipe Corrado & Nathan French will be serving as our Budget Advocates for 11/17/12
 - Business cards for Board Members and new HSDNC e-mail accounts can now be ordered.
 - Ethics Training reminder: If the training is not taken within 45 days of being seated, voting rights will be suspended. It's important that each Board Member send a copy to D.O.N.E. Please also send a copy to Whiddon and Semerdjian, and print out the test score receipt for your own records.
 - Reminder that the Planning and Land Use Management (PLUM) will be reviewing a summary of the report for the "over height fence." The PLUM committee meeting will take place on Tuesday, November 20, 2012, 2:30 pm in City Hall, Room 350.
- Approval of Minutes** for Board Meeting of October 8, 2012 – Whiddon said the Minutes from last month's meeting could not be approved tonight. He reminded everyone to remember to check their email regularly and respond accordingly. Please review the email from last month before the next meeting. At the next meeting, HSDNC will approve Minutes for both months.
- Roll Call**
 - Alex Alferov
 - David Bell
 - Felipe Corrado

Christina Derenthal
Don Durkee
Leila Forouzan
Efrain Gonzalez – excused absence
Johanna Juarez
Tom Meredith
Charles Puree
Juri Ripinsky – excused absence
Jose Torres
Jirair Tossounian
Luke Vincent
Steven Whiddon
Maria Yepremian
Sun Yu
Bill Zide

4. **Public Comments** on Non-Agenda Items

- a. **Octavio Pescadori, Candidate for CD13**, introduced himself and has left introductory pamphlet.
- b. **Luke Ho, Stakeholder**, announced HSDNC and the East Hollywood Neighborhood Council are holding an Autumn Basketball Tournament and Picnic on Saturday November 17, from 10-2, at Lemon Grove Park.
- c. **Christine Gates, Youth Policy Institute’s Hollywood Family Source Center representative**. They have recently moved to the 1075 N. Western Ave. location. They provide a variety of free resources to both youth and adults, including tutoring, and GED and ESL classes. They will also provide free tax preparation assistance beginning in January. Next month, the Institute will find out if they will get any additional funding.
- d. **Bob Blue, Stakeholder**, stated that there were five postings of the HSDNC agenda, but none of them had all pages. Bell asked if Mr. Blue was alleging a Brown Act violation? Whiddon said posting is on the Agenda, but opened discussion. Vincent said he did not post the Agenda at Lemon Grove, but believes Sonya did. Mr. Blue said he is very impressed with all the work Puree has done, but there are several mistakes when things are being posted. Bell said the Brown Act requires only one full agenda posting. Whiddon said he and others go to great lengths to make sure everything is posted, and takes personal responsibility for it not being posted fully. It is something that needs to be improved on. With a new Board, he asked that everyone take ownership of posting and make a commitment to a location. Puree volunteered to post all five; Whiddon said everyone needs to have “skin in the game.” Bell pointed out that the Brown Act requires that one has to be able to read each page of the agenda in a single spot for 72 continuous hours. Bell then suggested that all pages be consolidated onto a single page to avoid taking up too much space at the business locations. Whiddon said that would be small, but perhaps three pages could fit on 8-1/2x14. Whiddon thanked Vincent for past postings. Puree will post at the Starbucks at Sunset & St. Andrews. Juarez offered to post at the School. Corrado will post at Catalina market. Tossounian will post at Lemon Grove. Whiddon said an Agenda will still need to be posted in Districts 3, 4, and 1. Christine Gates offered to post it in the Hollywood Family Source Center’s computer center, which is in District 4.
- e. **Ziggy Kruse, Stakeholder**, said that the allocations agendized on Page 2 were not properly posted, therefore the HSDNC could not take action on those items. Also, the Parliamentarian

and Corresponding Secretary items were not on the posted Agenda, so no action could be taken on those either.

- f. **Tad Chaudomchot, Helen Bernstein High School Robotics Team coach**, thanked HSDNC for its continued support and wanted to update the Board. They will be hosting a tournament this Saturday, but the official season will begin in January.
- g. **Daniel, representative for John Choi, candidate for CD13**. He has left literature re Mr. Choi.

5. **Meet – Greet** – Meeting called back to Order at 7:34

6. **Presentation** by Mike Feuer, Candidate for City Attorney

Feuer introduced himself to the HSDNC and outlined a list of his accomplishments, including, while in the State Assembly, authoring the California Homeowners' Bill of Rights and, in light of the Penn State scandal, a bill mandating all university employees report any incidents of abuse. While on the LA City Council, he established the 3-1-1 phone system. Bell asked who Feuer viewed as the client of the City Attorney? Feuer responded that the client is the municipality of the City of Los Angeles. Bob Blue asked if a city official has violated the law then, even though independently elected, could the City Attorney then be objective? Feuer answered that, back in 1999, he wrote the City law on ethics re contractors. He also drafted Assembly legislation to address a number of issues that arose in the City of Bell, etc. Further, if an individual has violated the law, then it is the job of a private attorney to defend that individual and of the District Attorney to prosecute. Toussounian asked about illegal littering and dumping? Feuer said that every neighborhood asks about "code enforcement." He is considering several solutions to that and other quality of life issues. The City Council has been working on a code enforcement ordinance, but it has been moving slowly. Durkee asked about the new law increasing fines on graffiti? Feuer responded that a neighborhood can be dragged down by an aggregation of small infractions. Corrado asked what thoughts he had on insurance and workers comp fraud and their effect on small business. Feuer said he just voted on a bill in Sacramento on that that has already saved money for businesses. Vincent asked about the multi-national companies involved in digital billboards? Feuer responded that when he was a Councilman, he wrote a bill to ban tobacco and alcohol billboards.

7. **Moment of Silence** Torres requested a Moment of Silence for the brother of a former Board Member.

8. **Report by Government Agencies**

- a. **Discussion and possible action** in response to complaint of prostitution & drugs activities in the Lexington/Gower neighborhood (LAPD & CD 13 response)
Maggie Martin, Stakeholder, introduced herself. She and her husband bought their home in Hollywood a year ago. She walks her dog three times a day near Lexington and Gower. There are people soliciting for prostitution in her neighborhood. She wants to help clean up the neighborhood. Lead Officer Julie Nony said she has spoken with Sergeant Weaver and provided Martin with his contact number. Also, the Vice Unit has a website that monitors sex crimes: usasexguide.com. Officer Nony reported that a lot of people who get arrested only do 10% of their sentence. Making it worse is that the D.A. is cutting their number of attorneys. There has been some success in the pockets of prostitution, but the pockets migrate a bit. Last month, the Hollywood vice unit made 156 arrests. With respect to narcotic sales, officers on bikes are going around. Officer Nony will forward to Martin a contact number for that unit

as well. Officer Maggie Dillard further suggested keeping a log of time, date, license plate numbers, or other identifying information. Martin was advised to contact Officer Nony with any address info. Puree reiterated getting info, like where they live, etc., but suggested Martin be careful how she communicates to the violators because she does not want to get caught up with the gangs.

9. **Stephen McAvoy, Hollywood Heritage Museum representative.** In the past year, it has spent \$40k to restore the barn at Selma/Vine, which is the site of the production of the first Hollywood movie, *The Squaw Man*. This Wednesday there is a event celebrating 100 years of Paramount Pictures; it is sold out. The proceeds will go toward preservation. They are requesting a grant from HSDNC to buy two security cameras for the Museum. Whiddon said Hollywood Heritage needs to provide information and fill out the form, so it can be agendized. Meredith suggested they also contact Hollywood United for support.
10. **Discussion and possible action** to process grievance filed by stakeholders Ziggy Kruse & Bob Blue on 07/26/12. Whiddon announced that Puree is now the Recording Secretary, and that Puree will begin to compile a list of stakeholders who wish to serve on a grievance panel. If anyone wishes to be on the committee, please contact either Puree or Semerdjian. Kruse said she would postpone the grievance, but reminded HSDNC that nothing could be acted on at this meeting because the Agenda was not properly posted. Whiddon said there are some things that are time-sensitive. Bell suggested that a Special Meeting be noticed; it only requires 24 hours notice. Kruse suggested a Special Meeting on November 15, when the Bylaws Committee meets at Denny's, 5751 W. Sunset Blvd., at 6:30 p.m. Per the bylaws, 11 members will be needed. Bell, Durkee, Vincent, Tossounian, Puree, Yu, Alferov, Derenthal, and Zide said they would be attending. Yepremian said she would be available by telephone. A telephone appearance will be included in the Notice.
11. **Budget and Finance – Treasurer's Report, Felipe Corrado**
12. **Outreach** 7:40
 - a. Open Neighborhood Wi-Fi Update (stakeholders encouraged to email DONE for final approval: jeff.brill@lacity.org and carmen.hawkins@lacity.org, as well as James Brennan of Open Neighborhoods) We all need to work to get this moving.
13. **Executive Committee** 8:03
 - a. **Develop "action plan" to move HSDNC office to 1375 N. St Andrews Pl. 90028.** The move will be either Saturday the 17th or 24th.
 - b. **Leila Forouzan** is stepping down due to expanding family and move outside of district. She wants to connect with whomever wants to take over the newsletter.
14. **Presentation of Aztecs Rising by Michael A. Guedel**

Youth Development organization that's primary goal is to reduce criminal behavior. They are asking for any funds or support. They can also provide manpower for neighborhood clean-ups, etc. Puree asked what funds would go to? Guedel said they would help members get clothes for job interviews, and equipment for the Fire Fuels Program. Officer Nony said the she and the LAPD are working with them and Aztecs Rising has been a huge part of Summer Light Nights. The relationship is building trust between the LAPD and former gang members. Ripinsky asked how long it has been in operation? Guedel responded that it has been operating since 1995.

Yepremian asked about international gangs? Guedel said they are learning about mediation and cease fires. Most of those who work for Aztecs Rising are former gang members. They would like to request \$3,000. Guedel said he can be reached at mguedel@aztecsrising.org or 323-441-0187.

15. **Proposed Agenda Items** for next Board meeting on December 10

Whiddon referred everyone back to Corrado's Finance Report. HSDNC has been paying \$400-500/week in staffing, including Semerdjian. They are going through funds quickly, therefore there needs to be a discussion re Board Members handling more of the work, etc.

16. **New Business**

Puree mentioned that there will be a Hollywood Party at Lemon Grove Park, 12/9/12, 5-9 p.m. He has spoken w/Christine re logos.

17. **Meeting Adjourned at 9:05 p.m.**