

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

HOLLYWOOD STUDIO DISTRICT NEIGHBORHOOD

OFFICERS:

COUNCIL

BOARD MEMBERS:

CALIFORNIA

Steven Whiddon

Chair

Tom Meredith

Vice Chair

Felipe Corrado

Treasurer

Jenny Weatherholtz

Recording Secretary

1370 N. St. Andrews Place

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ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA
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Alex Alferov

Andy Schwartz

Bill Zide

Efrain Gonzalez

Felipe Corrado

Frank Valenti

Jennifer Moran

Jenny Weatherholtz

Jirair Tossounian

Jose Torres

Juri Ripinsky

Kenneth Ostrow

Leila Forouzan

Luke Vincent

Manny Rodriguez

Maria Yepremian

Nathan French

Narine Chobanyan

Steven Whiddon

Thomas Meredith

D R A F T - HSDNC Meeting Minutes

April 9, 2012

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

1. **Meeting called to order** at 6:30 p.m. by Chair Steven Whiddon, who welcomed community members in attendance

Office Update: Going to announce office hours on the website.

Update from Maria Yepremian, Captain of HBHS Robotics Team: Had robotics competition in March and won the Los Angeles Regional Cooperation Award in its first year of competition.

2. **Roll Call:** PRESENT: Alferov, Corrado (arrived later), French, Meredith, Moran, Ripinsky (arrived later), Schwartz, Torres, Tossounian, Vincent, Whiddon, Zide
EXCUSED: Chobanyan, Forouzan, Ostrow, Rodriguez, Valenti, Weatherholtz

3. Report by City Officials, CD13 Angela Motta:

- The Hollywood Community Plan update is going to form council again on April 17th at 2 p.m. at City Hall.
- On April 20th Senior Lead Officer Paula Davidson is working with businesses and company owners to participate in clean up on Hollywood and Western. LA Conservation Corp Clean Green Crew and Caltrans will also be participating.
- The Villa Set Gower permanent supportive housing community will be opening April 27th at 1:30 p.m. The application period has closed.
- The Western streetscape plan from Franklin down to Santa Monica was awarded \$2.2 million dollars from Metro; The CRA can only match 5%, CD13 is renegotiating that grant.

Question: When would this project start if you got the money? Response: It depends on permits and hiring a contractor so seeing something in the ground will be a little bit down the road.

Question: A year or two? Response: Maybe 6 months to one year.

Question: Will there be meetings on where the focus will be as like the initial phase where that will roll out? **Response:** Yes. We'll have the community involved to decide what elements are going to be involved although I think the grant is specific to some items.

Question: I noticed a bunch of new green bus benches and I wondered if they were apart of the streetscape plan? **Response:** No those new benches from a new contracted company. The old brown benches were contracted by a company who put the benches in and made their money off of advertising. That contract was up so there's a new company that bid for it and part of their deal was to take out the old benches and have their own benches put in.

Question: Where is the streetscape plan exactly? **Response:** The streetscape plan covers from Franklin to Santa Monica on Western and then it goes from Western all the way over to Gower to the West. We won't be able to do all of it at one time. The main focus right now will be Western and Hollywood.

Question: Any ideas if their will be additional trash cans along Western going all the way from Hollywood down to Melrose? **Response:** The plan does include trashcans. The problem with having them is maintaining them and at this point street services isn't maintaining any new cans but what we can do is have neighborhood council or businesses adopt a trash can. You would agree to empty your trashcan.

4. Public Comment on Non Agenda Items (2 min. per)

Spencer Downing: Social Services of Blessed Sacrament – Looking for volunteers interested in engaging in activities with the homeless and build the Hollywood community. Information will be provided later.

Mitch O'Farrell: Candidate Los Angeles City Council – Worked for CD13 for 10 years. Moved to Glassell Park 20 years ago and was one of the founding members of the Glassell Park Neighborhood Council, 3rd certified in the city. Would like to change the way things are done at City Hall and focus on deficit and unemployment rate in Los Angeles. For more information visit www.mitchforcitycouncil.org

Stephen Box: Stakeholder – Elections are coming up for Neighborhood Councils. The city council, the city attorney and the commission are all working on the enabling ordinance to allow neighborhood council's to have their elections this year. Regional Elections will take place August through November. The leadership academy is conducting 23 sessions April 14th with workshops that will support outreach. Open House at City Hall on April 30th at 5 p.m. for more information visit empowerla.org

This is the neighborhood council's last month to decide if they want to have an election or selection, encumber funds for your elections from this year and carry them over and form an outreach community. The encumbrance is due May 16th.

Ziggy Kruse: Stakeholder – Wish messages got out in time informing residents of street closures for the Half Marathon on Hollywood Blvd. No e-mail information about Budget and Bylaws. Would like easier access to meeting agendas and minutes on website. Minutes haven't been updated on the website since last year.

5. Approval of Minutes for Board Meeting of March 12

Request to change Article D at bottom of page 4. Title should read Associate Architect Courtney Hukel instead of Architect Courtney Hukel.

Motion by Meredith, seconded by Schwartz, to approve revised minutes

YES: Alferov, Corrado, French, Meredith, Moran, Schwartz, Tossounian, Vincent, Zide

NO: None

ABSTAIN: Ripinsky, Torres, Whiddon

6. Meet – Greet – Enjoy refreshments

7. Update from Heather Cochran, The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences:

- Outdoor Screening Series Summer 2012
 - 10 weeks (Friday and Saturday Nights)
 - Entrance between Homewood and Ivar

Question: Where will parking be? Response: There's an additional 65 spaces. Were coming up with a plan so we can utilize private parking during nighttime screening. Were hoping that the Hollywood public would take alternative transportation.

Question: How close is this to being done? Response: Very close. Were having private staff screenings at the end of this month.

8. Board Members Vacancies – Discussion and possible action re consideration of candidate Maria Yepremian for Youth Seat

Question: What is your expectancy of getting more youth of the High School to these meetings?

Response: As far as to get more youth to come I think it's as easy as word of mouth. I didn't know about it until it was introduced to me, and people are interested.

Motion by Whiddon second by Meredith, to appoint Maria Yepremian to Youth Representative Position

YES: Alferov, Corrado, French, Meredith, Moran, Ripinsky, Schwartz, Torres, Tossounian, Vincent, Whiddon, Zide

NO: None

ABSTAIN: None

9. Treasurer's Report: \$5,000 Projected Unspent

Question: Since the fiscal ends June 30th when do we get our first quarter deposit? Response: Late August or September. Don't expect it in less than 45 days.

Question: The \$5,000 that's remaining how much do we have for April through July expenses.

Response: We have \$5,000 we have not spent.

Question: Does that include the \$6,400 for the Wi-Fi? Response: That has already been deducted.

Question: How much would you say were spending per month including all expenses? Response: If you take the actual amount spent and divided by nine for the nine months, were spending about \$1400 - \$1500 per month.

Question: What happens to the remaining funds left over, can we roll them over?

Response: We can encumber funds for example like elections and if we decided to take on some project, when we file those and we meet the deadline, those funds are encumbered so in other words they're set aside and they won't roll them over.

Ripinsky: I'm looking at the minutes from the last meeting and I see three approvals that have not been included in the projected unspent; \$3,000 for the Fountain Community Garden, \$800 for LACER and then another \$1000 for LACER.

Genelle: To clarify something, the purchase card will be cut off on June 15 and we'll have access again on July 7.

Steven proposes special meeting to approve revised Budget on Thursday, April 26. After discussion, it was decided to conduct meeting at the regular location immediately before the NU-LA meeting on this night; 6 p.m. was suggested

Question: We voted to approve up to \$750 for materials for the bulletin board but we have yet to have spent any of that money, is that money accounted for as spent in this item? Response: No.

Election of New Treasurer

Motion by Vincent, seconded by Schwartz, to elect Felipe Corrado as Treasurer

Question: What skill do you have as a past treasurer or any sort of accounting? **Response:** I'm a CPA for one of the biggest accounting firms.

YES: Alferov, Corrado, French, Meredith, Moran, Ripinsky, Schwartz, Torres, Tossounian, Vincent, Whiddon, Zide

NO: None

ABSTAIN: None

10. Outreach Committee

All items on hold until Budget Meeting on April 26th

Steven Whiddon: We need to revise our budget to move the dollars from one line item to another line item. We need to move two line items; one was from administrative costs and the other from Wi-Fi. Were not voting to spend any other money, were just moving the line items to reflect the additional items costs that we had in administrative costs.

Motion by Whiddon, second by Tossounian, that revised budget be developed

YES: Alferov, Corrado, French, Meredith, Moran, Ripinsky, Schwartz, Torres, Tossounian, Vincent, Whiddon, Zide

NO: None

ABSTAIN: None

Neighborhood Updates

Jose Torres: Holding a neighborhood meeting on April 26th.

Jirair Tossounian: Jose's meeting conflicts with the budget meeting on April 26th.

Steven Whiddon: Budget meeting has been changed to 6:00 p.m. on April 26th (prior to Jose's neighborhood meeting)

Jirair Tossounian: I attended the Lemon Grove advisory board meeting last Thursday and found out that there is a women's group that live in the area. They meet every other Friday; we might want to contact them for outreach.

Question: What kind of group are they?

Jirair: They're community activists.

Alferov: The community gardens in Los Angeles are going to be doing a celebration on Earth Day, April 22, from noon to 5 p.m. I think this is a great opportunity for the community to participate and bring their families. I would love you all to bring old plants and we can plant it in that plot. We can also grow produce and give it to shelters in our area. The LA times will be there to do a story on us. We are working on a neighborhood walk program; info will be put on website.

Nathan French: The next Outreach Community meeting Tuesday, April 24 at Denny's.

11. PLUM Committee Update

Andy Schwartz: The project on Gower has been reduced from 24 units to 12 units. It's a great project. I hope this is a sign of things to come.

Jen Moran: At the East Hollywood Neighborhood council meeting there were a lot of community members who did not feel favorably about the project on Santa Monica and Virginia.

Andy: The project has made adjustments based on community members concerns such as parking and the landscaping.

12. **Bylaws/Elections Committee** (view Bylaws at www.HSDNC.org)

- a. Report, Discussion and possible action re approved Bylaws revisions
- b. 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."

- c. **Discussion and possible action** re Grievance filed 1/15/12 – Suspected Brown Act Violation re second Moratorium letter
 - 1. Call to Action re compilation of list of stakeholders who wish to serve on a Grievance Panel. The list will remain open for Stakeholders to express their interest to serve for 7 days following the meeting.
 - 2. Recording Secretary shall randomly draw 5 names; Board shall determine method of randomness.
 - 3. Within the next 14 days, the Correspondence Secretary will coordinate a time and place for the panel to meet with the person(s) submitting the grievance for resolution. The Correspondence Secretary shall facilitate the meeting.
 - 4. After hearing the grievance, the panel will discuss possible solutions and draft a recommendation for the Board.
 - 5. The Recording Secretary will add the grievance panel's recommendation to the agenda of the next regularly scheduled general meeting, and the Board shall vote by official action at that time on the matter.
 - 6. The Board shall hear the grievance, take into consideration the grievance panel's recommendation and shall vote by official action at that time on the matter.
 - 7. A decision of the Board must be made within a 60-day period.

Ziggy Kruse: You want to give the responsibility to the chairperson who has served on the council for a minimum of one year. I think you want to revisit that type of wording. What if you have a board member that is re-elected out of all that is here, and then you only have one choice to take on that responsibility. What if that person doesn't want the responsibility? Then you don't have a chair. You're depriving new people on the board of taking on responsibility. It should be fair and open.

Steven Whiddon: There are other neighborhood councils that have that but I like this idea and this is why. We've all experienced people who come and join the board then they don't do

anything. We want people who have been showing up and putting in the time move into leadership roles.

Nathan French: I would tend to side with Ziggy's point. The board should be responsible to nominate people who are committed, why would they not? I would rather the board decide who fills the position rather than put rules and restrictions on who should be able to join.

Question: When was this bylaw written? Response: 2005.

Question: Is the current bylaw a general rule for all neighborhood councils? Response: We were asked to write our bylaws with the help of the city attorney. We could look at other templates of neighborhood councils but we preferred to come up with our own standards.

Question: Does the chairperson for the committees have to be a board member? Response: Yes.

Ziggy Kruse: In article 16 of your grievance procedures, there was a meeting scheduled in February. You did not have this on your agenda in February or March. This is a really important issue and it wasn't on the agenda until today. The general public did not get to see the grievance itself so you don't know if people would like to participate in the grievance panel.

Steve Whiddon: It was filed in January and when I received it I asked for direction from the Department of Empowerment and Ken Ostrow. I've never handled a grievance before, it's clearly outlined in our bylaws but it wasn't a matter that it didn't get addressed, it's just a matter that we can handle now. There's been a grievance filed, it's our goal to have a better process but this is just where we were at here and now.

Question: Can you explain what the grievance is about? Response: There were citations issued in regard to over height fences that were in violation of a city ordinance. In response to a neighborhood group, through a highly debated process and meetings, the Hollywood Studio District NC issued a letter that outlined the moratorium boundaries. We were approached a second time by the same group who said people had received liens on their property as a result of these citations. So the Neighborhood Council decided to strengthen the first letter in support of requesting all liens be removed that were a result of fines and citations for over-height fences. However, a mistake was made in that the second letter WAS NOT consistent with the first letter and we submitted completely boundaries. Therefore, the second letter was inconsistent with the request of the first letter and the boundaries that were so heavily debated in numerous meetings. The boundaries were changed in the second letter. So the grievance states that there was a brown act violation in regards to our process of the second letter.

Question: Was the letter that went out voted on by the board? Response: Yes. What happened was instead of taking the first letter that was issued for accuracy, there was different language that was inadvertently put in the second letter with different boundaries, which was not part of the vote.

Question: Even after it had gone out had there been a discussion amongst the board whether the letter should have stayed or been recalled? Response: As I recall the board decided not to issue the second letter.

Question: Does the grievance filer have to be present when this sort of process is being heard? Response: It's not in our bylaws but we can ask.

Question: Is there a grievance still pending? Response: Yes the issue is unresolved.

Motion by Whiddon, seconded by Ripinsky that the Grievance be tabled until the next meeting

YES: Meredith, Moran, Ripinsky, Schwartz, Vincent, Whiddon, Zide, Yepremian

NO: French

ABSTAIN: Tossounian

NOTE: Alferov left the meeting prior to this vote.

13. Transportation and Parking Committee Transportation and Parking Committee

- a. Update on communications with LA Reality Church re parking
- b. Update on communication re proposed letter to the City requesting that it creates and paints designated parking spaces for each vehicle to encourage drivers not to take up more than one space, starting in a 4-block radius, outward from the Helen Bernstein High School.

Steven Whiddon reported he met with the Department of Transportation; no new updates

14. Proposed Agenda items for next board meeting

Steve Whiddon requests all committees post next three meeting dates on website

15. Other

Stakeholder: Concern about skyscrapers being proposed. A lot of people in the community are not aware.

Steven Whiddon: The neighborhood did submit a letter regarding our concerns. We asked stakeholders to go on file with concerns. They did take a lot of our concerns into consideration but certainly not all of them.

Stakeholder: The final opportunity to speak up about it is April 17th.

16. Adjournment at 9:16 p.m.