



Adopted Board Meeting Minutes
January 26, 2009
6501 Fountain Avenue at Wilcox
Los Angeles, California 90028

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Debbie Wehbe called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM. Board members present: Alwin Sumirat, Debbie Wehbe, Scott Campbell, David Carrera and Lydia Milars. Jacques Massachi arrived at 8:15. Laurie Goldman's absence was excused (her mother was hospitalized).

2. MINUTES REVIEW AND APPROVAL – DECEMBER 2008

Lydia Milars moved to approve the Minutes for December 2008; seconded by Scott Campbell.

Scott Campbell noted that Elizabeth McDonald will serve as an alternate Budget Representative.

The Minutes were approved, with the change noted, by common consent.

3. REPORTS/COMMENTS FROM ANY GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES IN ATTENDANCE

Stacy Marble, Council District 4 Field Representative, hand out copies of 2009 calendars, extended best wishes for the new year, noted Councilman LaBonge's intent to attend a CHNC meeting within the next few months, reported the first CPAB meeting of the year to take place on Tuesday, January 27, 2009 at 5:30 pm, and called for volunteers to assist in the homeless count planned for Hollywood on Thursday, January 29, 2009, at 8 pm at the Hollywood City Hall. Ms. Marble discussed the reasons for the count being done (to demonstrate our region's need for federal funding, awareness of homeless issues, and housing and services to fit the needs of homeless citizens) and listed the geographic area to be canvassed for the count. Debbie Wehbe reminded meeting attendees that information provided by CD 13 on the homeless count is provided on the agenda for today's meeting. Lydia Milars discussed her attempts to contact the CD4 Traffic Coordinator. Scott Campbell asked Ms. Marble about CD 4's plans for the proposed medians on Highland. Ms. Wehbe referred to Helen Leung's update for CD 13, copies of which were provided to meeting attendees; Ms. Leung encouraged stakeholders to participate in the steering committee for the newest community garden at 5620 Fountain, and gave an update on CD13's portion of the proposed Highland medians.

Debbie Wehbe introduced Fabiola Vilchez, the new Central Area Director, Mayor's Office, referred to the "Housing Works" workshop due to take place on January 29, 2009 and encouraged stakeholders to voice concerns on housing issues, learn more about Measure R and how transportation bonds affect housing.

Greg Baritz, NC/Government Liaison, DWP, introduced himself and discussed his long-term experience with the City of Los Angeles. Mr. Baritz reported that a new commissioner, Jonathan Parfrey, has been appointed to the DWP Board of Commissioners. Mr. Baritz encouraged stakeholders to contact him regarding DWP issues, provided his contact information, and reported on the January 10, 2009, four-hour workshop on the DWP's renewable energy program, Renewable Portfolio Standards. A hand-out was provided to meeting attendees that summarized the workshop's presentation, which Mr. Baritz indicated was very well-attended. Mr. Baritz discussed the DWP's "big driver"—state-mandated emissions reduction legislation, and provided information on DWP's current and planned operations. Mr. Baritz explained how Measure B will affect power generation in Los Angeles. Debbie Wehbe asked about a local recycling program intended to create energy, and about the solar panel demonstration project DWP was to have implemented at a Hollywood community garden; Mr. Baritz promised to research this issue and get back to her. At Ms. Wehbe's request, Mr. Baritz discussed DWP's intent to provide expert input for the Los Angeles community and discussed ways to give more information to the community regarding Measure B.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None noted.

5. OFFICER'S REPORTS

Meeting with Captain Girmala, Hollywood LAPD

Craig Desilva, Chair, Public Safety, reported that Hollywood Division led crime reduction statistics by 10.2%, and summarized issues discussed at last week's meeting with new LAPD Captain Girmala. Stakeholders were encouraged to contact Mr. Desilva with issues and concerns; Mr. Desilva's e-mail address is craigdesilva@sbcglobal.net. Debbie Wehbe encouraged stakeholders to attend next week's meeting with LAPD Captains, which will take place on February 2, 2009 at Hollywood City Hall. Scott Campbell reported that Captain Girmala is publishing a monthly newsletter regarding CHNC issues and activities and that Captain Girmala is following up on community issues Mr. Campbell reported to her. Ms. Wehbe reported that Captain Girmala will follow up on issues raised by area business owners.

Tricia LaBelle reported aggressive LAPD action taken regarding area restaurants and nightclubs. Ms. LaBelle requested that CHNC facilitate a meeting with LAPD CID and Vice officers, with the intent to defuse a situation that Ms. LaBelle stated was created unnecessary enforcement and focus on CUP issues, rather than public safety issues.

Dave Gajda referred to the LAPD initiative as a mixed blessing, and discussed some concerns that should be addressed with LAPD, noting that stringent CUP enforcement could force a number of restaurants to close but that some CUP enforcement is necessary. Mr. Gajda stated his willingness to meet with Captain Girmala and discussed Captain Girmala's entertainment district proposal, which could bring an additional 15 officers to Hollywood. Mr. Gajda encouraged CHNC to find out more about the proposal, and then introduced the new operator of Citizen Smith, Brent Solzer, who echoed concerns raised by Ms. LaBelle and Mr. Gajda; Mr. Solzer then discussed how he became associated with Citizen Smith. Mr. Solzer noted that he had been approved by the bankruptcy court judge to oversee the Citizen Smith operation and stated his intent to bring the operation into solvency.

Scott Campbell stated his belief that Captain Girmala intends to be fair and encouraged further dialogue with the intent to help area businesses, help the community and help the police. Craig Desilva summed up and asked stakeholders to work as much as possible in a cooperative way.

6. Presentation(s) Discussion and possible motion on each presentation

- a. **Hollywood Drug-Free Community Initiative presented by Irene Lim** of the Division of Adolescent Medicine, Children's Hospital, L.A. Ms. Lim will provide information on her group's efforts with respect to drug and alcohol abuse prevention as well as membership information for stakeholders.

(Taken out of order) Irene Lim's update listed accomplishments achieved by the Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Hollywood and discussed activities generated by the Hollywood Drug-Free Community Initiative. Members of the parent component of the Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Hollywood introduced themselves, at Lydia Milars' request. Ms. Lim emphasized the initiative's value to the community, reported on the Los Angeles City Council's recognition of the program and on the "Too Drunk to Read" youth production posted on the Internet by the youth component of the program. Ms. Lim encouraged stakeholders to participate. There was discussion about financial support from the Hollywood Neighborhood Councils; Ms. Lim will make a presentation at the February Board meeting.

- b. **1601 N Vine St. Tower at Selma. Office tower w/ ground floor retail. Presenter, Ted Schwartz of Pacifica Ventures**

PLUM Committee recommendation: Debbie Wehbe moved to recommend that the CHNC Board support the Pacific Ventures project as presented, and support the requested entitlements: parcel map (not for condominium); zone change (removal of an existing delimitation); height district change (specific to floor area, FAR 6:1); and a site plan review seconded by David Carrera. VOTE: Unanimous in favor. The motion passed.

David Carrera stated his intent to ask about signage for this project at the CHNC Board presentation.

Ted Schwartz referred to three earlier presentations to the CHNC PLUM and Board, and introduced David Fridlund, who provided details on the proposed development, an 8-story commercial office building designed for entertainment tenants, with 2000 square feet of ground floor retail on Vine Street. Using graphical aids, Mr. Fridlund showed proposed views, noted intent to qualify for Silver LEEDS certification, discussed ingress/egress from Selma, and stated that parking, 5 levels with space for 194 cars that will be available to the community after office hours. Mr. Schwartz stated that the EIR for the project was distributed 2 weeks ago, and a CRA hearing will take place on February 5th. A formal application is being made on January 27, 2009. Mr. Schwartz stated intent to work closely with the community, and noted close working relationship with the Ricardo Montalban Theater, whose staff is in concordance with the proposed development. Mr. Schwartz stated that the project will create 300-400 jobs during construction over a 24 month period, and will bring 250-300 jobs to the area upon completion. Mr. Schwartz stated that DOT incentives have been discussed as part of the Demand Management Plan, and that the project will contribute to the upgrade of traffic signals at 4 intersections. Debbie Wehbe asked if motion recommended by PLUM serves that is being requested for the project; Mr. Schwartz stated that the PLUM recommendation is satisfactory.

Lydia Milars moved to approve the recommendation made by the PLUM Committee; seconded by Scott Campbell.

Scott Campbell read an e-mail sent by Gil Smith, representing the Ricardo Montalban Theater, which stated: *I will not be in attendance at the (Central) Hollywood Neighborhood Council meeting this evening (due) to some urgent personal business.*

As I stated at your last meeting, we have moved forward with significant progress with Pacifica Ventures and Gensler Associates to mitigate our concerns.

If you want to read this email into the Minutes you have our permission:

We are in support of their project moving forward at 1601 North Vine Street.

Gil Smith,

Ricardo Montalban Foundation - Secretary

VOTE: Unanimous in favor. The motion passed.

Scott Campbell asked that suggested language be provided for the letter in support of the project.

- 7. Board Member Removal** – Review of Board Member’s attendance. Discussion of board member responsibilities. Possible motion for removal of a board member. Based on CHNC bylaws Article IX, BOARD OF DIRECTORS Section Two – Responsibilities and Section Five REMOVAL OF A DIRECTOR, does the board want to take up the issue of removal of a board member? (CHNC Bylaws are on line at www.chnc.org)

Debbie Wehbe explained the reason for consideration of this Agenda Item, and provided a break-down of attendance by CHNC Board members for the past year. Lydia Milars also discussed the factors that were considered when the CHNC was formed, and discussed how crucial attendance is, given the small number of Board members. Ms. Wehbe then discussed the importance of City-required training for Board members.

Lydia Milars moved to affirm the CHNC By-Laws, Article IX, Section 5B, regarding removal of Board members for cause; seconded by Scott Campbell.

Debbie Wehbe reported that she had communicated with the Board members whose absences had put their membership on the Board in jeopardy. David Carrera asked which Board members were being discussed and was told that excessive absences were noted for Jennifer Ritchkoff and Jacques Massachi. Ms. Wehbe stated that Jennifer Ritchkoff had communicated with her and that Ms. Ritchkoff was in accord with any decision the Board makes. Mr. Carrera remarked that one of Mr. Massachi’s absences was the result of being out of the country. Ms. Milars remarked that Ms. Ritchkoff’s absences were the result of her having opened a new business and having to work.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor. The motion passed.

David Carrera discussed his preference to reach out personally to Jennifer Ritchkoff prior to making a decision.

Lydia Milars moved to remove Jennifer Ritchkoff from the CHNC Board; seconded by Scott Campbell.

Roman, a stakeholder, commented that given the size of the Board, not attending meetings is “ridiculous.” Debbie Wehbe played a recording of a telephone message from Jennifer Ritchkoff discussing her circumstances with regard to her work and agreeing to abide by the Board’s decision.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor; the motion passed,

Scott Campbell moved to remove Jacques Massachi because of attendance issues. There was no second.

There was discussion about disparate treatment of Board members.

Lydia Milars moved to send a letter to Jacques Massachi asking that he formally consider his commitment to participation as a CHNC Board member and that he consider resignation if a commitment cannot be made.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor. The motion passed.

- 8. MOU WITH TRANSPORTATION** – Suggested additions from the board and stakeholders to the MOU from the Department of Transportation will be accepted. Discussion of the MOU. Possible motion.

Scott Campbell discussed whether there was a need for urgent action on this issue. Debbie Wehbe asked stakeholders to review the material and to e-mail her with suggestions by February 10, 2009.

9. COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

Standing Committees/Reports:

Public Safety Committee –Committee Meeting for February 2, 2009 with Captain Bea Girmala and the Senior Lead Officers of the CHNC area

Outreach Report – report on the meeting of the Camerford Association of Neighbors (CAN!) January 6, 2009 at The El Centro Theater at 840 El Centro Blvd.

Bill Gilman reported 40 stakeholders attended the meeting of the now-named Neighborhood Association of South Hollywood, including the SLO, City Prosecutor Will Rivera, CD13 Field Deputy Helen Leung, Larchmont Charter School representatives, CHNC and HSDNC Board members. Mr. Gilman listed pros and cons for changing NC boundaries and noted that time should be taken to thoroughly explore the issue and allow input from stakeholders. Scott Campbell stated that the CHNC would consider providing support for

the new Neighborhood Association, in the form of refreshments and printing costs.

There was discussion about NC clean-up efforts. Lydia Milars spoke of the value of clean-sweep efforts.

Ad Hoc Committees/Reports:

Barton Ave. and Hudson Ave. Area Committee

Lydia Milars reported having attended the hearing for the Jerry Snyder project, which was approved unanimously. There will be a new stoplight at Seward and Santa Monica Boulevard with a left arrow, a new 4 way stop at Cole and Romaine as well as a 4 way stop at Cole and Hudson, no supergraphics, but tenant-driven signage will be allowed.

Hollywood Signage Supplemental Use District

Debbie Wehbe discussed recent developments regarding signage, reported receiving notice of signs granted from September 2008 and stated that the delay occurred because there is no provision for Design Review or for a Design Review Committee. Scott Campbell referred to a communication received from Mike Feuer proposing a statewide-ban on digital billboards that will take effect in January 2010. Lucille Saunders provided an update on a proposed ordinance currently under review by the Los Angeles City Council. Ms. Saunders reported that the Central Planning Commission (CPC) declared a six-month moratorium on signage in November of 2008, and summarized City Council discussion. The issue will reviewed by the CPC on February 19, 2009. Ms. Saunders presented a list of the items suggested by the Melrose Neighborhood Association as necessary in the proposed ordinance, encouraged stakeholders to voice concerns, and encouraged action by CHNC. Tricia LaBelle remarked that the suggested ordinance will affect brand recognition.

10. COMMENT BY BOARD MEMBERS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Scott Campbell reported that Rachel Papp has proposed March 7 or March 14 for the pet awareness event.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Lydia Milars moved to adjourn at 8:42 pm. There being no object, the meeting adjourned by common consent.