



Board Meeting Minutes  
May 18, 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 6:36 pm. Board members present: Laurie Goldman, Elizabeth McDonald, Debbie Wehbe, Scott Campbell, Lydia Milars, and Jacques Massachi. David Carrera arrived later.

**CHNC 101**

Debbie Wehbe discussed the following items: the \$45,000 budget to be awarded to each Neighborhood Council; how NC funds are to be spent (general expenses, outreach and neighborhood improvement); the goal for expenditures is to advance CHNC; the recently adopted DONE grant process for 501c3 organizations. Ms. Wehbe emphasized that organizations requesting funding must provide documentation as requested and in a timely fashion.

**2. MINUTES REVIEW AND APPROVAL – MARCH AND APRIL 2009**

**Laurie Goldman moved to accept the March 2009 minutes; seconded by Lydia Milars.**

**VOTE: Unanimous in favor. The motion passed.**

Laurie Goldman advised of an incorrect reference to Elizabeth McDonald on p. 7 of the April 27, 2009 minutes.

**Laurie Goldman moved to accept the April 2009 minutes; seconded by Elizabeth McDonald.**

**VOTE: Unanimous in favor. The motion passed.**

**3. REPORTS/COMMENTS FROM ANY GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES IN ATTENDANCE**

Helen Leung, representing Council President Eric Garcetti, provided an update on the work being done on the Highland Avenue medians and the City budget process. Ms. Leung stated that additional CHNC funding may be

required to provide for maintenance of the medians. Debbie Wehbe reported stakeholder concern regarding recently-imposed one-hour limitation for parking meters and the increase in parking meter rates. Ms. Leung discussed factors that affect parking meter rates and stated that additional review will take place after the budget process is concluded. Ms. Leung also noted that an ordinance change would be required to change the parking rates again and that parking meter rates for the City of Los Angeles are among the lowest in the U.S. Ms. Wehbe asked for more information regarding how the additional CHNC funds will be applied to the Highland Avenue median project; Ms. Leung provided more information on the options and contingencies possible. Responding to Jacques Massachi's question, Ms. Leung reported that the look of the new median will be consistent with the already-existing medians south of Fountain.

Grayce Liu announced that the stipulations worksheet has to be voted on and sent in to the City Clerk by 5pm on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Scott Campbell stated that the Elections Committee recommended that the default position be taken. ... asked that Board members read the e-blast sent out each Wednesday, advised that a list is being compiled of NCs that have Emergency Preparation plans, and advised of the upcoming regional Congress of Neighborhood Councils that will take place on May 30, 2009 in the Valley. Responding to Debbie Wehbe's question, ... provided advice on how to determine what date will be assigned to CHNC for the 2010 election. There was discussion about timing with regard to NC budgets, especially with regard to election outreach. Responding to Scott Campbell's request, ... provided her contact information: 213 847 5026, 323 972 7805, and encouraged stakeholders to contact her with questions.

(Taken out of order) Los Angeles Fire Department Chief Drake answered questions from Board members about various events in Hollywood, including the recent earthquakes. Responding to Scott Campbell's question, Chief Drake discussed how maximum occupancy is determined.

#### **4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Tammy Robinson, Chair of the ESL program at Los Angeles City College, provided a brief description of her department and the recent 2009 Awards for Scholars and writers ceremony. Ms. Robinson offered copies of the program distributed at the awards ceremony, which listed CHNC as a co-sponsor, and requested CHNC support in the amount of \$2000. Scott Campbell asked if any of the award recipients are residents of CHNC and discussed limitations that may affect how the CHNC can support this effort. Ms. Robinson indicated that awardees are residents of Los Angeles.

Dege Contee, a stakeholder, advised that 187 medical marijuana dispensaries registered under the moratorium and that 57 of those dispensaries have been rendered homeless. Ms. Contee reported difficulties encountered by a dispensary that has recently relocated to 6105 Melrose. Ms. Contee asked the status of the library at June and Melrose. Laurie Goldman asked if Ms. Contee was aware of a dispensary operating on Gower between Carlton Way and Sunset. Ms. Contee advised Jacques Massachi of the process and how to determine if a dispensary is registered.

Roman, a stakeholder, complained about the meeting start time.

#### **5. PRESENTATION PLANNING, LAND USE AND MANAGEMENT –**

- A) Soi 56 Restaurant. Existing restaurant at Selma and Cahuenga requesting a beer/wine (type 41) alcohol license. Applicant: William Heinzman. Representative EPG: Brandon Finch. *PLUM Recommendation - support; no dancing; music limited to 3 piece non-amplified; CHNC type 41 and applicable Type 47 CHNC conditions.*

Laurie Goldman asked for clarification regarding the position taken by the LAPD regarding the license request; Brandon Finch advised that CUP conditions are still being worked out but that the CHNC voluntary conditions will not be compromised.

**Laurie Goldman moved to accept the PLUM Committee's recommendation; seconded by Lydia Milars.**

**VOTE: Unanimous in favor. The motion passed.**

- B) W Hotel Project, 8 pillars along Vine St, between Hollywood Blvd and Selma Ave – art installation, Matt Dzurec presenting. *Plum Recommendation – support the art pillars with all standards recommended by DOT regarding lighting levels and speed of movement of flowers.*

Dale Goldsmith, representing the developers, discussed the project's history, including two CRA-approved Disposition and Development Agreements (DDA) approved in 2004 and 2005, and noted that both DDAs referred to approval of a \$1.2 million on-site art project, \$480,000 off-site art in the community and an initial \$500,000 for art at Hollywood High School. Mr. Goldsmith referred to art installations approved by CRA Board in June 2006 that were affected by the City's new policy regarding signage and stated that the City Planning Department advised to seek exceptions to ensure that the planned art installation will not be interpreted as signage. Tiffany Lendrum reprised the presentation made to the PLUM Committee, advised how the selection of Jennifer Steinkamp as the

project's artist was made, and provided graphical representations of what the eight LED panels could look once the installation is completed. In response to questions raised by the PLUM Committee, Ms. Lendrum discussed protection being planned against graffiti. Mr. Goldsmith advised that the project's co-developers are required to maintain the proposed artwork for 25 years as artwork with no commercial message. Ms. Lendrum advised that the pillars will actually be on private property and that the Hollywood Walk of Fame will not be affected. Debbie Wehbe asked that the DOT standards to be used for the project be communicated to CHNC once the standards have been determined. Andrew Morris asked if the artwork can be made to face away from the street and expressed concerns about precedent being set. Mr. Goldsmith stated that there are protections built in to the DDA and that turning the artwork away from the street will defeat the intent to provide public art. Laurie Goldman asked what could happen after 25 years; Mr. Goldsmith advised that another public process will have to be initiated to make any changes. Roman asked when the project will be completed and was told that a possible date is the end of the year.

**Laurie Goldman moved to accept the PLUM Committee's recommendation of support; seconded by Lydia Milars.**

**VOTE: Unanimous in favor. The motion passed.**

## **6. REPORTS**

Bylaws Report and Review - Motion to accept bylaws changes to date.

Scott Campbell advised that the By-Laws Committee has not had a chance to meet, but that meeting will take place after Debbie Wehbe returns.

Election Procedures – Motion to accept work of committee on election procedures.

Scott Campbell advised that the Election Procedures Committee met and decided to take the default position. Debbie Wehbe read the items for which CHNC was required to make a choice, and noted the items chosen. Lydia Milars asked about Board terms.

**Jacques Massachi moved to approve the Election Procedures Committee recommendation as read; seconded by Lydia Milars.**

**VOTE: Unanimous in favor. The motion passed.**

Alternative Posting Sites – Laurie Goldman - Report on locations found in the eastern area of the CHNC boundaries for posting.

Laurie Goldman reported that she is waiting for an answer from Pavilions (expected by June 1, 2009) regarding an additional posting site.

David Carrera asked if Gold's Gym was considered as an alternate posting site. Discussion that followed regarded how posting could be done at the Hollywood Media District office and other more wide-spread locations.

## **7. VACANCY ON THE BOARD**

Candidates for the open seat to date, Tricia LaBelle and Sandra Bresson.

Scott Campbell advised that Sandra Bresson withdrew her name as a candidate for the Board vacancy. Mr. Campbell asked Tricia LaBelle for her comments. Ms. LaBelle discussed her expertise and willingness to serve.

**Lydia Milars nominated Tricia LaBelle to be appointed to the vacant Board seat; seconded by Elizabeth McDonald.**

Scott Campbell advised that, if appointed, Tricia LaBelle would serve as a Board member until June 2010.

**VOTE: Unanimous in favor. The motion passed.**

**Tricia LaBelle was seated on the Board.**

## **8. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE MOTION**

A) the current budget situation for the city and neighborhood councils – how it is affecting CHNC

Scott Campbell summarized what could occur because of the City Budget process. There was discussion of actions taken and being considered by various Neighborhood Councils.

B) the current status of the 2010 elections – cost cutting proposals – effect on CHNC

There was discussion of actions that could be taken, including charges to the CHNC for election outreach.

## **9. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE MOTION TO CHANGE ORDER OF CHNC MEETINGS**

**Goal** – to better attend to the issues of the committees and the general business of the CHNC, and to cut down on length of meetings.

Alternate meeting schedule so that PLUM issues would be heard during odd months and Committees and all other CHNC business would be heard during even months?

Laurie Goldman, Tricia LaBelle, Elizabeth McDonald and Scott Campbell volunteered to review ideas and report to the Board.

David Carrera left the meeting.

## **10. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Ferris Wehbe provided a report that summarized the total amount of funding available (\$102,461.98) as reported by DONE, as of May 18, 2009. There was discussion about line items that are available in the 2008-2009 budget and expenditures that have been made.

Laurie Goldman advised of accolades received by the Hollywood Freeway Cap Park, including the American Planning Association's special award of merit for grass roots initiative in the state of California. Ms. Goldman reported that the 12 person USC Master Landscape Studio class at USC took the Cap Park on as its semester project and that the resultant three landscape plans will be presented to the community in June or July 2009. Ms. Goldman also noted that the recently-passed State budget allowed for streamlined EIRs on surplus transportation land and that CalTrans made a finding that the Cap Park land will be surplus transportation because it consists of air rights that have been given to the park. Ms. Goldman reported that the streamlined EIR being worked on with the CRA will allow work to begin in less than a year. Responding to Jacques Massachi's question about funding, Ms. Goldman reported that if the project had been shovel ready, \$600 million would have been available after her recent trip to Washington and that the park has been favorably viewed by the Obama administration because of the perception of the creation of 45,000 jobs over the next 10 years. Because of the Transportation Reauthorization Act, the cap park has been moved to the top of the high priority project list.

Laurie Goldman outlined the request for funding to be presented to DONE as a grant application, to offer two community meetings that will introduce the landscape plans and discuss beautification plans to the community.

Scott Campbell and Laurie Goldman recused themselves.

**Lydia Milars moved to authorize the allocation of \$5000 to fund the grant application for the Hollywood Freeway Central Park; seconded by Elizabeth McDonald.**

**VOTE: Unanimous in favor. The motion passed.**

Funding Request from Theatre West for their *Story Book Theatre* Program

Funding Request for Selma School

Laurie Goldman reported that she is a member of Theater West and is helping them with an event that will take place on May 31<sup>st</sup>. John Gallogly, executive director for Theater West, discussed his organization's principles and services offered to children ages 3 to 9 and stated that Theater West proposes to bring performances to schools within CHNC's jurisdiction, and is looking for matching funds. Responding to questions from Debbie Wehbe, Mr. Gallogly discussed the possible ways funding could be broken down-- \$12800 for both schools to have an in-school program as well as bussing children to the theater to see a performance. Mr. Gallogly described funding sources that have already committed funds to Theater West program. At Ms. Goldman's request, Mr. Gallogly discussed therapies and expected results for the program. Ms. Wehbe advised that NC funding requirements preclude paying for bus transportation.

**Elizabeth McDonald moved to allocate up to \$3500 to purchase tickets for students at Selma and Vine Schools to attend Theater West performances, to be split as needed per school; seconded by Lydia Milars.**

**VOTE: Unanimous in favor. The motion passed.**

Beautification Funds – request to modify earlier funded request for trees and watering funds for Cahuenga Blvd. below Santa Monica near Lexington and around the studios.

Lydia Milars reported that the project at Selma School that had been previously authorized by CHNC for funding and discussed the options being discussed. Ms. Milars suggested that funds could be reallocated to provide for watering an area along Willoughby.

Medians for Highland Avenue – maintenance agreement – funding pool; contingency funds; B-Permit funds

There was discussion of the reason for the additional funding request, to provide for maintenance of the medians and to pay an architectural firm.

**Laurie Goldman moved to allocate up to \$7580 of \$20,000 already allocated for the median project to fund maintenance of the medians and to provide for payment of an architectural firm; seconded by Lydia Milars.**

Discussion that followed concerned whether the full amount is needed at this point because the project has not yet broken ground.

**VOTE: Unanimous in favor. The motion passed.**

**11. COMMENT BY BOARD MEMBERS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

Scott Campbell requested that the recent decision to fund an outreach effort presented at the last Board meeting be reconsidered based on the funding decision made by the City of Los Angeles for Neighborhood Councils.

There was discussion of a request for beautification of Vine Street Elementary School's 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary and other requests spearheaded by Nyla Arslanian.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

**Laurie Goldman moved to adjourn; seconded by Elizabeth McDonald.**

**There being no objection, the meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.**