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Susan Swan
VICE-PRESIDENT
Erik Sanjurjo
RECORDING SECRETARY
Don Paul
TREASURER
Charles Suhayda

CITY OF LOS ANGELES



**HOLLYWOOD UNITED
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

Certified Council #52
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BOARD MEMBERS

Debbi Aldahl
Robert Abrahamian
Bechir Blagui
Francoise Koster
Scott Larson
Samuel Leiaghat
Nic Manzo
Margaret Marmolejo
Jamie Rosenthal
Cara Rule
David H. Schlesinger
Barry Willner

Minutes of March 21, 2011

Called to order:

Present – Susan Swan, Don Paul, Charles Suhayda, Debbi Aldahl, Bechir Blagui, Scott Larson, Samuel Leiaghat, Nicole Manzo, Margaret Marmolejo, Cara Rule, David Schlesinger, Barry Willner, Jamie Rosenthal, Erik Sanjurjo, Françoise Koster
Absent excused Robert Abrahamian

Motion to approve minutes of February, 2011 with correction to show approval of January minutes at February meeting

Motion: Scott Larson

Second: Barry Willner

Motion Passed:

Yea - 12

Nay - 0

Abstain – 1

Government Announcements:

LAFD Battalion Chief Joseph Castro gave an update on the Fire Department and how budget cuts have stretched the limits of the department. He mentioned that the previous Sunday March 20th was the day with the most requests for service in the history of the fire department.

Nicole Carcel from Mike Feuer's office gave an update on the California legislature and mentioned the progress of Assembly Bill 73 regarding public access to juvenile court hearings in juvenile dependency cases involving abuse and neglect.

Public Comments:

Lucy said that it was particularly dangerous, walking for women at night

Don Paul gave a presentation in regards to the Aids/Lifecycle ride from San Francisco to Los Angeles in June, and he asked for contributions to his fund raising for the event.

Nathan French gave a speech on homelessness and gave an update on the pocket park. He also spoke about "Just Food" and the community garden.

Finance Committee

Gerry Hans gave a speech on the Wildlife Corridor Study in Griffith Park and requested funding of up to \$7,500 for support which includes funds for cameras, security kits and a professional fee by Cooper Ecological Monitoring, Inc.

Motion to approve funds of up to \$7,500 for support

Motion: Charles Suhayda

Second: Barry Willner

Motion Passed

Yea – 14

Nay - 0

Mr. Hans also asked for up to \$1,500 for the "Friend of Griffith Park" newsletter.

Motion to approve funds of up to \$1,500 for newsletter

Motion: Charles Suhayda

Second: Don Paul

Motion Passed

Yea – 11

Nay - 0

Abstain – 4

Charles Suhayda requested up to \$2,000 for Blessed Sacrament Social Services for purchase of health, hygiene and disposable supplies

Motion to approve funds of up to \$2,000 for Blessed Sacrament

Motion: Charles Suhayda

Second: Bechir Blagui

Motion Passed

Yea – 15

Nay - 0

Charles Suhayda requested up to \$2,000 for Getlove for the purchase of health, clothing and disposable supplies.

There was discussion that no representatives from Getlove have come to present their request. It was reported that they will attend in the future.

Motion to approve funds of up to \$2,000 for Getlove

Motion: Charles Suhayda

Second: Bechir Blagui

Motion Passed

Yea – 15

Nay - 0

Charles Suhayda, with attendance in the audience of Ann DeBello representing the Franklin Street Fair, requested that HUNC write a letter of support for the Franklin Village Street Fair to be held on May 1, 2011, and that the board commend their efforts to raise contributions for Cheremoya Elementary School, Fire Station 82, and PATH.

Motion to approve a letter of support

Motion: Charles Suhayda

Second: Barry Willner

Motion Passed

Yea – 15

Nay - 0

Susan Swan read a letter from the Hollywoodland Homeowners Association (HHA) that informed the meeting that they would not be in attendance, and she replied to the various points raised in the letter by HHA in regards to the March 14th PS&T meeting.

Erik Sanjurjo also spoke about several points brought up in regards to the March 14th meeting. The responses to the HHA comments are capitalized and listed in brackets < > below:

1) *A current HUNC Board Member stated in writing before the meeting that she would recuse herself from the HUNC process because of conflicts of interest in this matter.*

<<THERE WAS NO CONFLICT OF INTEREST, CARA WAS CLEARED TO PARTICIPATE BY HUNC LEGAL COUNSEL.>>

Instead, she had private contact with the head of the HUNC committee before the meeting "to put THE MEMBER up to speed". HHA requested and was ignored or denied the same access.

<<SUSAN PERSONALLY TELEPHONED SARA JANE AND HAD A 40+ MINUTE CONVERSATION WITH HER>>

At the HUNC meeting she sat with the HUNC committee at the front of the room (even though she is not on this committee)

<<CARA HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE SINCE NOVEMBER 2010>>

2) *After her presentation, a BCNA representative presented an additional, long speech and a film that was allowed to run during most of the proceedings. Then the HHA President was told there would be a one minute limit on her presentation. After strong protests from the crowd, the HUNC board reluctantly added an additional two minutes. This meager additional time was then abruptly cut off and terminated mid sentence by a HUNC board member.*

<<SPEAKERS WERE ALLOWED TO GO OVER TIME ON BOTH SIDES.>>

3) *Other HHA presenters were cut off and prevented from entering important facts into the record.*

<<ALL WHO WANTED TO SPEAK WERE GIVEN TIME TO DO SO, AND COMMENTS WERE TAKEN FROM THE AUDIENCE WITHOUT A REQUIREMENT TO SUBMIT A SPEAKER CARD>>

4) None of the attendees were ever asked where they lived or worked to see if they qualified as "stakeholders" who could participate in a vote that was later taken.

<<UNDER THE PLAN FOR A CITYWIDE SYSTEM OF NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS, AND OUR BYLAWS, ALL WHO WISH TO SELF-DECLARE AS STAKEHOLDERS ARE STAKEHOLDERS IN HUNC AND MAY PARTICIPATE IN A POLL IF REQUESTED, WHICH IS NOT REQUIRED. >>

5) The meeting's "notes", which were read aloud later at the meeting by the HUNC committee head, consistently ignored statements and facts contributed at the meeting by the HHA.

<<THE CHAIR DID HIS BEST TO SUMMARIZE OVER 90 MINUTES OF TESTIMONY AND ASKED THOSE ASSEMBLED IF HE LEFT ANYTHING OUT OF THE NOTES.>>

6) A disorganized and unclear motion was presented, and numerous calls for clarification or further discussion were ignored.

<<WHEN CLARIFICATION WAS REQUESTED THE MOTIONS WERE REREAD.>>

7) Other procedural questions were either ignored or laughed down by HUNC board members.

<<THE ONLY COMMENT THAT WAS LAUGHED AT, INCLUDING THOSE ASSEMBLED, WAS A SUGGESTION THAT A HUNC BOARD MEMBER HAD STOLEN THE SIGNS.>>

8) Biased and inaccurate information was disseminated by HUNC as statements of fact. For example, their statement that the City is the owner of the "Hollywood Sign directional signs" in Hollywoodland is incorrect.

<< ERIK NEVER SAID THAT THE CHAMBER OWNS RIGHTS TO SIGN. HE TOLD THOSE ASSEMBLED THAT HUNC IS THE ONLY NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL AUTHORIZED TO USE THE SIGN'S IMAGE>>

HUNC board members asked basic questions about the location and width of streets. Their fundamental lack of knowledge of Hollywoodland and its NARROW SUB-STANDARD streets was shocking for a group of people who had been asked to make decisions about these very streets.

< <ERIK SERVED AS THE FIELD REPRESENTATIVE FOR CD4 FOR THAT AREA; SUSAN HAS LIVED ON AN 18' SUBSTANDARD STREET IN THE OAKS SINCE 1984 AND USES LOCAL ROADS TO GO TO THE RESERVOIR, PARK, OR THE VALLEY; DON RIDES HIS BIKE UP THERE. CLARIFICATION OF LOCATION AND WIDTH WAS FOR THE RECORD AND FOR THOSE UNFAMILIAR WITH THE AREA.>>

The highlight of the meeting was when Fire Chief Kawaii of the

Los Angeles Fire Department stated several times countering the repeated promptings of the HUNC board that "five points" was the most important fire area, that all of Hollywoodland was of equal and great concern to the Fire Department.

<< EMPHASIZES THE URGENT NEED FOR SAFE PUBLIC ACCESS VIA THE PUBLIC STREETS TO THE PUBLIC PARK VIA APPROPRIATE SIGNAGE>>

HHA has repeatedly requested an unedited audio recording of this committee meeting that was made by the head of HUNC. She is refusing to share it and states that it is her private copy that was made for her own personal use while she was acting in an official capacity.

<< NO RECORDING OF THE MEETING WAS MADE BY HUNC. SUSAN STATED AT THE MEETING THAT SHE WAS RECORDING FOR HER OWN PRIVATE USE AS IS HER RIGHT. ANYONE MAY FREELY RECORD OUR MEETINGS.>>

Councilman Tom LaBonge appeared and spoke briefly about the issue of the signage and traffic flow in the Beachwood Canyon area.

Fran Reichenbach, of the Beachwood Canyon Neighborhood Association (BCNA) spoke about the need for at least 3 signs directing traffic to a viewing point of the Hollywood sign.

Equal time was given to those who wished to speak on behalf of HHA's Board as they were absent

Several neighbors in attendance weighed in with presentations of 1 minute or 2 in reference to the signage issue.

Motion: Invite DOT/CD4 -picked consultant to comment on the various proposals for addressing traffic on upper Beachwood (Deronda/Ledgewood), including use of Lake Hollywood Park, upper gate park, etc. Timeline to include progress report back to Board at April Board meeting

Motion: Scott Larson

Second: Don Paul

Motion Passed

Yea – 14

Nay - 0

Motion: Support Council District 4 hosting a group made up of Hollywoodland Homeowners Assn, upper and lower Beachwood Canyon Neighborhood Association, HUNC and other neighborhood representatives to work on various options around signage. Timeline to include progress report back to Board at April Board meeting

Motion: Scott Larson

Second: Cara Rule

Motion Passed

Yea – 14

Nay - 0

Motion: Request that three signs be installed to divert traffic away from the emergency access area of Upper Deronda: One sign at Deronda and Ledgewood, one at Heather and Ledgewood and one at Ledgewood and Mulholland, until a more permanent solution can be found.

Motion: Cara Rule

Second: Don Paul

Motion Passed

Yea – 9

Nay - 0

Abstain – 3

Vacant Board Seat announcements

Seats open and will welcome candidates for filling these seats on April 4th

Vacant Renters seat any area but area 3, 4 year

Upcoming vacant Business seat area C, up for election in 2012 Barry Willner resigning

No New Business

No Old Business

No Executive or Committee or Liaison Reports

Announcement that the April Board meeting will be held early on April 4th to facilitate a briefing by the Planning Department on the Hollywood Community Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report

Meeting Adjourned