

HOLLYWOOD UNITED NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
Certified Council #52 ; P.O.Box 3272 Los Angeles, CA, 90078 www.HollywoodUnitedNC.org
PLANNING AND LAND USE COMMITTEE
March 31, 2011

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Welcome and introductions: 7:20 pm

In attendance were: Adam Kear, Rich MacNaughton, Lucy Grigorian, David Schlesinger (PLUM chair), Scott Larson, and Nicole Manzo.

2. Approval of minutes: postponed.

3. Public Comment on items not on the agenda but within the Committee's purview

Lucy spoke in support of local housing initiatives for the homeless; Scott Larson commended a recent volunteer tree-trimming event along Franklin Avenue, which trimmed over 40 trees!!! Participants included Scott, Adam Kear, Jim, and Tony.

Also, the PLUM Committee thanks the Scientology Center for providing a facility for this meeting at short notice.

4. Items for discussion

A. Draft Environmental Impact Report for the proposed Hollywood Community Plan. This is on the Agenda of the HUNC Board meeting for 4 April, at which Mary Richardson is scheduled to make a presentation of it. Review of the DEIR is in order in preparation for Monday's meeting on the subject.

Richard proposed that we re-affirm a November 2010 recommendation to the Board that it reject the 7-15-10 Plan as inadequate, as there was no basis given for the goal to increase density and make Central Hollywood a vertical city. Further, it failed to consider the effects of that goal on the residential areas north of Hollywood Blvd.

The motion was made by _____, seconded by _____ and carried unanimously.

B. Motion proposed to recommend to full HUNC Board that it send a letter in response to the Draft EIR on the proposed update to the Hollywood Community Plan, to be sent in as comments to the official Los Angeles Planning Department name and address listed on p. 1-7 of the report, as well as to our local councilpersons, the Mayor, and any other appropriate entities, which is to include substantially all of the following points, with a draft to be prepared for Monday night's meeting:

*letter to be sent during the week of April 4, 2011

*appreciate the time and energy the Planning Department staff put into preparing the report

*request 180 days to further examine and comment on the Draft EIR

*challenge the unexamined assumption in the Draft EIR that the Hollywood area should be forced to accommodate an increase in population density, as well as the lack of evidence for population projections, lack of attention to the current state of the infrastructure, and lack of a lower-density alternative

*challenge the failure to address the Reduced Development Alternative, as required by CEQA Guidelines

*challenge the idea that our HUNC area, and the larger Hollywood area in general, can be looked at piece by piece, without regard to the other changes planned in our City.

*challenge the impacts on our City's budget of putting more projects in redevelopment areas

*assert that our neighborhoods are already "green" enough and dense enough as they are

Motion proposed by Scott, seconded by Nicole, and carried unanimously.

C. St Andrews Place stair preservation

Nearby resident reported a recent increase in gang activity and tagging in the area and at a nearby abandoned house. The area is unlit at night and is owned by the City. Nearby residents may contribute to the cost of lighting, given the City's budget situation. An unlighted city street is dangerous for pedestrians, due to the increased risk of falling.

Motion to recommend to the HUNC Board to allocate up to \$2000 towards funding the lighting of the area.

Motion by Scott, seconded by Nicole; vote was unanimous.

D. Hollywood Grove HPOZ

Scott Larson reported that the HPOZ has been approved by the Planning Commission and is coming before the Los Angeles PLUM Committee in April, and if it passes, will go to the full City Council. The hope is that the HPOZ should be a reality by the end of April, after more than five years of work by residents. David Schlesinger commented on how nice the area looked on a recent visit.

E. 1601 Vine Street property manipulation. LA Times article

The HUNC PLUM committee received complaints about this property from area stakeholders, who allege that the City was induced by fraud to overpay for the property, that there has been a loss of paperwork and documentation which undermines public scrutiny, or that the proper procedures may not have been done in the first place, and that the CRA is proposing to sell the property at too low a price, which may constitute an illegal gift of public funds.

HUNC PLUM does not take a position as to the truth of these allegations but feels that an investigation by the appropriate authority is needed.

Motion to recommend to the HUNC Board that it request that the entire history of transactions concerning this project (Vine Street Towers aka 1601 N. Vine) be "aggressively scrutinized" by the District Attorney's Office, as "pledged" by Council President Eric Garcetti in a March 14, 2011 Los Angeles Times article.

Motion proposed by David, seconded by Scott; vote was unanimous.

5. New Business: none.

6. Old Business: none.

ADJOURNMENT : 8:30 p.m.