

July 20, 2009 Hollywood Council of Civic Associations Meeting

minutes- to be sent out via e-mail this week

treasurer out of town

Terry Cantrell- Guest Speaker- 2 things to talk about:

Charter Review close to being finished with work. Final recommendations are basic housekeeping issues, ie pension issue shouldn't be in the charter. Some radical changes to election process. The biggest thing is the campaign finance. Donations from business entities to be prohibited (llc, corp, etc). Candidates that garnered most votes had 52% donations from businesses, lots of developers. Average amount of private money raised by 13 who got most votes had average of 28,000 from businesses. Heidi O'Sheehan had 28k and only 3k from businesses and was still able to win. Mel asked if individuals could donate to their own campaign. He said that a wealthy person could out-spend others. Terry said yes. Its a loan when you donate to your own campaign. Cynthia is concerned about friends of candidates who donate as individuals. For instance, Becker and Poliakoff could donate as individuals and then their clients (300) could each donate. Cynthia says corporations will get around the rules. Terry says it is always possible to get around rules but it is important to have a good perception. Voting at large failed 6-5. Ad Hoc Committee proposed to monitor campaign practices. Terry said there was tons of donations violations such as in kind services like signs and parties which exceeded the 500. donation rule. People would be picked by commission. perhaps a core group like HCCA would have members who are civic minded and would be selected as long as they aren't campaign managers, workers.

Andre asked about ad hoc committee, if commissioner did not live up to his promises?? Terry said there is an ethics board. Ken asked about term limits. terry said 4x4 yrs for 16 yrs is what is proposed. There will be a couple of public meetings regarding this. Cynthia asked if any feedback from commissioners. Terry said he senses resistance to ethics and campaign financing. He says it will be a sales job to get commission to accept the recommendations first before it goes to the people. Terry would like to propose that the issue go directly to the people. For staggered terms 3 people will need a shortened term. Term limits will apply if moved districts or ran for different office.

Diane asked if there is a way to put this on a ballot without it costing the people. Terry wants to reduce the amount of signatures from 15% to 8% to put it on a ballot.

2nd topic- Terry monitoring a situation in his neighborhood-vacation rental homes in neighborhood. homes converted into a hotel. Homeowners move out and then advertise online or put themselves on a service like vacationsrentals.com and they charge 11% sales tax which is the hotel tax. Young Mansion \$1450./day. youngmansion.com out of 14 homes only 3 have occupational license. And some are still homesteaded. 'Business Tax Receipt' required to rent monthly or seasonally. Nothing in zoning prevents renting home like hotel. But condo hotel is supposed to be only on beach. Wedding at Young Mansion that brought attention to this.

Mel- Budget Meeting

Consultants being paid to give suggestions for budget cuts. One suggestion was to outsource code enforcement. Mel said the new water report shows owners out of town buying for investment which will change the character of the community.

Mel said the last state of the country to recover will be Florida and it won't recover til the end of 2011.

Representative Elaine Schwartz

Served on a charter review committee and says there is a lot of reading material. She isn't sure that it will go far due to has to go through commission. And is there a State Law that requires this. It works like this at the County also.

She wants to hear our ideas. She is listening to us and hears that we do not want transient element and value family and owners in residence. The good thing about it being rented is that

the property is being maintained.

Pete asks why can't social service agencies be located on state. Pete doesn't understand why need 1000 ft between agencies when less than 6 and can be close together when there are more than 6. Pete says problem with JoLyn apartments with 300 units. 20 being used by sober house and worries that can fill all units. State hospital run by Geo Care which is a Wackenhut corporation. And they want to run another State Hospital located in Baker County. Rep. Schwartz is against that. Pem Pines privatized code. She is against the private companies hiring people at low wages with no benefits. And the CEOs walking away with all the money. Broward County was a guinea pig on Medicaid reform. Rep Schwartz wants Wellcare out of Broward County. Rep. Schwartz says huge profits being made due to Wellcare taking 38% of medicaid funds and CEO getting paid 9 million per quarter. Jeb Bush wanted the County to be a model for the country.

Pete said Commission put a moratorium on social services in the RAC. But moratorium doesn't apply to other area. Now agencies moving to Johnson Street.

Rep. Schwartz said someone came with a proposal to put social services in a warehouse area. One idea Len M. suggested was 441 and Hollywood Blvd (Fashion Mall). Ken from parkside asked what location could be used. Rep. Schwartz said there is no location suggested. But Terry says isn't there a mandate that the services be mainstreamed. Rep. Schwartz says families of those receiving services do not want their relatives institutionalized. Park East said one house snuck under the radar due to less than 6 beds only needs occupational license and is located at 31 Ave and Hollywood Blvd. Rep Schwartz said it used to be that in a single family residential district couldn't be more than 6 unrelated people in the same house. Pete suggests changing the law so that more than 6 can't exist in a block. Rep Schwartz says she will look into it.

Diane asks what has been talked about at the state to recover during these tough economic times other than affecting Real Estate. Rep Schwartz wants to tax CEO earnings. Alex Sink created a website (MYCFO.gov) so we can see state contracts to private companies. Len asked who is at fault. Rep Schwartz says it is the Governor's fault. Rep Schwartz says 7 bills submitted by democrats to be heard. Cigarette tax and gaming passed. Rep Schwartz put in a bill during special session and it is for corporations allowed to report their corporate income tax in different states so paying less to Florida. Rep Schwartz wants them to report their income from Florida in Florida. Rep Schwartz says the chamber of commerce is interested in large corp and not mom and pop companies. Grover Nordquist runs the state according to Rep Schwartz. He says lets shrink gov't until it drowns in the bathtub. Len says 'Leadership Broward' discussing education. Lots of inventions coming from State University. These things being sold and taken out of state and Florida not making money on the investment. Len wants to know what Rep. Schwartz' ideas about bringing an environment for R&D like Silicon Valley to Florida. Rep Schwartz talks about her work on bio-tech caucus to establish a plan. Cell regeneration is the next big thing. Can use our own cells to regenerate any part except the heart and brain. Len said the result of a conference on these issues is that our environment is not conducive to the bio-tech industries. Mel says only 7,000 per student spent vs 16,000 spent in other states like NJ. Rep Schwartz says Mr. Nordquist idea is to take away education taxes and have all schools be private. Cynthia and Diane said what will happen to poor students. Rep Schwartz says bill to attack business investment in Iran to discourage politics which is what was done in S. Africa to combat apartheid. Cynthia says she feels Gov't betrayed the condos. The requirement to retrofit the sprinkles will put bldgs in foreclosure due to expense. Rep. Schwartz says she has the idea to use stimulus money to retrofit the condos. Says there is a provision to retrofit the public buildings and fire stations, etc. Says need to find a way to get the stimulus money for use by condo retrofit.

andre asked about gas tax. Rep Schwartz says the money is state tax money. Says the money is in trust funds. Rep Schwartz says Trust funds raided. Gas tax because it has to do with autos goes to FDOT. FDOT is a country of its own. FDOT has a 600 million dollar item in budget to build a commuter rail. Paula Dockery discovered this and her husband Doc Dockery had bullet train concept. Jeb Bush wanted to have his friends get business and not bullet train. So they hid CSX train in budget. Paula Dockery uncovered it. Senate didn't vote to give money to CSX. Pete asked if Mel could go into City fees and taxes. \$659. for ambulance ride.

Discussion regarding what we should present to the Commission about budget concerns.