

Hollywood Council of Civic Associations, Inc.

Minutes
June 20, 2005

Members Present: Ken Crawford (UNOSH), Suzanne Kincaid (HLSCA), Mel Pollak (Hills), Ann Murray (Boulevard Heights), Chuck Vollman (Park East), Pete Brewer and Ellen Mata (North Central), Pat Smith (Driftwood), Bunny Mestel (Alliance), Sara Case (Secretary) and Visitors: Commissioner Peter Bober, Richard Vest, Linda Wilson, Helen Chervin, Asa Boynton, and Kim Schmitt.

Ken Crawford called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM. Since the Commissioner was late, the minutes of April and May meetings were approved, with misspelling of Affanato to be corrected in May minutes.

In connection with hurricane preparedness, Chuck Vollman reported that Public Works had informed him that the city would pick coconuts from palms on the beach and in parks, but trees in swales were the responsibility of the homeowner.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM: Commissioner Bober arrived and presented a petition he is circulating on campaign finance reform. He has drafted a charter amendment that would limit campaign contributions in city elections to \$150 (down from \$500 now allowed) and would prohibit corporations from donating. He explained the proposal would not cure all the problems associated with money and Hollywood elections because very strict prohibitions are unconstitutional.

Valid signatures from about 9,000 registered Hollywood voters would be required to get the charter amendment on the ballot in November 2006. That is the goal. Commissioner Bober is seeking the help of HCCA members and others to secure the signatures. He will provide copies of the petition and all expenses (photocopying, etc.) are to be handled by him. For purposes of this petition, any questions or information needed should be addressed to him at his law office: peter@boberlaw.com

HCCA members did not take a vote on this proposal but the idea was favorably received by most if not all present.

GREAT SOUTHERN HOTEL: Richard Vest, owner of the Young House, made a presentation on his effort to save the Great Southern Hotel which is slated to be embedded in a 19-story double-tower condo building. He said he has formed a nonprofit organization, Friends of the Great Southern, Inc. with two of Joseph Young's descendents. He told some of the history of the hotel, and recounted his resignation from the Hollywood Historical Society over the plan to save 2 ¼ facades of the hotel only which the Historical Society endorsed.. Pat Smith added that she and other board members had repeatedly asked the HHS executive committee for the details of their deal with the developer but were kept in the dark for months because the negotiations were said to be "delicate."

Pete Brewer brought up the development plan now being proposed for the post office site where the city is being asked to give away an entire square block to the developer, with an estimated purchase price for the land (\$2.4 million) to be paid by the CRA to the city. He noted that the city charter requires sale of city-owned land valued at \$250,000 or more be approved by voter referendum.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Pat Smith reported that there is now \$590 in the bank account. Hollywood Beach Civic Association paid dues last month.

LOBBYISTS: Although we had planned to discuss next steps in pushing the city to do something about regulating activities of lobbyists, Mel Pollak suggested the Bober initiative takes precedence at this point.

HCCA MEMBERSHIP FOR CONDO PRESIDENTS OF HOLLYWOOD BEACH: Because Cynthia Greene was out of town, it was decided to defer this item until next month's agenda.

INCREASING MEMBERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION IN HCCA: It was decided we need to contact associations that are not active and those that are not members, urge their participation and send representatives to their meetings to make a pitch for HCCA. Sara Case is to get the list of associations. Ken Crawford, Ann Murray, Mel Pollak, and Sara Case volunteered to work on this project of contacting the groups and attending the meetings.

SEXUAL PREDATORS: Ken Crawford raised the new ordinances restricting where sexual predators can live in Miami Beach and Miami-Dade County and said he thought we need tougher laws here in Hollywood. Richard Vest added that the Hollywood Woman's Club was interested in this issue, too. Chuck Vollman said there is a website where you can register and receive everything about sexual predators in your zip code or your city. www.scanusa.com Mel Pollak added that about half of the sexual predators are lost to these databases, so what you get is information on the half they have.

SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS: Ann Murray said the city has reduced hours for school crossing guards from 4 hours to 2 hours because of budgetary constraints.

ITEMS FOR NEXT MONTH'S AGENDA: City pension liabilities (Mel Pollak), Condo Presidents of Hollywood Beach admission to HCCA (Cynthia Greene), and Turnpike expansion at Hollywood Blvd. (Ann Murray).

ADJOURN: The meeting adjourned at 9:05.

Respectfully submitted,
Sara Case, Secretary