

Hollywood Council of Civic Associations, Inc.

Minutes
November 15, 2004

Members and Visitors Present: Hollywood Hills (Mel Pollak and Dick Miller); Park East (Chuck Vollman); United Neighbors (Ken Crawford and Andre Brown); Alliance (Cynthia Greene-Eason and Bunny Mestel); Boulevard Heights (Steve Shagoury and Ann Murray); Emerald Hills (Lenora Chuchla); and Hollywood Lakes Section (Sara Case). Quorum was not present.

Present from the City: Rick Lemack representing the City Manager; Joe Cangialosi, Director of Public Works; Clay Milan, Code Enforcement; and Chad Wagner, Police Department.

President Ken Crawford called the meeting to order about 7:35 PM, and he introduced the main topic: Police-Code cooperation and update on the City Manager's "Code Enforcement Innovation Model."

CODE ENFORCEMENT: Mr. Milan stressed improvements in inter-departmental communication and cooperation on code issues. Code staff are meeting with the police Neighborhood Team Leaders (NTLs) every other month. In addition code officers meet weekly with NTLs in the field. Code staff are practicing for the Code Academy by briefing the NTLs on various aspects of code enforcement (the law, due process, and other requirements). Mr. Milan said the six-year old digital cameras have just been updated, and the city's intranet code violation screen is working well. With passage of the GOB, code officers expect to get laptop computer mounts. They are now experimenting with a new wireless card which they hope will be functional soon.

Mr. Milan said code has worked with marine patrol officers on the beach for observation of property standards violations that could be seen only from the water. In addition, code is now linked with community planning and participates on the Technical Advisory Committee that reviews proposed development site plans. Mr. Milan meets regularly with the Treasury Division on revenue collection issues (foreclosures, liens, etc.).

Mr. Milan said the city now has an internal committee reviewing the code chapter by chapter, making a list of issues to discuss with the city attorney. Parts of the code are outdated and other parts need to be strengthened. They are currently working on revising the noise ordinance and the ordinance on improper storage of vehicles. A question was raised about the need for additional vehicle storage lots and whether non-Hollywood residents were using the existing lot. Rick Lemack said he would check into use of the lot. [Mr. Milan reported back after the meeting that the lot was for Hollywood residents only.]

Mr. Milan noted that one code officer (Rosie) had on her own initiative begun looking up new homeowners in the newspaper and making a point of calling on them to provide information about code and provide them with a Homeowners Guide. He said this practice would be implemented by all the code officers.

In response to a question, Mr. Milan said code was down two staff members and they were planning to fill both positions (supervisor and code officer). The city officials left about 8:20 PM.

MINUTES APPROVED: The October minutes were approved on a motion by Chuck Vollman seconded by Cynthia Greene-Eason.

RAC EXPANSION: Ken Crawford said he had distributed maps to North Central and Royal Poinciana and that United Neighbors would be drawing their map this month. The idea is for those neighborhoods affected by the expansion to indicate on a map how far into their neighborhood they would like to see the mixed use corridors extend.

CASINO PROPERTY: Cynthia Greene-Eason announced that the Alliance and other associations were planning to hold a meeting at 7:30 PM on December 14, at the Beach Community Center, for the public to view all four proposals that have been submitted to the city. Mel Pollak described the Cordish Company's proposal which had been presented to Hollywood Hills Civic Association and also Boulevard Heights Homeowners Association. Cordish has an option on the entire block south of the casino property and all the way to the Intracoastal which allows them to make project less dense. Steve Shagoury expressed concern that such a large private hotel project would transform the beach from one that Hollywood residents can access and enjoy to a beach for the hotel's private customers.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONCERNS AND ISSUES: Hollywood Hills: Mel Pollak said the city's program of requiring residents to pay 50% of alley repaving was unfair and wrong. This program would require all residents with property on an alley to agree to pay half the cost. There was general agreement that this was a bad situation.

GOB: Mel Pollak reported on the City Commission's decision to appoint an "oversight committee" for the General Obligation Bond. He noted that this committee would meet only once a year and he raised numerous questions indicating that this would not be an independent oversight committee. He also noted that he expected the artspark shortfall (millions of dollars) would somehow be made up from bond dollars although the artspark was never mentioned as part of the bond issue that the voters approved. After considerable discussion, the group asked Ken Crawford to send a letter of inquiry to the city about the role of this committee and how it would operate. (Steve Shagoury disagreed with this approach, believing that asking the city commission this question might prompt them to restrict the committee, whereas the committee, if left to its own devices, might be able to set for itself a true oversight course.)

WINTER WONDERLAND RAFFLE: Lenora Chuchla announced that the Winter Wonderland holiday party for underprivileged children will be held at the Diplomat on Dec. 21, and that there would be high-quality toys for the children. She asked HCCA members to sell tickets for a fund-raising raffle to be held Dec. 9. There was some discussion about the late date of this request. Several members asked Mrs. Chuchla to involve all the associations in the planning next year, and to begin this planning in January or February, rather than waiting until mid-November to approach the associations.

The meeting adjourned about 9 PM on a motion by Chuck Vollman, seconded by Bunny Mestel.