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GREATER GRIFFITH PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
"Your Neighborhood. Your Voice. Your Council"

NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

NOTICE OF MEETING & AGENDA

March 23, 2011 – 7:00 p.m.
Center for Inquiry
4773 Hollywood Blvd. (parking entrance at Berendo)
Los Angeles, CA 90027



CERTIFIED COUNCIL #36

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1. Called to order at 7:20 pm by David Uebersax. Robert Ladendorf was also present, with Rosemary DeMonte arriving at 8:00 pm after attending Bureau of Neighborhood Councils meeting Downtown. (Two others were present earlier, but left just prior to the start of the meeting, which was delayed due to traffic related to heavy rains and road closures for police activity)
2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting of February 23, 2011 by consensus.
3. Reports on Public Improvement Projects: Some discussion regarding Hollywood Streetscape, CRA Sunset Boulevard Plan, and/or Hollywood Boulevard/Western Avenue Streetscape but no formal report.
4. Los Feliz Improvement Association Projects: No representative present.
5. Los Feliz Village BID Projects: No representative present, but Rosemary volunteered to contact BID to see if there is a Beautification Chair active to attend future meetings.
6. Review of Urban Design Chapter of Draft Hollywood Community Plan and other items available on DVD and presented on Projector:
 - a. Some of this has been reviewed by Chair, and results of analysis has been shared in the past with the GGPNC planning, Zoning, and Historic Preservation Committee, which has included in comments submitted to City of Los Angeles Planning Department Staff. Additionally, the PZHP will be hosting a public forum on March 30, to discuss the DHCP and associated Draft Environmental Impact Report.
 - b. Rosemary DeMonte mentioned CRA meeting dealing with HCP and Historic zones, and there was some discussion relating relieving requirements for underground parking. This would possibly result in more buildings with podium designs, increased Floor Area Ratios (FAR), decreased setbacks, and impact on parking in areas included in Station Area Neighborhood Plans (SNAP's).

- c. Following brief overview of DCHP Chapter 7 Urban Design Guidelines and Goals, specific Principles were discussed in greater detail.
 - 1) Building Orientation: Varied setbacks are indicated for Single Family Homes, while parcels that are designated for commercial land uses and/or front a Major or Secondary Highway or Collector Streets should be consistent with the prevailing setbacks. Exceptions including Plazas or other elements.
 - 2) Scale, Height and Massing: Emphasis on Smooth Transitions and de-massing. Some concern expressed about building heights on larger streets being used to advocate adjoining side street projects which would then lead to upscaled heights into more low slung residential areas.
 - 3) Circulation, Parking and Loading: Parking, loading, and curb cuts strategy to keep primary street traffic rolling and pedestrian strolling
 - 4) Pedestrian Amenities: Aimed at presenting attractive experience without undue obstacles. Well designed multiuse suggestions would include bike lanes and paths.
 - 5) Sustainability: Emphasis on drought tolerant native species. Maintain older growth trees providing shade, but keeping other plantings small
 - 6) On-Site Open Space: Maximize open space through features such as breezeways
 - 7) Landscaping: Reduced use of grass, but preference for drought tolerant ground cover.
 - 8) Building Façade: Break things up (disparate setbacks with architectural features and glass.
 - 9) Other Building Elements: Enunciated to help developers to avoid pitfalls. Wording regarding signage being tastefully integrated was discussed in relation to overall discussion about on-site versus off site signs. Natural surveillance afforded by greater use of glass and other elements for increased visibility is encouraged.
- d. Enforcement of these provisions was discussed in context of new Planning Department approval processes currently proposed, but may be limited due to funding considerations. Still, having guidelines, with applicant's attestations during the approval process, would provide a foundation for later review via Code Enforcement, Neighborhood Council vigilance, and action taken by individual stakeholders.
- e. Additional discussion related to development of the current Bike Plan.

7. No new business

8. Adjourned at 9:23 pm.