

PLANNING, ZONING AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING – November 11, 2009

A meeting was held on November 11, 2009, in the community room at 1965 Hillhurst Avenue pursuant to notice. Present from the committee were: Kenneth E. Owen, chair, Sorin Alexanian, Bruce Carroll, Joe Cisneros, Rosemary DeMonte, Jacqueline Kerr, Richard Spicer, Richard Stanley, David Uebersax, and Tom Wilson. Mr. Wilson acted as secretary. PROS chair, Bernadette Soter, and Transportation Committee chair, John F. John Jr., attended portions of the meeting. Also present were members of the public Doug Haines, of the East Hollywood Neighborhood Council, and Dick Platkin, a planning consultant.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. The minutes of the meeting of the committee held October 14th, 2009, were approved.
2. Public Comment. Doug Haines requested committee support in asking the Columbia Square developer at (Gower & Sunset) to preserve Studios B & C set for demolition. The structures have been designated cultural historic monuments and are set to be demolished for development. Because the matter was not on the agenda the committee could take no action. However, as the general feeling was in favor of preservation of these buildings it was suggested that perhaps the Board could consider a proposal to state a position at the next board meeting if it could be placed on the agenda for that meeting.
- 3a. The committee was set to hear from the owners of 4360 Sunset Blvd and their plans to request a conditional use permit to sell a full line of alcohol in a proposed new 96 seat “tavern/bar”. The applicant did not show for the meeting. The building site has no parking and historically was retail below residential. The committee voted on a motion to “Not object providing there will be at least 25 free/advertised parking spaces so long as the permit is in effect. And that the permits are for restaurant operation and that the alcohol service be beer and wine” The motion was moved by Bruce Carroll and Tom Wilson seconded. The committee approved the motion by a vote of 5 to 4.
- 3b. The committee discussed a proposed large scale development at 4900 Hollywood Blvd. Doug Haines of the public and of the East Hollywood Neighborhood Council spoke on the issue. No representatives of the development attended the meeting. According to rumor the development is for a 300 room hotel to be 85 to 95 feet in height. The committee discussed the issue and decided to follow future developments.
4. The committee discussed the proposed increase in filing fees for the appeals from the Planning Department. The committee agreed by consensus that fees charged to non-applicant appellants ought to be nominal and that no distinction in such fees should be made depending upon the proximity of appellant’s property to the property subject to appeal. Moreover, there was a suggestion that the current system of appeals might be replaced by a more professional, less political system.

5. The committee had a long general discussion on the Hollywood Community Plan. Richard Spicer led the discussion and members of the public Doug Haines and Dick Platkin participated and provided valuable insights. Platkin noted that the plan only addresses private land elements (20% of Los Angeles) and does not address the public land elements (parks, roads, water, sewer, etc... - 80% of in Los Angeles). He noted that the single most crucial element – infrastructure – is not noted at all. PROS chair Bernadette Soter discussed the Parks portion of the plan. Sorin Alexanian gave a general overview of the plan. Rosemary DeMonte spoke on the plan and Business Improvement Districts. David Uebersax spoke on the Design Element of the plan and Tom Wilson spoke on Implementation elements. Many agreed that the use of Citizen Advisory Committees and Design Review Boards would be beneficial in plan implementation. The committee decided to follow future developments as related to the HCP and to open a working file to facilitate committee responses and actions.

5. The committee adjourned at approximately 11:10PM