

PLANNING, ZONING AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE  
UNAPPROVED DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING – October 14, 2009

A meeting was held on October 14, 2009, in the community room at 1965 Hillhurst Avenue pursuant to notice. Present from the committee were: Kenneth E. Owen, chair, Bruce Carroll, Joe Cisneros, Rosemary DeMonte, Jacqueline Kerr, Richard Stanley, David Uebersax, and Tom Wilson. (Both Mr. Alexanian and Mr. Spicer were excused for the purpose of vacation.) Mr. Wilson acted as secretary. Also present during portions of the meeting were Ron Ostrow, Luisa Nubaravacharyan, both members of the GGPNC board.

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.

1. The minutes of the meeting of the committee held September 9th, 2009, were approved as circulated and posted on the committee's webpage..

2. There was no public comment on non agenda items.

3a. The committee heard from the applicant requesting an adjustment to allow over height fences at 2223 Nottingham Ave. The chair recused himself at the beginning the matter, and Mr. Carroll acted as chair. The person whose company is the applicant and her representative Jim Ries, made a presentation in favor of the request. They requested permission to construct/retain fences that includes one pedestrian gate, two vehicle gates and a row of hedges. They stated that one fence reaches a maximum of height of 4 feet, while the pedestrian gate is a max height of 7.25 feet and the vehicle gates max height of 5.5 to 6 feet. The applicant also requested permission to retain a hedge row along the property's perimeter ranging in height between 10 to 12 feet. They stated the need for this request due to privacy and safety factors since applicant has unique privacy issues as a celebrity.

Several neighbors and members of the public spoke against, including Edmond Stephan,, Lorelei Young, Florence Rossie, and Gilbert Rossie. Jeremy Torgerson and Carolynn Rossie submitted speaker cards indicating opposition but did not speak.

Those against stated concerns that: 1) the walls and hedges create a visual safety hazard. 2) The over height walls and hedges do not accomplish the applicant's stated purpose to provide security and privacy to the property.

The committee voted 5-2 to not approve the applicant's request and suggested the applicant meet with her neighbors to come to a compromise on the issues and concerns stated prior to the board's meeting on October 20. Mr. Wilson made the motion and Mr. Cisneros seconded.

Mr. Owen resumed the chair.

3b. The committee heard from Teeraporn Thongsory, cousin of the owner of Ruen Pair Thai Restaurant, and the owner's representative, Lee Rabun of CLR Enterprises Inc.

They requested to sell beer and wine from 11 AM to 2AM. Ron Ostrow gave a report on his visit to the site and interviews with some neighbors resident on Loma Linda and the motel to the east of the site. He noted that two other restaurants in the same mall were allowed to serve beer and wine only till 11PM. The committee was advised by Mr. Rabun that a third restaurant has been serving beer and wine till 2AM since 1981 under a zoning administrator's interpretation issued when the restaurant was under other ownership. Upon motion of Mr. Carroll, seconded by Mr. Uebersax, the committee voted 6 to 2 to not oppose the application with inclusion of 29 written self imposed conditions plus the volunteered condition that the term of the permission will cease if not before upon a change in ownership of the restaurant, provided the time of beer and wine service not extend beyond 11PM.

3c. The committee heard from applicants at 2208 Catalina Street (4821 Los Feliz Blvd). The applicants, Mark S. Gunsky and Tom Trellis, requested to build a 345 linear foot, 7 foot high wall set back 5 feet from property lines on Catalina and Los Feliz with higher pedestrian and automobile gates. The applicants and their representatives, Chris Parker and Jim Harlan, stated safety concerns as the reasoning for the request. Two members of the public spoke on the issue. Richard Horowitz was 'for' and neighbor Stella Balesh was 'against' the request and the chair read an email from another neighbor who opposed the wall. After committee discussion about safety (for example the need to inset the gates to avoid a car entering blocking the sidewalk and a car exiting being able to see and be seen before entering the sidewalk and street) and neighborhood concerns on motion made by Mr. Carroll and seconded by Mr. Cisneros, the committee voted 6-1-1 to oppose the application. The applicants were invited to reconsider their request in light of committee comments and consider asking the committee to reconsider the matter before a public zoning hearing is noticed.

4. Edward Hunt, chair of the planning committee of the Hollywood Studio Neighborhood Council and a licensed architect and landscape architect, gave an informative presentation on the Los Angeles Landscape Ordinance. The committee was grateful for the insights on the ordinance. A stakeholder, Rex Link, spoke on the issue as he had been involved in the writing of the ordinance

5. The committee discussed the issue of whether or not to continue to meet while the board addressed the specific issues raised by the committee's report of June 09. The committee continues to be very concerned about what it feels are most offensive and unwarranted attacks on both the board and the committee and implicit lack of support and appreciation for the long hours and efforts. The committee will continue meeting on a month to month basis deciding each month whether it was beneficial to the community for the committee to meet and whether or not the GGPNC board was addressing the issues raised by the committee's June report.

5. The committee adjourned at approximately 11:10PM

