

## Elyse Eisenberg

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**From:** Elyse Eisenberg [eisenberg@earthlink.net]  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 16, 2007 4:17 PM  
**To:** Eisenberg, Elyse  
**Subject:** WeHo Heights Neighborhood Association - First Meeting Wrap Up

Dear All,

We would like to thank everyone who attended the first meeting of the new WeHo Heights Neighborhood Association. It was a strong turnout and it was wonderful to see so many people concerned about the direction of our city and the issues affecting our neighborhood - and willing to get involved.

With the assistance of Laura Manukian, Neighborhood Services Coordinator from the Public Safety Division of the City of West Hollywood, notification was sent to the West Hollywood residents north of Sunset on Clark, Horn, Larrabee, Sherbourne and Shoreham.

Thirty five (35) residents of the neighborhood and several representatives from the City of West Hollywood attended, including Mayor Pro Temp Jeffrey Prang, his deputy Josh Kurpies, Lisa Belsanti from Abbe Land's office, and a deputy sheriff whose name I did not get. Unfortunately, Laura Manukian was not able to attend due to family illness.

The introduction and opening remarks were made by Sibyl Zaden, President of the Shoreham Heights Neighborhood Association for over twenty years. Sibyl has been instrumental in many of the developments on Horn over the years, including changing the traffic light at the intersection of Sunset and Horn to allow traffic from Horn to flow straight to Holloway, redirecting the limo drop-off around Spago's when the restaurant was active, and getting the carriage lane at the new Shoreham Villas, the condos on the site of Spago's parking lot. Sibyl is also head of the Neighborhood Watch Group, and coordinates the Annual Night Out for the neighborhood.

Mayor Pro Temp Jeffrey Prang then spoke at length about the developments and plans for future growth in the city of WeHo, including the new construction ordinance that was passed at the June 4th City Council meeting (item 3C on the 6/4/2007 City Council Agenda). There was an active question and answer period, and it appeared that the primary concern of the attendees was the overdevelopment of the city and our neighborhood, and traffic issues. You can contact him through his deputy, Josh Kurpies, at (323) 848-6460. Prang also encourages everyone to subscribe to his bi-weekly e-mail newsletter by forwarding your e-mail address to [jprang@weho.org](mailto:jprang@weho.org).

The Deputy Sheriff spoke about safety concerns and crime issues in the neighborhood. Although there have been ongoing problems related to transients, and previously there had been criminal activity associated with the residents of 1217 Horn, with the sale and proposed development of 1217, those issues have mostly abated. Residents are encouraged to directly contact the WeHo Sheriff's Department at (310) 855-8850 instead of 911, in the event of emergency or to report criminal activity. Weekly Crime Report updates are available through subscription to the Neighborhood Watch email newsletter at <http://www.weho.org/lists/> or downloaded from - <http://www.weho.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/detail/navid/390/cid/4208/>

Our invited speaker, neighbor and Shoreham resident, John Altschul, member of the WeHo Planning Commission for many years, updated us on all the current and proposed construction that we should be aware of. Although some (but not all) neighborhood construction will be impacted by the new construction ordinance, commercial development on Sunset and Santa Monica Blvds will not be affected. A short summary of upcoming projects along the Strip include: the Tower Records site; a small retail/strip mall at the NE corner of Sunset and Clark, with the entrance/exit from Clark; renovation and additional restaurant and room space at the Bel Age Hotel; a new five-story hotel and gourmet restaurant at the empty lot on the S side of Sunset between Hilldale and Hammond (sorry I can't remember the name of the hotel or the London chef but his name was very familiar to many in the room); the multi-use development on the SE corner of Sunset and Doheny that includes the Scandia site - a proposed five-to nine-story structure; an H&M Store going into the Sunset Millennium (under construction now); a hotel at the Sunset Millennium at Sunset and La Cienega; and a proposed hotel and housing

development on the House of Blues site at Sunset and Olive. There is also the expansion of the Pavilions site on Santa Monica and San Vicente to a much larger structure several stories high. There is also the new Walgreen's going up on the corner of Santa Monica and Crescent Heights displacing several mom-and-pop stores. No news was available for the former Tower Video site, or the former Spago's site - which no longer has a parking lot adequate to support a restaurant or club and has effectively been an abandoned property since Spago's moved out about six years ago.

This is not an all-inclusive list and does not list all the luxury condo developments that are being built all over the city, including at least six to eight in our neighborhood alone. One of the attendees, Horn Plaza resident Anton Holden, noted that housing loans for many of these developments were attained based on claims of single family ownership, and were afterwards switched to multi-unit luxury condo development. Another attendee brought information that the 1217 Horn site had recently changed hands in April after the developer completed the permit process. The permits were approved September 2006 and are good for two years. ([www.zillow.com](http://www.zillow.com))

A lot of the follow up discussion involved residents' concerns about the development of the Tower Records site. There is tremendous concern about traffic problems with any type of access on Horn, as well as the probably lengthy construction process. We all know that the Spago's condos took three years to complete, instead of the anticipated eighteen months. Horn Plaza resident David Haugland emphasized that green space should be a priority part of any design concept, and that the building should be set back from the street. Others were concerned about the necessity of the proposed upscale gym ([www.davidbartongym.com](http://www.davidbartongym.com)) right down the street from Equinox. We are all concerned about sufficient parking along the entire Sunset Strip.

John Altschul, Sibyl Zaden and Dave Weissfeld have recently met with the developer of the Tower site, Saul Barket. Proposed is a 3-story building with 300-350 parking spaces. 1st floor: Retail - 10K sq. ft. 2nd floor: Spa - 20K sq. ft. 3rd floor: Office - 20K sq. ft. Entrance and Exit for clients and delivery all on Horn.

It would be extremely beneficial for the developer to meet with the neighborhood association before any plans begin to be developed or presented to the city. We will try and coordinate that in the near future and will keep you informed.

The last item on the agenda was the reorganization of the Shoreham Heights Neighborhood Association. We invited our unrepresented neighboring streets of Clark and Larrabee to join our group, making us almost 1,000 residences strong and with the potential for greater clout in dealing with the city. In honor of the new membership, I proposed a new name - the WeHo Heights Neighborhood Association. Dave Weissfeld seconded the motion which was passed unanimously. Seven people from the group volunteered to serve on the Board: John Altschul, Chris Clarkin (not in attendance but volunteered to serve through proxy), Bjorn Johnson, Gene Smith, Dave Weissfeld, Sibyl Zaden, and myself. We plan to meet next month to elect officers for the first Board, to determine the direction and focus of our association, and where we go from here.

It was proposed that we model ourselves on the West Hollywood West Residents Association - <http://whwra.org/>. They have been around for a long time, are very well organized, and would be a good model for us to embrace. To further that, I have reserved the website [www.wehoheights.com](http://www.wehoheights.com). As soon as I can figure out how to upload to it, we will use it to keep people informed and hopefully grow the participation of our neighbors in our new association.

We recommend keeping abreast of city activities - including proposed construction and development - by subscribing to the city newsletters at <http://www.weho.org/lists/>. Also very informative is a weekly online newsletter - [www.wehonest.com](http://www.wehonest.com).

If there are issues that were not addressed at the meeting that you would like to see on future agendas, or any other comments, please write to me directly. Hopefully I got everyone's emails correctly, but if not, please share with any of your neighbors who you know where there. Please share this newsletter with any of your other neighbors who you think may be interested.

Thank you again for your participation and support.

Best,

Elyse Eisenberg