

Elyse Eisenberg

From: WeHo Heights NA [wehoheights@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, July 06, 2008 5:26 PM
To: WeHo Heights NA, Elyse Eisenberg
Subject: WeHo Heights NA Annual Meeting June 9, 2008 - Summary

Dear All,

Thank you all for participating in the West Hollywood Heights Neighborhood Association meeting held on Monday, June 9th in the Horn Plaza Community Room. Please forgive the delay for this late distribution.

INTRODUCTION

The meeting began shortly after 7 PM. About 40 residents - both homeowners and renters - gathered for the second annual meeting, an increase of about 30% over the previous year. Our mailing list encompasses almost 10% of the neighborhood, and we continue to grow as awareness for the group increases and residents express a desire to participate in the dialogue about local issues and concerns. The neighborhood boundaries now include the block of Ozeta Terrace that is part of WH, and the NA now represents 1,003 residences in 83 structures on the six streets above Sunset in WH.



WH SHERIFF'S STATION: DEPUTY KEVIN CONNORS, DEPUTY ED BROWN

The first speakers were Deputy Kevin Connors and Deputy Ed Brown from the West Hollywood Sheriff's Division. They discussed crime prevention, reviewed local incidents of recent crimes for this part of West Hollywood, and answered general questions. The majority of crimes in the area are related to the nightclub traffic along Sunset and Santa Monica Boulevards. Our particular neighborhood is very low in incidents. There are the occasional vandalism and homeless incidents, and minor burglaries often related to unlocked vehicles and open garages. Violent and/or confrontational incidents are rare. The neighborhood is not considered dangerous, although everyone is advised to stay alert and report suspicious behavior.

It was recommended to program the Sheriff Station's direct number (310) 855-8850 into your home and mobile phones for quicker response than standard 911.

For the West Hollywood Weekly Crime Summary, you may sign up for the newsletter at <http://www.weho.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/detail/navid/390/cid/4208/>

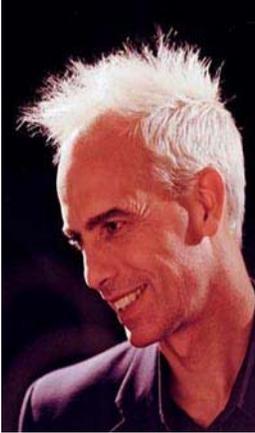


DRS

DISPUTE RESOLUTION SERVICES DISPUTE RESOLUTION SERVICES:

KATHRYN TURK

Kathryn Turk, Community Coordinator for the WH branch of the Dispute Resolution Services (DRS), a division of the LA County Bar Association, spoke next and explained their services. DRS mediation services can be used to resolve all kinds of conflicts, including those with merchants, landlords, tenants, homeowner associations, neighbors, employers, roommates, partners and spouses, to name a few. These services are funded by the City of West Hollywood, are offered at no charge for the first three hours, and should be considered as an alternative to the courts. (323) 930-1841 / www.lacba.org/drs

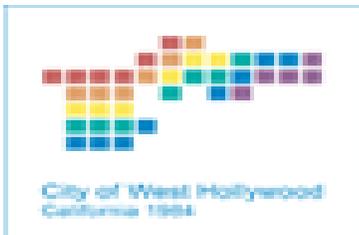


GUEST SPEAKER: JOHN HEILMAN

John Heilman, former Mayor and Councilmember since WeHo was incorporated in 1984, described the plans for the Sunset Strip Beautification Project which will be voted on at the City Council meeting July 21st. The plans are not as elaborate as what was done for Santa Monica Blvd, but the street will be resurfaced, sidewalks repaired and partially redesigned, more trees will be added, and traffic signals updated.

John addressed at length the neighborhood desire to down zone and listened to the many concerns expressed about the density in the city, specifically relating to its impact on our dead end streets. There has been heightened concern about the increasing density's impact on emergency services access, with many people bringing up the recent incident of the woman on Ozeta Terrace who was injured when she jumped out of her burning home while waiting for a fire truck to maneuver the narrow streets. Over the past five years, there have also been several other fires on Horn and Shoreham where emergency access may have been compromised due to the gridlock on Sunset and the angled parking on the streets, which no one wants to lose as street parking is already at a premium in this area.

Heilman was concerned about the legality of down zoning from R4 to R3, because of existing homeowners' rights. There was confusion (by me!) thinking that R4 meant a height of 45' and R3 meant a maximum of 35'. In fact, it is more complicated than and not as simple as that. Heilman did offer the suggestion that we could modify the R4 category and include restrictions that would apply to our district, such as height limitations, view corridors, greater setbacks, etc. This was explored more with our next speaker.



GENERAL PLAN: FRANCIE STEFAN

Francie Stefan, Senior Planner, Planning Division, and her associate Bianca Siegl brought in a large visual presentation and status report on the General Plan which is currently being updated for the first time since WH was incorporated. The major issues from the residents were again the density and traffic in our neighborhood and how we can mitigate this going forward. These are the subjects that engender the most passion in the neighborhood.

Because so many issues were being raised about what building restrictions would be desirable, Francie agreed to return for a meeting on this sole subject at a to-be-agreed-upon date in the near future. In the interim, the neighborhood will provide input to an on-line survey, similar to Survey #1, the Tower/Who We Are survey currently on the www.wehoheights.com site. The neighborhood will be notified as soon as the survey is ready, and it is hoped that everyone will participate.

Construction blocking the roads when building is going on has been extremely problematic. The large trucks consistently cause problems that back up traffic for long periods of time. These roads are simply too narrow to accommodate all the construction that is planned for the neighborhood, and is another reason to be concerned about new construction on these streets.

Residents were also upset that residential driveways on Horn are being used as “turnarounds” when unknowing drivers turn up the street and discover it is a dead end. Adequate signage near the Sunset intersection was requested. We have recently been informed that this signage should be in place soon.

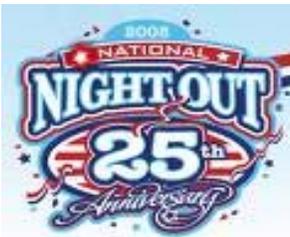
There was significant and heated discussion about the repeated requests over the years for green space - a pocket park or a green zone overlay. This is a major dog walking neighborhood and there is no public green area to service these 1,000 residences, the nearest being over one mile away. There is a great desire to have a part of the neighborhood designated a green zone, especially in light of the city’s expressed commitment to expanding its park system. Part of the Tower property has been suggested in the past, as has part of the Spago’s site. The site of the recently demolished 1217 Horn was also raised as a possibility. A couple of residents will be researching this further.



TOWER RECORDS: BRIAN LEWIS, MARATHON

COMMUNICATIONS

Briefly, because we were running out of time, Bianca Siegl and Brian Lewis gave an update on the Tower Records development. While the EIR process is going on, an upscale clothing/jeans store has taken a one year lease (then month-to-month, if necessary) and is expected to open in July. The EIR has been assigned and the city is working with the company on the specifications now. There will be a scoping meeting with the neighborhood in the near future so the EIR people can hear our concerns. The EIR process is expected to take at least a year before the initial report is available for public review.



POLICE-COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT: SIBYL ZADEN

WeHo Heights Board Delegate Sibyl Zaden announced plans for the National Night Out, which will be held at Horn Plaza on Tuesday, August 5th.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2008-2009

As we have not yet developed an official election process, including nominations and qualifications, and many people had left by the end of the meeting, we informally agreed that the Board of Directors will remain the same for another year.

The meeting ended at 9:10 PM.

We appreciate everyone’s contribution to improving the quality of life in our small neighborhood, and thank you all for your continued participation and interest.

Please forward any comments or suggestions.

Best,
Elyse Eisenberg
Chair, Board of Directors
West Hollywood Heights NA

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Representing WeHo above Sunset Blvd — Clark, Horn, Larrabee, Sherbourne & Shoreham
Mailing list: WeHoHeights@gmail.com — Website: www.wehoheights.com