

WEST HOLLYWOOD CITY COUNCIL

SPECIAL TOWN HALL MEETING

MINUTES

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1993 7:00 P.M.  
FIESTA HALL AT PLUMMER PARK  
7377 Santa Monica Boulevard  
West Hollywood

1. CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Guarriello called the meeting to order at 7:13 p.m.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge was led by Paul Arevalo.
3. OPENING REMARKS: City Manager Paul Brotzman thanked everyone for coming and explained the structure of the meeting.

Councilmember Heilman explained that the purpose of the discussion is to identify problems and identify things people like about the East Side. He stated that this is the first of a series of meetings to be held on the East Side, every two months. After identifying three top areas of concern, staff will be asked to prepare workplans. At the next meeting, the residents will be asked for their approval on those workplans.

Councilmembers Lang, Mayor Pro Tem Land, and Mayor Guarriello made additional opening comments, and Mayor Pro Tem Land stated that although Councilmember Koretz is present, he is not well and will not be able to participate because he has lost his voice, and will probably be leaving the meeting soon.

The City Manager asked everyone to sign the sign-up sheet at their table.

4. GROUP DISCUSSIONS TO IDENTIFY THREE THINGS THAT WORK AND THREE PROBLEM AREAS/CONCERNS RELATIVE TO THE EAST SIDE:  
At 7:25 p.m., group discussions were held, with staff persons serving as facilitators at the individual tables.
5. REPORT BACK ON GROUP DISCUSSION:  
At 8:00 p.m., one representative from each of 13 tables which had held discussion reported back with a list of "things that work" and a list of problem areas or concerns relative to the East Side.

As each group reported, their comments were listed on easels in the front of the auditorium. Janyce Kamahele of the City Manager's department listed the "things that work," while Vivian Love, City Clerk, noted the problems and concerns.

Some of the things the residents liked about the East Side were: the bike patrol and foot patrols, the diversity of the people, the proliferation of retired people and new immigrants, undergrounding of power lines, the "big city gone small town" environment, City services, Plummer Park activities, pedestrian orientation, the variety of businesses, the new lighting plan, Farmer's Market, "unrealized economic opportunity," ficus trees, rent control, transportation services, cultural events, shopping and entertainment, the new citizen activism, and "tonight's discussion."

Some of the problems and concerns which were identified were: street prostitution, drugs, gangs, car break-ins, car theft, robberies, dark streets, children finding syringes, problems with street vendors, traffic, parking, homeless, harassment of gays, encroachment of park space, not enough police visibility, lack of business development, need for beautification/property maintenance, need for better communication (both dissemination of information and listening to people), need for more Russian communication, and need for tolerance of immigrants.

Some further suggestions and/or requests were: a Sheriff's sub-station on the East Side, more Council meetings on the East Side, code enforcement during off-hours, Cityline shuttle during special events, more green space, citizen patrols, more law enforcement, more citizen review on planning issues, incentives for good businesses, and citizen input on approval of businesses.

6. RECESS: A recess was held at 8:53 p.m., and the meeting resumed at 9:00 p.m.
7. PROJECT STATUS REPORTS AND QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:
  - A) Park Master Plan
  - B) East Side Revitalization
  - C) Street Lights
  - D) Sheriff's Report
  - E) Code Enforcement

Sharon Schiffman, City Engineer, gave an update on the street lights, and then answered questions from residents. She stated that three projects were underway. The pedestrian street lighting project on Santa Monica Boulevard would be installed in mid to late December. The second project is a Citywide upgrade of street lights. The layout has been completed and Edison will complete the construction within a year and a half. The undergrounding of power lines will be continued to La Cienega.

Captain Clarence Chapman reported on the Sheriff's Department activities and then answered questions. He stated that prostitution and street level crime are a priority, and

reported on undercover operations.

Todd Elliot reported on the recommendations of the East End Revitalization Task Force.

Sam Baxter gave an introduction to the Park Master Plan, and the consultant, Steve Lang of Purkiss.Rose-RSI, gave a review of the Plan, and then responded to questions.

Anne Browning reported on code enforcement activities.

8. IDENTIFY/PRIORITIZE TOP 3-4 CONCERNS/ISSUES AND SIGN UP FOR SPECIFIC ISSUE GROUPS:  
Councilmember Heilman pointed out that that staff had identified the following three priority areas for the East Side:
- 1) Public Safety;
  - 2) Communication and Involvement;
  - 3) Attracting Businesses to the East Side.

He explained that staff would develop workplans and bring these back at the next East Side meeting, and asked whether anyone objected to these three priority areas.

Ruth Williams requested to add having a 24-hour Russian translator at the Sheriff's Department.

Councilmember Heilman said that could be followed up on. He indicated that staff will work with these priorities and develop action plans, and contact everyone who has signed up this evening to see what areas they would like to work on.

There was a request from a member of the audience to add the issue of understanding between the Russian and gay and lesbian members of the community.

City Manager Brotzman and Councilmember Land stated that that issue can be added, and the City Manager pointed out that there is an Immigrant Task Force which is identifying immigrant issues, and will give a report to Council in January.

9. SCHEDULE FUTURE MEETING: The next East Side meeting will be held on Monday, January 31, 1994.

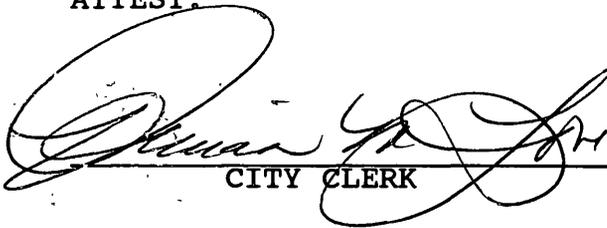
Councilmember Heilman announced that today, November 29th, is the Ninth Birthday of the City of West Hollywood.

10. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting of the City Council was adjourned in memory of Frank Wittenberg, a longtime resident who had been active in the Cityhood campaign, to their next regular meeting to be held on Monday, December 6, 1993 at West Hollywood Park, 647 N. San Vicente, West Hollywood.

APPROVED BY MOTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL THIS 3RD DAY OF JANUARY, 1994.

  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

  
CITY CLERK