

COMMUNITY COUNCIL TOWN HALL: 5/12/94

Chairperson Randy YOUNG began the meeting with a new tradition—the reading of our PURPOSE as set forth in our By-Laws:

"The purpose of the Pacific Palisades Community Council shall be:

"A. To be a forum for the discussion of community issues.

"B. To be an advocate for the Pacific Palisades to government and private agencies upon those issues where there is broad community agreement.

"C. To assist other organizations in the Palisades which want help in accomplishing their objectives or projects, and which the Council desires to support."

As is our custom, the Members of the Audience and the Board introduced themselves and the organizations they represent. The AGENDA & the MINUTES of 4/14/94 were approved as submitted. BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Randy Young, Lila Gordon, Helen Cutler, Shirley Haggstrom, Jack Allen, Bill Davis, June Perez, Michelle Fuller, Patti Beckwith, John Raiford, Herb Furth. *Horowitz*

Announcements & Concerns

a. **City Parks & Recreation Hearing To Be Held In The Palisades On May 18:** Patti Beckwith announced that for the first time in years the Parks & Rec Board of Commissioners will meet here in the Palisades. Dean Pregerson, who lives in Palisades, arranged it. All are welcome to come & express their concerns. Potrero Canyon & the proposed new gym are on the Agenda. 4:30 at Pali Park Rec Center.

b. **Latest News On The Village School: Construction Of An On-Site Bus Turn-In Lane Now Underway:** Randy described the project—a large turn-in for school buses directly in front of the wall which runs along the front of the school. Among the concerns raised by Board Members were the following: the sidewalk will have to be repositioned (Randy); Construction is already underway (Jack & others); the ZA must sign off on this new VS project with a Finding that this new Traffic Plan does not violate other Conditions & the VS has not yet filed their Application with the ZA to do this (Jack reporting on his conversation with Cindy Miscikowski, Braude's aide, on Tuesday pm); the VS is trying to fulfill one of the major Conditions &, while trying to do that, violating other Conditions (Randy); the Traffic Plan is supposed to go to the DOT (the Post says DOT approved it), but this is only the first step; the VS is also violating the terms of their Agreement with the Civic League & the Civic League Approval Process—now there will be no room for greenery in front of the school (Lila); etc. Motion by Lila set forth below. Discussion: The letter should just be a query as to the process & schedule;

an information request letter, not a demanding letter. Bill also wanted to know what Braude said regarding the VS not filing an Application. Jack repeated what he had said earlier & expanded on it.

*** Motion: That we write a letter to the ZA asking whether a permit was obtained for this work going on now & inquiring where they are in the process. 2nd.

Vote: Yes. Unanimous.

c. **Westridge Development—On The Cusp Of The Palisades— Will Be a Hot Issue:** Jack reported on the status of this development. This is a 20+ acre site with plans to dedicate 2/3 of the site to the public & to build 30 homes. The development has been heavily fought by homeowners. It has geological problems (the EIR is 3 vols.) The 2/3 being dedicated to the public is all steep hillsides which relieves the builders of liability when, after a heavy rain, the "mud slugs" (big pieces of hillsides—like in Potrero Canyon) come tumbling down. Final day for comments on draft EIR changed from June 6 to mid-July.

d. **Black Day for the Palisades: Cindy Miscikowski—expert on City Planning & Zoning—is Leaving Councilman Braude's Office on July 1:** Randy reported that Cindy Miscikowski is leaving Braude's office to become the Director of the Skirball Cultural Center effective July 1. He praised her expertise in City Planning & Zoning (she has been there since 1972 & is the most knowledgeable of all the aides to all the Council persons in this area) and her helpfulness to the Palisades (for example she was in the front line for us all the time in the OXY Oil matter).

***Motion: Write a Letter to Cindy thanking her for all her work & inviting her to one of our meetings. Vote: Yes. Unanimous.

e. Jack reported on Mt. Holyoke—the City Council has not acted & there's a May 24th Court date & Bernheimer Gardens—not hear anything. Car Museum Proposed for Marquez Knolls: Marge Goff reported that Gary Morris, former chief of City Planning's Subdivision Section, is representing a private party, Paul Mullan, who wants to buy the property for a car museum.

f. **LAPD Drop-in Police Office Open:** Located in the Chamber of Commerce Office on Antioch: It's open announced Bill. Randy thanked the Chamber of Commerce for coming thru again.

PROGRAM

PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE BY-LAWS

Randy thanked & introduced the Members of the Bylaws Committee—Joan Graves, Lila Gordon, John Raiford, Lloyd Ahern, and Wally Miller. Joan Graves, Chairwoman of the By-Laws Committee, quipped that she would greatly appreciate it if they would leave their assault weapons, bricks, bats, and tomatoes outside. She

RANDY

invited everyone to take an active part in the Community Council both in this session and in the future. Joan stressed several themes. The Community Council has always been great and done a super job, but it has never been static. The Community Council has been trying unsuccessfully to have elected representatives from its very inception in 1972 to the present. The composition of the Community Council has changed over the years as groups have been added, subtracted, given and lost permanent seats, moved into other categories and then back again etc. After presenting their initial plan for revision of the By-Laws and getting feedback from the community, Joan and her Committee found a great deal of resistance to upsetting the status quo—since no one wants to behead themselves. Thus, Joan and the Committee went back to the drawing board and came up with a practical workable solution—something for the 90's—to accomplish their short term goal of broadening the base of the Community Council. Copies of proposal available. Members of the Board would be Officers, 9 Organizational seats, & 8 Geographical seats:

9 Organizational Seats: Joan reported that the number of Categories of Organizations has been reduced from 14 to 9 by combining some categories like Men's Service Clubs, Women's Service Clubs, and the Veterans into one category, by putting PPRA back into Environment etc. [The seat held by each Organizational Category rotates among the organizations listed under that category.]

8 Geographically Based Seats: Lila reported that the Palisades has been divided into 8 geographical areas:

1. Coastal;
2. Highlands;
3. Marquez on West to Bienvienda on East & North of Sunset;
4. Bel Air Bay Club to Temescal Canyon: North & South of Sunset;
5. Alphabet Streets & area North of Bester;
6. Via Mesa & HP
7. Canyons: SM, Rustic, Will Rogers;
8. Riviera (No & So of Sunset) to Allenford.
- ?? 9. ?? Residents of the Westridge area are interested in being a part of Palisades;

Lila pointed out that it is more than just a numerical value, but what people consider to be their neighborhoods & geographical area. We are not looking for exact numerical representation, but for groups with common interests. Currently, there are only two Homeowners groups represented on the Council and they do not interact with other homeowner groups. In each of these geographical areas, the By-laws Committee wants both individuals and the Homeowners' Groups to participate. For the first two years, a special nominating committee will select the representatives from each geographical area from the individuals and groups nominated. After two years, they will reevaluate to see how it is working & how elections can be held. Lila stressed that these seats are not cast in concrete.

Proposal #2: June Perez discussed Temescal Canyon Association's Proposal calling for the election of 5 Representatives-at-Large and for leaving the rest of the organizational structure the way it is now. TCA written proposal available.

Proposal #3: An Alternative Plan Calling for Elections Now is Presented by Jack Allen: On behalf of Citizens for a Democratic Council, Jack Allen stated that we are ready for elections right now and presented an alternative Plan for reorganizing the Community Council. He pointed out the importance of the Community Council as the unofficial voice for the community to which the LA City Council and Government Agencies listen and stressed that the Community Council was originally structured around organizations just to get us started. Jack feels that the Community Council is not functioning as well as it should and stressed that the Council is going to have to start reacting faster because of new laws favored by Developers. For example, the time for a Negative Declaration has been cut from 45 days to 20 days; a new committee has been established to streamline regulations. Thus, we as a Council must react faster. Jack pointed out that we worked on great issues—such as the 35 Height Limit ICO and were successful because we had time. But our procedures are cumbersome especially in light of the new streamlined procedures & tightened deadlines. Under the existing By-Laws, when a new issue comes before us—one on which we haven't taken a position—our Board has to go back to the organizations they represent to get their input and position. Since many organizations meet only 1 time a month, it can take forever to make a decision when a decision is needed right away. In addition, while the Council had an opportunity to hear both sides of an issue presented by the parties involved, the member organizations don't have that opportunity. Jack's "5 Plan" would provide for 2 year terms (4 yrs max):

5 Elected At-Large

5 Elected from Geographical Areas

5 Organizational Members

For the elected members from geographical areas, the principle is one man one vote and Jack would use precinct divisions=equal numbers of people in each area. The organizations selected represent unique interests & expertise and would consist of: Chamber of Commerce, Historical Society, Recreation & Sports, Education, and High School. Jack has always hoped the Palisades would become a City, so how it is structured could have an impact. If we are going to make a change, make it now.

Comments: Anna stated that Lila's geographical areas are the same as those used by the Democratic Club uses (they also include Mandeville, Westridge, and the Polo fields area). Wally Miller, a member of the By-Laws Committee, who was in on the beginning of the Community Council, stated that the long term goal has always been to represent the community by areas. Wally stated that this is

the 4th time we have tried to impliment these ideas. He is concerned that without these changes the Council is in danger of folding. He urged everone

to write down their ideas & submit them in writing. Wally added that TCA's proposal dates back to 1983. Shirley Haggstrom representing the **Castellemare Homeowners Association** says she feels the By-Laws Committee proposal would work; she has only recently felt a part of the Palisades Harold Tuchyner thought there were great ideas in both plans. Margaret Goff, despite her great respect for Jack, thought his plan was totally unrealistic and opens it up to special interests. Many more comments.

The Next Stage in the Process:

Joan & Randy agreed that the By-Laws Committee will take all the ideas presented tonight and those submitted in writing to the Community Council, P.O. Box 1131 and see how these ideas change their report. Randy will then bring the Committee's proposal to the full council for debate. The Report has to be taken as a whole & voted on. Has to be read twice and voted two different meetings. That is a protection. Randy would like to have a finished document by the end of his term. Timetable:

May 26th: Formal reading. Vote

June 9: 2nd reading & 2nd vote. 2/3 vote.

Concluding Thoughts: He praised the By-laws Committee. Their process has been terrific. Randy remembers 70's when the Council was set up. There were no State Parks. The Palisades could have been all subdivided by the Zekindorfs etc. The Village Green was a gas station. The Community won almost every single battle. Addressing the issue of community apathy raised earlier, he thought this apathy may be because the Community Council was so effective. Now it is more a matter of a maintenance. At the last meeting in this room 250 people attended. Big issues draw big crowds. Jack added that this is a quiescent period because no developer money just now.

Meeting concluded at 9:35 pm.