

Minutes

by Donal Thoms-Cappello

SOUTH HOLLYWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING AGENDA AND MINUTES
as recorded by Corresponding Secretary,
Ben Owen
Monday, May 18, 2014 6:30 PM
ARMENIAN COMMUNITY CENTER
2337 N. Myers Ave., Los Angeles CA 90127
(Meter Parking Only)

GOVERNING BOARD OFFICERS

Tracy Hakobyan, (President)
Vicky Stratton, (Vice President)
Bob Handley, (Treasurer)
Pamela Gonzalez, (Recording Secretary)
Salma Grennan, (Corresponding Treasurer)
Ben Owen, (Corresponding Secretary)
David Nederlander, (Home Preservation Subcommittee Chair)

Call to Order

President Tracy Hakobyan calls meeting to order. Notes that Recording Secretary Gonzalez is not present for her usual job of taking down minutes. President tells Corresponding Secretary Owen that, as bylaws (Article II:4) state, in the absence of the Recording Secretary, it is his duty to take down the minutes. Corresponding Secretary responds that he was unaware of such a bylaw, and in the wake of a demanding schedule that includes two waiting shifts, a party at Rich's, the Warriors/Clippers game, and a date on Saturday with this bartender he met at White Lotus, processing and sending minutes to City Hall will be impossible for him to execute this weekend.

President holds vote on forcing Corresponding Secretary to record minutes. Ayes are unanimous. Corresponding Secretary excluded from voting (note: under protest)

Community Report

In public comments, President Hakobyan recognizes Judd Fenton, stakeholder and single resident of 346 Hobart Lane. Mr. Fenton brings up the issue of bicyclists riding all over the district and the dangers of their doing so. He observes- for the third month in a row- that most bicyclists do not obey the traffic lights at various intersections, particularly his, and risk causing accidents with motorists who obey (Mr. Fenton has asked this part be registered in all-caps) THE LAW for driving vehicles on the street. President thanks Mr. Fenton for his comments in bringing the matter to council's attention. Mr. Fenton goes on to point out that one of the repeated offenders is a young [Hispanic] boy, heavyset, too heavy for the bicycle he uses and never bothering to wear a helmet.

Corresponding Secretary believes the young boy Mr. Fenton is referring to is a 15 year-old boy named Hector, who lives in his apartment complex. Since Los Angeles cut city-wide

summer schooling to adapt to a budget deficit that may have something to do with California electing an action-movie star as governor, Hector is far behind in schooling and these summer days usually sits around his front stoop surrounded by a video game console, a slightly deflated basketball, and his bicycle. His belly laugh after saying *Buenos tardas* belongs to an older man; when he tries to explain the latest video game he plays, he has the countenance of a doctor walking you through your MRI results. Hector's father manages the building, when he's not drinking himself to sleep in the parking lot. He looks half as tall as Hector but that can't be right. He sweats always. Through his hair and even his handlebar mustache, and his skin looks like its been dry-baked in the sun since he was a toddler. Once, through slurred speech, he told of how he traveled with other immigrants from Honduras through the Mojave Desert, and only after eight years of begging, farming, and construction work did he save up enough to send for his wife and two children.

Corresponding Secretary decides to keep these observations to himself. Over Mr. Fenton's continued talking, President welcomes City Council report.

Office of City Council Assemblyman Josh Klingham

President recognizes and welcomes Assemblyman Klingham. Assemblyman Klingham thanks the Council for its continued support; also compliments President Hakobyan on her dancing skills at the recent LA City Gala. President smiles and laughs.

**Corresponding Secretary just catches her straightening the brunette locks behind her ear.*

Assemblyman Klingham announces LA City Council has decided to award this Council with (approx) \$4000.00 in excess funds to tackle a beautification project: the dismantling of the local basketball courts, where gang activity and vandalism have been an unfortunate occurrence for the past two years. Corresponding Secretary asks Assemblyman what gangs are being referred to, cites that he's played on those courts numerous times and has never seen vandalism or any instances of gang-related activity. Assemblyman Klingham notes various reports of broken windows reported by the homes around the courts.

Corresponding Secretary responds that he is a regular at those courts and that in the context of summer schools being cancelled post-Recession, getting rid of basketball courts would give kids nothing to do.

President thanks Assemblyman Klingham and closes Community Reports. There is a period of silence in the room just long enough to make the Corresponding Secretary feel it is deliberately for him.

Agenda

Council Treasurer Bob Handley brings to the floor a motion to re-distribute allocated funds from the district's yearly \$30,000 budget into an "entrepreneur day" conference at the Hollywood Hotel for local residents interested in starting their own business. A hotel that Treasurer Handley happens to own. Motion is seconded by Board member Salma Grennel. Motion is argued against by Board member Dave Nederlander, who says the funds being asked for have already technically been allocated to the housing preservation subcommittee. A subcommittee Dave Nederlander happens to head.

During this discussion, Corresponding Secretary starts to daydream about something he heard on the radio a few years back. A news update or a comment in an interview (he

cannot quite remember) about Los Angeles cutting summer schools to the tune of \$1.8 million per year. He pulls his phone out and punches numbers in a calculator app: 88 neighborhood districts that each get \$30,000 for the year. \$2,640,000. He thinks about how many other neighborhood councils argue over funding for things like "entrepreneur days" and preserving historical homes. He remembers Hector in the hot sun earlier this month, talking through the complex gates to three boys all wearing wide sunglasses.

New Business

No new business discussed. President closes meeting.

**Corresponding Secretary will see President later in the parking lot having an animated phone conversation. When she hangs up, she'll explain that her boyfriend and she have been working through a long-distance relationship and it's starting to get to her. Corresponding Secretary will intend to share a quick story about trying to have a long-distance relationship once in his early 20's with a finance director who used to send him nude text pics while simultaneously telling him Al Gore made up global warming. The story will make President laugh in a way that he'll tell another dating hell story. And then another one. And in an hour they'll find themselves at a nearby Silver Lake lounge discussing the nuances of tax code and whether Obama could have won the election with public fundraising. After that they'll make it a tradition to wind down every monthly meeting with a cocktail, and they'll even talk a week later on the phone until four in the morning. He'll confide in her his real fear of having made the mistake of choosing to be an actor, worried it will mean a life of poverty. She'll reveal feeling that her Armenian ethnicity, though it instilled in her a sense of community service, keeps her too isolated from different kinds of people. People like him, she says. When he wakes up late for work that morning, Corresponding Secretary will see a text from "Tracy" of President Hakobyan in a stunning blue evening gown, with the words "Thinking of wearing this 2 the Guv's ball what u think :)"*

"Beautiful" he'll text back.