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DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL PLANNING & LAND USE COMMITTEE

<http://DLANC.com/Planning/>

Committee Board Co-Chair James Doizaki • jdoizaki@yahoo.com

Committee Public Co-Chair Shiraz Tangri • Planning@DLANC.com

When: TUESDAY • January 19, 2010 • 6:30 p.m.

Where: The Exchange • 114 W. 5th Street • Los Angeles, CA 90014

MINUTES OF MEETING

1. Call to order and roll call

Co-Chair James Doizaki called the meeting to order at 6:45 pm.

Committee members present: Shiraz Tangri, Russell Brown, Gunnar Hand, Mamta Patel, Simon Ha, Valerie Watson, Bernard Chang, Scott Bytof, General Jeff, Tanner Blackman and James Doizaki

Unexcused Absence: N/A

Excused Absence: Brady Westwater, Tammy Billings, and Mike Pfeiffer

2. Public comment

Scott Bytof gave a brief overview of the South Park neighborhood's Grand Avenue Linear Park proposal on Grand Avenue between 9th Street and Olympic Boulevard. In the most recent meeting, the CRA/LA narrowed the design alternatives down to two.

3. Presentation by Chris Parker (Pacific Crest Consultants) regarding Good Samaritan Hospital expansion project at 1239 W. Wilshire Blvd (ENV-2009-884-EAF).

Without discussion, the project was continued to the next regularly scheduled PLUC meeting in order to allow the applicant to present the project.

4. Presentation by Lee Rabun (CLR Enterprises) regarding CUB application for a proposed dance hall at 1248 S. Figueroa Street (AZ-2009-2992-CUB-CUX-CU).

The project applicant, Meyer Separzadeh, and his agent, Lee Rabun, presented the proposed project that would refurbish an existing two story structure at the northeast corner of Pico Boulevard and Figueroa Street into a restaurant complex. The structure would house four restaurants, three on the ground floor, and one large restaurant on the second floor, second floor patios, and rooftop. The applicant is seeking a master CUB for all four establishments for a Type 47 ABC liquor license for

on-site sales only. The restaurant on the second floor would have a 200 square foot stage and 1,400 square foot dance floor area. No music would be played on the outside patios or rooftop. The applicant had no security plan or lighting plan for the project. The project includes an adjacent parking lot, and the applicant has obtained a lease agreement for parking on an additional, adjacent lot. The requested hours of operation would be from 10am-2am for the ground floor restaurants, and 10am to 4am for the second story restaurant. Several Committee members expressed concern over the ingress and egress of the buildings front entrance on Figueroa Street and the rear entrance along the alleyway. The CRA/LA recommended that the project retain its historic facade.

After a brief discussion, the project was continued to the next regularly scheduled PLUC meeting, and the Committee asked the applicants to provide PLUC with a security and lighting plan at the next meeting.

5. Presentation by Brandon Finch (EPG, Inc) regarding CUB application for live entertainment and patron dancing for a new restaurant at 206 W. 5th Street (ZA-2009-3718-CUB).

Brandon Finch (EPG, Inc) presented the proposal for a Mexican restaurant, Corrandos, in the Alexandria Hotel. The applicant is seeking a Type 47 ABC liquor license for on-site sale only. The requested hours of operation are 24 hours a day with liquor being served between 11am and 2am only. The restaurant would start with lunch and dinner and then ramp up to 24 hours a day.

After a brief discussion, Co-Chair Shiraz Tangri moved that the Committee write a letter of support for the project, subject to the conditions from the LAPD and Council District 9; Gunnar Hand seconds. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Presentation by Barry Shy regarding CUB application with live entertainment and patron dancing for a new restaurant project at 650 S. Spring Street (ZA-2009-3928-CUB-CUX).

Barry Shy presented the project to change the number of seating provided in the ballroom area in the basement to 1,000 seats. The project was previously approved for 460 seats. The change in project scope was to reduce the size of the lounge and expand the event/ballroom space for special events. The first floor lounge and ballroom would be accessed on Spring Street, and the basement lounge and ballroom would be accessed on 7th Street.

After a brief discussion, Gunnar Hand moved that the Committee write a letter of support for the project, subject to the conditions from the LAPD and Council District 9; General Jeff seconds. Motion passed with Simon Ha and Tanner Blackman abstaining.

7. Discussion on unpermitted super-graphics signage on building 25' x 75' sign at 1434 S. Los Angeles and 25' x 75' at 1601 S. Los Angeles Street (ZA-2009-3990-ZV and ZA-2009-3997-ZV).

The Committee briefly discussed the Statue of Liberty graphics on several downtown buildings. The signs were first erected as First Amendment art, and the applicant is now seeking to permit the unpermitted signage. A court order allowed approximately 32 of these signs to remain across the City.

After a brief discussion, the project was continued to the next regularly scheduled PLUC meeting in order to allow the applicant to present the project.

8. Update on LA Streetcar project and the City's application for federal grant funding.

The Broadway Streetcar is currently seeking \$25 million in the federal government's New Starts program. Funding would provide a significant investment in the estimated \$100 million project.

9. Approval of minutes from prior meetings : December 1, 2009.

Without discussion, Gunnar Hand moved that the meeting minutes be approved; seconded by Tanner Blackman. Motion passed with Gunnar Hand and Bernard Chang abstaining.

10. Future agenda items. Next meeting scheduled for November 17, 2009.

No new items presented.

11. Board member comment

No comment.

12. Adjournment

At 9:14 pm the meeting was adjourned by consensus.