

EDITORIAL COMMENTARY

Hollywoodland Rules

by Kim Miller

Sick of reading and hearing about the special rules for improving your Hollywoodland home? Well, prepare yourself for more, as husband and wife team Tom and Cara Rule now run both the Hollywoodland Homeowners Association and the Hollywoodland Design Review Board. This despite the fact that the homeowners association's own rules prohibit more than one person per home from being on its board. Apparently the Design Review Board is appointed directly by L.A. City councilman Tom LaBonge (no elections needed), so

that restriction could be skirted.

Whether building a megamansion or just remodeling your home, you'll have to deal with the rules and the Rules.

As one concerned homeowner put it, "concentration of power often occurs when community organizations are in decay. The initial burst of work and energy on the part of many falls off with initial success, and the hard work of maintaining what has been won becomes comparatively boring and tedious." He added, "Organizations can become inbred, and often become arrogant, neglectful of their

true purpose and happy to maintain their routines. Excited volunteers with ideas and energy get turned off—never fitting into the in-group."

A recently attended meeting of the Design Review Board showed some pretty big egos on the podium dispensing their design "expertise," so this should be fun. Never before has Hollywoodland been ruled by two people from the same house. Don't like the sound of it? Then let the homeowners association and Tom LaBonge know. The association don't have a phone number, just a website (and good luck getting a response):

www.hollywoodland.org, and Tom LaBonge can be reached at councilmember.labonge@lacity.org or (213) 473-7004.

According to Tom Rule, the DRB meets the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 5:30 p.m. at Hollywoodland Realty, 2700 N. Beachwood Drive (just don't send him an email!). And if you want confirmation of the meeting venue, it would be best to check the Beachwood Market bulletin board. That's where you will see the city hearing announcement posted. No word on where or when Mrs. Rule's next HHA meeting will be.

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Erik Sanjurjo (former deputy of Tom Labonge, current employee of Janice Hahn, and now a HUNC board member) has a problem... He loves the sound of his own voice and the attention that results! He doesn't seem to care how many times he has to rescind his statements. The joy of "sharing" insider news, even the invented kind, is just too exhilarating.

HUNC Board Meeting, February 2006

Erik, still working for Councilman LaBonge at the time, announced to HUNC's board, "Everyone at City Hall is talking about it..." that Fire Station 82 would NOT be relocated to the Florentine Gardens (Remember when Garcetti and LaBonge told us FS82 would relocate to the FL?) This news upset the board and after discussion they wrote a letter of concern to the councilman.

Cloven Hoof in Mouth or The Latest Antics of Erik Sanjurjo

At the next board meeting, Erik had to rescind his statement and apologize to the board. It seems he made a pronouncement that can only be made by a vote of the entire City Council. (But no one was really shocked when in July '06 the City Council voted NOT to relocate FS82 to the Florentine Gardens.)

HUNC Board Meeting, January 2007

Sanjurjo announced, "The Chamber of Commerce is suggesting that the Hollywood Sign be lit up at least once a year. Also buses be used to transport people up the hill (Beachwood?). The buses would provide free transportation to local residents."

Since no one in Hollywoodland really pays

much attention to the "representative" organization called HUNC, this Idiotic Idea didn't get anyone's attention until a neighbor looked at the minutes posted on HUNC's website.

But here's what the Chamber of Commerce had to say about Sanjurjo's announcement: "It has come to our attention that there is a rumor that the Chamber has mounted a campaign to light the Hollywood Sign and to bring tour buses to view it at night. Let me dispel any such notions. While some in the Chamber may believe that the idea to light the Sign has merit, we recognize that this is a very sensitive issue with many residents. Occasionally, someone approaches us with a proposal to light the Sign. We have taken no position on any such proposal. We feel our time is better

Please see CLOVEN HOOF, page 14

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ONE BAD APPLE

 A Neighborhood Council Update

HUNC Gone Wild!

dys-function-al *adj*

1. failing to perform the function that is normally expected
 2. unable to function emotionally as a social unit
 3. unable to function normally as a result of disease or impairment
- Also see H.U.N.C.

H.U.N.C. *n*

1. acronym for Hollywood United Neighborhood Council
2. superfluous layer of City bureaucracy
3. entertainers posing as official reps in a trick to eliminate grassroots voices

Is it rude of me to suggest that HUNC is dysfunctional or circus-like?

A recent audit ordered by the Office of City Controller Laura Chick has revealed that many of the City's neighborhood council boards are dysfunctional, reporting meetings complete with screaming and shouting from stakeholders and board members alike, physical threats and intimidation, and verbal and even physical violence against one another.

One would hope Hollywood is a different mix of creative and peace-loving individuals. Alas, no. HUNC is right up there with the best of them. Prepare yourself for the latest episode of HUNC GONE WILD! Similar to GIRLS GONE WILD, the show where girls bare their breasts, HUNC GONE WILD stars board members showing other (shall we say more cheeky) parts of their anatomies.

HUNC VP Maurice Chesse accuses fellow board member and Treasurer Gary Slossberg of no longer being a HUNC stakeholder. Slossberg says that he still works for an educational

organization that outreaches within HUNC boundaries. Victoria Gaw accuses HUNC President Susan Swann of calling her up and screaming and cursing at her; she accuses Swann of power abuse. Swann accuses Gaw of lying about an incident where Swann allegedly yelled at Gaw and chased Gaw to squirt her with a hose. Slossberg also denies that he and Norma Foster acted in an unethical way during their election. Foster accuses Chesse of physical intimidation. Chesse says not so and that it was

Foster who tried to strangle **him!** Chesse calls for removal of Foster from the board if she does not formally apologize. And this is just the tip of the iceberg.

Even the accurately acronymed D.O.N.E. (Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, HUNC's governing body) was evidently so fed up with this behavior that they threw all these complaints back at the HUNC board and basically told them to "Fix it yourselves."

So, HUNC held a special meeting before their regularly scheduled February '07 board meeting to address these complaints and for an hour it was (on the whole) a bunch of (admittedly entertaining) rubbish. Not only were reps from the City Attorney's office in attendance, but Chesse is apparently so paranoid and deluded of his own importance that he brought a bodyguard with him.

That's right, Chesse, a man himself



approximately 5'10" brought with him a man approx 6' 2" weighing at least 250 pounds to protect him against 5'2" brunette-wearing and spectacle-wearing Norma Foster.

Who could write such fiction?

What this boils down to is that instead of the various neighborhoods feeling secure and confident with our "officially recognized" representatives, we are scared. This group called HUNC can't seem to help themselves, let alone anyone else. Which brings me back to where I started: Therapy is always

recommended, as is the case with any dysfunctional family. Perhaps group therapy is what HUNC needs. That, or else make their meetings a reality show and go for the ratings!

Tune in next time to HUNC GONE WILD and find out: Will Gary have to step down? Will Norma sock Maurice? Will Maurice's bodyguard sock Norma? Will Susan bring the alleged hose and hose down Victoria? One thing is for sure, the answer to these questions and others will be more confusing after the next episode of HUNC GONE WILD, or as they like to call it, their monthly board meeting.

—Very sincerely submitted by Natalie Cambridge
Eastwood Village resident
email: nats_bridge@yahoo.com

Ace of Hearts Foundation



Photo by Roger Snider

The nonprofit organization was founded in memory of founder Kari Whitman's first rescue, "Ace," an American Bulldog who was very close to her heart. The Foundation is dedicated to rescuing dogs from shelters in Los Angeles County on the day they are to be euthanized. This last minute reprieve is intended to give dogs a second chance but the Foundation is also active in helping to reduce pet overpopulation and to inspire responsible pet ownership. Ace provides spaying and neutering for the rescued dogs, which are all micro-chipped and cared for in foster homes while adoptions are carefully arranged. If the adoption doesn't "take" for any reason, the dog **must** be returned to Ace.

Further information on Ace of Hearts can be found online at www.AceOfHeartsDogs.com or call (310) 358-3344.

Cat Law



"In ancient times, cats were considered to be Gods. Clearly, there's no need for that to change."

Boom!

Cloven Hoof in Mouth

Or *The Latest Antics of Erik Sanjurjo*

Continued from page 6.

spent working on issues where there is broad community support ... such as our effort to build a community park over the Hollywood Freeway."

Sanjurjo went off *again* at a recent CRA meeting discussing the Gower Permanent Supportive Housing Homeless project (now grandly called "The Villas on Gower"). Speaking during public comment, Sanjurjo introduced himself as a HUNC board member, thereby misleading some people to think he was speaking officially. As one person in attendance observed, "I wasn't sure if Erik was representing HUNC's position (on the project) or not. He's suppose to; when he introduced himself he said he was a HUNC board member, but then said something like: Let's just move on with the project."

When asked if past HUNC president Susan Polifronio was also present, "Susan was there and she spoke too. She went into detail and made it clear what HUNC's position was. But Erik was like, let's just do it." Other community representatives were there as well: Hollywood Studio District Neighborhood Council, H.E.L.P. (Hollywoodians Encouraging Logical Planning), The Dell Homeowners Association, and the Eastwood Coalition, to name a few.

Erik's veracity was tested again at the same hearing during that very same testimony. His testimony happened to occur after that of KC Schmidt, Eastwood Coalition representative. Erik told the CRA Commissioners that the E.C. no longer represents the western half of its neighborhood (E.C.'s boundaries are 101 Freeway to Western Ave., Foothill down to Sunset).

"He said this during public comment about the guy from Eastwood: that they no longer represent that community. Erik

said that he started a group of his own and said that his was now the 'official' rep for that area. Can you believe that? He can't do that, can he?"

The answer is absolutely "NO." Only certified neighborhood councils enjoy the luxury of fighting with one another over boundaries. Otherwise, many groups rise up (for better or worse) because there are no boundary laws that preclude a group from claiming representation. (We would hope that Erik knows this, but evidently not.) If it were any other way the Beachwood Canyon Neighborhood Association (BCNA) would declare war on the Hollywoodland Homeowner's Association. The Los Feliz Improvement Association would declare the Oaks Association null and void and the neighbors to the west, the Argyle Civic Association, would be sudden enemies against BCNA over neighbors on Gower and Carmen. Instead these groups all choose to work together, many times acting as a supportive block on common issues, advocating for the entire Hollywood area. (These networking efforts are effective because nobody else stoops to Erik's divisive tactics.)

When a child misbehaves he is punished, after which he usually learns the difference between right and wrong... unless he is not-too-bright or there are signs of sociological behavior. So dear reader, you decide: Is Erik simply not-too-bright or does he display pathological tendencies? Kinda scary either you way you look at it when you realize he's probably vying for next year's HUNC presidency... and who knows what other glorified titles this guy has in mind for himself in the future?

—Theresa Foster
msterrifoster@aol.com



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We couldn't do this without them!

There are 40 of them! Our Heros!

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"Success in life has nothing to do with what you gain in life or accomplish for yourself. It's what you do for others." —Danny Thomas