Minutes for HHWNC’s PLUM Committee Meeting on February 7, 2019

PLUM Committee members Orrin Feldman, Oren Katz, Danielle Mead, Luminita Roman and Matt Shichtman were present. There was a sufficient number of committee members present to establish a quorum.

Naomi Kobrin, HHWNC’s Area 4 chair, was present to participate and vote with regard to the agenda item concerning The Hard Rock Cafe.

Orrin Feldman called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Approximately 10 additional stakeholders were present.

The draft minutes of the committee’s prior meetings held on January 3, 2019 and January 24, 2019, were discussed. A motion to approve the draft meeting minutes was approved by a vote of 5 to 0.

1. 6801 West Hollywood Boulevard - is the Hollywood & Highland Shopping Center, which is in HHWNC’s Area 4 and City Council District 13. The Hard Rock Cafe Los Angeles is a tenant in the shopping center.

Donald Smith, the restaurant’s general manager, and Gary Benjamin and Andrew Kratzer, the restaurant’s representatives, were present to work with the PLUM Committee to discuss and clarify the conditions under which the committee would recommend to the Board that HHWNC support The Hard Rock Cafe Los Angeles’ pending application with the City’s Planning Department. That application was for a conditional use permit renewal and site plan changes.

Following that discussion, the committee voted unanimously (6-0) to recommend to the Board that the Board support the Hard Rock Cafe’s application for renewing it’s conditional use permit and changing the site plan for the restaurant on the conditions that:

1. the number of days/nights on which the restaurant may impose a cover charge should be limited to 5 nights per month for live entertainment, such as comedy and live music entertainment;
2. the number of days/nights on which the restaurant may hold special events, when some of the restaurant’s tables are removed to provide a dance floor in the center o fate restaurant’s main dining area, shall be limited to 12 nights per year;
3. karaoke shall be allowed between 8 p.m. and 12 midnight daily;
4. a no provers condition shall be included in the CUP; and
5. a change of control provision shall be included in the CUP.
6. 6633 West Hollywood Boulevard - is the site of The Escape Hotel, which is in HHWNC’s Area 3 and City Council District 13.

Kitti Herczeg and Ion Beroiz, two of the three owners of The Escape Hotel, and Lee Rabun, who is CIM’s and their representative, were present.

Mr. Rabun lead a presentation about The Escape Hotel’s current operations and its proposed restaurant.

The Planning Department’s Office of Zoning Administration had held a hearing onJanuary22, 2019, to consider The Escape Hotel’s application for a conditional use permit to sell a full line of alcoholic beverages for on-site consumption in the restaurant, but left the hearing’s case file open so that HHWNC could submit a written comment letter.

The committee members were largely concerned that, while the last round of customers for The Escape Hotel’s game rooms would be entering the rooms around 12:20-30 a.m., new customers could still enter the restaurant up until 2 a.m.

Mr. Rabun and the restaurant’s owners offered to prohibit new customers from entering after the last round of games was/were underway, and to not allow any customers who leave to reenter after that time.

Following the discussion, the committee voted unanimously (5 to 0) to recommend that the Board vote to support The Escape Hotel’s application for a conditional use permit on the conditions that:

1. on Thursdays through Saturdays, that no new customers shall be permitted to enter the restaurant after the last round of escape room games begins, which would be no later than 12:30 a.m. Customers who leave the restaurant after that time would not be allowed to reenter. Customers who remain inside The Escape Hotel could purchase drinks through last call(s).
2. a no promoters condition shall be included in the CUP; and
3. a change of control provision shall be included in the CUP.

3. Orrin mentioned that 1344 N. Alta Vista Drive, which is in HHWNC’s Area 7 and City Council District 4, had been withdrawn from the agenda. The developer had informed HHWNC that the site would be remodeled, rather than demolished and then re-built as a small lot subdivision.

4. Hollywood Community Plan Update and Draft EIR.

The committee discussed whether it wanted to recommend to the Board that it support Orrin Feldman and other individual’s comment letters to the City’s Planning Department. The committee declined to do so.

However, the committee voted unanimously (5 to 0) to recommend that HHWNC’s President revive the Ad Hoc Committee on the Hollywood Community Plan Update.

5. Public Comments on non-agendized items.

There were no public comments on non-agendized items.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.