

Hollywood Council of Civic Associations, Inc.

Minutes

May 16, 2005

Meeting held at Police satellite center in Liberia

Members Present: Ken Crawford, Mel Pollak, Chuck Vollman, Sara Case, Charlie Pepin, Carlos Llanos, Bunny Mestel, Cynthia Greene, Andre Brown, Asa Boynton

President Crawford called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS. Lt. Vinne Affanato and Sgt. Chuck Roberts of the Hollywood Police Department made a presentation on the city's new emergency preparedness procedures. Lt. Affanato said the city now has a permanent interdepartmental emergency preparedness team that consists of upper-level management representatives from Police, Fire Rescue, Public Works, Utilities, Information Technology, Parks & Rec, and Financial Services departments.

The city's emergency preparedness today is more complicated than in the past and must deal with both natural disasters (hurricanes, flooding) and man-made disasters (WMD, terrorism, etc.). The mission statement is: respond and recover. The emergency preparedness center is located at the Stirling Road fire station.(2741 Stirling).

Leadership in emergency preparedness is now centered with the Police Department, not the Fire Department..

Regarding homeland security, the city has now assigned a detective full time to the Joint Terrorism Task Force at the FBI Miami Field Office.. Funding is provided by the Florida Division of Emergency Management within the State Department of Community Affairs.

Lt. Affanato went through a power-point presentation detailing all phases: planning, mitigation, response, and recovery. He mentioned that each department has policies and procedures, an emergency response plan, and engages in training exercises.

The City Manager is the only person who can activate the Emergency Operations Center and he generally would follow the county's lead, i.e. when the county activates its emergency operations center in Plantation. Post-disaster recovery procedures are mandated by state statute. Hollywood has an interdepartmental team of 53 municipal workers who are to record damage from disaster and coordinate with FEMA reimbursement processes.

The Federal Government now has the National Incident Management System (NIMS) – a national system of incident management. To be eligible for federal funding, Hollywood has to comply with NIMS phased-in requirements over the period September 2005-2007. This provides a standardized command and control system for public service. More information available at www.nimsonline.com

Lt. Affanato also mentioned that the Hollywood Police Dept. was one of three police departments selected to participate in a pilot program offered by Dialogic Communications Corp. This is a text and voice messaging system.

Ken Crawford asked why mandatory evacuation stops at U.S. 1, when properties west of that line are located in flood zones. Answer: city could not handle more evacuation since population has increased greatly.

Chuck Vollman repeated a question he had asked city staff at an earlier hurricane meeting: concerning the city's having stopped removing coconuts from trees on city property before a hurricane strikes. Lt. Affanato did not have an answer but said he would find out. This is a major concern for neighborhoods where the city swale is lined with coconuts.

HCCA INTERNAL ISSUES When Cynthia Greene asked for help from other associations with the upcoming height limitation issue on a 7-block section of south beach, considerable discussion followed. Resentment was expressed from some that the beach always asks for help from others, but is perceived as rarely stepping to the plate to help other sections of Hollywood. The Alliance requested that HCCA attend City Commission meeting on May 19 to support a 65 ft height limit. The City Planning Department and the Planning and Zoning Board were recommending a range of heights from 150' to 65' for this stretch of beach. Ken Crawford said that when a member association asks for help, we ought to do our best to provide it, and the consensus was that this is true. On a motion by Sara Case, seconded by Chuck Vollman, the President and Secretary were asked by unanimous vote to send a letter to the City Commission backing the 6.5 ft limit. Both beach representatives, Cynthia Greene and Bunny Mestel pledged to help with concerns in other neighborhoods and to try to activate more support from the beach. Some further discussion ensued about better communication between associations. A suggestion was made that associations should bring copies of their newsletters to HCCA to share with others.

LOBBYING: Mel Pollak brought up the defeat of the lobbying ordinance and stated his belief that that issue should be brought back up. It was decided that we would put that item on the agenda for the June HCCA meeting and that member should discuss it with their associations.

At 9:10 PM, on a motion by Bunny Mestel, seconded by Chuck Vollman, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Sara Case, Secretary