



MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 24, 2016 MEETING

1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
City Hall, Room 416
San Francisco, CA 94102

CALL TO ORDER

President Villy Wang called the meeting to order at 2:01pm.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present:
Denise Bradley-Tyson
Marlene Sharon Saritzky
Villy Wang
Jon Rubin
Mark Fishkin
Matt Stiker
Jim Beaumonte
Belle Taylor-McGhee

Commissioners Excused:

Peter Bratt
Melanie Blum
Jonathan Moscone

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE DATE MEETING (ACTION ITEM)

President Wang asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 26th, 2016 meeting. Commissioner Saritzky made the motion and Vice President Stiker seconded the motion. President Wang asked for comments and none was given. The minutes were approved.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (DISCUSSION ONLY)

President Wang began by reporting on a visit to the YouTube studios in Los Angeles. She learned about their business model of catering to their subscribers and shared that they have a great mixed space use of the facilities.

President Wang then confirmed the date of the Commission Retreat on January 10th, 2017 at the SF Travel office.

President Wang ended her report by speaking about her experience with Vice President Stiker in meeting with heads of advertising agencies and production companies. They met to express alliance between them and the Commission as well as listened to their needs and concerns. The companies have good experiences in the City and



they seem to want to expand.

President Wang asked for comments and none were given.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT (DISCUSSION ONLY)

Executive Director Susannah Robbins began her report by congratulating President Wang for winning the Jefferson Award which is given to change makers that inspire a culture of public service. They are known as “America’s Nobel Prize for Public Service.”

She then gave an update on the number of recent film permits and notable productions. The office had 60 permits with 154 shoot days and \$34,100 in permit fees since the last meeting. Last year at the same time, there were 59 permits with 112 shoot days and 17,000 in permit fees. This means the office is up 41% in shoot days and 100% (doubled) in permit fees since this time last year.

Significant productions during this time have been:

- 11 days of Pottery Barn catalog shoots
- 12 days of filming on the new Amazon pilot *Budding Prospects* which is directed by Terry Zwigoff and stars actor/comedian Will Sasso from Fox’s *Mad TV* and *Best in Show* and Joel David Moore who had a recurring role in the TV series *Bones* and was on ABC’s *Forever*.
- 6 days of filming for TLC’s *Hoarders*
- The final episode of Hulu’s *Chance* Season 1 – visually, it’s been an amazing show to watch and see San Francisco portrayed in an unconventional way. The show is now wrapped for season 1.

Executive Director Robbins then gave a report on her continued search for stage space. She has a few leads from the Real Estate Department and will be visiting them soon with Chance’s Construction Coordinator. They visited a few before the meeting and the spaces were great except they were not soundproof – they could be used as the mill and storage space for the Art and Set Dressing Department.

Vice President Stiker asked where these spaces are located. Executive Director Robbins answered that one is on Mississippi and 16th and the other is at 455 Toland Street

Executive Director Robbins then continued her report by giving an update about a meeting between the San Francisco Fire Department (SFFD) and local location managers/scouts. This was after the meeting with the Film Office, SFFD, Commissioner Beaumonte, the State Fire Marshall from the California Film Commission and a representative of IATSE from Los Angeles to negotiate the SFFD permit for film-related activity.

The meeting with the location managers revealed new logistical issues that will lead to a reassessment of the SFFD permitting rules for productions. If there is a need to lower the cost of these fire permits, it will have to go in front of the Board of Supervisors. The need is to maintain a balance between logistical practicalities, safety on location and cost for productions.

Executive Director Robbins ended her report by talking about a rumored production that might come to San Francisco in January – a Cinemax or Netflix production called “Warrior.” She made contact but has not heard back. There are no big productions she’s heard of but does expect an onslaught of commercials toward the end of the year. Executive Director Robbins concludes her report.

President Wang asked for Commissioner comments.

Commissioner Fishkin asked what is the timeline for the SFFD permits – are they in effect right now? Executive Director Robbins answered that they are in effect and the office is encouraging productions to look into them – everything is in flux so productions and SFFD are doing the best they can.

Commissioner Beaumonte asked if the inspections are part of the fee. Executive Director Robbins answered that the SFFD is already accommodating productions in terms of the permit itself – the first permit comes with 2 hours of inspection and each additional permit comes with another hour of inspection. Each additional inspection outside of the permits is \$120. SFFD also does not have the manpower to do all the inspections they need so they will continue to address these issues of cost and labor. Commissioner Beaumonte suggested that productions can have licensed pyro-technicians who might be able to help. Executive Director Robbins said she can propose this as a possible solution. She added that they did try to see if there was another way of doing this by having the generator rental companies get out permits for their generators but this wouldn't work for multiple reasons including the SFFD not wanting to give up their authority for inspections – this might be the same result for the idea about the pyro-technicians.

Vice President Stiker asked if the two spaces mentioned during the stage space conversation can be long-term spaces. Executive Director Robbins stated that they are not.

Vice President Stiker asked about when the office will find out about any projects for next year. Executive Director Robbins answered that this information comes intermittently. She finds out his information by searching on a special search engine called Studio System, she reaches out to producers or someone from the local production community would give her a clue. Pilot season starts around late winter/early spring so she could be hearing more in January. She is also still waiting to see about 2 feature films that received the State Tax Credit and are thinking about filming portions of their film in San Francisco.

President Wang asked if there is anything else the Commission can do around the SFFD permits. Executive Director Robbins said no – right now, the need is to compile comments from the location managers and data from the other cities.

President Wang thanked Executive Director Robbins for the shout-out on the Jefferson Award.

President Wang asked for any public comments and none were given.

The trailer of Hulu's *Chance* was shown.

REPORT BY MEMBERS OF HULU'S UNIT PRODUCTION MANAGER AND LOCATION MANAGER ON SHOOTING IN SAN FRANCISCO (DISCUSSION ONLY)

President Wang welcomed Rory Enke and Kathleen Courtney from the *Chance* production team to speak about their experiences.

Rory Enke, Location Manager for Hulu's *Chance*, thanked the Commission for allowing this opportunity to speak about his experiences filming in the past months in San Francisco. He started off thanking the Commission for their persistent commitment in allowing the show to be finished on time – it's been a long time since he was able to start and finish a project here in the City. They filmed on location for about 100 days and even cheated other locations like Oakland in San Francisco which is unusual.

He then thanked many city employees and departments for all the work they did in collaboration with the production to get this project done. This included Meryl Klein, Ammee Alvior and Miguel Espinoza from SFMTA, Sgt. Michael Radanovich, Officer Joseph Juarez and other SFPD officers (he added that in the future, SFPD could be more involved in the planning stages of the process), John Updike, Marta Bayol, Jeff Suess, Brian O'Connor, and Scott Cline from the City's Real Estate Department, Sheriff Vicki Hennessy and Chief-of-Staff Eileen Hurst at the San Francisco Sheriff's Department, Mirian Saez, Jack Nathanson, Rich Rovetti and Peter Summerville at the Treasure Island Development Authority, Kimberley Beal, Jeff Bauer, and Monico Corral at the San Francisco Port Authority, Charles Sheehan, Alex Murrillo, Greg Crump, Jonathan Vaing at the SFPUC and DPW, Dana Ketcham, Diane Rea, and Jim Jackson at the SF Recreation and Parks Department, Mivic Hirose and Elizabeth Schindler at the Laguna Honda Hospital, Brent Andrew and Arla Escontrias at the San Francisco General Hospital, Lt. Kathy

Harold at the San Francisco Fire Department, Supervisors Mark Farrell, Aaron Peskin and Scott Weiner from the City's Board of Supervisors, Commissioner McGhee for help in Laguna Honda Hospital, Commissioner Beaumonte for a great union and crew, the San Francisco Film Office, Steve Kawa, Mayor Lee, the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services, and lastly the citizens and neighborhoods of San Francisco. Mr. Enke ended his report.

Kathleen Courtney, Unit Production Manager for Hulu's *Chance*, first thanked the Commission for this opportunity to speak frankly about their experiences filming in the City. She expressed a few reasons that she stays in San Francisco to work - there is a great crew in this community and the beauty of the City is exciting to capture.

She then went on to list a few obstacles that was experienced by the production including theft, not having enough private security resources, safety of cast and crew, too much construction, feeling unwanted by the residents/neighborhoods, no stage, office and parking spaces, and citywide sell-out of hotels. She says all this with the caveat that there are solutions to some of these problems including how to demonstrate to the citizens of San Francisco the macro view of how filming benefits the City versus the micro view of inconveniences that production can cause to residents for a few days.

Ms. Courtney ended her report with a few positives about the City – they received all of the rebate that the Film Commission can offer and the work of the Film Office was instrumental in helping to get this project done.

President Wang thanked Ms. Courtney for her comments and encouraged her to share some of her solutions to these problems. She then asked for Commissioner comments.

Vice President Stiker thanked both Mr. Enke and Ms. Courtney for sharing with the Commission about their experiences.

Commissioner Fishkin agreed and stated that the Commission is here to find solutions to the problems that were faced by the production.

Commissioner Beaumonte asked Ms. Courtney if there is anything a production can do to give more time to the City about their needs. Ms. Courtney answered that this is not possible for a television show because the scripts come out a few days before they shoot – it's dependent on the writing team. Commissioner Beaumonte asked if this is something that can be brought up with the line producer just to get some input and/or answers.

President Wang asked for public comment.

Austin Peck, who worked on the electric and grip crew for *Chance*, thanked the Commission for bringing in a project like this to the City. He also commented about the neighbors – his work needed him to come in before and stay after the shoot in different neighborhoods and although there were some neighbors that complained, many of them were thankful and supportive of the production. The Commission thanked him for his comments.

Manijeh Fata, Film Coordinator who worked with the production in the Film Office, commented that there were a few times where the Film Office stepped in to help make the production possible. Executive Director Robbins worked persistently in getting a stage space for the production which allowed them to be here for months. SFPD and PUC were willing to move and/or stand down construction when filming was taking place. SFMTA helped make possible some difficult shoots and, in particular, sited the Forest Hill Station location as being very accommodating. SF Recreation and Park for worked with the office for late night filming and the office facilitated neighborhood meetings in Dogpatch and on Potomac St to help find solutions to neighborhood problems created by production. She thanked Commissioner McGhee for helping with Laguna Honda and thanked Mr. Rory Enke's team for all their tremendous work – they filmed over 80 locations just in San Francisco and they did this with grace, professionalism, dignity and respect for the City and neighbors.

Executive Director Robbins thanked Film Coordinator Manijeh Fata for taking on the permit for the show. It was a fun but challenging show to work on and she always did it with grace, never losing her temper when all the complaints came in. The Commission agreed and thanked the Film Office for their work.

Vice President Stiker thanked Mr. Enke and Ms. Courtney for working so hard on this production in San Francisco and helping to legitimize San Francisco as a viable place to film – they are part of the system that makes it all work.

President Wang thanked Mr. Enke and Ms. Courtney for their report and reassured them that these conversations have been happening and will continue to happen to make a model like *Chance* work in the City.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT (DISCUSSION ONLY)

President Wang asked if there were any additional public comments.

Frank Simeone, representative for the DGA and SAG-AFTRA, shared some updates from these organizations. Last month, as compared to last year around the same time, employment in SAG-AFTRA was up 38% for background and 45% for principal actors – numbers of employment during this time has not happened since the 1990's. DGA was not able to get quorum this month and has not gotten quorum since this April because everyone is working.

The director of *Budding Prospects*, Terry Zwigoff, is a local of the area and he hopes that if the show gets picked up that they will continue to film here.

Lastly, he stated that the Mill Valley Film Festival was very enjoyable and there were 400 extras hired for the episode of *Pitch* that shot at AT&T Park.

The Commission thanked Mr. Simeone for his comments.

Mr. Simone ended with congratulating Commissioner Fishkin on the Mill Valley Film Festival.

ADJOURNMENT (ACTION ITEM)

President Wang asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting and the meeting was adjourned at 3:06 pm.