



Help Guide the Future of West Hills
West Hills Neighborhood
Council



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FINAL
MEETING MINUTES
January 9, 2013

Shomrei Torah Synagogue, Hirsch Hall
7353 Valley Circle Boulevard, West Hills, CA 91304

Attendance:

Present: Eric Augusztiny, Solomon Bash, Sandi Bell, Dan Brin, Robert Brostoff, Margery Brown, Michael Castro, Carolyn Greenwood, Bonnie Klea, Ruwan Kotuwelle, Franchon Lyons, Elliot Maggin, Walter Perfect, Steve Randall, Bill Rose, Charlene Rothstein, Barry Seybert, Ron Sobel, Bobbi Trantafello, Alec Uzemeck, Daniel Wiseman (arrived late), Joanne Yvanek-Garb, Ed Young and Jacquie Young

Absent: John Hogue

Opening Business:

Co-Chair Mr. Dan Brin welcomed the new board members. Mr. Brin advised that Mike Feuer will be present shortly and will administer the oath for those new members.

Board member Ms. Jacquie Young called roll to establish a quorum. Having established a quorum, Co-Chair Mr. Dan Brin called the meeting to order.

Mr. Brin asked that the minutes of the December 5, 2012 be reviewed. The minutes were approved as presented.

Mr. Brin stated that the first order of business was to elect a new secretary as Ms. Jacquie Young has submitted her resignation. Mr. Ron Sobel nominated Ms. Carolyn Greenwood. Mr. Sol Bash seconded the nomination. The Board approved the nomination.

Announcements:

Mr. Erik Richardson, CD 12 Deputy Field Representative, presented a handout on the \$3 billion street bond proposed by Councilmen Mitch Englander and Joe Buscaino for repairing streets in D and F condition. Mr. Richardson stated that while Councilman Englander usually is against any raise in taxes, he feels this is the only way to complete the repairs. Councilman Englander is now hoping to have the measure on the May ballot. Mr. Richardson stated that he is not up on all

of the details; however, there is a power point presentation on the district website, CD12.org.

Board Member Mr. Barry Seybert stated that this issue was discussed at the VANC meeting and there was great concern that it was going to the City Council before being presented to the neighborhood councils.

Sgt. Thomas A. Mason, Community Relations Officer from the Los Angeles Police Department Topanga Station, stated that when the station was built as a green building, it was landscaped with non-native plants. As the result of faulty irrigation, all the plants have died and no monies have been budget for maintenance. They are now attempting to use native plants and have started a project entitled T.R.U.E. (Topanga Restoring it Urban Ecosystem). They are working with the Theodore Payne Foundation, Miller Alternative High School and a variety of local business owners and community member to install and maintain the new landscaping. The landscaped portions of the Topanga Station have been divided into 21 zones and Sgt. Mason said they are looking for volunteers to work or contribute to the cost of this project. Sgt. Mason is going to each neighborhood council requesting participation. Anyone interested can contact Sgt. Mason at 818-756-3180 or Lisa Novick, Director of Outreach and K-12 Education, Theodore Payne Foundation for Wild Flowers & Native Plants, at 818-768-1802.

Presentation:

Heroes of West Hills - Mr. Dan Brin advised that the presentation is postponed until the February meeting.

Public Comment:

Co-Chair Ms. Charlene Rothstein requested that while someone is speaking that everyone refrain from speaking out of turn and there be no sidebars among the board members, as it does not allow the speaker our full attention.

Board member Mr. Elliot Maggin stated that he heard nothing positive being said when Mr. Erickson was speaking about the street bond. Mr. Maggin said we need to fix things that make us money and better streets are definitely better for business.

Stakeholder Mr. Mark Evidon, stated that we just saw a big increase by DWP and why not when they have a big development, like Westfield, put in road repair as part of the package required for approval.

Old Business:

12-0015 – Discussion and possible action regarding proposed Bylaw Amendments to the West Hills Neighborhood Council Bylaws

Board Members Mr. Alec Uzemeck and Mr. Bob Brostoff reviewed the proposed changes. All stakeholders, as well as board members, were invited to participate in discussion and voting.

After Mr. Uzemeck read Item #1 - Absences and #6 - Standing Rules Concerning Absences, Board Member, Ms. Joanne Yvanek-Garb brought up the fact that as a Budget Advocate representing the neighborhood council, she has had to miss a scheduled meeting. Ms. Yvanek-

Garb felt that this should be addressed.

During the discussion, Mr. Mark Feuer arrived. Mr. Feuer thanked the Board for inviting him and he was proud to administer the Neighborhood Council Pledge to the newest members. After administering the pledge, Mr. Feuer took the opportunity to state why he was running for City Attorney and what he planned to accomplish once in office. Mr. Feuer also spoke of his accomplishments while a City Councilman and what his priorities are.

After thanking Mr. Feuer, discussion returned to the Bylaw Amendments. It was recommended that the phrase "Starting with the enactment of this Section" be deleted as it was unnecessary. Any changes made would not be retroactive. Recommendation accepted and section passed with one abstention.

Mr. Uzameck read items 2 – Executive Board, 3 – Environment Committee, 4 – Public Health Committee and 5- Operations Committee, and explained the reasons behind these changes. Recommendations unanimously accepted.

New Business:

13-0004 – Discussion and possible action regarding Chabad of West Hills facility located at 6820 Valley Circle Blvd., West Hills

Planning & Zoning Co-Chair Mr. Wally Perfect reported that the committee met with the neighbors on this matter. Two (2) pages of recommendations which are attached hereto were discussed. Only two neighbors, Mr. Mark Evidon and Mr. Barry Keith, were against the recommendations as presented. The first item regarding the limit on the number of people attending was the concern.

Mr. Brad Rosenthal, representative for Chabad, stated that they are seeking conditional use in a residential area with 17 parking spaces in a commercial area. Mr. Rosenthal advised that based on the code, 90 would be the number allowed. However, the rabbi has agreed to 60-75.

Stakeholders Mr. Tony Bourgeois and Mr. Jeff Treat spoke against the project. Both are strongly opposed. Parking has already been an issue.

Stakeholders Mr. Dave De Rose, Mr. D.M. Elias, Ms. Nancy Wold, Mr. Larry Gillis and Mr. Alexander Wold spoke in favor of the project and how having the Chabad enhances their spirituality.

Rabbi Avraham Rabin stated that Chabad is community based to facilitate members in the area. They chose to be an asset to the neighborhood.

Stakeholders Mr. Jeff Fishman and Mr. Mark Evidon stated while they are not against Chabad, the members attending should be less than 90.

Stakeholder Mr. Barry Keith just wanted to clarify that he was not against Chabad as Mr. Perfect had stated.

A friendly change to the conditions was made to change #1 to read “No more than 60 people at any service or activity and no more than 90 at up to 4 events a year.” Board Member Mr. Barry Seybert moved that the matter be tabled. Mr. Alec Uzemeck seconded the motion. Motion failed (3) (17) (0).

Ms. Charlene Rothstein moved that the recommendations be accepted as presented with the change to number one. Motion passed (21) (0) (2).

13-0002- Discussion and possible action regarding action regarding the allocation of eighty-five dollars (\$85) per month for the use of Shomrei Torah Synagogue as the new regularly scheduled monthly meeting place of the West Hills Neighborhood Council
Budget Co-Chair, Mr. Bob Brostoff moved that the Board authorize the allocation as stated. There was discussion as to whether there was money in the budget for this expense to which Mr. Brostoff assured the Board there was.

Board Member Ms. Jacquie Young stated she did not understand why we would incur this expense when we had use of the Chaminade facility at no cost. She wanted to be sure that Chaminade was notified and thanked for the use of their facility.

Motion passed. (18) (2) (3)

13-0003 – Discussion and possible action regarding the appointment of Ms. Bonnie Klea as the co-chair of the West Hills Neighborhood Council Environment Committee
Mr. Dan Brin confirmed that Mr. Alec Uzemeck requested that Ms. Bonnie Klea be nominated as co-chair and Mr. Brin complied with his request. Nomination accepted. (15) (2) (3).

Government Relations Report

Dr. Daniel Wiseman, Government Relations Co-Chair, shared a motion proposed by Mr. Terrence Gomes, Land Use and Economic Development Chair of South Robertson Neighborhood Council, on the proposed \$3 billion Street Repair Bond Measure. Dr. Wiseman also presented a two-page document on the Budget Advocates activities for the Board’s review. Dr. Wiseman provided an overview of meetings attended and the information on the two-page document.

9:36 Meeting was adjourned