



Help Guide the Future of West Hills
West Hills Neighborhood
Council



P.O. Box 4670, West Hills, CA 91308-4670

<http://www.westhillsnc.org>
mail@westhillsnc.org

Final
MEETING MINUTES
July 3, 2013

911 Communication Dispatch Center 2nd Floor
23001 Roscoe Boulevard, West Hills, CA 91304

Attendance:

Present: Eric Augusztiny, Sandi Bell, Dan Brin, Robert Brostoff, Margery Brown, Michael Castro, Carolyn Greenwood, John Hogue, Bonnie Klea, Ruwan Kotuwelle, Franchon Lyons, Elliot Maggin, Steve Randall, Charlene Rothstein, Barry Seybert*, Ron Sobel, Bobbi Trantafello, Alec Uzemeck, Ed Young and Jacquie Young

Absent: Solomon Bash, Walter Perfect, Bill Rose, Daniel Wiseman and Joanne Yvanek-Garb

Opening Business:

President/Co-Chair Dan Brin welcomed everyone.

Secretary Carolyn Greenwood called roll and announced a quorum of 19. Mr. Brin then called the meeting to order.

The minutes of June 5, 2013 were approved as presented.

Comments from the Chair:

Mr. Brin wished everyone a happy Fourth of July, noting Los Angeles has arrived at a new beginning with a new mayor, controller, city attorney and six new members of the City Council. In addition, Mitchell Englander, our District 12 representative, has been elected president pro-tempore of the City Council. This will add to our community's clout at City Hall.

Mr. Brin said he is working on a new vision statement for the West Hills Neighborhood Council as requested by the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE).

Public Comment:

Ms. Christina Walsh said she is a former president of the West Hills Property Owners Association, which has not been active for several years. She discovered a box of materials from the WHPOA, including bank statements indicating funds remained in the organization's account.

After attempting unsuccessfully to resolve the issue with the Bank of America, Ms. Walsh turned the box over to WHNC Board member Ed Young, who was identified as a signatory of the WHPOA's checking account. Ms. Walsh said she had believed the WHNC is the WHPOA's successor organization, but in subsequent conversations with former WHPOA Vice President Leslie Bashaar, she learned this assumption was incorrect. Ms. Walsh apologized for the misunderstanding. On a separate issue, Ms. Walsh stated that last year she, her son and Mr. Brin picked up litter and removed graffiti around the cave adjacent to El Escorpion Park in West Hills. This needs to be done again and she is requesting approximately \$300 for gloves, trash bags and other items. It was suggested that she work with Mr. Michael Castro, chair of the WHNC's Beautification Committee, on this project.

Ms. Bashaar said that she was vice president of the West Hills Property Owners Association. A fee was required to become a member and she has the membership list. Ms. Bashaar said she had all the records and doesn't understand why she was not contacted. She feels that the WHPOA's members need to be contacted to determine how they want to disperse the funds that were in the organization's account.

Mr. Brin said the situation obviously is a misunderstanding and he expected an agreement to be reached on how to apply the funds.

Announcements:

LAPD Senior Lead Officer Dennis Cunningham introduced the Topanga Area Station's new commanding officer, Capt. Joel Justice. Capt. Justice said he has served in the area and is working to determine local needs and concerns.

Officer Cunningham reported that the LAPD's National Night Out will be a mid-day event in our area this year, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 10, at Shadow Ranch Park. The theme will be emergency preparedness.

Mr. Tom Soong, representing the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, said Mr. Stephen Box is the new director of Outreach and Communications. Mr. Soong discussed the department's new funding rules and the mandatory training program for all board members. Citing unexpected problems delaying implementation of Neighborhood Council checking accounts, he said the existing "demand warrant" system would remain in place for a while. However, the new requirement for monthly accounting reports will remain in effect. Mr. Soong went over several other plans by the Neighborhood Empowerment Department.

Presentation:

Mr. Brin advised that the presentation has been cancelled.

Old Business:

13-0002 – Discussion and possible action regarding approval of a revised resolution regarding support for renaming the LAFD helispot in West Hills to the Glenn V. Smith Helispot
Mr. Brin stated that the resolution passed earlier by the Board needed to be altered slightly at the request of the Fire Department. Mr. Brin read the revised resolution and moved that it be accepted. Motion passed unanimously (19) (0) (0).

New Business:

13-0018 – Discussion and possible action regarding the West Hills Neighborhood Council’s budget for the 2013-2014 fiscal year.

Treasurer Bobbi Trantafello, co-chair of the Budget Committee, shared a brief synopsis that will be presented to the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE). Controller and Budget Committee Co-Chair Bob Brostoff stated that details are being worked out and will be resolved at the next Budget Committee meeting in two months.

The budget as presented passed: (18) (1) (0).

*Board Member Barry Seybert arrived at this point.

130019 – Discussion and possible action regarding the request for a leave of absence by a WHNC board member.

Ms. Charlene Rothstein, WHNC vice president and co-chair, stated that Dr. Dan Wiseman has requested a three-month leave of absence. Ms. Rothstein said that, if approved, the leave would be retroactive to June 5, 2013. After some discussion, the request was approved (18) (2) (0).

13-0020 – Discussion and possible action regarding three separate resolutions supporting restricted parking on Roscoe Boulevard, Valley Circle Boulevard and Platt Avenue in West Hills. Streets and Transportation Committee Co-Chair Barry Seybert described the three recommendations. After some discussion and the realization that not all of the residents along the affected streets had been contacted for input, Mr. Seybert withdrew the recommendations until a later date.

Community Updates:

Mr. Alec Uzemeck, co-chair of the Environment Committee, provided a detailed report on Centex Corporation’s pending housing project in Dayton Canyon. Mr. Uzemeck explained that Centex appears to be cooperating fully with environmental requirements. The plans call for 143 homes. Homes built along Valley Circle Boulevard will be single-story. Construction is set to start in the spring of next year and will be completed in three years. No soil is to come out of Dayton Canyon; any soil that is dug up will be used as backfill at other locations on the site. Mr. Uzemeck said the Environment Committee will keep a watch on this project until it is completed.

Ms. Rothstein noted there is little to report on the Lederer property development on the south side of Sherman Way. A Planning Commission hearing on Aug. 22 is expected to address an appeal by the project’s neighbors of a zoning administrator’s previous ruling. She said Councilman Mitchell Englander intends to send the developers a letter stating his position.

Treasurer’s Report:

Ms. Trantafello presented the WHNC’s Profit and Loss Statement. She advised that she has been unable to determine if payment has been made to Apple One for June 2013. If it hasn’t been made, the payment might come out of the 2012-2013 budget. Mr. Glenn Bailey stated that Mr. Armando Ruiz of DONE is preparing a motion to allow the agency to pay demands it was unable to process before the end of the fiscal year with funds from that same year. Mr. Bailey suggested

that Ms. Trantafello contact Mr. Ruiz to discuss the matter.

Mr. Castro stated that the Beautification Committee's cleaning of the gutter and bicycle lane on the north side of Victory Boulevard, west of Fallbrook Avenue, on June 29 went well. The effort did not get the participation he wanted, with "five old men trying to do the work of 20," but they completed the task. He is looking into re-landscaping the West Hills Post Office.

Mr. Bob Brostoff advised that an Emergency Preparedness subcommittee is working on an emergency plan for all of West Hills. He is also working to arrange a CERT training in West Hills this fall.

Mr. Ed Young advised that our Autumn Arts & Crafts Festival on Sept. 21 will include a motorcycle show.

8:55 Meeting adjourned