



Help Guide the Future of West Hills
West Hills Neighborhood
Council



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FINAL
MEETING MINUTES
April 4, 2012

Chaminade College Preparatory, 23260 Saticoy Street, West Hills, CA 91304

Attendance:

Present: Sandi Bell, Solomon Bash, Shelly Bright, Robert Brostoff, Dan Brin, Edwin Dockus, Carolyn Greenwood, Donn Howell, Bonnie Klea, Ruwan Kotuwelle, Stephen Lenske, Elliot Maggin, Walter Perfect, Bill Rose, Charlene Rothstein, Barry Seybert, Jeffrey Shapiro, Ron Sobel, Bobbi Trantafello, Daniel Wiseman, Ed Young and Jacquie Young

Absent/Excused: Chris Rowe and Joanne Yvanek-Garb

Opening Business:

Co-Chair, Mr. Edwin Dockus established a quorum, called the meeting to order.

Co-Chair, Mr. Stephen Lenske, welcomed all those present. He advised that any stakeholder who would like to speak, please fill out a speaker card (which for this meeting were yellow sheets of paper) so that the appropriate amount of time can be allotted.

Mr. Dockus explained that because of the number of complaints that our meetings last too long, there is now a timed agenda. In addition, say at 9:20 (as we are to be out of here by 9:30) anyone can “call for the orders of the day.” This action will halt the meeting and any agenda items that have not been covered will be put on the next month’s agenda.

Mr. Lenske advised that we have a timekeeper who will keep us on track and asks that all speakers show respect when told that their time is up.

Announcements:

Representative from Council District 3, Mr. Ron Rubine welcomed back Mr. Lenske and also mentioned that we should thank Mr. Fabien Cheng, who was present, as he was instrumental in clearing the way for the WHNC signs to be installed. Mr. Rubine advised that Councilman Zine had made a motion that Officer Stenroos (the officer who orchestrated the shooting hoax at El Camino High School) make restitution to the City of LA for costs incurred as the result of his ruse. Mr. Stenroos has made restitution in the amount of \$309,046.23.

Mr. Rubine advised that the Z Awards are coming up. Dennis McCarthy is to be honored. Also during Passover parking enforcement will be relaxed in the West Hills area.

A representative from Council District 12 was not present

Officers Sam Sabra and Dennis Cunningham were present and invited everyone to the Topanga Station's open house on April 28th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. They advised that the Topanga Station sponsored National Night Out event on August 7th would take place at Shadow Ranch Park.

Officers Sabra and Cunningham advised that their Captain wanted them to provide an update on the marijuana clinics in the West Hills area. The Captain wanted to assure the citizens that he takes enforcement of these facilities very seriously and that they are monitoring for any crime being committed in and around any of these facilities. The officers requested that citizens call and report any unusual or suspicious activity.

Presentation:

Board member, Mr. Dan Brin introduced Mr. Fabien Cheng, Division Manger, Community Services Division City of Los Angeles Bureau of Street Lighting. Mr. Cheng spoke about the LED Street Lamps Conversion Program. He provided background on the project and it projection for completion. Mr. Cheng advised that for the most part residents are happy with the brighter light emitted from the LED lights but in some cases where the poles are close to the residence there have been some complaints that the light entering the home is disturbing. Mr. Cheng stated that a shield can be installed on the lamp to prevent this and anyone experiencing this problem should contact him directly at (213) 847-1459 so that he can arrange the instillation of the shield.

Public Comment:

Mr. Ron Sobel advised that there is a new bakery in Fields Market, Itty Bitty Cakes, and they donated bakery goods for our meeting.

Stakeholder, Ms. Lori Yalen advised that there was to be a fundraiser for El Camino High School on Saturday, April 28th. The event is sponsored by Friends of ECR and the cost is \$45. Ms. Yalen also took the opportunity to thank the Board for their assistance with the New Community Jewish High School, especially with regards to the demolition of the houses on Vicky.

Grievance Committee Report:

12-0001 – Discussion and possible action regarding findings and recommendations by the Grievance Committee regarding four (4) separate grievances filed against West Hills Neighborhood Council Board Member. Mr. Bob Brostoff

Grievance Committee Chair, Mr. Donn Howell advised that the committee wishes to postpone the matter until the May meeting as the committee was still waiting for additional information.

Council Announcements:

Council Member, Dr. Daniel Wiseman provided information on various meetings that stakeholders and Board members may wish to attend including two meetings of the Budget Advocates.

Council Member, Mr. Dan Brin advised that singers and songwriters from West Hills were going to be present at the Eggstravaganza at Shadow Ranch Park.

Council Member, Mr. Sol Bash requested that we help spread the word about the Eggstravaganza on April 7th at Shadow Ranch.

Council Member, Mr. Bob Brostoff advised that he met with the Captain of the Topanga Station and discussed issues related to West Hills.

Council Member, Mr. Barry Seybert advised that the West Hills Neighborhood Council was well represented at the Valley Alliance event.

Council Member, Ms. Sandi Bell advised that she has spoken to the principal of Enadia Way School, Ms. Vivian Cordova and has invited her to speak at the next meeting as LAUSD is out of school this week. It was discussed that we would provide an opportunity for all the schools in West Hills to come and let the community know what was happening at their respective schools.

Council Member, Ms. Jacquie Young advised that there would be a meeting the 3rd Monday in April. It will be a preliminary planning meeting for next years budget.

Treasurer's Report – Ms. Bobbi Trantafello presented the Treasurer's Report and advised there were no unusual expenses. There was discussion of what monies could be carried over to the next years budget and what monies were available for use this fiscal year.

Minutes – the minutes March 7, 2012 were approved as corrected. The minutes of the March 7, 2012 Special Meeting were approved as posted.

Government Relations Report

After explanation and discussion, Government Relations Liaison, Dr. Daniel Wiseman made the following motions:

That this West Hills Neighborhood Council has considered and is in support of the 21 recommendations of the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocate's White Paper with the exclusion of the words "street furniture" in #15. Motion carried (15-3-0)

That a letter be sent to the Mayor requesting that he veto the City Council's action approving the L.A. Redistricting Commission's 'final' map. Motion carried (17-1-0)

That the West Hills Neighborhood Council would like to advise the City Council to not decrease the business tax if it is not replaced with an equal or greater revenue to offset this action. Motion carried (12-3-2)

Old Business:

02-003 – Discussion & possible action regarding the West Hills street signage design, locations and approval of Los Angeles Department Sign installation conditions

Mr. Stephen Lenske stated that this matter is just about settled. Due to the changes in design the Board is entitled to a refund. It has been decided that the refunded monies will go to pay Ed Crowe for his additional design work and the fabrication of eight (8) additional signs (for installation in the future). The West Hills Neighborhood street signs should be up in about a month.

11-0015 – Discussion and possible action on motion of Budget Committee recommendation that Executive Director, Michelle Ritchie be allowed to increase her weekly hours beyond 20 hours per week as reported to Apple One & approved by Edwin Dockus not to exceed 200 additional hours during the period of April 1, 2012 – June 30, 2012

Budget Committee Chair, Ms. Jacquie Young stated that the recommendation of the budget committee was to approve allowing Michelle Ritchie to increase her weekly hours beyond 20 hours per week not to exceed 200 additional hours during the period of April 1, 2012- June 30, 2012. Recommendation passed (13-0-5)

11-0018 – Discussion and possible action regarding West Hills Neighborhood Council Election process to the Fall of 2012 unless the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment announces regular Elections to be held before the end of Fall 2012

After discussion, Mr. Dan Brin moved that the WHNC shall postpone its election/selection until November 15, 2012 unless DONE holds regular elections before then. Motion carried (18-10-0)

11-0021

1) Discussion and possible action on authorizing an additional amount of money, not to exceed \$50.00 toward the purchase of a projector for West Hills Neighborhood Council use, subject to availability of excess funding

The motion was made to approve authorizing additional money not to exceed \$50.00 toward the purchase of a LCD projector for WHNC use, subject to availability of excess funding. Motion carried (20-0-0)

2) Discussion and possible action on authorizing an additional amount of money not to exceed \$1,500.00 for a total of \$4,000.00 to be encumbered by the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment and rolled over for the next Fall's Election Committee, subject to availability of excess funds

After discuss and statement that \$2,500.00 has already been encumbered, the motion as made to authorize an additional amount of money not to exceed \$1,500.00 for a total of \$4,000.00 to be encumbered by the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment and rolled over for the next Fall's Election Committee, subject to availability of excess funds. Motion carried (19-0-0)

3) Discussion and possible action on Communication Committee recommendation to allocate an additional amount of \$500.00 to the already approved sum of \$2,500.00 to be used for West Hills 35th Anniversary activities subject to availability of excess funding

Motion was made to allocate an additional amount of \$500.00 to be used for the West Hills 25th Anniversary activities subject to availability of excess funding. Motion carried unanimously.

9:20 Meeting adjourned