



Help Guide the Future of West Hills  
**West Hills Neighborhood**  
**Council**



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**FINAL**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**March 13, 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, Margerhy Brown, Michael Castro, Carolyn Greenwood, John Hogue, Ruwan Kotuwelle, Elliot Maggin, Steve Randall, Bill Rose, Charlene Rothstein, Barry Seybert (arrived late), Ron Sobel, Bobbi Trantafello, Alec Uzemeck, Daniel Wiseman, Joanne Yvanek-Garb, Ed Young and Jacquie Young

**Absent:** Bonnie Klea, Franchon Lyons and Walter Perfect

**Opening Business:**

President/Co-Chair Dan Brin welcomed everyone. Board member Carolyn Greenwood called roll to establish a quorum. Mr. Brin called the meeting to order.

**Announcements:**

Mr. Brin advised that Mr. Erik Richardson, our Deputy Field Representative for District 12, is moving and that Ms. Seme Park will replace him temporarily. The representative from the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment and our Senior Lead Officers were not present.

The minutes of Feb. 6 were approved as presented.

**Presentation:**

Mr. Brin announced that there would not be a presentation on "Advanced Meters" as the representative from the Southern California Gas Company is not here.

**Public Comment:**

Nina Raey, representing Olive Garden, announced a new Olive Garden Restaurant will be built in the Fallbrook Center, replacing the building previously occupied by Yankee Doodles and other businesses. Ms. Raey provided architectural renderings of the proposed restaurant and answered some questions.

Don Rubin from the Canoga Park-West Hills Chamber of Commerce said the annual Memorial Day Parade will take place Monday, May 27. In addition, this year there will be a 5K walk/run.

Anyone interested in being a participant in the parade or the 5K can contact the Chamber at [www.cpwhchamber.org](http://www.cpwhchamber.org).

Stakeholder Max Izenberg advised that she produces a newsletter for seniors titled “Suddenly 65.” It provides health tips and lists places to take the grandkids, theater and music events, book signings, volunteering opportunities and restaurant discounts. Information is at [www.SUDDENLY65.com](http://www.SUDDENLY65.com) or (818) 606-4826. This service is free.

WHNC Public Health Chair Sandi Bell said that even if you don’t know CPR, just doing chest compressions to the Bee Gees “Stayin’ Alive” tune can be effective until emergency personnel arrive. Ms. Bell urged all present to learn CPR and said a free on-line course is available if you are unable to attend a regular class. Ms. Bell also spoke of the availability of the new automatic external defibrillator (AED) and the need to have an Advance Directive.

Communications Committee Chair Elliot Maggin asked board members to bring their tablets and/or smartphones to the Safety & Health Fair in Shadow Ranch Park on March 30. He has developed a program that will enable us to gather names and e-mails of those interested in the council.

**Presentation:** “A Proposal to Preserve Federal Properties at Santa Susana Field Lab as a National Park”

Mr. John Luker, vice president of the Santa Susana Mountain Park Association, spoke about the importance of preventing development on the former Santa Susana Field Lab grounds and preserving them in perpetuity for future generations of people and wildlife. He advocated the transfer of federal properties on the site to the National Park Service, which would take administrative control only after the lands have been certified as cleaned. Mr. Luker advised that now is the time to express our recommendation for the use of this land.

**New Business:**

**13-0008** – Discussion and possible action regarding a proposal to preserve federal properties at Santa Susana Field Lab as a national park, following clean up.

Board Member Alec Uzameck advised that the proposed resolution has nothing to do with the clean up – it concerns what is to be done with the property after it is cleaned.

Mr. Uzameck moved that the council approve the proposal as presented (see attached).

Simi area residents Dawn Koualsu, Dorri Ruskin, Marie Mason and Theresa Brady stated they wanted the Santa Susana Field Lab property to be cleaned up before any transfer is done.

Mr. Uzameck emphasized again that the resolution is about what is to be done with the property once it is cleaned up. Board Member Ed Young suggested two “friendly amendments” to the resolution: (1) that the first line of the 12<sup>th</sup> WHEREAS be changed to read “...as the Los Angeles community is one of the nearest to the SSFL grounds...” and (2) that the last line of the resolution should read “... that the West Hills Neighborhood Council urges these representatives to embrace this proposal and to insure its prompt and appropriate resolution.” After discussion, the first recommendation was accepted by Mr. Uzameck as a “friendly amendment.”

Resolution, with amendments, passed (19) (2) (1).

**13-0009** – Discussion and possible action regarding using remaining available funds to replace street banners for the West Hills Neighborhood Council.

Mr. Brin proposed the 13 banners that were made last year in celebration of West Hills' 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary be replaced with new banners promoting the West Hills Neighborhood Council and its web site. WHNC Controller Bob Brostoff moved that we allocate up to \$2,500, with the provision that the monies are available, to replace only the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary banners. Other banners with pictures of West Hills locations would remain where they are. Motion passed (20) (1) (1).

**Committee Reports:**

Eggstravaganza Safety & Health Fair: Special Events Chair Ed Young reminded everyone that this important event will take place March 30 at Shadow Ranch Park from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Board Member Ron Sobel is chairing the WHNC booth and Board members need to let him know what times they will be available to man the booth. There will be about 50 exhibitors.

Government Relations: Government Relations Co-Chair Dr. Daniel Wiseman advised that there are nine items on the Budget Advocates' white paper that he is bringing before the Board. Dr. Wiseman spoke about the NCs' budgets being reduced again and that the councils would have to pay the City Clerk for their elections. Dr. Wiseman also spoke about how reductions of DONE's budget has harmed its ability to assist the NCs. He moved that the Board vote on three of the Budget Advocates recommendations:

1 – Restoration of the annual allocation of all 95 NCs to \$50,000 per year. Motion passed (21) (1) (0)

2 – Support funds necessary to hold the all scheduled NC elections in 2014. Motion passed (22) (0) (0)

3 – Acceptance of the DONE Budget as proposed by GM Crayce Liu. Motion passed (20) (0) (2)

Due to time constraints, Dr. Wiseman made only one additional motion, regarding the proposal that the City centralize the billing of all departments. Dr. Wiseman moved that we “recommend that the new City Controller continue to investigate the collection process and the costs and benefits of a centralized collection system for the City of Los Angeles.” Motion passed (2) (0) (2).

The Treasurer's Report was presented.

**Council Announcements:**

Mr. Eric Augusztiny advised that Citrus Sunday is May 5. Collections of fruit will take place at Fields Market from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. All are welcome to come help.

9:16 Meeting was adjourned.