



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
April 1, 2014

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

Attendance:

Present: Eric Augusztiny, Sandi Bell, Dan Brin, Margery Brown, Michael Castro, Nicole Flessati, Carolyn Greenwood, John Hogue, Bonnie Klea, Ruwan Kotuwelle, Franchon Lyons, Elliot Maggin, Steve Randall, Bill Rose, Charlene Rothstein, Barry Seybert, Ron Sobel, Bobbi Trantafello, Alec Uzemeck, Joanne Yvanek-Garb, Ed Young and Jacquie Young

Leave of Absence: Robert Brostoff

Opening Business:

Secretary Carolyn Greenwood called roll and announced a quorum of 20. Mr. Dan Brin then called the meeting to order. Barry Seybert arrived at 7:20 bringing the total to 21.

The March 4, 2014 Meeting Minutes were approved as written.

Comments from the Chair:

President/Co-Chair Dan Brin stated that we have survived another election. The WHNC increased the participation in this election by 65%.

Mr. Brin congratulated those members of the Board who were re-elected and welcomed those who are newly elected. He thanked those who are not returning for their service and encouraged their continuing participation in the WHNC.

Mr. Brin introduced Councilman Mitch Englander, who administered the pledge of office to the reelected, new and continuing board members.

Councilman Englander stated that in West Hills we have residents who are engaged. He thanked the board for its involvement in the community.

The new Board was seated. The new board is: Aida Abkarians, Eric Augusztiny, Sandi Bell, Dan Brin, Bob Brostoff, Michael Castro, Ed Crowe, Nicole Flessati, Bonnie Klea, Ruwan Kotuwelle, Franchon Lyons, Elliot Maggin, Todd Marks, Steve Randall, Bill Rose, Charlene Rothstein, Barry Seybert, Ron Sobel, Bobbi Trantafello, Alec Uzemeck, Ed Young, Jacquie Young and Joanne Yvanek-Garb. There were 22 present with Mr. Brostoff on leave of absence.

Public Comment:

Chair Dan Brin allowed Mr. Mark Neudorff, President of the Canoga Park/West Hills Chamber of Commerce, to speak. Mr. Neudorff stated he wanted to thank the board for voting to partner with the chamber in running the Memorial Day 5K and 10K Run/Walk. Mr. Neudorff stated “hats off” to Mr. Ed Young for organizing this event. Mr. Neudorff also wanted to announce the chamber’s 2014 Gala, “The Magic of Volunteerism,” on May 16.

Announcements:

Department of Neighborhood Empowerment Representative Tom Soong was present stated that the WHNC improved participation in this election by 65.11%. Mr. Soong advised that he was present to assist in election of officers for the new board. The first nomination would be for president. Mr. Dan Brin was nominated. Nomination approved with 1 abstention by Mr. Ed Crowe. The next nomination was for Vice President. Ms. Charlene Rothstein was nominated. Nomination approved with 1 abstention by Ed Crowe. The next nomination was for secretary. Ms. Nicole Flessati was nominated. Nomination was unanimously approved. The next nomination was for treasurer. Ms. Bobbi Trantafello was nominated. Nomination was unanimously approved. The last nomination was for controller. Mr. Bob Brostoff was nominated. Mr. Dan Brin stated that although Mr. Brostoff was on leave, he has expressed his desire to continue as controller. Nomination approved with 2 abstentions (Sandi Bell and Ed Crowe). Mr. Soong thanked the board and stated that there will be an orientation for new members.

Senior Lead Officer Brent Rygh introduced himself and stated he is responsible for the northern portion of West Hills. Officer Rygh reviewed some of the successful terminations to criminal activities that have happened during the last month.

At 8:10, board member Ms. Bobbi Trantafello had to leave.

Mr. Ron Rubine, Deputy Field Representative for City Council District 12, thanked the new and old board members for their participation. Mr. Rubine stated that on April 18th from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Department of Water and Power representatives would be at CD 12’s Community Service Center to meet and discuss Water & Power bills and other issues with residents. Contact him to make an appointment.

Public Comment

Co-Chair Charlene Rothstein advised that we would now hear the remainder of those who wished to speak.

Stakeholder Ms. Chris Rowe spoke about her experience with the cleanup at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory and the public health environment. Ms. Rowe provided her opinion on the Santa Susana situation and information on upcoming meetings concerning this project.

Ms. Spike Ward spoke about Nextdoor, a Web site that makes it easy to communicate with neighbors. It is an effort to get back to the old ways when you knew your neighbors, she said.

Board member Ms. Bonnie Klea asked about the possibility of getting an off-leash dog park in the area. Ms. Klea stated that this is necessary as people are allowing their dogs to be off leash in the parks in the area. This has caused problems both with people and other dogs.

Stakeholder Ms. Michelle Marco also spoke about the issue of allowing dogs to be off-leash, saying that many people are affected. Ms. Marco stated that since complaining several tickets have been issued but that most violators are blatant in their disregard for the law. Ms. Marco stated the

fine is \$300 and the violator must appear before a judge. Chair Mr. Dan Brin proposed that an ad hoc committee be formed to address issue.

Old Business:

14-0012 – Discussion and possible action regarding Community Impact Statement (CIS) on cleanup at the Santa Susana Field Lab site.

Mr. Alec Uzemeck, Co-Chair of the Environment Committee, explained the committee's position and Mr. Steve Randall explained the CIS. Mr. Randall explained that the CIS is a statement of key components of the cleanup plan that council wishes the Los Angeles City Council to request and also a friendly amendment to the CIS regarding the proposed truck route through the valley.

Stakeholder Ms. Chris Rowe stated that she did not have a chance to have input on the CIS and while she agrees with the intent, she objects to the line that suggests a truck route.

After some discussion on the possibility that a shorter truck route could be more precarious, the matter was presented for approval as written. CIS was approved; (19 yay), (0 nay) and (2 abstentions (Ms. Aida Abkarians and Mr. Ed Crowe). Ms. Bobbi Trantafello had left the meeting.

14- 0019 – Discussion and possible action regarding the Los Angeles Community Broadband Network.

Mr. Eric Augusztiny, Chair of the Ad Hoc Internet Committee, provided background on how many have been prevented from accessing new innovations. Mr. Augusztiny brought forth a resolution in support of the Los Angeles Community Broadband Network as we all have the right to have access to high-speed Internet.

Stakeholder Ms. Chris Rowe stated that she has concerns with the board approving this resolution. Ms. Rowe stated that the board is supposed to represent the community and that there are some people who are afraid of radio waves and may oppose community broadband.

The resolution was approved: (20 yay), (1 nay – Mr. Ruwan Kotuwelle), (0 abstentions) and (1 member left the meeting – Ms. Bobbi Trantafello).

New Business:

14-0021 – Discussion and possible action regarding the review of facts for board member absences, leading to possible removal(s) from the board

This matter was not discussed due to the lack of a motion

14-0022 – Discussion and possible action regarding WHNC participation in a forum for candidates for the office of Los Angeles County Sheriff

Mr. Dan Brin moved that the WHNC participate in a forum for candidates for the office of Los Angeles County Sheriff. Motion passed: (20 yay), (0 nay), (1 abstention – Ms. Franchon Lyons) and (1 member left the meeting - Ms. Bobbi Trantafello).

14-0023 – Discussion and possible action regarding approval of the WHNC's March 2014 spending reports

Mr. Dan Brin presented the spending reports for approval as the treasurer, Ms. Bobbi Trantafello, had to leave. (18 yay), (1 leave of absence – Mr. Bob Brostoff), (3 ineligible – Ms. Aida Abkarians, Mr. Ed Crowe and Mr. Todd Marks), (0 nay), (0 abstentions) and (1 member had to leave – Ms. Bobbi Trantafello).

14-0024 – Discussion and possible action regarding the allocation of up to \$500 to Pomelo Elementary School.

Mr. Ed Young explained that this and the next three items are identical. The Education Committee would like to give each school up to \$500. The schools will have to purchase items or services from a vendor approved by the City of Los Angeles and the Council will forward the invoice for payment.

The recommendation was approved. (18 yay), (0 nay) (0 abstentions), (3 ineligible – Ms. Aida Abkarians, Mr. Ed Crowe and Mr. Todd Marks), (1 on leave of absence – Mr. Bob Brostoff) and (1 left the meeting – Ms. Bobbi Trantafello).

14-0025 - Discussion and possible action regarding the allocation of up to \$500 to Enadia Way Elementary School.

The recommendation was approved. (18 yay), (0 nay) (0 abstentions), (3 ineligible – Ms. Aida Abkarians, Mr. Ed Crowe and Mr. Todd Marks), (1 on leave of absence – Mr. Bob Brostoff) and (1 left the meeting – Ms. Bobbi Trantafello).

14-0026 - Discussion and possible action regarding the allocation of up to \$500 to Hamlin Elementary School.

The recommendation was approved. (18 yay), (0 nay) (0 abstentions), (3 ineligible – Ms. Aida Abkarians, Mr. Ed Crowe and Mr. Todd Marks), (1 on leave of absence – Mr. Bob Brostoff) and (1 left the meeting – Ms. Bobbi Trantafello).

14-0027 – Discussion and possible action regarding the allocation of up to \$500 to Welby Way Elementary School

The recommendation was approved. (18 yay), (0 nay) (0 abstentions), (3 ineligible – Ms. Aida Abkarians, Mr. Ed Crowe and Mr. Todd Marks), (1 on leave of absence – Mr. Bob Brostoff) and (1 left the meeting – Ms. Bobbi Trantafello).

14-0028 – Discussion and possible action regarding amendments to the Standing Rules of the West Hills Neighborhood Council

Matter tabled due to time constraints.

14-0029 – Discussion and possible action regarding a three-month leave of absence for WHNC board member Mr. Barry Seybert

Mr. Alec Uzemeck moved that we approve the requested leave of absence. After some discussion the motion was approved. (19 yay), (1 nay – Ms. Sandi Bell) (1 abstention – Ms. Franchon Lyons), (1 Leave of absence – Mr. Bob Brostoff) and (1 left meeting – Ms. Bobbi Trantafello)

Mr. Dan Brin adjourned the meeting and reminded all that Citrus Sunday is Sunday, May 18th.

9:20 Meeting adjourned.