



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
November 6, 2013

LAPD Valley Communications Dispatch Center, 2nd Floor
23001 Roscoe Blvd., West Hills, CA 91304

Attendance:

Present: Eric Augusztiny, Solomon Bash, Sandi Bell, Dan Brin, Robert Brostoff, Margery Brown, Michael Castro, Carolyn Greenwood, John Hogue, Bonnie Klea, Ruwan Kotuwelle, Franchon Lyons, Elliot Maggin, Steve Randall, Bill Rose, Charlene Rothstein, Bobbi Trantafello, Alec Uzemeck, Daniel Wiseman, Joanne Yvanek-Garb, Ed Young and Jacquie Young

Absent: Barry Seybert and Ron Sobel

Opening Business:

President/Co-Chair Dan Brin welcomed everyone.

Secretary Carolyn Greenwood called roll and announced a quorum of 21. Mr. Brin then called the meeting to order. Board member Franchon Lyons arrived shortly after roll call.

The minutes of the special meeting on Sept. 23, 2013 were approved as presented.

The minutes of Oct. 2, 2013 were approved as amended to show that Mr. Kotuwelle was present.

Comments from the Chair:

Mr. Brin stated that he wanted to take a moment to thank Mr. Ed Young for the successful West Hills Arts & Crafts Festival at Shadow Ranch Park. Mr. Brin stated that many people contributed to its success, both those on the Board and community members.

Mr. Brin advised that we have present two special guests present who were headliners at the Festival, Juliana and Andrea Chahayed. Mr. Brin stated that Juliana had appeared as a contestant during the most recent season of "American Idol." Mr. Brin presented them with Certificates of Appreciation for their contribution to the community.

Mr. Brin advised that the captain at the Topanga Police Station, Capt. Joel Justice, would be leading a Town Hall meeting on Nov. 14, 2013, 6:30 p.m. at the West Valley Christian Church. Mr. Brin advised that Capt. Justice will be reporting what is happening in the community but more importantly will allow significant time to hear from the community.

Mr. Brin advised that this would be our last monthly meeting at this facility. The commander of the facility comes from a security background and feels that these meetings violate security. Mr. Bob Brostoff advised that we would be meeting at Chaminade starting in December. Mr. Brostoff stated that we would also have access to the conference room for our committee meetings. Also starting in December, the WHNC Board of Directors will meet the first TUESDAY of the month instead of Wednesday.

Mr. Brin gave the locations of the bus benches with the West Hills Neighborhood Council signs.

Mr. Brin advised that we are returning to holding our operations meeting on the third Thursday of the month starting this month.

Public Comment:

Stakeholders Cheryl Goldsmith and Phil Hertenorf said they are asking for a four-way stop on Woodlake Avenue between Victory Boulevard and Vanowen Street. They stated that people use Woodlake as a freeway and there is going to be a fatality, especially because of the close proximity to an elementary school. Mr. Ron Rubine, field deputy for the 12th Council District, said he would get together with the stakeholders to see what can be done.

Board member Sandi Bell wished to remind everyone that, as the year is ending, we will start receiving calendars for the new year. Ms. Bell requested that we save any calendars that we don't want and bring them to her. Ms. Bell will give the calendars to the case manager at the VA Hospital who in turns gives them to the patients to help them keep track of their appointments.

Ms. Bell also wanted to remind everyone that this is flu season and to be sure to get a flu shot. Ms. Bell stated that if you get your flu shot at a pharmacy and are changed, most insurance companies would reimburse you.

Stakeholder Nicole Flessati stated that, because of the proposed reduction in food stamps, there will be an even greater need for assistance. Ms. Flessati is going to set up a virtual food drive through the Los Angeles Food Bank. Anyone interested can go to the West Vally Food Pantry website for information.

Board member Elliot Maggin stated that, effective Jan. 1, 2014, supermarkets will not be allowed to give out free plastic bags. Because of this, he has commissioned an artist to design a logo for reusable "Chico" bags to be distributed free to stakeholders on Dec. 29 "Sustainable Sunday." More information will be on the "West Hills, California" Facebook page.

Announcements:

Mr. Rubine said his assignment as 12th Council District field deputy for West Hills is "like

coming home." He was our representative under Councilman Zine and now he is our representative for Councilman Englander.

Mr. Rubine presented brochures titled *After Shock: Your Personal Guide to the Immediate Aftermath of a Major Earthquake*, with information on what to do after a quake and a sign to be placed in the window indicating "OK" or "HELP." Mr. Rubine is asking for assistance in getting these out to the community.

Mr. Tom Soong, representative from the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, spoke about the upcoming Neighborhood Council elections. WHNC is in Region 3, comprising the southwestern San Fernando Valley, where elections will take place March 16, 2014. The department has a new goal to get at least 1% of each NC's stakeholders to participate. At this time, our council needs to approve the stipulation letter for the election.

Mr. Soong introduced Ms. Lydia Grant, who was recently appointed to the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners. Ms. Grant stated that she has connections to this community. She has been commissioned with being the liaison with the Department of Public Works. Ms. Grant encouraged all to get involved and stand up for what they believe.

Presentation:

Mr. Brin introduced representatives from the Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation Solid Resources Processing and Construction Division who described the mulch giveaway program that is available to all Los Angeles residents. The Bureau of Sanitation is "[Closing The Loop](#)" by providing free quality mulch at 11 locations throughout the city. Instructions: Bring your own shovel, bag or pickup truck, load up your own containers and take as much as you need. The mulch has been processed to kill bacteria and weed seeds. They are going out to the community to make everyone aware of the program and to solicit help in finding additional locations. They will deliver for large projects such as Neighborhood Council beautification projects. Contact james.kurz@lacity.org.

New Business:

13-0031 – Announcement of end of period for applications for appointment to vacant board seat; appointment of ad hoc applicant review committee.

Mr. Brin stated that we have two applications. Ms. Charlene Rothstein will chair the ad hoc committee. Mr. Sol Bash and Mr. Bill Rose were appointed to the committee.

13-0032 – Discussion and possible action regarding the approval of the WHNC Elections Stipulation Worksheet.

Ms. Rothstein advised that we must approve the Stipulation Worksheet. The election will be on Sunday, March 16, 2014.

After some discussion it was moved that we approve that the election will be held for six hours, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., we will have a vote-by-mail provision, we will accept self-affirmation by voters of their stakeholder status, Mr. Elliott Maggin will serve as elections outreach chair and

Ms. Rothstein will be elections chair.
Motion passed: (21) (1) (0).

Also listed on an EmpowerLA worksheet: liaison to Public Works, Mr. Ed Young; to the City Attorney, Mr. Bob Brostoff and Ms. Margery Brown; to the Planning Department, Mr. Bill Rose; to DWP/Budget; Ms. Joanne Yvanek-Garb; Streets & Transportation, Mr. Ron Sobel and Mr. Berry Seybert.

13-0034 – Discussion and possible action regarding the request for leave of absence by a WHNC board member.

Mr. Brin advised that Ms. Bonnie Klea has requested a one-month leave of absence. After some discussion on the necessity for the request, the leave was approved. (19)(1)(2).

13-0035 – Item was removed from the agenda.

13-0036 – Discussion and possible action regarding the approval of funding for meeting locations.

Mr. Bob Brostoff advised that we are just in the talking phase with Chaminade and asked that the item be removed from the agenda and referred back to the Budget Committee. Mr. Brin accepted Mr. Brostoff's request.

Government Relations:

Ms. Joanne Yvanek-Garb reported on the Budget Day. She stated that she thought it was wonderful. Board member Ms. Franchon Lyons, alternate budget representative, described her experiences at her first Budget Day. Ms. Yvanek-Garb said that this was the first year that the Budget Advocates put on the whole event.

Ms. Bobbi Trantafello presented the budget. Ms. Trantafello advised that one expense item for the Fall Festival was not on the list.

Council Announcements:

Mr. Bill Rose advised those present on some projects that will be coming before the Zoning & Planning Committee.

Ms. Jacquie Young thanked all who helped Saturday with the Arts & Crafts Fall Festival.

9:18 Meeting adjourned.