



Help Guide the Future of West Hills
West Hills Neighborhood
Council



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Draft
MEETING MINUTES
April 3, 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, Margery Brown, Michael Castro, Carolyn Greenwood, John Hogue, Bonnie Klea, Franchon Lyons, Elliot Maggin, Walter Perfect, Steve Randall, Bill Rose, Charlene Rothstein, Barry Seybert (arrived late), Ron Sobel, Bobbi Trantafello, Alec Uzemeck, Daniel Wiseman, Ed Young and Jacque Young

Absent/ Excused: Ruwan Kotuwelle and Joanne Yvanek-Garb

Opening Business:

President/Co-Chair Dan Brin welcomed everyone. Secretary Carolyn Greenwood called roll to establish a quorum. Having established a quorum, Mr. Brin called the meeting to order.

Announcements:

Mr. Brin introduced Ms. Melody Jaramillo, our new Deputy Field Representative for District 12. Ms. Jaramillo stated she is looking forward to working with West Hills. The representative from the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment and our Senior Lead Officers were not present.

The minutes of March 13 were approved as presented.

Mr. Brin apologized for last month's meeting. For those not present at last month's meeting, Mr. Brin explained about the extremely loud game show being held in the adjoining room while we were trying to hold our meeting. He stated that he was not pleased with the initial response he received from Shomrei Torah regarding our complaint. Mr. Brin advised that as a result he had asked Mr. Brostoff to look into the use of the 911 Call Center for our meetings. Mr. Brostoff reported that the new commander said we are welcome to use the 2nd floor room for our meetings and could start with our May meeting. An additional benefit of using the 911 Call Center is there is an area to store our audio equipment.

Mr. Brin stated that Shomrei Torah did waive our fee for last month.

Mr. Brin informed those present that the West Hills Neighborhood Council has been invited to

participate in the Memorial Day Parade. Board member Ron Sobel is looking into the use of a vintage double-decker bus for this purpose.

Public Comment:

Public Health Chair Sandi Bell read a letter of thanks from Chrystal Barker, the head of the rehabilitation team at the Veterans Hospital, thanking everyone for the calendar donations. They are able to distribute these to the veterans to keep track of their appointments.

Presentation:

Advanced Meters – Mr. Juan Gonzalez and two other team members from the Southern California Gas Company explained and demonstrated how the new smart meters will work. They explained that the employees who are being displaced are being trained to work in other areas of the company. For more information, visit socialgas.com/advanced or call (800) 427-2200. There will be an opt-out option available for residential customers.

Stakeholder Lori Yalem stated she just wanted to invite everyone to “Sip the Night Away” on April 20 at the Calabasas Tennis & Swim Club from 6:30 to 10 p.m. This is the annual fundraiser sponsored by the Friends of El Camino Real Charter High School.

Old Business:

12-0010 – Discussion and possible action regarding the proposed development of senior living facilities at 23200 Sherman Way, West Hills, CA 91307, filed with the Los Angeles City Planning Department as Case No. ZA 2012-1146 (ELD) (SPR)

Vice President/Co-Chair Charlene Rothstein advised that we are revisiting this matter in support of the appeal being filed by the homeowners. Ms. Jaramillo said Councilman Englander also supports the appeal. Ms. Rothstein turned to Stakeholder Allan Dietel to explain the appeal. Mr. Dietel advised that under the guise of eldercare the development that was approved is really apartments. The larger building has no staff, no medical facilities and no dining room. There are none of the features that would make the project an elder care facility. Mr. Dietel believes that the commissioner was given misinformation on this project. He said the neighbors object to the project’s scale and mass not the idea of an eldercare facility.

Stakeholder Alice Allen stated she is interested in where she might live as a young senior. Ms. Allen said the proposed project provides none of the services needed for independent living.

Stakeholder Lori Yalem stated she hopes the WHNC Board supports the appeal.

Stakeholder Jim Wallace advised that when the eldercare ordinance was passed no survey or study was done. It was just assumed that we were going to need such facilities and the ordinance was a way to fast-track the building of these types of facilities. He personally is studying the actual need.

Ms. Rothstein read a proposed resolution in support of the appeal. Ms. Rothstein advised that this did not go through the Zoning and Planning Committee because of the short time frame for response. Board member Alec Uzemeck moved that the recommendation be accepted.

After more discussion, there was a call for the question. Motion passed (19) (2) (0).
Motion to accept recommendation passed (18) (0) (2).

New Business:

13-0010 – Discussion and possible action regarding recognizing the athletic achievements of Chaminade College Preparatory High School by donating an amount up to and including \$500 to be used to replace sports equipment.

Education Co-Chair Ed Young advised that Chaminade has excelled in several sports and in recognition of these achievements the Education Committee, with approval of the Budget Committee, recommends making this donation.

Recommendation approved (20) (1) (0).

13-0011 – Discussion and possible action regarding donation of \$750 to enable West Hills Optimists to subsidize field trips for the eight public elementary schools within the boundaries of West Hills.

Controller Bob Brostoff read the recommendation to assist the Optimists Club in providing field trips for fifth grade students. The proposal was reviewed and approved by the Budget Committee. It was stated that Councilman Englander has agreed to provide the buses. Motion passed (18) (0) (0).

13-0012 – Discussion and possible action regarding support for renaming the LAFD helipad in West Hills as the Glenn V. Smith Helispot in West Hills.

Mr. Brin read the resolution in support of naming the LAFD Helispot in West Hills after Glenn V. Smith, the LAFD's Chief Pilot who died two years ago. After discussion, a friendly amendment was made to change the word *his* in "WHEREAS #4" to *our*. The amendment was accepted and the resolution passed (20) (1) (0).

Committee Reports:

Government Relations Co-Chair Dr. Dan Wiseman advised that there are nine items in the Budget Advocates' white paper that he is bringing before the Board. Dr. Wiseman spoke about the dedication of the Budget Advocates and that these proposals were ways to increase the City's income. Mr. Brin advised that due to time constraints we should just vote on each as presented by Dr. Wiseman with as little discussion as possible.

Dr. Wiseman stated that some of the items were more critical and he wanted to start with item #7. Dr. Wiseman moved that the WHNC support the concept of restructuring the timing of the receipt of revenues to decrease the City's needs for a line of credit. Motion passed (17) (0) (1).

After some discussion, Dr. Wiseman wished to address the LAFD-EMS (ambulance) item (a) under #2, which he stated is two-fold:

1 – Dr. Wiseman moved that the WHNC support more equitable billing and receiving for ambulance service. Motion failed (9) (9) (3).

2 – Dr. Wiseman moved that the WHNC support billing for the medial services that the LAFD EMS provide. Motion failed (6) (13) (2).

Dr. Wiseman then addressed item (c) under #2 and moved that WHNC support increasing parking users' taxes by \$10 million or more. Motion failed (6) (10) (5).

Due to the time constraints, Dr. Wiseman will continue with the recommendations at the next meeting.

Council Announcements:

Mr. Bob Brostoff presented the Treasurer's Report. Mr. Brostoff requested that anyone who has suggestions for outreach to please present their ideas at the next Budget Committee meeting.

Mr. Alec Uzemeck presented the mission statement developed by the Environment Committee. Mr. Uzemeck stated that he felt that the scope of the Environment Committee with relation to the Santa Susana Field Laboratory should be the health issues as they affect West Hills. Examples would be water runoff and air pollution caused by trucks coming through West Hills.

Board Announcements:

Streets & Transportation Co-Chair Ron Sobel spoke about the illegal signs on street posts. The fine is \$296.

Mr. Ed Young took this opportunity to thank and recognize Mr. Elliot Maggin, Mr. Dan Brin, Ms. Jacquie Young, Mr. Bob Brostoff, Mr. Bill Rose, Mr. Ron Sobel and Mr. Eric Augusztiny for their individual contributions toward making the Eggstravaganza a success. Mr. Young also thanked all of the other Board members who manned the WHNC booth.

Mr. Bill Rose advised that the Zoning & Planning Committee would be discussing Dayton Canyon at its meeting on Tuesday at 6:30.

Mr. Bob Brostoff asked that everyone come to the next budget Committee Meeting and applauded Mr. Ed Young on all of his hard work and the success of the Eggstravaganza and Health Fair.

Mr. Elliot Maggin advised that we increased our database by 120 email addresses using the new phone app he designed.

Mr. Eric Augusztiny advised that Citrus Sunday is May 5. Volunteers will be collecting at Fields Market from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. All are welcome to come help. All fruit will be accepted.

Dr. Dan Wiseman advised that the Mayor's budget is to be released April 19.

9:25 Meeting was adjourned