



Help Guide the Future of West Hills
West Hills Neighborhood
Council



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Final
MEETING MINUTES
March 2, 2011

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

Attendance:

Present: Solomon Bash, Sandi Bell, Shelly Bright, Dan Brin, Robert Brostoff, Edwin Dockus, Carolyn Greenwood, Donn Howell, Bonnie Klea, Ruwan Kotuwelle, Stephen Lenske, Walter Perfect, Bill Rose, Charlene Rothstein, Chris Rowe, Barry Seybert, Yoav Shalev, Jeffrey Shapiro, Ron Sobel, Alec Uzemeck, Daniel Wiseman, Joanne Yvanek-Garb and Jacquie Young

Absent/Excused: Bobbi Trantafello

A quorum was established following a roll call by the Secretary.

Opening Business:

Mr. Stephen Lenske went over the general rules and purpose of the meeting.

Mr. Lenske informed those present that the council's website is up and running and also the West Hills Update is going out regularly with information about events in West Hills. There is a sign up sheet for those interested in receiving the update and other news alerts.

Almost 100% of the board members have taken the ethics training. Those who had not were urged to complete the training and send the certificate of completion to the Executive Director, Michelle Ritchie.

Those interested in touring the Santa Susana Facility can make reservations by calling the Santa Susana Community Tour at (818) 446-8136.

Mr. Lenske advised that there have been a couple of incidents in the West Valley of an emergency nature. Because of an incident that resulted in it taking several hours to contact a homeowner, he urged all present to become involved in Neighborhood Watch and/or get to know your neighbors. Mr. Lenske advised that we all need to exchange contact information with our neighbors should an emergency arise.

Announcements:

Mrs. Jacquie Young advised that the Budget Committee would meet March 21st as she is in receipt of a budget request for next year.

Mr. Sol Bash advised that there will be a Public Safety and Health Fair at Shadow Ranch Park April 23rd from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Those interested in participating can contact Mr. Bash. There is no cost for participating.

Mr. Wally Perfect advised that Zoning and Planning would have a meeting on March 8th. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Community Plan. The current plan shows the northern border of West Hills as Roscoe and West Hills is lumped with Canoga Park and Winnetka. The northern border is Nordhoff and West Hills should also be linked with Chatsworth.

Minutes – the minutes of January 5th and February 2nd were approved as published.

Treasurer's Report –There was no treasurer's report as Ms. Trantafello was not present. Mr. Lenske did advise the he had been informed that the invoice for the West Hills signage had been approved for payment.

Ms. Megan Murray, Field Deputy from the 3rd Council District, advised that the "No Parking" signs at Sherman Way and Shoup were installed by the Department of Transportation as a result of a letter of request from the LAPD. The LAPD was responding to a petition from property owners to not have any overnight parking and multiple complaints and issues in that area. A full traffic study and a letter of request from the LAPD would be needed for removal of the signs. It appeared that the LAPD in its investigation, failed to consult with the business owners in the shopping center on the South East corner of Sherman Way and Shoup and whose businesses were being affected by the no parking signs.

Ms. Murray advised that she and Irma toured the Ivy Bound Academy and they were very impressed and support the approval of having them take over the Highlander property.

Ms. Murray advised that April 30th is the Mayor's Day of Service. Also she reminded those present that the office would be having four furlough days. The next furlough day is March 25th.

Ms. Seme Park, Deputy Field Representative from the 12th Council District, advised that a clarification of the solid resource fee provided by the Bureau of Sanitation is available.

Ms. Park advised that in January, Councilman Smith initiated correspondence requesting that the LAFD rearrange their staffing to best utilize their work force.

For those interested in beautification of their area, there is an Adopt a Street Program. The commitment is made on a quarterly basis.

Mr. Lenske asked if Councilman Smith would reconsider his refusal to contribute to the West Hills signage. It would be cost saving if done now. Ms. Park stated that she would bring the request to the Councilman.

Captain John Rojas, from LAFD – Station 106, advised that he is a 34-year veteran with the last 11 years at 106. Captain Rojas advised that they have a Cadet Program at Station 106 for anyone ages 16 to 21.

In response to the question of why is it necessary to have ladder trucks, Captain Rojas stated that these trucks don't just have ladders. The trucks carry the lion's share of special equipment, i.e. the jaws of life. It is important that this equipment be readily available should the need arise.

Presentation:

Mr. Lenske introduced Patrick McOsker, President of United Firefighters Local 112. Mr. McOsker explained that during the present brown outs 122 firefighters, 22 trucks, 6 ambulances and 2 battalions are not available. In addition, 30 positions have been eliminated – 10 to 16 permanently.

Mr. McOsker went on to explain that what Councilman Smith is really talking about in his letter of January 7, 2011 is firefighter overtime. Councilman Smith states in part that the LAPD model is much more efficient and the LAFD is one of the only fire departments in the country that follows its current deployment model.

Mr. McOsker advised that he has been part of a group, as was Councilman Smith, which established what proper staffing is for the fire department. It was established that the minimum is 4 men 90% of the time. Mr. McOsker also presented a report dated December 9, 2004 from the then Los Angeles CAO explaining the LAFD concept of constant staffing overtime and its cost effectiveness.

Mr. McOsker advised that the fire department is being asked to cut an additional 15% of their resources. Mr. McOsker stated that the firefighters will continue to provide the best service possible with what resources they have but there could be delays in arrival time as well as the ability to answer calls.

Dr. Daniel Wiseman moved that as the LAFD is actively involved in preserving the health and lives of our citizens and preserving property by fighting fires. West Hills Neighborhood Council believes that these services are of the highest order of Public Safety services in our City and requests the Mayor and City Council to give the LAFD recognition and support in the upcoming Budget Proposals equal to that given to the Los Angeles Police Department. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment:

Stakeholders, Monique Johnson and Elley Langsam, both nurses at West Hills Hospital, briefed those present about what is happening at West Hills Hospital. The nurses have been working without a contract sine July of 2010. The hospital is unstaffed and nurses cannot provide the necessary care to patients. They are back at the bargaining table and wish anyone interested in appropriate staffing at this facility to contact the CEO, Bev Gilmore.

Stakeholder, Glenn Bailey advised that he is coming before the board in regards to the community garden at Orcutt Ranch Park. The Department of Parks and Recreation prepared a 71-page report that suggested that there would be a MODEST increase for the community gardens. The fee it was learned in November will go from the present \$25 per plot to \$120. Several of the community

gardens have gotten together in protest over this increase and Mr. Bailey is requesting the WHNC encourage Orcutt Ranch to join in the protest.

Old Business:

02-0003 – Discussion and possible action re West Hills Street Signage

Mr. Lenske advised, that as earlier stated in the meeting, this should be approved tomorrow.

10-0011 – Discussion and possible action regarding proposed use of Highlander Road Elementary School located at 24258 Highlander Road, West Hills

Mr. Kiumars Arzani, Executive Director Ivy Bound Academy, and Mr. Tom Waldman, LAUSD were present. Mr. Waldman, Chief of Staff for Tamar Galatzan, stated that Ms. Galatzan has been supportive of charter schools. LAUSD currently has 6 closed campuses, 4 of these are available for charter schools. A charter school must demonstrate the support of the community and financial backing to be approved. Ivy Bound Academy has been awarded the Highlander site and now must demonstrate its ability to meet the requirements.

Mr. Kiumars Arzani advised that they have the necessary financing and now are seeking the support of the community and the council. Mr. Arzani stated that historically charter schools have a problem finding facilities and winning the bid to use the Highlander site is a great opportunity. Phase one will be establishing a middle school for 5th thru 8th grade consisting of two academies on the site. Each will have its own principal. There is no tenure in Ivy Bound which results in everyone being held accountable. This provides for greater accountability to students and parents. There is a plan for phase two but that will depend on the needs of the community.

Mr. Arzani requested a letter from the board in support of Ivy Bound Academy being located on the Highlander site. Board member, Shelly Bright moved that we support Ivy Bound Academy. Motion passed with two abstentions. A second motion was made to write a letter in support of converting the Highlander site to Ivy Bound Academy, a charter middle school. Motion passed with two abstentions.

11-0004 – Discussion and possible action regarding the West Hills Neighborhood Council's Bylaws to be reformatted in accordance with DONE requirements

Mr. Lenske restated that this is a copy of WHNC's current Bylaws rearranged in the DONE mandated template. This has nothing to do with content. This does not preclude the implementing of changes to the Bylaws as proposed by the Bylaws Committee. Mr. Lenske advised that if we do not take this action on reformatting our bylaws by April 5th DONE would take over our bylaws. Proposal passed unanimously.

Governmental Relations

Dr. Dan Wiseman advised that he is the editor of what the group is calling the "White Paper". It is not ready for distribution. He will be speaking at the council meeting and this is the first time a neighborhood council has been formally asked to speak. The report will be coming out in a couple of weeks. Dr. Wiseman reminded all about the Regional Budget Day.

9:55 meeting adjourned