



West Hills Neighborhood Council

P.O. Box 4670, West Hills, CA 91308-4670
818-254-WEST



WWW.WESTHILLSNC.ORG

MAIL@WESTHILLSNC.ORG

HOMELESSNESS SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES (appr 8.15.16)

Tuesday June 13, 2016

**West Hills Hospital, 1st Floor Conference Room
7300 Medical Center Drive, West Hills CA**

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 PM by Tom Booth and Simone Best, Committee Co-Chair's.

Those in attendance were: Tom Booth, Simone Best, Aida Abkarians, Marge Brown, Joanne Yvanek-Garb, Joan Trent, Alec Uzemeck, Brad Vanderhoof and Fiona Kilner. A quorum was established.

Approval of the minutes from the May meeting tabled

Comments from the Chair

Tom welcomed Fiona. Tom commented that the presentation of speakers at the WHNC Board Meeting was successful with the very emotional homeless story from Kia being especially moving.

Update on Business / Homeless Mobile Outreach

Linda has withdrawn from the committee due to her other commitments.
Alec will approach the Fallbrook Home Depot and report back to the committee.

2016 Homeless Count

Tom presented these highlights from the 2016 homeless count: veterans focus – 45% reduction, the number of homeless families is down, the SFV had the biggest increase in homelessness. Fiona suggested that this may be partly due to the closing of many of the smaller courthouses and that Van Nuys is seeing an increase in cases due to this. Many people do not immediately return to their area of origin after a court appearance.

State Proposition to Seek Additional Funding to Address Homelessness

Simone asked the committee to support the placement of a bond measure on the November General Election ballot to fund the Housing First initiative. Simone moved for adoption of a motion to forward to the whole council for a CIS. Alec seconded the motion. The motion was passed by unanimous consent. Simone will write a CIS.

Joint Venture with other West Valley Neighborhood Councils

Tom reported the Canoga Park and Winnetka councils have shown interest He will write a brief note to other neighborhood councils to see if they are interested in joining together. Marge has a card to take to Chatsworth.

Marge commented she doesn't see much discussion about the homeless and more about the 'pandering' people. Tom mentioned the public often fails to differentiate between homeless people and panhandlers and this confusion gives the homeless a bad name. He

stated this issue is not something for this committee to solve and committee members should assume people who appear homeless are homeless and give them homeless information.

Documenting Homeless Services in the Area

The WHNC website has one sheet of information

Public Comment

Aida will bring the information she has about the Sunshine Club to the next meeting. Marge expressed her opinion that the committee should not be solely a referral service. Aida mentioned the mayor's initiative to have a hundred families host parties in their driveways to collect household goods for people placed into housing with nothing. Tom suggested contacting Kevin at the mayor's office. Aida suggested the committee find one big place, like the parking lot of a high school or hospital, and plan a large event. She also said this would require time to organize. Joanne suggested the Fall Festival would be a good location for collection. Alec suggested soliciting sponsorship for the event as part of mayor's appeal to add pizzazz and pull more people in.

Joan stated there is a need for some type of homelessness awareness training for board members. Simone says that this would be a good to bring up at the Operations Committee meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20pm by Tom.

