



Help Guide the Future of West Hills  
**West Hills Neighborhood**  
**Council**



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**FINAL**  
**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**December 3, 2008**

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

**Attendance:**

**Present:** Shelly Bright, Carolyn Greenwood, Donn Howell, Stephen Lenske, Etan Lorant, Walter Perfect, Charlene Rothstein, Chris Rowe, Ron Sobel, Stan Staten, Jeffrey Stordahl, Bobbi Trantafello, Daniel Wiseman, Ed Young, Jackie Young and Joanne Yvanek-Garb

**Absent:** Kevin Boal and Tommy Thomason

**Excused:** Dan Brin, Edwin Dockus, Bill Rose and Barry Seybert

**Opening Business:**

Mr. Stephen Lenske welcomed all the stakeholders. He provided an overview of the meeting agenda and guidelines for speaker comments.

Mr. Lenske advised that on November 10<sup>th</sup> several of the board members toured the Santa Susana Field Laboratory. It was quite interesting and now those who were present feel they have a better appreciation of what is going on. Mr. Lenske invited those present to also take advantage of touring the facility.

Minutes - After discussion, the minutes were approved as amended.

Treasurer's Report – Bobbi Trantafello advised that we currently have approximately \$92,000 in the bank. After deducting budget items will be a balance of \$67,000 that is available through June 30, 2009.

**Announcements:**

There were no representatives present from the 12<sup>th</sup> District, 3<sup>rd</sup> District or from DONE.

Janet Zumstein, West Valley Senior Lead Officer (SLO), brought maps showing the area covered by the new "Topanga Area" station. Officer Zumstein advised the new area is divided in three. Officer Zumstein will be the SLO officer responsible for the southern portion, Officer Sam Sabra will be responsible for the northern portion of West Hills and Officer Sue Herold will have the Chatsworth portion.

Officer Zumstein introduced her boss, Sergeant Kim Harper. Sergeant Harper invited everyone to the dedication of the new station which will take place January 3, 2009 at 10 a.m. All are invited to the dedication and the open house from 11:30 to 3:00.

Minutes – the October minutes were approved as published.

Budget – Bobbi Trantafello provided an overview of what is budgeted to date.

**Presentation:**

Dr. Daniel Wiseman introduced Mr. Dennis Hathaway, who is a stakeholder in the Venice Neighborhood Council and a member of the coalition to Ban Billboard Blight. Mr. Hathaway advised that the mission of the coalition is to defend the visual environment of the city. It seems the outdoor advertising industry won't be content until every space in our city is filled with commercial messages, and we will be unable to drive our streets or walk in our parks and plazas without being faced at every turn with an exhortation to buy a product or service. The coalition's plan is to educate people about the threat the outdoor industry poses and to have people write/call councilpersons or attend meeting and speak in favor of stronger sign regulations. They also are taking legal action and therefore must do fundraising to effectively organize, influence our elected officials, and take actions to stop the onslaught of visual blight. Anyone interested can contact them at [info@banbillboardblight.org](mailto:info@banbillboardblight.org).

**Public Comment:**

Stakeholder Wes Rogers spoke about a book and video that he developed entitled "Teach Values Now". It was developed to help our youth 14 to 18 years of age make better life decisions. He is requesting a sponsorship to get this into the classroom.

Stakeholder/Board member Chris Rowe spoke on behalf of the West Valley Food Pantry. The West Valley Food Pantry is a coalition of eleven congregations located in the west San Fernando Valley providing emergency food to the needy and homeless in the area. It operates 5 days a week (Monday to Thursday from 10 am to 3:00) and 10 to Noon on Friday. They are located in the kitchen of the Prince of Peace Episcopal Church at 5700 Rudnick Avenue in Woodland Hills (91367), a block north of Burbank Boulevard, and a block East of Shoup. We also assist the Family Rescue Center (Rescate) in Canoga Park at 22103 Vanowen Street. The need for their services has greatly increased and they are in need of any and all contributions. They can be contacted as follows:

**West Valley Food Pantry (WVFP) website:** [popwh.org/newpop/min\\_food\\_pantry.html](http://popwh.org/newpop/min_food_pantry.html)

**Directory of Churches:** [www.churchangel.com](http://www.churchangel.com)

**(818) 346-5554, FAX (818) 346-3349.**

Stakeholder Bob Brostoff questioned why is the proposal that was voted down at the last meeting, back on the agenda. Steve Lenske stated that the proposal that is on the agenda, is different from that voted upon at the last meeting.

Stakeholder Christina Walsh wanted to provide an update on the Santa Susana Field Lab. She advised that there is going to be a background meeting December 11<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.

Board member Dr. Daniel Wiseman introduced Mr. Alois Zenkar to the assembly. Mr. Zenkar is on the staff at West Hills Hospital and has applied to be a member of the West Hills Neighborhood Council Board. Mr. Zenkar spoke of his background and reasons for wanting to participate on the WHNC board.

## **Old Business**

### **02-0003 West Hills Street Signage Update**

Board member Walter Perfect advised that we have a contract and everything is in place. The one problem is that Councilman Smith has not made a commitment for the \$6,000 from his district. Once this is done we are prepared to move forward.

### **08-0016 Discussion and possible action regarding the retention of private traffic consultant to survey traffic to survey traffic at the intersection of Valley Circle/Highlander**

Shelly Bright advised that they met with the Burbank Department of Transportation and the committee has determined that a traffic survey expense is too much for our budget. The committee was advised that the Department of Transportation would be available to answer all of the questions regarding the decisions made on Valley Circle and to make best use of our time. It was requested that all questions concerning this matter be forwarded to Ms. Bright at [brightshelly@yahoo.com](mailto:brightshelly@yahoo.com). They will collate all the questions and present them to the Department of Transportation either at the January or February meeting.

### **07-1141 & 08-0024 Discussion and possible action regarding zone change at Corporate Pointe Business Park located in the vicinity of Northeast corner of Roscoe Boulevard and Fallbrook Avenue**

Before turning the floor over to Mr. Walter Perfect, Stephen Lenske advised those in attendance, that we have been working on this for well over a year and that the vote tonight will be just on the request for a zone change from A1. Mr. Perfect advised that a meeting was held which included several board members and stakeholders and the following is what was recommended. The Planning & Zoning committee recommended to allow a zone change from current A1 zone to M1-1-VL zoning allowing height limitations of 3 stories or 45 ft height above building slab with these "Q" conditions:

1. No machine shops, manufacturing or light industrial uses
2. No storage facilities of any kind, such as "Public Storage"
3. No service stations, auto repair, auto sales or car washes
4. Parking structure to be no higher than elevation of existing Heli-Pad
5. Par course to encompass entire campus
6. Existing storm sewer where proposed parking structure is to be built to be re-routed around new structure.

Yes to approve the zone change as proposed herein

No to not allow the zone change from A1 to M-1-1-VL

There were 14 Speaker Cards completed by stakeholders stating they were against the project. Twelve stakeholders requested to speak. Those that spoke cited the fact that there are no

assurances that once a zone variance is granted they won't come back with another change, of their disappointment at having to go over this again and that the community has clearly stated that they don't want M1 and request that the board just say "no" to a zone change. Also it was pointed out that the "Q" conditions in the proposed plan do not agree with the changes Trammell Crow has supposedly agreed to with regards to the height of the structures. Stakeholder Christine Walsh asked that the board say no because it is not known what went on at the site and what contaminants could be present.

Board member Chris Rowe thanked everyone for coming and stated that she wanted to make a motion that a zone change be made from A1 to CR-1VL (CR with a height limitation).

A letter from board member Dan Brin, who was unable to attend because of illness, was read. Mr. Brin stated that he strongly endorses the recommendation of the Planning & Zoning Committee as it is the product of months of study, consultation and debate.

Due to time constraints, Mr. Lenske closed the discussion period and the ballots were distributed to the board. Michelle Ritchie, Executive Director, collected the ballots and tabulated the results. The motion to not allow the zone change from A1 to M-1-1-VL carried. The results will be published on the West Hills Neighborhood council's website.

### **New Business**

#### **08-0025 Discussion and possible action regarding proposed allocation of money up to and including \$2,000.00 to extend sidewalk to administration offices at Pomelo Elementary School.**

Board member Bobbi Trantafello introduced Ms. Masha Gardner, Principal of Pomelo Elementary School. Ms. Gardner advised that the request is to allow for handicap access to the school. There are matching funds that will be used to complete the project. Jeffery Stordahl moved that we allocate up to \$2,000 to extend the sidewalk to the administration offices at Pomelo Elementary School. Charlene Rothstein seconded the motion. Motion carried.

#### **08-0028 Discussion and possible action regarding proposed allocation of money up to and including \$1,000.00 to improve playground at Parkhill School**

Board member Joanne Yvanek-Garb introduced Dr. Gil Freitag, Executive Director of Parkhill School. Mr. Freitag advised while the school is a private state certified nonpublic special education day school; it is dependent on public revenues for all of its program operations and services. In their efforts to renovate and upgrade the schools playing field and playground they are requesting \$1,000 toward the purchase of a two three-tier aluminum bleacher. Chris Rowe moved that we allocate up to \$1,000 to purchase a two three-tier aluminum bleacher for Parkhill School. Stan Staten seconded the motion. Motion carried.

#### **08-0026 Discussion and possible action regarding proposed allocation of funds for administration costs up to and including \$2,000.00 for community project put on by Emergency Preparedness Committee**

Board member and Emergency Preparedness Chair, Jeffrey Stordahl advised the group of some of the things the Emergency Preparedness committee is planning, such as CERT classes. Mr.

Stordahl stated he was circulating a signup sheet for all who are interested in attending CERT classes. Donn Howell moved that we allocate up to \$2,000 for administration costs for community project/s put on by the Emergency Preparedness Committee. Etan Lorant seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**08-0027 Discussion and possible action regarding proposed allocation of money up to and including \$1,000.00 for sponsorship of the Outreach Program's Optimist Dad's Day Dash to be held June 13, 2009**

Board member Ed Young stated that this is a 5K and 10K race and the proceeds are for brain cancer research. It is held in Warner Center. Etan Lorant moved that we allocate up to \$1,000 for sponsorship of Optimist Dad's Day Dash. Charlene Rothstein seconded the motion. There were 11 approvals and 2 abstentions. Motion carried.

**08-0029 Discussion and possible action regarding proposed allocation of funds for administration costs up to and including \$2,000.00 to proposed Town Hall Meeting to be held in March 2009**

Board members and co-chairs, Christine Rowe and Joanne Yvanek-Garb advised that the request to hold the Town Hall meeting at Canoga Park High School has been approved.

Stakeholder Christine Walsh stated that she was against it in its current form as it conflicts with the current Santa Susana Workgroup that has been involved with the Santa Susana cleanup for years. Ms. Walsh feels that we should just participate as part of that group.

Ed Young moved that we allocate funds up to \$2,000 for administration costs for the proposed Town Hall Meeting to be held in March 2009. Shelly Bright seconded the motion. Nine voted yes, one nay and 2 abstentions. Motion carried.

**Committee & Other Reports**

**LA City Government Activities Update** – In respect to the time constraints, Dr. Daniel Wiseman has submitted a written report to the board regarding the activities of the Santa Susana Mountain Area Committee

**Cinema Heritage** – No report as Dan Brin was out ill.

**Emergency Preparedness Committee** – Information was covered during discussion of Item 08-0026.

10:00 Meeting adjourned