



Help Guide the Future of West Hills
West Hills Neighborhood
Council



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FINAL
MEETING MINUTES
August 5, 2009

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

Attendance:

Present: Shelly Bright, Dan Brin, Edwin Dockus, Carolyn Greenwood, Donn Howell, Stephen Lenske, Walter Perfect, Bill Rose, Charlene Rothstein, Chris Rowe, Barry Seybert, Ron Sobel, Stan Staten, Bobbi Trantafello, Alec Uzameck, Daniel Wiseman, Ed Young and Jacquie Young

Absent: Kevin Boal

Excused: Sandi Bell, Etan Lorant, Jeffrey Stordahl and Joanne Yvanek-Garb

Opening Business:

Mr. Stephen Lenske called the meeting to order. Mr. Lenske advised those present that there are opportunities for everyone to participate on any of the council committees.

Mr. Barry Seybert gave an update on the trailhead plan being developed with the National Parks.

Mr. Edwin Dockus spoke about the WHNC's participation in the National Night Out. Mr. Dockus also advised about a disturbing scam that involves individuals purchasing cars listed on Craigslist for a ridiculously low amount. When they show to pick up the vehicles, they are robbed.

Board Announcements & Committee Reports:

Dr. Daniel Wiseman advised that the City Council meets on the first Friday of each month in the Valley at the Van Nuys Civic Center. He encouraged all present to attend.

Ms. Bobbi Trantafello advised that the CERT training in West Hills is almost completed. However, there will be CPR training on August 20th and First Aid training on August 27th.

Ms. Chris Rowe advised that the Department of Energy is hosting a meeting later this month related to the "Sodium Reactor Experiment" to discuss whether there was a "meltdown" in that reactor or not.

Dr. Daniel Wiseman presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Pat Luc, Executive Director, of Fairwinds Retirement Center West Hills, for allowing the SSMAC to hold meetings at their facility.

The minutes from July 1, 2009 were accepted as amended.

Treasurer Bobbi Trantafello advised that our budget has been accepted by DONE as presented. DONE is in the process of tracking some of the larger demand warrants and checks should be issued this month. The West Hills Neighborhood Council did receive \$45,000.00 for Fiscal Year 2009-2010.

Announcements:

Ms. Stephanie Romero, field representative for the 3rd Council District, advised that there will be Community Beautification Grant workshops in August and September. Ms. Romero also advised that there is a beach bus that leaves from Warner Center. The round-trip fare is \$1 (\$.50 for seniors). Ms. Romero thanked all those who participated in the Posse Roundup, especially Ron Sobel.

Ms. Seme Park, field representative for the 12th Council District, advised that Councilman Smith's office is still hosting movies under the stars. Ms. Park also advised that Councilman Smith is working with the Department of Water and Power to adjust watering times for the Valley because of our hot conditions.

Senior Lead Officer Sam Sabra advised that close to 1500 people attended National Night Out. Officer Sabra thanked all who attended, as this was a good showing for the first time that the Topanga Station sponsored the event. Officer Sabra introduced Officer Dennis Cunningham, who will handle the north portion of West Hills. Officer Sabra provided their phone numbers, which are as follows:

Officer Sam Sabra
Desk (818) 756-3074
Cell (818) 731-2258

Officer Dennis Cunningham
Desk (818) 756-3073
Cell (818) 731-2578

Mr. Tony Willis, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) coordinator, provided background on CERT and explained why each of us should be involved. Mr. Willis also spoke about the fact that we are entering fire season and that we need to be sure that all brush clearance is done. Additional information can be found at LAFDCERT@prodigy.net

Public Comment:

Mr. Dan Brin advised that there were no more tour slots available for the Cinema Heritage Project's August 8th event at Amalgamated Dynamics Inc. in Chatsworth. However, anyone can attend and hear the speakers at 7 p.m. and view the movie at 8 p.m.

Presentation:

Mr. Steve Lenske introduced Ms. Ayelet Feiman, Deputy City Attorney. Ms. Feiman advised that she has been assigned to the Topanga Area. She previously served as prosecutor for the

Foothill and Mission Divisions. Ms. Feiman explained that she handles the criminal side of the City Attorney's office, dealing with quality of life issues. She advised that she is willing to field all questions. If a problem is one that she would not handle she will direct you to the appropriate person or department. Ms. Feiman advised she can be reached at the Topanga Division and is usually in court in the mornings.

Old Business:

09-0027– Discussion and possible action regarding a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) at 22566 Vanowen Street, West Hills

Robert Lamishaw, representing the applicants, presented a plan for traffic and playground control that the applicants agreed to abide by. Wally Perfect, Zoning Chair, advised that these were items discussed at the Planning and Zoning Committee meeting. There were eight speaker cards submitted regarding this item. Lesley Frankel, Lori Yalem and Bruce Rowe spoke against granting the increase in the number of students, citing noise and especially safety issues. They did not believe that the families would follow the rules established by the school. Alana Crow, Michael Visllasseal and Ayelet Feiman spoke in support of the increase, citing the loving environment and benefit to their children. After discussion among the board, Charlene Rothstein advised that she did not find three conditions that were discussed at the meeting in the plan. They were: 1) Under 1c that there would be no more than 15 cars during each drop off period. 2) There would be no more than 15 children at a time in the rear yard. 3) That trees would be planted along the west wall adjacent to neighbors' homes. Dr. Daniel Wiseman requested a fourth condition: that the front play yard be completely fenced from the driveway. The applicants agreed to the added stipulations. The motion was made that the request be approved with the inclusion of the Traffic and Playground Control Plan and with the additional four conditions. Motion passed with 11 ayes, three nays, 2 abstentions and 1 recusal.

09-0023 Discussion and possible action regarding approval of proposed vacancy appointment of board members under Bylaws

Mr. Steve Lenske advised that he is proposing the appointment of Mr. Ron Hess to fill the board vacancy. Mr. Lenske stated that he has known Mr. Hess for 15 years and feels he embodies all that is necessary for being a member of the board. Mr. Hess gave a brief biography and his reasons for wanting to be part of the board. The motion to appoint Mr. Hess was approved unanimously.

09-0026 – Discussion and possible action regarding the Neighborhood Council's voting procedures for March 2010 election

Mr. Edwin Dockus advised the group that the matter would need to be continued until next month as Christopher Garcia was not present. However, Mr. Dockus did advise those present that the election would take place March 2, 2010. He stated that the Bylaws need to be revised for the 2010 election as there will be 2-year and 4-year terms (for continuity of the board). After 2010, West Hills Neighborhood Council board members will be elected only to 4-year terms.

At this point, Mr. Steve Lenske acknowledged Mr. Tom Soong from the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE), as he had just arrived. Mr. Soong advised that he needed the inventory of supplies from the council. Mr. Soong advised that DONE is revamping its website and it will also be on Facebook. Mr. Soong advised that there was upcoming training on sexual harassment and that the Congress of Neighborhood Councils was to be held on October 10, 2009 at City Hall.

New Business:

09-0027 – Discussion and possible action relating to: Supporting Assembly Bill 102, T.A.S.C. & E.E.I. Education Programs and Policy Guidelines for West Hills Neighborhood Council committees

Dr. Daniel Wiseman presented a proposed letter to Assemblyman Cameron Smyth in support of Assembly Bill 102 and modifications as proposed by the Santa Susana Mountain Park Association. Dr. Wiseman moved that the board approve sending of the letter. There was discussion on the wording of the letter. The motion to send the letter passed. A second motion was made to strike “our sister organization” from the letter. The motion passed.

Dr. Wiseman presented a letter to David Cooper, Community Involvement Coordinator (for T.A.S.C.) and Andrea Lewis, Assistant Secretary for Education & Quality Programs (for E.E.I.), requesting the services of the two newly created educational opportunities introduced and discussed at the July 22, 2009, meeting of the Santa Susana Mountain Area Committee. Dr. Wiseman moved that the Board approved sending of the letter. Motion passed.

Dr. Wiseman presented proposed policies for West Hills Neighborhood Council committees. After much discussion the motion was made that the recommendations be applied to the Santa Susana Mountain Area Committee. Motion passed. Ms. Jacquie Young moved that the recommendation to apply the policies to all committees be postponed. Motion passed.

9:30 meeting adjourned by unanimous consent.