



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



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**FINAL**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**December 2, 2009**

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

**Attendance:**

**Present:** Sandi Bell, Shelly Bright, Dan Brin, Edwin Dockus, Carolyn Greenwood, Ron Hess, Donn Howell, Stephen Lenske, Etan Lorant, Walter Perfect, Charlene Rothstein, Chris Rowe, Barry Seybert, Ron Sobel, Stan Staten, Bobbi Trantafello, Alec Uzemeck, Daniel Wiseman, Joanne Yvanek-Garb, Ed Young, Jacquie Young and student representative, Jacob Garb

**Absent/Excused:** Bill Rose

**Opening Business:**

Mr. Stephen Lenske called the meeting to order. Mr. Lenske spoke about our upcoming election and invited those in the audience to join the board. Mr. Lenske advised that this information is available on the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) and the West Hills Neighborhood Council website.

Co-chair Mr. Edwin Dockus spoke about being careful this time of year because of the various scams that are being perpetrated. He advised that he had experienced being the victim of a scam involving charges on his phone line. Mr. Dockus advised to report any suspicious activity to the authorities.

Board member, Charlene Rothstein advised that T-Mobile has stated that it will have its plans ready by the end of December regarding the cell tower adjacent to Shomrei Torah. T-Mobile has been asked to install a tower that was more appropriate for the surroundings.

Board member Dan Brin advised that the mailer regarding the upcoming elections is being sent to 100,000 homes.

Board member Daniel Wiseman tendered his resignation as chairperson of the Santa Susana Mountain Area Committee.

Treasurer Bobbi Trantafello advised there is nothing for her to report at this time as DONE has not provided any information as to whether there is or is not a roll over balance. Ms. Trantafello

advised that she can only report on the current \$45,000 and for this reason the council is currently only budgeting fixed expenses.

**Announcements:**

Representatives from District 3 and 12 were not present.

Senior Lead Officer Sam Sabra advised that there have been a couple of car burglaries in the area. Officer Sabra advised that approximately 250 people attended the Topanga Station's first town hall meeting. Officer Sabra introduced Topanga Station Patrol Captain, Captain Steve Sambar.

Captain Sambar thanked the board for their assistance in procuring equipment for the officers. Captain Sambar gave an overview of his background; crime rates in the valley area and explained the ramifications of the gang injunction. Captain Sambar also spoke about the new technology available to the police. It is NIXLE (the site is [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com)). This system cannot be hacked into. In case of an emergency the police with a single entry can send out a message in real time to everyone in the affected area. It is similar to E-policing. You can also be registered to receive information in other areas where you have loved ones – say a child away at college. The system is nationwide.

Officer Danielle Godfrey spoke about the LAPD Youth Programs. The Topanga Station currently has three programs. They are: the Law Enforcement Explorer Program (L.E.E.P), Jeopardy and the Police Activity League (P.A.L). Officer Godfrey explained that these programs are proactive. They are focused on prevention and in trying to give kids someplace to go and positive activities to be involved in. Mr. Lenske advised that while we would not be able to make a financial commitment to these activities, we would be happy to promote the programs and any events on our website.

Mr. David Markus, President of the Topanga Canyon Youth Board, advised those present about their fund raising campaign for the children's programs. He was hoping that the WHNC would become a pioneer donor but would happily accept any donation.

**Presentation:**

Mr. Harold Johnson, Principal Public Relations Representative, provided a video presentation on the history of the Van Nuys Airport, which is a little over 80 years old. Mr. Johnson, following the video presentation, answered questions from the audience. Mr. Johnson advised that there is a free airfield tour program available and arrangements can be made through the Van Nuys Airport Public and Community Relations office at (818) 909-3529.

**Public Comment:**

Mr. Bob Brostoff advised that there would be an emergency preparedness meeting 7 p.m. January 7<sup>th</sup>, at the Topanga Station.

Board member, Ms. Shelly Bright, advised that we will have distinguished guests, Controller Wendy Greuel and Councilman Dennis Zine, at our January meeting.

Ms. Adria Deliberto advised that the new classes start January 11<sup>th</sup> at Shadow Ranch Park.

Ms. Chris Rowe advised that one of the concerns is the LA River and the plumes. Ms. Rowe advised that the recent report stated that no TCE was detected in the river.

**Old Business:**

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

Mr. Walter Perfect advised that the funding is on the way and hopefully everything will be in place by January 2010. Mr. Perfect advised that there is an article about the signage and a picture in Councilman Zine’s Fall Zine Line. Mr. Barry Seybert stated he still has issues with the design of the sign being a medallion.

**06-0092 – Santa Susana Mountain Area Committee (SSMAC)**

Dr. Daniel Wiseman advised that he is resigning as chair of this committee. Dr. Wiseman stated that the amount of work required is too much for one person. Dr. Wiseman reported that in the latest draft agreement between DTSC and the three SSFL owners/operators (Boeing, DOE & NASA) DTSC is requiring strict adherence to SB990. None of the owners/operators have signed the document.

Dr. Wiseman moved that the draft of the September 29, 2009 Special Meeting be accepted and posted to the SSMAC page of the WHNC website. Motion carried

Dr. Wiseman advised that the committee wished to have the board entertain a motion on whether the WHNC and its SSMAC create or participate in a Community Action Group. It is really multiple motions;

- 1 - Should we join a community action group?;
- 2 - Should we form a Community Action group within the WHNC? ; or
- 3 – Should we reject any formal relationship?

Board member Mr. Alec Uzemeck gave an overview of the recommendations and his position. Board member Ms. Joanne Yvanek-Garb stated that she does not know where these recommendations are coming from as they were not discussed at the last SSMAC meeting and she questioned whether we could become involved in a state and/or federal matter.

Stakeholder Ms. Bonnie Klea, advised that she became an advocate in 1995 and she is not in favor of creating a Community Action Group.

Stakeholder Mr. John Luker advised that the DTSC resources are strained. He stated that the CAG was designed for people who did not know how to get in touch with their elected officials. It is really for those not informed or educated on the problem, which is definitely not the case.

Board member Mr. Ed Young, stated that we should check with the City Attorney and get a legal opinion before taking any action.

Board member, Ms. Chris Rowe, advised that she spoke to Susan Callery who advised that there is the potential for additional CAG applications and they may have to go to Secretary Linda Adams.

Ms. Holly Huff advised the board that she decided not to join any CAG in Ventura County and came to the meeting tonight to encourage us to do the same.

Dr. Wiseman moved that we join and/or form a Community Action Group. Motion failed.

Dr. Wiseman advised that the committee has provided recommendations for election of officers for the SSMAC. This matter was tabled.

**09-0038 – Discussion and possible action regarding the painting of the communication boxes in West Hills**

Board member, Ms. Shelly Bright advised that the committee is requesting a decision on one of three colors for all the communication boxes in West Hills. After some discussion, Ms. Bright moved that we approve the use of Color C, Silky Bamboo, for all communication boxes in West Hills. Motion carried.

**09-0026 Update on the Neighborhood Council's March 2010 election**

Co-chair, Mr. Edwin Dockus, advised that we must vote on how we want to handle the election. After some discussion, Mr. Dockus moved that the top 25 candidates would be elected to the board. Motion carried.

9:45 meeting adjourned