



Help Guide the Future of West Hills
West Hills Neighborhood
Council



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Draft
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
February 4, 2009

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

Attendance:

Present: Kevin Boal, Shelly Bright, Dan Brin, Edwin Dockus, Carolyn Greenwood, Donn Howell, Walter Perfect, Chris Rowe, Barry Seybert, Ron Sobel, Stan Staten, Jeffrey Stordahl, Bobbi Trantafello, Daniel Wiseman, Ed Young, Jacquie Young and Joanne Yvanek-Garb

Absent: Tommy Thomason

Excused: Stephen Lenske, Etan Lorant, Bill Rose and Charlene Rothstein

Opening Business:

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

Minutes – Mr. Dan Brin advised the group that he had submitted several corrections to the January minutes which had not been made. After some discussion he moved that the approval of the January minutes be postponed until next month. Motion carried

Treasurer's Report – Will be included in the discussion of Item 09-0001 on the Agenda.

Announcements:

Stephanie Romero, Field Deputy from the 3rd Council District, Board for all their work for the betterment of West Valley. She provided information on two subjects; billboard blight and advertising on unhitched trailers that have been brought to her attention at the last meeting. She advised the Board and the stakeholders that a measure was approved in December to allow the city to draft new criteria and ascertain just how many signs and which are illegal within the city. They are asking for feedback from the residents. This month there is going to be an emphasis on removal of the unhitched trailers. She asked that observation of these illegally parked trailers be called in to Zine's office. This request sparked a discussion of the 311 call number. Ms. Romero advised that there have been recent problems with the use of the 311 call number which the City is trying to determine the cause and correct. She requested that anyone who experiences trouble to call into Zine's office and provide that information along with whether the problem occurred on a landline or cell phone.

There were no representatives present from the 12th Council District or from DONE.

Sam Sabra, North West Valley Senior Lead Officer (SLO), and Sergeant Rachel Raingosa from the Topanga Area Station were present. They provided information on and need for the Tac lights that the Topanga station has requested assistance in purchasing. The lights will be purchased from Sure Fire and would cover the cost of converting 22 shotguns.

Officer Sabra advised that the main problem in West Valley continues to be burglaries. He also advised that residents be alert for magazine seller and curb number painters as often this is a ruse to determine whether a home is occupied. Officer Sabra advised that the department is developing a list of what to do and not to do when these people approach.

Dr. Daniel Wiseman provided information on a couple of meetings taking place this month that the residents were encouraged to attend. He also advised that the LA City Council meets every 1st Friday at 10 a.m. in room 1-B at the Marvin Braude Center in Van Nuys.

Presentation:

“Proposed Comprehensive Solar Plan”

Dr. Daniel Wiseman introduced Mr. Mike Meyers and Ms. Simone Taylor from the Department of Water and Power. Mr. Meyers gave an overview of the various parts of the departments Solar LA Plan. He stated that because of new technology it is anticipated the cost of the program to increase an individual’s monthly cost by an average of \$1, which is lower then initially projected.

Mr. Meyers was asked if it was true that all solar panels are purchased from China and that solar companies in this country are going under because they are not being paid. Mr. Meyers stated that some of the solar chips are made in China but as the shipping costs would be prohibitive and that the panels are assembled in the US or Mexico.

Stakeholder Michael Cohen stated that based on information from DWP he can’t imagine how the cost will only be \$1 monthly and that Proposition B, which will be on the March 3rd ballot, is bad for LA.

Ms. Taylor explained that five Town Hall meetings are planned with a full 1 to 1 ½ hour presentation of the Solar LA Plan.

Dr. Daniel Wiseman stated that at this point he wished to discuss item **09-0002, Discussion and possible action regarding Prop B**, under new business. Dr. Wiseman stated that while we all are in favor of solar energy there is conflicting information on the cost of this program. Therefore, Dr. Wiseman made the following resolutions:

Be it resolved that this Neighborhood Council supports green power and sustainable energy but it does not support Measure B and urges a NO vote on March 3, 2009 – Resolution Approved

Be it resolved that this Neighborhood Council urges the DWP and the City Council to properly present and openly discuss a “total” Solar Energy Plan before it passes any ordinance to implement any Solar Energy Program – Resolution Approved

Be it resolved that this Neighborhood Council provide the City with Community Impact Statements to be attached to Council Files #08-2795 (Green Energy & Good Jobs), #09-1100-S11 (Five Ballot Measures) and any related Council Files – Resolution Approved

Michael Cohen read an e-mail he had received from Greig Smith earlier in the day in which Mr. Smith stated he could not support Proposition B.

Old Business:

02-003 Discussion and possible action re West Hills Signage

Walter Perfect advised that he is just waiting to receive the funds from Councilman Smith and Councilman Zine.

Public Comment:

Stakeholder Bill Purse requested information regarding a letter from the Council in support of a proposed lot split at 23641 Sandelwood Street. Mr. Purse stated that the neighbors were just notified two weeks ago of a hearing tomorrow at 2 p.m. on the proposed split. Mr. Purse advised that when he looked into the matter he was told that the WHNC had approved the split and was given a copy of the letter dated August 7, 2007. He stated he has spoken to over 50 residents and no one was aware of the proposed action. He would like the Council to rescind the letter. It was explained that because of the Brown Act, as this was not on the agenda the council could not take any action at this time. Board member Walter Perfect plans to attend the hearing and Deputy Field Rep. Stephanie Romero stated she is well aware of the residents’ feelings and also plans to be present. There were additional stakeholders present to state their concern in this matter.

Stakeholder Jerry Gooze, Pinnacle Estate Properties, speaking as a resident stated that there should be no homes built on the hillside (mid slope homes) as it interrupts the beauty of this area.

Stakeholder Alicia Barkley of Gaines & Stacey LLP advised that there was a hearing on February 9th regarding the proposed location of a temporary modular building at Temple Judea. It is anticipated that it will be there no longer than a year while the other campus is being renovated.

Sara Delgadillo and Lizette Larrence, Service Delivery Specialists, spoke about a Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles event. The event called “Valentine Day Family Fun” is on Saturday February 14th from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Westfield Shopping Center. They can be reached at (626) 677-2311 for any information about the Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles.

Stakeholder Bob Hromadka, West Valley Food Pantry, spoke requesting any assistance, monetary or as a volunteer in support of the efforts of the food pantry. In the current economic situation the number they serve has risen sharply.

Stakeholder Christina Walsh invited everyone to view the movie “Silkwood” on 2/25 at 6:30 p.m. Ms. Walsh advised that new information has been uncovered about Dayton Canyon. The area where the perchlorate was found was actually the original road used to take trucks up and down the hill into the Valley.

Stakeholder William Bowling extended an invitation to everyone to visit the museum at 23350 Lake Manor Drive, Chatsworth and the website acmela.org

Stakeholder Bonnie Klea wanted to thank the Council for all its support on Dayton Canyon and the proposed Trammel Crow Corporate Point project.

New Business:

09-0001 – Discussion and possible action on funding community outreach programs:

Bobbi Trantafello moved that the following items which were recommended and approved by the Budget Committee also be approved and funded by the WHNC. She moved that we approve \$5,000 for Tec lights for the LAPD Topanga Station. In addition, Ms. Trantafello requested that we approve an additional \$1,000 for the LAPD Booster Club. Other neighborhood councils covered by the Topanga Station have already contributed to the LAPD Booster Club. The motion for the \$5,000 carried unanimously and the motion for the \$1,000 passed with one nay by Barry Seybert.

Ms. Trantafello moved that we approve \$3,000 for new doors for Shadow Ranch Park. Ms. Adria Deliberto, from Shadow Ranch Park, advised that it is anticipated that this will cover the replacement of six doors. Ms. Deliberto explained how the facility is a benefit for all residents of West Hills. Motion carried with one abstention by Jeffrey Stordahl because he did not hear the discussion.

Ms. Trantafello moved that we approve \$8,000 for Fall Fest. Ed Young advised that the Fall Fest last year was a great success and it gets better each year. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Trantafello moved that we approve \$600 for the Canoga Park West Hills Chamber Installation. Ed Young advised that the installation dinner is being held on Friday, February 6th, at the Marriott. The \$600 covers a table of ten. Motion carried.

Ms. Trantafello moved that we approve \$2,400 to Chaminade for security and janitorial services for 2008 and 2009. Motion carried.

Ms. Trantafello moved that we approve \$3,500 to the West Valley Food Pantry. Motion carried.

Ms. Trantafello moved that we approve \$3,500 to Nevada Elementary for books. Anita Betito spoke on behalf of the school. Motion carried.

Ms. Trantafello moved that we approve \$2,400 for web maintenance, \$156 for web hosting and \$7,200 for a full-page ad in the West Valley News for one year be referred back to the Budget Committee. Motion carried.

Ms. Trantafello moved that we approve \$500 for Citrus Sunday (5/3). Motion carried with a no by Barry Seybert.

Ms. Trantafello moved that we approve \$3,000 for the Mayor's Day of Service (5/2). Motion carried.

Ms. Trantafello moved that we approve \$1,000 for Senior Group start up fees. Motion carried.

Ms. Trantafello requested that request from El Camino HS Band Department and for the Town Hall (3/14) event go back to the budget committee.

09-0003 – Discussion and possible action regarding board member acting in a representative capacity for board at City Functions

Dr. Daniel Wiseman moved that we approve having a board member appointed who can act in a representative capacity at City board functions. Motion carried.

Committee & Other Reports

LA City Government Activities Update – Dr. Daniel Wiseman advised that the NC file proposal has passed. In order to do so we must complete Form 54 in order to submit a file.

Cinema Heritage – Dan Brin stated that Cinema Heritage should not be an official committee of the NC as it is officially a non-profit agency. Mr. Brin moved that it be officially be discharged. Motion carried with Barry Seybert abstaining.

Town Hall Project – Joanne Yvanek-Garb advised that the Santa Susana Town Hall has been postponed until a later date. The Town Hall on March 14th at Canoga High is now being called "How Your City Works for You". Various city agencies as well as city department heads are being asked to participate.

Edwin Dockus advised that because of the Brown Act we cannot conduct an executive closed session so our discussion of the removal of non-attending board members will be part of the open meeting. The first member discussed was Tommy Thomason. Mr. Thomason has missed numerous meetings and is in violation of the Bylaws. He has not responded to any correspondence that has been sent to him. Mr. Thomason will be notified he is no longer on the Board by letter. The second member, Kevin Boal, was present. Mr. Boal stated that he has missed meetings because he was assigned to a committee that also meets on the same day as our meetings. It was moved that Mr. Boal's missed meetings be deemed excused.

Bill Rose has requested a six-month leave of absence. After some discussion Dr. Wiseman moved that he be granted leave until the July 2009 meeting. Motion carried.

10:10 Meeting adjourned