



Help Guide the Future of West Hills
West Hills Neighborhood
Council



P.O. Box 4670, West Hills, CA 91308-4670
818-719-8656

<http://www.westhillsnc.org>

mail@westhillsnc.org

FINAL
MEETING MINUTES
September 2, 2009

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

Attendance:

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

Absent: Kevin Boal

Excused: Shelly Bright, Carolyn Greenwood

Opening Business:

Mr. Stephen Lenske opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. and asked that anyone interested in speaking on agenda items or general business, please fill out a speaker card. Mr. Lenske also advised that there is a September 15th meeting scheduled with the City Controller and NC Presidents regarding various issues. Should we have any questions or concerns on Committee Budgets, Public Safety, and Chamber of Commerce, etc. contact Mr. Lenske directly and he will take these concerns to the meeting.

Mr. Edwin Dockus stated that the budget figures for the March Election 2010 are not yet complete. To that issue, Board Member Dan Brin advised that there is a planning meeting on September 10th. Mr. Dockus said he is also working on the revision of the By-laws and would like input from board members. The By-Laws meeting will be held on September 15th at 7:00 p.m. at the 911 Center.

Board Announcements & Committee Reports:

Dr. Daniel Wiseman gave a brief summary of the September 2nd DWP meeting. He also spoke as the Chair of the SSMAC, with an update on the progress and clean up of SSFL.

Alec Uzemeck, Chair of the Emergency Preparedness Committee, gave an update on the progress of reorganizing and the potential of participation in FallFest by the Emergency Preparedness Committee.

Mr. Walter Perfect, Chair of the Zoning and Planning Committee announced a zoning meeting on September 8, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. at Chaminade.

Board Member Ed Young spoke about the Mayor's Day of Service and the booth that the West Hills Neighborhood Council will have at FallFest, Sunday October 4th.

Mr. Barry Seybert advised that there would be a meeting on September 24th at the Acme Museum on the development of the trailhead plan being developed by the National Parks.

Ms. Sandi Bell stated that she is working with a group that deals with the individuals returning from Iraq and that they are in need of suits, ties, dress shirts, etc. for job interviews. Contact Ms. Bell directly with any such donations.

Board Member Chris Rowe stated that the project at 22566 Vanowen had received nearly 50 signatures against the project and that in a conversation with Priya from L.A. City planning that Mitigated Negative Declaration was not addressed with the issue of Safety.

Bobbi Trantafello, Treasurer, said that the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment has not updated their records on NC budgets and the budget is not complete.

The August 5, 2009 minutes were accepted as amended.

Announcements:

Ms. Stephanie Romero, Representative for the 3rd Council District, spoke on the Posse Meetings, training and valuable information that can be found online at the Zine Magazine. She also advised on who to contact regarding unhitched trailers and general clean up. She said that there will be installation of Parking Restriction Signs on Victory Boulevard, West of Valley Circle. With the help of HOA's and NC's, Ms. Romero stated that the LAPD is working on a "camera" project.

There was no Representative from the 12th Council District present.

Senior Lead Officer Sam Sabra advised that there would be a "Question and Answer" meeting with Dennis Cunningham concerning what the public would like to see in their police chief. He also stated that there had been a rash of vandalism i.e. throwing bricks through car windows and that the police were looking for a white Honda. Officer Sabra said that the Fire Department had a good grip on the fires and that the Department has been trained in evacuation of Bell Canyon, should the need arise.

Mr. Tom Soong, Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, spoke on several upcoming meetings. On September 10th, there will be a meeting on the election process. This meeting will include ideas for Neighborhood councils, a list of costs and discussions regarding The Brown Act and Conflict of Interests. A meeting on September 12th will encompass Round Table Training with the City Attorney. Mr. Lenske asked if this particular training could be found online. Mr. Soong stated that they are in the process of updating the website and the training will

be available upon completion. The Congress of Neighborhoods is scheduled for October 10th and will include “Working with the Media”.

Public Comment:

Adria Deliberto, Director of Shadow Ranch Park, spoke briefly on registration for young children to seniors at Shadow Ranch Park, September 26th, for a variety of classes, teams and events.

Board Member, Dan Brin spoke regarding the upcoming West Hills FallFest. This event will take place on Sunday October 4th, Woodlake and Saticoy from 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. with a tribute to the music of Neil Diamond featuring Fantastic Diamonds.

Presentation:

Dr. Daniel Wiseman introduced “Uncapping the ECAF” (DWP Rate Adjustment). Mr. Greg Bartz, LADWP Neighborhood Council Liaison, spoke regarding the direct relationship and meetings between NC’s and the DWP. Dr. Wiseman advised that today, Soledad Garcia of the Oversight Committee, in discussing water rates, etc. said you can take your concerns to the Board of Commissioners of DWP. Your comments or concerns can be sent to DWP online. Mr. George Chen, LADWP manager stated that while Edison prices have gone up, DWP had had frozen energy costs. He also said that natural gas prices have increased 4% max since 2006 to date, keeping DWP behind on fuel costs. The Mayor is asking for a 20% increase in renewable fuels/clean power. He also stated that there is a need to remove the cap in order to accomplish this and that is why City Council has been asked for a rate increase. Dr. Wiseman explained that the government must replace 45 – 50% of our coal burning power plants with geothermal power, solar power and hydroelectric power. Mr. Richard West, ECAF/DWP discussed our current water situation and water conservation and state that as of July there was an excess of 15% in water conservation. He also stated that the water will continue to be monitored and re-evaluated.

Dr. Wiseman presented Certificates of Appreciation to both Mr. Chen and Mr. Bartz for their continued work on behalf of stakeholders.

Old Business:

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

Dr. Daniel Wiseman, Chair of the Santa Susana Mountain Area Committee, addressed the August 26th, SSMAC meeting as having a good diversity of attendees including government agencies. Many studies continue regarding chemical and radioactive contamination. On August 19th, the Direct Consent Order was put forth, however with no prior approval from Boeing, it is problematic. Project Manager Norm Riley has been replaced by Mr. Rick Brausch, Deputy of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) Office of legislative & Regulatory Policy. Ms. Chris Rowe stated that Mr. Brausch would speak at a “Special Meeting” on the DTSC’s responsibilities at the Santa Susana Field Lab, if the Board can agree on a date and time. Ms. Rowe will email Michelle and forward to board member to see if a “Special Meeting” is possible.

New Business:

09-0029- Discussion and possible action to allocate up to \$4000 for projects of the West Hills Neighborhood Council Beautification Committee

In the absence of Shelly Bright, Board member Charlene Rothstein, presented the possible action to allocate \$4000 for projects of the West Hills Neighborhood Council Beautification Committee. Ms. Jacquie Young suggested that the Beautification Committee file for a Grant, it was established that it is too late for this year but should be considered for next year. After some discussion, the Motion was passed.

09-0030 - Discussion and possible action regarding a Conditional Use Permit by Verizon Wireless for a proposed cell phone tower located at 7531 Fallbrook Avenue

Mr. Walter Perfect, Chair Zoning and Planning, stated that this cell tower would be camouflaged as a "Pine Tree", thus making it consistent with the requirements of the WHNC Zoning and Planning Committee. The motion was passed.

09-0031 - Discussion and possible action regarding modification of an existing wireless facility located at 22736 W Vanowen Street

Mr. Walter Perfect Zoning and Planning Chair explained that this proposed facility will be on the roof of a building and camouflaged from sight by a screen. After some discussion, the Motion was passed.

09-0032 - Discussion and possible action on proposed resolution on guidelines for placement and composition of cellular phone antennas and supporting electrical equipment

Mr. Barry Seybert, Streets & Transportation Co-Chair presented the resolution. Dr. Wiseman stated that this may require a Community Impact Statement as well. He also said that we should meet with Councilman Zine and create a Council File. Some Board members expressed concerns that the resolution needed further study and modification. The Resolution was referred back to Committee and asked that the Motion be revisited for an October vote.

09-0033 - Discussion and possible action regarding the selection of two council members to represent the West Hills Neighborhood Council at Mayors' Community Budget Day on October 10, 2009

Board member Dr. Daniel Wiseman asked that two council members be nominated. Board members Jacquie Young and Dr. Daniel Wiseman were nominated and the vote was carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned without objection at 9:35 pm.