



Help Guide the Future of West Hills
West Hills Neighborhood
Council



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Final
MEETING MINUTES
September 1, 2010

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

Attendance:

Present: Solomon Bash, Sandi Bell, Dan Brin, Robert Brostoff, Edwin Dockus, Carolyn Greenwood, Donn Howell, Bonnie Klea, Ruwan Kotuwelle, Stephen Lenske, Walter Perfect, Bill Rose, Charlene Rothstein, Chris Rowe, Barry Seybert, Yoav Shalev, Jeffrey Shapiro, Ron Sobel, Bobbi Trantafello, Daniel Wiseman, Jacquie Young and Joanne Yvanek-Garb.

Absent/Excused: Shelly Bright and Alec Uzameck

After the Pledge of Allegiance, a quorum was established.

Opening Business:

Co-chair, Mr. Stephen Lenske called the meeting to order. Mr. Lenske went over the general housekeeping rules and the use of the speaker card. Mr. Lenske advised those in attendance of the importance of completing a speaker card if they wished to speak on an agenda item or public comment. This is the vehicle that allows the board to determine how much time is needed for those wishing to speak.

Mr. Lenske advised all that there are a number of opportunities to work with the board and encouraged all stakeholders to sign up to participate in any of the council's committees. Mr. Lenske related that our council was established in 2002 and that out of approximately 91 Neighborhood Councils today, we were the first to be certified in the valley and fourth in the City.

Announcements:

Mr. Donn Howell advised that there is currently a vacancy on the board and anyone interested should contact Michelle Ritchie.

Ms. Jacquie Young advised that the Budget Committee meets the third Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m. at the 911 Call Center. Ms. Young also advised that if you wish to make a request for funds from the Budget Committee to visit our website, read the rules for such request and fill out a request form.

Dr. Daniel Wiseman advised that the Government Relations Committee meets the third Thursday of the month at 5:30 p.m. at the 911 Call Center.

Mr. Dan Brin advised that the Communications Committee meets the third Wednesday of each month 6:30 p.m. at the 911 Call Center.

Minutes – Meeting Minutes from August 4, 2010 were accepted as presented.

Ms. Jessica Forkish, from Council District 3, introduced Ms. Megan Murray the new Field Deputy for Canoga Park, Reseda and West Hills. Ms. Forkish advised that she will be working as a case manager and will be available to handle calls and other items brought to the office. Ms. Murray told the council that she is very familiar with the neighborhood council structure and is looking forward to working with all of us.

Ms. Forkish related that there is an article in the current Zine Line about the new West Hills Neighborhood Council signs.

Ms. Seme Park, Deputy Field for Council District 12, thanked Joanne Yvanek-Garb for attending the joint meeting last Wednesday regarding ratepayers. Ms. Park advised that Councilman Smith is appreciative of all our support and looks for our continued support on the eight motions he has introduced in the City Council.

The motions would

- Improve customer service and make customer billing more transparent and easier to understand.
- Put a charter reform measure on the ballot to require the DWP's budget, which was previously a closed book, to be voted on and adopted by the City Council.
- Put a charter reform measure on the ballot requiring Council approval for all rate increases.
- Put a charter reform measure on the ballot for wage parity, leveling the "paying field between DWP positions, which pay much higher salaries, and identical positions in other City Departments.
- Discourage employee migration to DWP by preventing them from vesting in the DWP pension system for five years.
- Put a charter reform measure on the ballot to enable the City Council to remove any DWP Commissioner with a 2/3 majority vote.
- Put a charter reform measure on the ballot to enable the City Council to remove any DWP General Manager with a 2/3 majority vote.
- Reform the DWP Board of Commissioners, removing the Mayor's sole appointment authority and dividing it among the Mayor, City Council and Neighborhood Councils.

Treasurer's Report – Ms. Bobbi Trantafello presented a Profit & Loss Sheet for July and August 2010. Ms. Trantafello advised there was not much activity and the current balance is \$41,588.37.

Presentation:

Board Member Mr. Dan Brin introduced our two guest speakers, Mr. Eric Miller, who is running for Congress, and Mr. Dennis DeYoung, who is running for the State Assembly.

Mr. Miller and Mr. DeYoung advised those in attendance why each was running and why they felt they could help correct the current status of our State or Federal government.

Public Comment:

Co-chair, Mr. Edwin Dockus explained what public comment is and the procedure of completing a Speaker Card to request a chance to speak before the board.

Board member Ms. Chris Rowe advised those in attendance that we are currently facing three health issues. The first is whooping cough – Ms. Rowe advised that while many of us received inoculations for this disease, it does not provide a lifetime immunization. The second is salmonella. Ms. Rowe advised that there is a link on the WHNC website that provides the current recalls. The last item is bed bugs. Ms. Rowe advised that according to a study by Terminex, we are #10. She stated this is one time we don't want to be first.

Board member Dr. Daniel Wiseman stated that he hopes that we feel as he does that music and music education is an essential part of our culture and recreation but unfortunately our public schools have cut back, severely, on their music programs. In response to this Mr. Jeffrey L. Patterson has developed the All Valley Music Youth Band. They will present a free recital on Sunday, September 26th at St. Stephen Presbyterian Church. There is more information on this group at allvalleymusic@att.net

Stakeholder and former West Hills Deputy for Councilman Zine, Ms. Stephanie Romero came by to say hello and to offer her assistance to the council as a stakeholder.

Government Relations Report:

10-0014 – Discussion and possible action regarding support for three proposals of the LANC Budget Advocate Group and a proposal bringing the USS Iowa to Los Angeles Harbor. Dr. Daniel Wiseman advised that are three items for us to consider. After discussion, it was voted that each item would be taken separately.

Dr. Wiseman moved that we support the formal acceptance and recognition of the Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition and the several Regional Neighborhood Council Alliances (including but not limited to the West Los Angeles Alliance of neighborhood councils (WLANC), the Valley Alliance of neighborhood councils (VANC), the Harbor Alliance of neighborhood councils (HANC) and the North-East Los Angeles Alliance of neighborhood councils (NELANC). Motion passed (12 ayes and 1 nay).

Dr. Wiseman moved that the WHNC support the proposal to bring the battleship U.S.S. Iowa to be an educational and recreational venue in the Los Angeles Harbor. There was a second motion

to postpone action on this matter until more information was obtained. Motion failed. Original motion passed (12 aye, 5 nay and 3 abstentions).

Dr. Wiseman moved that the WHNC support the passage of NC 10-0586 to change the method of selection and recommendation of the five members of the DWP Board of Commissioners. Motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Wiseman moved that the WHNC support the recommendation of the BONC appointed Ad Hoc Bylaws Task Force for a uniform neighborhood council bylaws template (also called the “wire frame”). Motion passed (18 aye, 1 nay and 1 abstention).

Old Business:

09-0028 – Discussion and possible action regarding appeal by HOA of T-Mobile’s proposed cell phone tower located near Lazy J Ranch Park in the vicinity of Valley Circle Boulevard and Ingomar Street

Ms. Charlene Rothstein advised that there were two people who proposed to speak on the matter, Mr. Jason Hafer from T-Mobile and stakeholder, Mr. Jaren Vine. Mr. Hafer advised that he has been working with the council for about a year and a half. T-Mobile has done as much as they could to complete this project and are willing to continue to work with the neighborhood. Motion seconded and passed unanimously. Mr. Vine advised that he was speaking for the three stakeholders present regarding this project. Mr. Vine stated the proposed structure is not pretty and does not look like a tree. With the prospect of the tower being built, he no longer feels safe in his back yard. They feel it reduces their property values and will only open the door to additional cell companies.

Ms. Charlene Rothstein advised that he spoke to Jonathon Brand, Chief Planning Deputy for Council District 3. Mr. Brand stated that Councilman Zine is backing the appeal by the stakeholders. Ms. Rothstein made a motion that the matter be sent back to committee. Motion passed.

New Business:

10-0015 – Discussion and possible action on a proposed cell tower located at 8138 Woodlake Avenue, West Hills

Mr. Walter Perfect advised that a meeting was held at Fairwinds. This was done so that all could see the proposed site. The meeting was attended by approximately 11 stakeholders. An extension is being requested to enable more stakeholders affected to speak. Mr. Perfect made a motion that this matter be postponed. Motion passed.

There were stakeholders present to speak to this matter. Ms. Linda Glasscock advised those present that she has lived at her current address since 1991. Ms. Glasscock stated that they don’t want it. Stakeholder, Ms. Colette Peterson stated that her husband is recovering from prostate cancer and is concerned as to whether we have done our homework. She would want to be assured that it is not a health risk and what are other possible options. Ms. Linda Thorne stated that she attended the meeting at Fairwinds. Ms. Thorne stated that we are being given a lot of misinformation and also information is being left out. Ms. Thorne advised that she has found another location that wouldn’t be offensive to any homeowners. Mr. Ron Zarkesh stated he is truly confused. Mr. Zarkesh presented a map, which he said T-Mobile provided at the meeting,

showing that there was no cell reception around the Fairwinds. However, when he went on the T-Mobile web-site to check his cell reception there was a map, which he presented, indicating that there was cell reception in the entire area.

10-0016 – Discussion and possible action regarding budgetary request and approval for the following committees: Communications, Beautification and Outreach. Ms. Jacquie Young advised that the following recommendations by the Budget Committee were conditioned upon available funding by the council.

Ms. Young made the following motions:

First - that \$260 be issued to the Beautification Committee. Motion carried.

Second - that \$30 be given to Barry Seybert to make tapes of the Waxman Town Hall for future use. Motion passed.

Third - that \$150 be given to the Communications Committee to produce approximately 3,000 flyers over the year.

Fourth - that \$240 be used to contract with I-Contact, an e-mail service, for issuing 3 to 4 e-mails a month. It is a month-to-month contract. Motion carried with one abstention.

10-0017 – Discussion and possible action regarding proposed resolution of use of parking meters

Mr. Barry Seybert moved that we support the motion by Tony Cardenas, Councilmember 6th District. Mr. Cardenas' motion proposes that a percentage of parking meter revenues be shared with local communities for neighborhood public improvements. After discussion, motion failed.

9:52 meeting adjourned