



Help Guide the Future of West Hills
West Hills Neighborhood
Council



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FINAL
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

June 4, 2008

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

Attendance:

Present: Kevin Boal, Shelly Bright, Dan Bin, Edwin Dockus, Carolyn Greenwood, Donn Howell, Walter Perfect, Charlene Rothstein, Barry Seybert, Ron Sobel, Tommy Thomason, Bobbi Trantafello, Daniel Wiseman and Joanne Yvanek-Garb

Excused: Linda Frost, Rob Jacobs, Stephen Lenske, Bill Rose and Ed Young

Absent: Sam Donabedian, David Ford, Etan Lorant and Jeffrey Stordahl

Opening Business:

Mr. Edwin Dockus welcomed all the stakeholders. He provided an overview of how the meeting would proceed and what a stakeholder/person needed to do to speak before the board either with general comments or on a specific topic. Edwin spoke about the election and the low voter turnout. He said that we can't complain on what is happening in government if we don't get involved and he urged all present to get involved.

Minutes – the May 7, 2008 minutes were approved as published.

Budget – Bobbi Trantafello had provided copies of the 2007 – 2008 Budget. She stated this is the budget that will be submitted to DONE and it is pretty open to allow for changes during the year.

Announcements:

Mr. Jose Martinez, Deputy Field Representative for Dennis Zine, was present. He spoke about the two recent events, the Memorial Day Parade and the Z awards. He stated he has been getting complaints about weeds in the area. They are checking on them as they pose a possible fire hazard. Jose encouraged those present to continue to report on this. Barry Seybert questioned Jose about the police presence on Valley Circle that Mr. Zine spoke about last month. Barry stated he saw them on twice in the area. Jose deferred this question to our Senior Lead Officer (SLO) Janet Zumstein.

There was no representative from Councilman Smith's office or the SLO Officer for that portion of West Hills present.

SLO Officer Janet Zumstein advised that there have been two grocery store robberies in the area. The perpetrator was a black male approximately 4'11" to 5'3" tall and he wears a bright orange hoodie. Officer Zumstein advised that if we encounter such an individual – DO NOT - confront him, try to get a license plate number and contact the police. With regards to the Valley Circle issue – Officer Zumstein stated that she had contacted Officer Tim Gallic, the motor officer assigned to that project. He advised that 50 tickets have been written and one car was impounded. Officer Gallic can be reached at (818) 644-8145. Officer Zumstein advised that as this is a project area it would be hit hard. They will be writing tickets for everything – speeding, cell phones (when the new law is in force), seat belts, tinted windows, loud music, etc.

When questioned by a stakeholder regarding it not being radar certified area, Officer Zumstein stated that that is under the review of Councilman Dennis Zine. Councilman Zine is reluctant to have it become a radar certified area as normally when they review an area for such a designation it results in the speed limit being increased. As this seemed strange to those present, Dan Wiseman proposed the forming of an ad hoc committee to the Safety Committee. Mr. Dockus advised that he needed to initiate a formal written request for this.

Mr. Tom Soon, DONE representative and Ms. Tessa Charnofsky of the Mayor's office were not present.

Ron Sobel stated that the mayor's office had presented the West Hills Neighborhood Council with a certificate for its participation in the Mayor's Day of Service. Shelly Bright stated that Masha Gardner, principal of Pomelo school could not be present but she had asked Shelly to thank the board for their work at Pomelo during the Mayor's Day of Service.

Public Comment:

Stakeholder Christina Walsh stated that there was a meeting of the Waterboard tomorrow at 9 a.m. in the Simi Valley Council Chambers and she thought the Board could prepare a letter for her to take with her. Edwin explained that as this matter was not on the agenda the Board could not vote on taking such action.

Stakeholder William Bowling stated that at the neighborhood watch meeting he heard about the request to rezone the area at Roscoe & Fallbrook (Corporate Pointe) from agriculture to business. He would like to receive information on meetings held by the Land Use Committee. Edwin advised that his participation is welcomed and that he should give his contact information to Charlene Rothstein.

Stakeholder Alec Uzemeck stated his group has 640 signatures opposing the project by Corporate Pointe and the rezoning of the area. He requested that they be on the agenda next month. Edwin explained that his request should be brought to the Land Use Committee.

Presentation:

Mr. Jonathan Brooks for Friends of the LA River gave an overview of what has transpired to date in the revitalization of the Los Angeles River and the plans for the future. He invited all to participate.

Old Business:

08-0003 Mayor's Day of Service Update

Dan Wiseman asked if anyone had seen the planting that was done at the West Hill's Post Office. He advised that everything is looking good. He thanked all who participated.

West Hills Street Signage Update

Walter Perfect advised that they had talked to Councilman Dennis Zine. Councilman Zine stated that the WHNC has the money and to go ahead and use it. Councilman Zine did have two concerns. The first was who would maintain the signs and the second was who would be responsible should the signs be vandalized. The matter will be on the agenda next month so that it can be voted on.

08-0006 – Neighborhood Council Self Assessment Survey Update

Donn Howell advised that the Board has until June 30th to turn in the completed forms. He asked that those present who have not completed a survey to complete one and turn it in to either he or Charlene Rothstein.

08-0008 – Discussion and possible action on changing WHNC Board elections for 2008 to conform with LA City Clerk's office to run election process for 2008 and 2009

Edwin Dockus advised that the other councils that we joined with last year for the elections (which is now known as the South Valley Alliance) have voted or are planning to vote to change their next election to 2010 when the City Clerk will run it. The reason for this is that DONE has advised the councils that this year DONE will only pay the \$1200 for the IEA. All other expenses, advertisement, mailing, etc. would have to be borne by the individual councils. This translates into a cost increase from the \$5000 of last year to between \$19,000 and \$25,000 for 2008 and 2009 per council.

Barry Seybert made a motion to rescind the resolution to hold the WHNC election in December 2008. Motion was seconded by Tommy Thomason. Motion passed.

Edwin Dockus moved that we rescind the \$5000 allocated for the 2008 election. Motion passed.

Barry Seybert made a motion to postpone the 2008 election until June 2010. Motion passed.

07-1141 Corporate Pointe Development Update

Charlene Rothstein advised that it is in negotiation. They are working on input from the neighbors. She requested that it be on the agenda next month.

A stakeholder stated that he heard about some hearing that was being held regarding this property. Charlene advised that she was unaware of any hearing and a representative of Trammel Crow who happened to be present stated she was unaware of any hearing.

06-0092 Centex Homes/Dayton Canyon Study Update

Dan Wiseman stated that before he present what transpired at the committee meeting, he would like to introduce Mr. Norm Riley, Chief of Staff of DTSC who accepted his invitation to speak tonight. Mr. Riley thanked all who were in attendance. Mr. Riley stated he came to provide

information on the status of the Dayton Canyon issue. He stated that last month the study culminated. The period of public comment was from April 1 – 30th. They have received approximately 35 individual comments. The technical staff has been reviewing the comments in great detail and are preparing written responses to each. Currently he is going over the comments and responses. No decision has been made on the request by Centex that no further action is necessary. If the decision was made that no further action is necessary Centex could begin construction but no decision has been made to date. Mr. Riley doesn't know exactly how long it will take but probably by some time in July.

Dan Wiseman advised that 28 stakeholders attended the meeting. The meeting resulted in three recommendations:

- 1 – They recommend that the committee's name be changed to the Santa Susana Mountain Area Committee (SSMAC). Motion passed.
- 2 – They recommended that the SSMAC be established as a standing committee within WHNC. Motion passed.
- 3 – They recommended that the letter drafted to Mr. Riley on this topic be reaffirmed by the Board. Motion passed.

Dan Wiseman also requested that the two supporting documents provided, which gives the background on what has transpired to date, be posted.

Stakeholder Chris Rowe spoke. She stated that no one has thought of how allowing the building of homes by Centex affects the cultural aspects of Dayton Canyon. The Burro Flats Painted Cave in that area has been declared a World Heritage Site. Recently another cave has been discovered and they are in the process of investigating its significance. Ms. Rowe was very concerned that the EIR finalized in 1999 stated that there were no cultural sites. She stated that archaeologist John Romani has offered to come and do a presentation to the Board. Chair instructed Ms. Rowe to give the contact information to Mr. Wiseman.

Stakeholder William Bowling asked for clarification. Did he hear correctly that Centex hired their own surveyors and DTSC only oversaw the operation? Mr. Riley responded that DTSC participated in two ways, going over all the data and reaching their own conclusions and often a DTSC was on site as the analysis was being done.

Stakeholder David Corey read a letter from a neighbor who lived in Dayton Canyon. The letter stated that the woman was unable to attend the meeting as her husband was ill with cancer. Mr. Corey stated there is a higher incidence of cancer among those living in Dayton Canyon. He stated it is agricultural land and the majority of the residents live off the land.

New Business:

08-0013 Discussion and possible action regarding request of Stargazer Restaurant to amend Conditional Use Permit to extend operating hours

Before the owner of Stargazer, Mr. Weischadle, spoke, Edwin Dockus read a letter from Board member Linda Frost. Ms. Frost is employed by the company that owns the property on which Stargazer sits and would have to reclude herself from voting were she present. However, she

wanted the Board to know that the request by the Weischadles was not outside of the scope that was allowable and the company had no objection of the request.

Mr. Weischadle stated that there had been a couple of changes to the CUP (Conditional Use Permit) and what they were requesting was that the hours of operation be changed back to the 1999 CUP. Charlene Rothstein moved that we approve their request with the understanding that item 27N on their application be changed to "not applicable." Joanne Yvanek-Garb seconded the motion. Motion passed.

08-0014 Discussion and possible action regarding proposed allocation of money not to exceed \$500 to El Camino High School wrestling team for West Hills labeled mats.

Motion was made to approve an amount not to exceed \$500 to El Camino High School. Motion was seconded. Donn Howell moved to amend the first motion to increase the amount to \$2500. Motion was seconded. As this has not been presented to the Budget Committee it will first go to the committee for a recommendation before a vote can be taken.

08-0015 Discussion and possible action regarding proposed West Hills Neighborhood Council 2008 budget

It was moved that the Board approve the 2008-2009 presented by the Budget Committee. Motion carried.

08-0016 Discussion and possible action regarding the retention of private traffic consultant to survey traffic in vicinity of Valley Circle/Highlander

Shelly Bright advised that she attended a meeting of the West Hills Safety Coalition. This is a group of concerned stakeholders in the Valley Circle/Highlander area. It was suggested that an independent study be done. Dr. Powell advised that it would cost between \$500 and \$750 to have an expert look at the work done by DOT and it could cost \$2500 to do a comprehensive study. This needs to go to the Budget Committee for a recommendation.

Committee & Other Reports

Dan Wiseman advised about the upcoming DWP rate increase and that there was an upcoming LANC coalition meeting.

Dan Brin stated that the Cinema Heritage Project was still working toward the next event. Currently they are working with the Friends of the Observatory to possible show Rebel without a Cause.

9:55 Meeting adjourned