



Help Guide the Future of West Hills
West Hills Neighborhood
Council



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FINAL
MEETING MINUTES
December 1, 2010

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

Attendance:

Present: Solomon Bash, Sandi Bell, Dan Brin, Robert Brostoff, Carolyn Greenwood, Donn Howell, Bonnie Klea, Ruwan Kotuwelle, Stephen Lenske, Walter Perfect, Charlene Rothstein, Chris Rowe, Jeffrey Shapiro, Ron Sobel, Bobbi Trantafello, Daniel Wiseman, Jacquie Young and Alec Uzemeck.

Absent and Excused: Shelly Bright, Edwin Dockus, Bill Rose, Barry Seybert, Yoav Shalev and Joanne Yvanek-Garb

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 speaker card if they wished to speak. 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 asked all in attendance to show respect for all speakers.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, roll call was taken and a quorum was established.

Announcements:

Mr. Bob Brostoff advised that the council's e-mail system is up and running. There will be monthly e-mail blasts providing information on the council's activities and other activities of interest to residents of West Hills.

Minutes: Meeting Minutes from November 3, 2010 were accepted as amended.

Treasurer's Report – Ms. Bobbi Trantafello presented a Balance Sheet as of November 30, 2010 and a Profit & Loss Statement for July through November 2010. Ms. Trantafello advised that the

current balance is \$26,852.47. Ms. Trantafello advised that it will be necessary to amend the budget as monies for the director were not sufficient. Matter will be on the January 2011 agenda. When asked about the outstanding rollover, Ms. Trantafello advised that she was told to ignore the website and that the paperwork was already in for two of the three items and these will be paid and not come out of the current \$45,000 funding.

Ms. Megan Murray, Field Deputy for Canoga Park, Reseda and West Hills from the 3rd Council District, advised that the funding request and authorization for the West Hills Neighborhood Council signs is now in DONE's hands. Ms. Murray advised that she was asked about the solicitors that are going through the neighborhoods and after investigating this issue found that there was no badge or identification being issued to identify legitimate solicitors. Ms. Murray advised that she was also asked about the crosswalk at Shoup and Hamlin. Ms. Murray advised that there is a grant that could be used but its use is based on the findings of the Department of Transportation (DOT). The findings of the DOT were that only three people were using the crosswalk so it does not appear that installation of a crosswalk would be approved. Ms. Murray went on to say that concern was expressed that the DOT was going to remove the current crosswalk but she thought that this would not happen due their workload and lack of staff.

Mr. Lenske asked if there was any new information on a city-approved plan wherein HOAs can take responsibility for median cleanup and landscaping. Ms. Murray advised she was unaware of this issue. Mr. Lenske advised that Mr. Jose Martinez has the backup on this issue. Mr. Lenske also advised that the businesses are complaining about the parking restrictions on Sherman Way at Shoup as it is impacting their business by restricting customer parking.

Mr. Jimmy Blackman, new Chief of Staff to Councilman Zine, introduced himself. Mr. Blackman advised that the councilman is holding a staff meeting and the DOT will be there. Mr. Blackman stated that he would present any questions or concerns we have for the DOT if we will forward them to him.

Ms. Seme Park, Deputy Field for 12th Council District, advised that the HOAs may want to look into the 'Adopt a Median' program. Ms. Park advised that they have recently been successful in shutting down a group home. Ms. Park advised that currently there is no regulation of these types of homes but in working with Building and Safety and the District Attorney's office they can approach the problem if the home is affecting the quality of life of the residents in the area.

Senior Lead Officer Sam Sabra was present and provided an update on activities in West Hills. Officer Sabra advised that a new captain has been appointed to the Topanga Station. His name is Captain Tom Brascia. Officer Sabra advised that currently there has been an increase in the theft of 3rd row seats from the Cadillac Escalade and other SUVs especially at the Topanga Mall. There has been an increase in shoplifting particularly at Walmart and Kohl's. Officer Sabra advised that the solicitors are out again. The newest crew is from the East Coast and selling cleaning products. They really are trying to determine who is home. You don't have to open the door, just let them know you are home and report any suspicious activity. The Department wants to prevent crime from ever happening.

Mr. Lenske acknowledged Ms. Merrilee Fellows from NASA. Ms. Fellows has graciously arranged for board members to tour the SSFL.

Government Relations Report:

Dr. Wiseman gave an update on several governmental activities. Dr. Wiseman stated that the Los Angeles Neighborhood Coalition (LANC) has held two meetings on the DWP. Dr. Wiseman explained that the coalition is a citywide issue group. They are currently working on 11 ballot measures.

Dr. Wiseman also introduced Mr. Omar Chughtai. Mr. Chughtai is the Associate Director of West Hills Medical Center. Mr. Chughtai stated he just came by to introduce himself and welcome the residents to tour the state of the art facility.

Presentation:

Board member Mr. Dan Brin introduced our speaker, Dr. Thomas Mack. Dr. Mack is a Professor of Preventive Medicine and Pathology at the Keck School of Medicine and Co-chief of the Division of Epidemiology in the Department of Preventive Medicine at the University of Southern California. Dr. Mack spoke about the causes of cancer in an urban environment. Dr. Mack explained that cancer is not caused by a single factor but a combination of factors, including genetics. Dr. Mack went on to explain the four most common cancers and causes.

Stakeholder Janet Dahl stated that the residents on her block have multiple illnesses and various forms of cancer.

Board member Bonnie Klea stated that she represents 3,029 workers who were exposed to radiation at Santa Suzanna Field Lab. Ms. Klea stated she and residents in 15 houses on her block have or had cancer. Ms. Klea stated she never heard that bladder cancer has a genetic link.

Stakeholder Cindy Mays stated that her twins have retinoblastoma. Ms. Mays stated that the children carry the gene and not the parents. Ms. Mays asked if there would be more studies into this type of cancer. Dr. Mack stated that they have done some studies but have not made much headway.

Stakeholder Christina Walsh stated that she has been a West Hills resident for over 30 years and there are several different types of cancers in her immediate area.

Dr. Mack stated that there have been studies done in the West Hills area and there is no evidence that there is a cluster. Dr. Mack stated that the cancers in the area are what would be expected in an urban environment.

Board member Chris Rowe presented Dr. Mack a certificate of appreciation from the Council.

Public Comment:

Stakeholder, Diana Dixon-Davis stated that she is a member of the Chatsworth Neighborhood Council and has come to advise our board of a problem they are having in their area. Ms. Dixon-Davis stated that the ice cream trucks are selling toy guys that look like they have a laser pointer

and look very real. These types of toys are to be only sold to children over the age of 18. The vendors are even selling them to children outside of the elementary schools.

Board member Bob Brostoff stated that our bylaws must be completed and should be on the January agenda.

Stakeholder, Kelly Lord stated that he is also a member of the Chatsworth Neighborhood Council and wanted to introduce himself as he is running for Councilman in District 12. Mr. Lord stated that several candidates are coming from the neighborhood councils and he encouraged all to support them. Mr. Lord advised that they are going to have a candidates' forum in February 2011.

Old Business:

Mr. Lenske stated that as to items on the agenda that were sponsored by Co-chair Edwin Dockus, who was not present, they would be postponed until the January 2011 meeting.

9:30: meeting adjourned