



Help Guide the Future of West Hills
West Hills Neighborhood
Council



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Final
MEETING MINUTES
June 1, 2011

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

Attendance:

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

Absent/Excused: Donn Howell

Opening Business:

Co-Chair Mr. Stephen Lenske established a quorum, called the meeting to order and asked that all in attendance follow Chaminade's housekeeping rules. He asked stakeholders who would like to speak to please fill out speaker cards and list the agenda items on which they wish to comment. He also asked that all cell phones be turned off. Mr. Lenske invited all stakeholders to visit the WHNC website at www.westhillsnc.org for updates on events and agenda items. He advised everyone to sign up on the email list and receive the WHNC Update email newsletter.

Mr. Lenske stated that the scheduled speaker, Mr. Ron Nichols from the Department of Water & Power, was detained in a litigation matter and was unable to attend tonight's meeting. The WHNC will invite him back at a later date.

Mr. Lenske also spoke on the Groundwater U sessions. Seven WHNC Board members were among those who attended more than 25 hours of instruction, including a field trip to the Santa Susana Field Lab site. There will be a seventh session. The WHNC will discuss and consider recommendations relating to groundwater issues.

Co-Chair Mr. Edwin Dockus thanked Board members Sandi Bell and Dan Brin for their help in completing the final draft of the bylaws at the last Bylaws Committee meeting. June 15, 2011, is the last day to email Mr. Dockus with any comments on the bylaws before the final reading. Mr. Brin asked that the Board have an up-or-down vote on the bylaws after the reading.

Budget Chair Jacquie Young stated that there would be a Budget Committee meeting on June 20th at 6:00 p.m. on the 3rd floor of the 911 Center.

Announcements:

In discussion regarding time and place of meetings, Mr. Steve Lenske reemphasized that all requests for meetings at the 911 Call Center are to be made through our Executive Director, Michelle Ritchie, as the principal coordinator.

Ms. Bobbi Trantafello, Treasurer, advised that she does not have a Treasurer's Report this month as she is in the process of auditing the entire year. Ms. Trantafello advised that she is doing this as DONE has advised that we have no money left when our records indicate there should be approximately \$2,000. Ms. Trantafello has been advised that DONE has paid the Topanga Boosters out of the current year's budget and is ready to pay the Food Pantry. Ms. Trantafello hopes to complete her audit by the middle of this month.

Mr. Lenske asked what is the appeal process and was advised that there is none in place presently. Mr. Lenske also stated that if indeed we have no monies left, we might want to amend the allocation to the Food Pantry, as there are other expenses that we must meet. After discussion about how can we change what we've already voted on, Mr. Lenske pointed out that our budget has been cut and we have to make the necessary adjustments.

Ms. Charlene Rothstein advised that T-Mobile has requested a 90-day continuance regarding the flag design for the cell tower in front of Lazy J Park. On June 10th there will be a hearing at City Hall regarding the cell tower at Shomrei Torah. Ms. Rothstein stated that Citrus Sunday was a huge success and thanked all who worked so hard. Ms. Rothstein stated that 40,000 pounds of fruit was collected and donated to the food pantries.

Mr. Edwin Dockus asked if we are going to have an election next year. Mr. Barry Seybert, liaison to the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC), stated that it is still in the air. A statement has been made that there will be no money for an election until 2014. BONC is saying there will be an election in 2013. The City Council has not made any motions at this time on this matter. There is discussion of whether to have an election or a selection process that would be done at a town hall meeting. The City Clerk is not anxious to run an election. Mr. Dockus expressed the opinion that perhaps we should set aside \$5,000 in our budget to run our election based upon prior years' experience when our Neighborhood Council ran its own elections. Ms. Joanne Yvanke-Garb said we could have a caucus to choose a new board.

Mr. Walter Perfect announced that there are 5,181 cats and kittens ready for adoption. This is an increase of 1%. The shelter is encouraging adoption in pairs, as the animals seem to adjust better. Mr. Perfect also announced proudly that VFW Post #2805's float entry was given 1st Place in the Canoga Park Memorial Day Parade.

Mr. Dan Brin announced that the Arts Committee will be meeting in preparation for the celebration of West Hills 25th Anniversary. Mr. Brin also advised there is going to be a basketball game at Milken Jewish Center, West Hills, on June 26th at 3 p.m. This is a league that

has been formed for special-needs kids and he encouraged everyone to come and support this activity.

Minutes – the minutes of May 4, 2011 were approved as corrected.

There was no representative from Council District 3. Ms. Semee Park, representative from Council District 12, advised those in attendance that the Mayor is to sign the City budget tomorrow. With the passage of Measure L, the libraries will remain open. Also the neighborhood councils are to receive a \$40,500 budget. Ms. Park advised that the City Attorney is in the process of drafting an ordinance to regulate unlicensed group homes. Ms. Park also thanked everyone who made Citrus Sunday a success.

Public Comment:

Stakeholder Ike Rodman spoke about a Field Day organized by the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) on June 25-26 at Pierce College. ARES consists of licensed amateurs who voluntarily register for communications duty for public service when disaster strikes. They step in when the usual communication system fails.

Board member Chris Rowe advised that she has sent a letter to the City Attorney in regards to her recusal regarding the Jewish Community High School.

Stakeholder Jacquie Young read a letter she has written concerning trucks carrying waste material from Santa Susana Field Lab through the community without providing notification to the community. A copy of the letter is attached for reference due to its significant community interest.

Governmental Relations

Dr. Daniel Wiseman advised that working on the City budget has consumed all of his attention for the past six months. Dr. Wiseman stated that the City has exhausted most of its “one-time” solutions and the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates have developed 15 recommendations that he is presenting to the Board.

Chris Rowe moved that the recommendations be taken *ad seriatim*. Motion failed. Dr. Wiseman moved that the Board support the 15 recommendations as presented from the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates. Motion passed with 19 yeas and two nays.

Old Business:

02-0003 – Discussion and possible action re West Hills Street Signage

Mr. Walter Perfect turned this over to Mr. Brin. Mr. Brin explained that he and Mr. Barry Seybert have been meeting with Ed Crowe on signage design. Mr. Crowe has come up with a final draft for the sign. Mr. Lenske asked about a time frame for completion. Mr. Brin advised that we now need the City Engineer to sign off on the size and installation of the signs and we will go forward.

11-0008 – Discussion and possible action regarding the proposed remodeling of the existing church and preschool at the West Valley Christian Church located 22450 Sherman Way, West Hills

Mr. Walter Perfect advised that the City's Zoning and Planning Department on June 3, 2009, approved the installation of a new building at this site. However, the school has chosen to remodel instead of constructing a new building. The WHNC's Zoning & Planning Committee met with the church's Rev. Glenn Kirby and the neighbors. Mr. Perfect stated that several conditions to the plans were discussed and accepted by the neighbors, including two parking issues, installation of a noise-abatement wall among other issues.

Stakeholder Grover Davis, speaking for a group of neighbors, stated that traffic is a major problem. Their street is a cul-de-sac with traffic coming in and out as well as parking in front of their homes. Mr. Davis stated that an additional 70 children means 70 additional cars.

Mr. Lenske advised that this problem should be brought to the Department of Transportation. The school advised that a letter has been written to DOT but it has not received a response.

Ms. Charlene Rothstein moved that the seven conditions that were approved by the neighbors be included in our recommendation of approval for this project. Motion passed with one abstention, and with three members recusing themselves.

New Business:

11-0010 – Discussion and possible action regarding proposed City charging for both emergency medical services (EMS) and ambulance provided by the Los Angeles Fire Department

Dr. Daniel Wiseman stated that currently the City only bills patients for emergency ambulance service. He stated that emergency services often do not result in patients being transported by ambulance to the hospital. The City does not recoup payment. Dr. Wiseman moved that the West Hills Neighborhood Council supports the concept of billing for EMS services delivered whether or not the person was transported in the ambulance. After discussion, the motion passed with three nays.

11-0011 – Discussion and possible action regarding T-Mobile Conditional Use Permit (CUP) ZA-2011-83-CUW wireless facility consisting of 3 antennas on a new 45-foot antenna support structure located at 23644 Vanowen, Street, West Hills

Ms. Charlene Rothstein introduced Mr. Eric Lilliedahl of Synergy Dev Inc. Mr. Lilliedahl advised that they plan to install a flagpole style antenna in front of Heavenly Fresh Market. Mr. Lilliedahl stated that the City has approved this type of installation in the past. Ms. Rothstein asked if all the above-ground equipment would go inside the current boxes at that location and have the neighbors been notified. Mr. Lilliedahl responded yes.

Stakeholder Zahid Sultan stated the neighbors have just received notification of the proposed installation. Mr. Sultan stated that he couldn't find anything positive online regarding installation of cell towers and its affect on humans. This tower would be just 1500' from his home. Mr. Sultan went on to state that many cities are banning the construction of additional cell towers.

Stakeholder Feroza Kasuji stated that neighbors already have a problem with the owner of Heavenly Fresh Market. He has not been willing to work with the neighbors on other issues such as his employees parking in front of the residents' homes, she said. Ms. Kasuji went on to say the installation of towers is destroying the whole environment of the area.

Mr. Walter Perfect stated that he wished to be assured that the proposed flag would be handled properly. He presented Mr. Lilliedahl with the official USA flag code. This code has been in place since 1976. Seventeen members of the board felt this should be a condition. Ms. Rothstein moved that a vote on this issue be postponed. Motion passed with one opposition.

11-0012 – Discussion and possible action regarding purchase of audio/visual equipment to be used at general and special meetings to assist in PowerPoint presentations and other council and stakeholder communications.

This matter is postponed until it can be determined what monies are available.

11-0013 – Discussion and possible action on proposed resolution regarding a proposed Los Angeles City ban of plastic bag issuance by retail establishments

Mr. Barry Seybert presented a resolution to propose and approve an ordinance restricting the distribution of single-use plastic bags in Los Angeles, as promised by the City Council in July 2008. Mr. Seybert advised that this resolution was passed by VANC.

Stakeholder Mr. Andy Shrader of the Clean Seas Coalition spoke in support of this measure. Mr. Shrader presented a display illustrating how plastic bag debris affects our environment and wildlife.

After discussion and minor revision regarding punctuation and “City of Santa Monica and City of Long Beach,” the resolution passed with two nays.

11-0014 – Discussion and possible action on proposed resolution regarding commercial advertising in Los Angeles City Parks

Mr. Barry Seybert presented a resolution that West Hills Neighborhood Council objects to the L.A. Park Foundation's plan to permit for-profit signage in any Park or Recreation Center in return for donations to the Foundation.

With minor revision of wording to read “Exploits vulnerable children by subjecting them to advertising,” the resolution passed.

9:55 meeting adjourned