



Help Guide the Future of West Hills
**West Hills Neighborhood
Council**



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**Final
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

May 7, 2008

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

Attendance Kevin Boal, Shelly Bright, Dan Brin, Edwin Dockus, Carolyn Greenwood, Donn Howell, Ron Jacobs, Stephen Lenske, Walter Perfect, Bill Rose, Charlene Rothstein, Barry Seybert, Ron Sobel, Jeffrey Stordahl, Tommy Thomason, Bobbi Trantafello, Daniel Wiseman, Joanne Yvanek-Garb and Ed Young.

Not present: David Ford, Linda Frost, Etan Lorant and Sam Donabedian.

Opening Business:

Call to Order at 7:08 p.m.

Roll call –Quorum established

Pledge of Allegiance

Stephen Lenske welcomed everyone. Steve advised those present of the general procedures for these meetings. He stated that Kim Barbello had donated the refreshments this evening and thanked her.

Steve provided a couple of announcements – There is to be a meeting on Thursday, May 29th at Canoga Park Elementary School on the reopening of Enadia Way School and Target stores are now a collection point for used batteries.

April 2nd minutes were approved as amended.

Jose Martinez, Field Deputy for 3rd Council District introduced Councilman Dennis Zine. Councilman Zine introduced John Fisher and Ken Firoozmand from the Department of Transportation (DOT). The Councilman stated that a traffic survey on Highlander and Valley Circle 99% of those who travel on Valley Circle live in the area and some very serious speeding was observed. He stated that he has requested a heavy police presence and they will be writing tickets. John Fisher gave a slide presentation on what the DOT has done to make Highlander and Valley Circle safer since the removal of the all-way stop signs.

Councilman Zine introduced Sergeant Valez, who is in charge of the motor officers for West Valley. Sergeant Valez asked for the cooperation of the citizens. He stated the officers will be out and they will be writing tickets.

Officer Janet Zumstein, the current Senior Lead Officer (SLO) for West Valley, advised that when the new station is open, West Valley will be split between SLO Sue Herold and herself. This means that there will be two basic cars available. Any concerns can be called in to her direct line (818) 374-7634.

Co-Chair Edwin Dockus stated the by-laws have to be changed so there will be a bylaw meeting at 7 p.m. next Tuesday May 13th at the 911 Call Center. One of the major concerns is how to handle the current terms for board members.

Bobbi Trantafello discussed the status of the budget. The budget committee is working on it.

Public Comments:

Stakeholder Raymond Yu – spoke about the upcoming open house at all the city fire stations and the Canoga Park Memorial Day Parade Monday, May 26th.

Stakeholder Gloria Weischadle of the Stargazer restaurant stated that they have applied for an extension on their hours of operation and requested board support. Ms. Weischadle will be put on the agenda next month so action can be taken by the board.

Stakeholder Ken Sherman introduced himself and stated that he is a candidate for the State Assembly to represent the 40th District. Mr. Sherman provided insight into his background and stated that he was impressed by the number of stakeholders that were in attendance.

Old Business:

07-1136 Valley Circle/Bell Canyon/Highlander Traffic Control Update

Stakeholder Wayne Sippel stated that the measures taken and that he would like to see information on the so called “safe lane”.

Stakeholder Alan Schiff stated that traffic patterns have changed and that the stakeholders have formed a group entitled West Hills Safety Coalition to pursue the safety issues on Valley Circle traffic.

Edwin Dockus read a statement by Ramah Baliber stating that they (the stakeholders) have requested copies of the studies DOT refers to with regards to placing the light at Bell Canyon and that to date they have not been provided any such information.

A stakeholder asked, “What is happening on the light on Victory?” Steve Lenske stated that unfortunately there are 3 property owners at the Fallbrook Mall. All the permits and equipment have been purchased and are ready, however, one of the owners is very reluctant to cooperate. They are currently looking into ways to get around this problem.

06-0092 Centex Homes/Dayton Canyon Study Update

Dr. Wiseman advised that he invited the representative of the Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) but he has not shown. DTSC is requiring input by the 30th of the month and then plans on releasing their position on the safety of the property. Dr. Wiseman stated as the information necessary to provide input is not available he proposes the following motion: Because of the slow response, because of the lack of adequate testing and information necessary is not available to know if the property is safe for building; we therefore request that no action be taken by DTSC until the information is available. Motion was seconded and passed.

Stakeholder Chris Rowe stated he was at a meeting and that DTSC could not determine where the toxic source is coming from. Barry Seybert stated he was at the same meeting and Centrix and DTSC were not concerned about toxic problems.

Stakeholder David Carey spoke. He said his 49-year-old brother, who lived in Dayton Canyon died and his hair sample provided evidence of harmful levels of contaminates. Also several 55-gallon drums have been discovered further into the canyon.

At this point it was moved that we re-establish the committee headed up by Dr. Wiseman to pursue this matter. Motion was seconded and passed.

Presentation:

Captain Stacey Gerlich, LAFD spoke about the CERT program. She provided a quick overview. It is a 7 week program, 1 day a week for 2 ½ hours. It is FREE. Additional information is available on the website www.cert-la.com.

Old Business (cont'd)

08-007 Discussion and possible action on proposed subdivision of property located at 7140 Salisbury Road, West Hills

Stakeholder Bunny Field spoke for the group in opposition to this action. She stated that they have hired a real estate attorney and provided a letter from him along with information on the original Declaration of Restrictions (DOR).

Board member Bill Rose stated it is not up to us but to the Department of Planning and Zoning to rule on the legality of this matter.

Board member Ed Young stated that we are the voice of the community and represent what the community wants and what is best for West Hills.

Board member Charlene Rothstein made the motion that the board vote against the lot split. The motion was seconded. A secondary motion was made to postpone the vote for one month, as some board members had not had an opportunity to review the material provided. This motion was seconded and failed. The original motion was voted on and passed.

New Business:

08-0011 – Discussion and possible action regarding request of New Community Jewish High School to amend Conditional Use Permit for increased student enrollment

Mr. Kevin McDonnell spoke for the high school. He stated they held a meeting on April 22nd for the neighborhood. Unfortunately they didn't have the turnout expected. They are asking to increase enrollment from 300 to 450 students and add a smaller modular unit to accommodate the additional students.

There was discussion on the already heavy traffic on Valley Circle and that the added enrollment would result in even more cars. Mr. McDonnell stated that they are pursuing several avenues to reduce the amount of traffic as the safety of the students is primary.

The motion was made that we vote in favor to amend the conditional use permit for increased student enrollment subject to conditions to mediate traffic as proposed by the school and with the Department of Transportation doing a further traffic study. We recognize the efforts of the applicant to meet the needs of the community. Motion was seconded and passed.

08-0012 - Discussion and possible action regarding approval of proposed website maintenance and design submitted by Ed Crowe

Ron Jacobs discussed the proposal received from Ed Crowe which he had e-mailed to the board. The motion was made that we approve, for a minimum of one year, the hiring of Ed Crowe to maintain the WHNC website, at a minimum cost of \$33 per month; that to secure the domain name for 10 years. An initial \$1000 is authorized to upgrade and update the site and control of changes to the website will be through the co-chairs and Executive Director. Motion seconded and passed.

Committee & Other Reports:

SVEA: Edwin Dockus explained that we either have to adjust bylaws to have the City Clerk taking over the election starting with 2010 or we have to run the election this November. We have to do all the notices, etc. Trying to get together with Woodland Hills and Winnetka as running the election with them worked so well. It will be on the agenda next month.

Farmers Market Project: The traffic light on Victory has to be in place before this project can take place. Unfortunately one owner is holding out. All the equipment is there waiting for the consent of the third owner. Jonathan Brand, of Dennis Zine's office, is working on a proposal to go forward with the consent of the two owners.

Old Business (cont'd)

08-0006 – Neighborhood Council Self Assessment Survey update

Donn Howell said they are continuing to gather surveys. They must be submitted to the City by June 30, 2008.

West Hills street signage update

Walter Perfect and Barry Seybert had a sample of the signage for approval. There were several things that need to be changed. Also some of the board members asked for better detail. A motion was made that Dennis (the artist) be paid up to \$2500 to create a final draft to submit to the manufacturer. Motion seconded and passed.

SVEA – Edwin Dockus stated that we will be having our election on December 6th and it is necessary for the council to approve \$6200 (the increase is due to the fact that we must pay for the Ideas) subject to the budget. The motion was seconded and passed.

Motion to Adjourn – motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.