



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



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**Draft
MEETING MINUTES
September 2, 2014**

Chaminade College Preparatory High School
23260 Saticoy St., West Hills, CA 91304

ATTENDANCE:

Present: Aida Abkarians, Sandi Bell, Dan Brin, Margery Brown, Bob Brostoff, Michael Castro, Nicole Flessati, Carolyn Greenwood, Bonnie Klea, Ruwan Kotuwelle, Ellikot Maggin, Todd Marks, Steve Randall, Bill Rose, Charlene Rothstein, Ron Sobel, Bobbi Trantafello, Ed Young, Jacquie Young, Joanne Yvanek-Garb

Late Entrants: Barry Seybert

Absent: Ed Crowe, Franchon Lyons

Opening Business:

President and Co-Chair Dan Brin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Secretary Nicole Flessati called roll and announced an initial attendance of 20 board members, meeting the requirements of a quorum. Vice President and Co-Chair Charlene Rothstein led the Pledge of Allegiance. The August 5, 2014 meeting minutes were approved with no objections.

Comments from the Chair:

On September 18, 2014 Councilman Mitch Englander of CD 12 will host “Conversations with Councils” at Rancho San Antonio Boy’s Home. September 20, 2014 is the Congress of Neighborhood Councils. There will be budget and ethics training.

Public Comments:

Public comments were led by Charlene Rothstein. Speakers were asked to keep comments limited to two minutes.

Mark Reed, candidate for the 30th district congressional seat, introduced himself to the council and the stakeholders. He considers the West Valley his home and would like to have a chance to represent the area in Congress. His campaign is focused on dealing with the border issue, bringing back high-skilled jobs to the San Fernando Valley, sorting out the Valley’s water issues and bringing back trade schools. Absentee ballots are available October 6, 2014 for the November elections.

Kurt Gilhaus, stakeholder, addressed the issue of the reckless driving around Ivy Academy and Shomrei Torah during the drop-off and pick-up times for the schools. He said there were specific conditions set into place when they started that there would be no pick-ups or drop-offs within the neighborhood AND that there would be a security guard present to enforce this and make a note of any offenders. He said the principal's response was not favorable. Chair Dan Brin mentioned that the subject can be brought up in Streets & Transportation Committee and noted that Shomrei Torah will host a community forum on the subject on September 15, 2014. Zoning & Panning Co-Chair Bill Rose mentioned that the original conditions should be listed in the conditional use permit that was approved by the city.

Lauren Ohlang, stakeholder, suggested that a skate park be built in the area. Board member Michael Castro said a skate park will be built at Lanark Park in a year.

Byron Reyes and Casey Katzman, stakeholders and founders of West Hills CrossFit, announced they will host a grand opening at their studio behind the Fields Market shopping center on September 13 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The community is invited. Board member Todd Marks said he heard concerns expressed by neighbors about the exercise music being loud. The owners said they want to mitigate those concerns.

Shadi Pezeshki, stakeholder, announced that her company treats head lice naturally.

DJ Aaron Broukhim, stakeholder, announced that he is available as a DJ for events.

Announcements:

Ron Rubine, Field Deputy for Councilman Englander, mentioned that the councilman has assigned him to monitor the "West Hills, California" Facebook page and other social media. He has noted participants' public safety concerns as well as other issues that come up on the page and wants everyone to keep him informed about DWP issues and other matters. He also announced to the board that installation of the remaining "West Hills" street medallions is supported by the councilman. He said the "No Overnight Parking" signs the WHNC requested for Roscoe Boulevard, Valley Circle Boulevard and Platt Avenue are still being worked on and that Councilman Englander also supported the Medina Alert/Yellow Alert approved by the City Council to help counter hit-and-run crimes. Mr. Rubine said 50% of accidents the city are hit-and-runs. He concluded by announcing that the Administrative Citation Enforcement (ACE) program is being rolled out in select council districts. Board Member Joanne Yvanek-Garb mentioned that the money paid for these citations will go entirely to the city, not the state.

Certificate Presentations:

The WHNC honored Ed Youngblood, previous president of the WHNC and a personal inspiration to the current president of the board, Dan Brin.

Tony Wilkinson, leader of the Panorama City and North Hills East Neighborhood Councils, was honored by the WHNC for his service during the last elections as Independent Election Administrator.

Heidi Manning was honored for her tireless efforts to clean up the streets and sidewalks of West Hills. She acknowledged that her husband, Bill, works with her and deserves to share this recognition with her.

Richie Cabral, driver of the WHNC's Memorial Day parade float in 2013 and 2014, was honored with a certificate of appreciation from the council. The certificate was accepted by his grandmother, WHNC Board Member Margery Brown.

Presentation:

Karine Philips, the new Neighborhood Prosecutor assigned to the LAPD's Topanga Area Station, announced the Neighborhood Justice Program is looking for participants to help resolve low-level crime issues through alternative means that keep offenders out of the justice system. She then took questions from the Board and the stakeholders. Board member Ed Young then presented her with a certificate of appreciation.

Old Business:

Item 14 - 0053 - Discussion and possible action regarding proposed Bylaws amendments announced at the September 2014 meeting.

Board vote taken and amendments passed unanimously. An additional Stakeholder vote was taken with 9 in favor, none opposed and 1 abstention.

New Business:

Item 14 - 0054 - Discussion and possible action regarding approval of the WHNC's August 2014 spending reports.

The board voted unanimously to approve them.

Item 14-0055 - Discussion and possible action regarding a proposed cell tower located in the shopping center at Saticoy and Woodlake.

Co-Chair Charlene Rothstein said that there has been two meetings with the neighbors under auspices of the WHNC's Zoning and Planning Committee. The committee recommends that the tower be disguised as a faux eucalyptus and that its proposed location be moved from the back of the shopping center to the front of the shopping center, away from homes. The committee also requested that the base of the cell tower be completely camouflaged with plantings and that the equipment be located inside one of the empty shopping center's unoccupied storefronts, if possible. Board member Bob Bostroff requested a friendly amendment affirming that approval of the tower by the WHNC is contingent on adherence to these recommendations.

A vote was taken. Recommendations were unanimously approved.

Item 14-0056 - Discussion and possible action on a proposed Community Impact Statement regarding possible SSFL cleanup truck routes through West Hills.

The proposed CIS was read by Barry Seybert. There was a discussion at which point the issue was tabled as suggested by Dan Brin.

Item 14-0057 - Discussion and possible action on a Community Impact Statement regarding sidewalk vendors.

Board member Joanne Yvanek-Garb read the CIS. She requested authorization to attach it to Council File #13-1493.

A vote was taken. The CIS was approved unanimously, with one abstention.

Item 14-0058 - Discussion and possible action on a Community Impact Statement regarding the Budget Advocate's White Paper. Dan Brin tabled this item for lack of time.

Item 14-0059 - Discussion and possible action on a Community Impact Statement regarding sidewalk repairs. Joanne Yvanek-Garb read the CIS which would be attached to Council File 14-0163-S4.

A vote was taken to approve the CIS, Board member Barry Seybert was opposed with the remaining board members voting to approve.

Council Reports and Announcements

The Budget Committee's presentation was postponed to the next monthly meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:23 p.m.