



Help Guide the Future of West Hills
West Hills Neighborhood
Council



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FINAL
MEETING MINUTES
May 4, 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, Carolyn Greenwood, Donn Howell, Bonnie Klea, Ruwan Kotuwelle, Elliot Maggin, Walter Perfect, Bill Rose, Charlene Rothstein, Chris Rowe, Barry Seybert, Yoav Shalev, Jeffrey Shapiro, Ron Sobel, Bobbi Trantafello, Joanne Yvanek-Garb and Jacquie Young

Absent/Excused: Stephen Lenske and Daniel Wiseman

Opening Business:

Mr. Edwin Dockus went over the general rules and purpose of the meeting. Mr. Dockus wished all the mothers present a happy Mother's Day. In addition, Mr. Dockus stated that great events had taken place this past week in preserving the safety of our country but we must remain vigilant.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, a quorum was established.

Announcements:

Mr. Ron Sobel advised that Councilman Zine is sponsoring a Senior Symposium on May 14 at ONE Generation in Reseda.

Mr. Walter Perfect announced that this is Adopt a Cat Month. The cost of adopting a cat is \$76. Adoption fees include all vaccinations, spaying/neutering and micro-chipping.

Ms. Chris Rowe advised that there is a Ground Water U meeting tomorrow.

Mr. Don Howell advised that Citrus Sunday is May 15th. Flyers with all of the information were available.

Ms. Charlene Rothstein advised that there will be a Zoning & Planning Committee meeting on Tuesday, May 10th. The information on the meeting place will be on the Council's website.

Minutes:

The minutes of April 6th were approved as corrected with one opposition.

Mr. Edwin Dockus advised that SB990 was judicially overturned. Assuming no viable appeal, Santa Susana Field Lab will now be cleaned to the federal standards, not the state standards.

Treasurer's Report:

Ms. Trantafello stated that while the report presented is dated April, there were no transactions after March. Ms. Trantafello advised that she has been advised that the \$3,500 to the West Valley Food Pantry and \$1,000 to the Topanga Boosters have been paid by DONE.

There was no representative from District 3 or 12.

Mr. Dan Brin introduced Captain John Rojas from Los Angeles Fire Station 106. Captain Rojas provided an overview of the latest proposed cuts to the Department. Captain Rojas advised that in the Three Year Plan the LAFD will lose 318 positions. Captain Rojas pointed out that Los Angeles is the second most populated city in the United States, New York being the first. Firefighter staffing per capita takes the lead in the northeastern part of our country, where staffing levels are 25-35 firefighters per 10,000 residents. Using a 10 per 10,000 standard, we should have a minimum of 3,800 fighters to provide a reasonable level of service to our citizens.

Presentation:

Mr. Sol Bash advised that the Public Safety and Health Fair at Shadow Ranch Park on April 23rd was a great event. It was estimated that more than 5,000 people attended. Mr. Bash stated that the event would not have run so smoothly if not for the efforts of the wonderful volunteers. Mr. Bash extended a thank you to all who participated and acknowledged five outstanding volunteers for their contribution by presenting them with Certificates of Appreciation: Mr. Jack Eyster, a member of CERT who handled the parking (staff at Shadow Ranch was impressed with how smoothly it went); Mr. Tony Willis and his wife, Terri, who helped with the parking and manned the CERT and Safety Booth; and Ms. Christina Henry, who is the acting director of Shadow Ranch Recreation Center. Lastly, Mr. Bash thanked a committee member who is much more than just a member, Ms. Carolyn Poppert, who also received a certificate.

Mr. Edwin Dockus presented Mr. Bob Brostoff and Mr. Sol Bash Certificates of Appreciation from the Council for an outstanding job. Mr. Dockus stated he has never been more proud of the council.

Presentation:

Mr. Dan Brin introduced Mr. Sam Alavi and Ms. Lisa Lowry from the Bureau of Sanitation's Clean Water Program. Mr. Alavi provided an overview of what the Bureau does. He stated that they treat 350,000,000 gallons of water and produce 79,000,000 of recycled water every day. Because of the improvements the Bureau has made to date the number of sewage spills has been greatly reduced. However, because of the ages of the system and the need for updating and repair, the Bureau has developed a 10-year plan. Under this plan the average increase in the bi-monthly sewer service charge for the average LA family would be \$37. Ms. Lowry explained that they are proposing a 10-year plan so that it can be assessed as they progress. Ms. Lowry went on to explain that the sewer service charge is based on the lowest bill from the previous

winter and reduced by a factor up to 20%. Ms. Lowry advised that there is a private sub-meter program that allows the homeowner to be charged for only water used within the residence.

Public Comment:

There were no speaker cards presented for public comment.

Governmental Relations Committee:

Ms. Joanne Yvanek-garb presented the committee report. The biggest items were on the city budget. The CAO was given the White Paper and the White Book by the Budget Advocates. He has read the White Paper but not the White Book. Several recommendations were made. One was to completely revise the billing system for paramedic and ambulance services, as there is \$62 million that has not been collected. Another was to merge the Treasurer and Finance Department. Also, the City Attorney needs to be more involved [IN WHAT????]. Finally, there needs to be a total revision of employee salaries and pensions.

There was discussion about how to conduct the next round of NC elections in 2012. Due to budgetary constrictions, there has been talk about postponing them until 2013 or 2014. There are three options for how the elections will be run. The biggest motivator will be how much money we can save the city and still retain our normal funding. After discussion, it was felt that the council could run its own election for far less than what would be required should it be run by the City Clerk.

We are still in the air as to how much each NC will be funded for the next fiscal year.

Old Business:

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

Mr. Wally Perfect turned this over to Mr. Barry Seybert. Mr. Seybert explained again how the final rendering must be done based on the existing concept drawing. Mr. Dan Brin has spoken to Mr. Ed Crowe and Mr. Crowe agreed to make a final rendering for between \$500 and \$1000. Mr. Brin believes there is enough money left in the funds allocated for this project to move forward. After discussion about how long this project has dragged on, it was agreed that Mr. Brin will follow through with Mr. Crowe.

New Business:

11-0008 – Discussion and possible action regarding the proposed remodeling of the existing pre-school and parking lot at the West Valley Christian Church at 22450 Sherman Way in West Hills.

Mr. Dockus advised that the matter is continued to the June meeting. Mr. Walter Perfect advised that Zoning & Planning will meet on this matter next Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

11-0009 – Discussion and possible action regarding approval of funding up to and including \$7,000 for Fall Fest subject to funding availability.

Ms. Jacquie Young advised that, based on the Budget Committee's recommendation, she moves that we provide \$7,000 for Fall Fest subject to availability of funds. After discussion regarding the amount and what the council is getting for this expenditure, the motion was passed with three opposed and one abstention.

9:35 meeting adjourned