



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



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**Final**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**July 6, 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, Donn Howell, Bonnie Klea, Ruwan Kotuwelle, Stephen Lenske, Elliot Maggin, Walter Perfect, Charlene Rothstein, Chris Rowe, Barry Seybert, Yoav Shalev, Jeffrey Shapiro, Ron Sobel, Bobbi Trantafello and Daniel Wiseman

**Absent/Excused:** Jacob Garb, Carolyn Greenwood, Bill Rose, Joanne Yvanek-Garb, and Jacquie Young

**Opening Business:**

Co-Chair Mr. Stephen Lenske established a quorum, called the meeting to order and welcomed all those in attendance. He also asked that any stakeholders who would like to speak on any of the Agenda Items to please fill out a speaker card. Mr. Lenske also asked that any stakeholder who has questions for any speaker to please refrain from asking those questions until the speaker has finished the presentations. Mr. Lenske congratulated Bob Brostoff and Dan Brin for doing a great job on our West Hills Update monthly newsletter and asked those in attendance to visit our website at [www.westhillsnc.org](http://www.westhillsnc.org). He also advised anyone interested in Emergency Preparedness to visit [www.readyla.org](http://www.readyla.org), as this site is very informative and contains pamphlets that can be downloaded.

**Announcements:**

Council District 3 Senior Citizens Representative Ms. Sheree Adams spoke on the no-cost program (CTAP) regarding hearing devices. This service can be reached at (800) 806-1191. Ms. Adams advised that there would be a "Falls Prevention Awareness" program on September 23, 2011. For information on this program, please visit [www.ncoa.com](http://www.ncoa.com). Any seniors receiving phone calls asking for personal information can contact Ms. Adams at (818) 756-8848 as she handles senior abuse.

Ms. Sheree Adams introduced Council District 3's new Field Deputy for West Hills and Reseda, Mr. Ron Rubine. Mr. Rubine stated that Council District 3 "is about service." He thanked Board Member Ron Sobel for acquainting District 3 with potholes in West Hills for repair.

The Field Deputy for Congressman Brad Sherman, Mr. John Alford, recommended anyone who needs help with any federal issue to contact the congressman's San Fernando Valley office at (818) 501-9200.

Board member Mr. Sol Bash stated that the Emergency Preparedness Committee is already planning the 2012 Emergency Preparedness Faire and working on an Emergency Plan. This plan would help the community be self-sufficient until the state could step into help after a disaster.

Board member Ms. Chris Rowe advised that NASA has posted information on Public "Scoping" meetings concerning the Environmental Impact Statement at Santa Susana Field Laboratory. For more information, visit <http://ssfl.msfc.nasa.gov/news/default.aspx>. Ms. Rowe advised board members that there would be an Environment Committee meeting on Monday, July 11. This meeting will include discussion on recommendations that may be brought to the full board at a later date.

The minutes were read and accepted as amended.

Treasurer Ms. Bobbi Trantafello presented the Budget for the fiscal year 2011-2012. This budget follows the DONE template. Board member Dr. Daniel Wiseman made a motion to accept the budget as presented with a second by board member Mr. Barry Seybert. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Walter Perfect stated all budget requests from the committee chairs are due by no later than Monday, July 11, 2011.

Council District 12 Field Deputy Seme Park spoke on AB1290, stating that Council District 12 and Council District 3 will support this bill to close loopholes in the laws that ban unhitched billboard trailers. She stated that July 1 was Councilmember Mitch Englander's first day in office and that they are promoting the Orange Line in order to decrease traffic in and around CSUN and the Chatsworth area. The council office is also focused on Council File 11-0452-S4 DWP (2004), the Smith Report, which asks DWP to wait on any rate increase until there is a ratepayer advocate in office. Co-Chair Mr. Lenske and board members Mr. Dan Brin, Mr. Barry Seybert and Mr. Walter Perfect asked Ms. Park to request that Councilmember Englander support the installation of three "Welcome to West Hills" signs in District 12, possibly with street furniture funding.

Mr. Lenske, Co-Chair, made several comments on email etiquette. He said that it is extremely important that all board members follow the instructions sent out by Executive Director Michelle Ritchie and that a board member who doesn't could be violating the Brown Act.

## **Presentation:**

Board member Ms. Chris Rowe introduced Mr. Tom Seckington, Senior Engineer Geologist with the California Department of Toxic Substance Control. Mr. Seckington gave a PowerPoint presentation on groundwater in and around the Santa Susana Field Laboratory site. The PowerPoint presentation is available by contacting him at [tseckington@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:tseckington@dtsc.ca.gov). Mr. Seckington's report included a discussion of presentations at Groundwater U and was followed with questions by those in attendance.

## **Public Comment:**

Mr. Edwin Dockus, Co-Chair, announced public comments and asked that anyone speaking to please respect the two-minute rule.

Board member Dr. Daniel Wiseman advised that there is a new law that requires carbon monoxide detectors in homes. Starting July 1, 2011, Senate Bill 183 requires homeowners in California to install CO alarm devices. For more information, contact Daniel Berlant at (916) 651-3473. Dr. Wiseman also stated that the Congress of Neighborhood Councils will meet on September 24, 2011, at 7:45 a.m. at City Hall. This meeting will include discussions on the role of the Neighborhood Councils, council files/impact statements, green technology and working with city offices and officials.

## **Government Relations:**

Government Relations Liaison Dr. Daniel Wiseman asked that we consider a future motion to support Councilmember Mitch Englander regarding the DWP ratepayer advocate. Dr. Wiseman also presented a position paper titled "The Factual-Based NC Stakeholder" (attached) and asked that the conclusions be considered when voting on the bylaws. Discussion by board members on this issue included the view that no more than 10% of the board seats should be held by members who don't live, work or own property in West Hills but "declare a stake in the neighborhood and declare a factual basis for it."

## **Old Business:**

**02-0003** - Discussion and possible action re West Hills street signage design and installation Regarding the West Hills signage, council members Mr. Walter Perfect, Mr. Barry Seybert and Mr. Dan Brin discussed actions that must be taken to have the signs made and installed. Mr. Lenske asked that the final design by Mr. Ed Crowe be sent to Councilmember Englander.

## **New Business:**

**11-0016** – First reading of proposed amended bylaws for West Hills Neighborhood Council and its operating rules

Co-Chair Mr. Lenske said that, due to the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment's deactivating the WHNC credit card, we were unable to copy the by-laws and present them at this

meeting. The by-laws should be on the August 3, 2011, agenda, followed by a vote of board members and stakeholders at the September WHNC meeting. Co-Chair Mr. Dockus will call a Bylaws Committee meeting before the August meeting to make additional revisions and additions to the proposed bylaws. Mr. Dockus stated that all recommendations and changes must be finalized by August 20, 2011.

**11-0017-** Discussion and possible action regarding proposed resolution on current state and local redistricting guidelines affecting West Hills

Council Member Dan Brin presented a paper from a meeting of the Redistricting Committee dated June 30, 2011. After review of the findings of that meeting and lengthy discussion by board members as to what appropriate boundaries would best serve the community of West Hills, the following motion was made:

“In order to establish the principle that redistricting should respect existing community boundaries and not create artificial boundaries, and in order to maintain the integrity of our representation in the state, the West Hills Neighborhood Council requests that the northern boundary of the California Assembly District in which the community of West Hills resides shall coincide with the northern boundary of the community of West Hills.

Vote: 16 YES  
2 NO

10:00 Meeting Adjourned