



Help Guide the Future of West Hills
West Hills Neighborhood
Council



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FINAL
MEETING MINUTES
July 1, 2014

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

ATTENDANCE:

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

LATE ENTRANTS: Ruwan Kotuwelle (7:11 p.m.)

LEAVE OF ABSENCE: Barry Seybert

ABSENT: 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 22 board members, meeting the requirements of a quorum. Vice President and Co-Chair Charlene Rothstein led the Pledge of Allegiance. The June 4, 2014 meeting minutes were approved with no objections.

Comments from the Chair:

On Saturday, July 12, there will be a screening of the movie “Frozen” put on by City Councilmember Mitchell Englander’s office. The Foundation for Arts & Community Events will contribute funds toward the event for musical entertainment, sound equipment and sound engineers. This past Saturday, there was a terrific neighborhood clean-up, thanks to Michael Castro and Ed Crowe, along with other board members and members of the community who came out to weed the north side of Roscoe Boulevard between March Avenue and Hillary Avenue. Thanks were also expressed to stakeholder Heidi Manning and board member Ed Crowe for having dedicated additional time for further clean-up in West Hills.

Public Comments:

Mark Reed, candidate for Congress, introduced himself to the council and stakeholders in attendance and talked about his platform and what he believes in. He considers the West San Fernando Valley his home and would like to have the chance to represent the area in Congress.

He believes in bringing higher paying jobs to the area by making Van Nuys Airport open to foreign trade. He believes this would bring high-skilled, technical jobs to the area.

Stakeholder Esperanza Butler presented a petition of approximately 60 signatures from residents around Platt Avenue. They are requesting a no-parking zone in the area to help get rid of the ad vans and cars for sale in the area. President and Co-Chair Dan Brin will submit the petition with the request formally to Ron Rubine, representative of Councilmember Englander's office.

Announcement:

Ron Rubine, of Councilmember Englander's office, reported on the town hall the councilmember hosted last month in Chaminade's Bob Hope Center. Stakeholders were able to speak with representatives of LADWP and other city agencies. Legislatively, the CD12 office is still working on the Medina Alert to address hit-and-run crimes. The "Movies Under the Stars" screening of "Frozen" on July 12 at Shadow Ranch Park will have vendors with food for sale, and activities like face-painting and a climbing wall. He also reported on the CD12 Challenge Day, when 20 two-person teams from the district office were sent out to scour the area for problems to report. In one day, Ron and his partner found 180 issues.

Presentations:

WHNC board member Bob Brostoff was recognized for his role in planning the Eggstravaganza and Health and Safety Fair. Mr. Brostoff thanked Christina Henry, the director of Shadow Ranch, and others for their help. The team for next year's event has already met three times in preparation.

Board member Sandi Bell introduced the speaker for the evening, Carol Ackerly, docent from the L.A. Zoo who delivered a presentation of the "Elephants of Asia" exhibit. Ms. Ackerly then received a WHNC Certificate of Appreciation.

Amber Meshack, representative from EmpowerLA, said that today was the beginning of the period of accepting bylaws and bylaw amendments, going on through April. Sept. 1 is the deadline to submit a budget package. Board rosters are part of the budget package but Ms. Meshack would like to have them ASAP. Her number is (818) 374-9898.

Old Business:

Item 14-0028 - Discussion and possible action regarding amendments to the Standing Rules of the West Hills Neighborhood Council. Bylaws Chair Bob Brostoff outlined proposed changes. In a discussion. President Dan Brin suggested removing "...or any ad hoc committee." from the proposed changes for now and then discussing the matter further. Bob Brostoff requested that a vote be taken. Dan Brin called the vote that the proposal be accepted with friendly amendments. (See attachment for the changes.) None opposed, 2 abstentions by board members Margery Brown and Jacquie Young. Motion passes.

New Business:

Item 14-0044 - Discussion and possible action regarding approval of the WHNC's June 2014 spending reports. The spending reports were approved. (See attached for the spending reports and voting report.)

Item 14-0045 - Discussion and possible action regarding the West Hills Neighborhood Council's budget for the 2014-2015 fiscal year. Board member Elliot Maggin requested a change to the language of the budget, removing the word "outreach" in several places and replacing it with the word "communications"

A two-part vote was taken: 1) for the detailed budget for internal purposes 2) for the budget to be submitted to DONE with five categories. (See attached.) Both votes went as follows: no opposing votes and two abstentions (Elliot Maggin and Jacquie Young). Motions passed.

Item 14-0046 - Discussion and possible action regarding the West Hills Neighborhood Council officially endorsing Council District 12's event on July 12 at Shadow Ranch Park. Ed Crowe made the motion to endorse the event. Steve Randall seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 14-0047 - Announcements of proposed Bylaws amendments. Bob Brostoff proposed bylaws changes to be discussed and voted on during next month's meeting. (See attached.)

Council Reports and Announcements:

A Beautification Committee presentation was made by Chair Michael Castro. He outlined who the Beautification Committee members are, what they do and what are their goals and objectives. On July 19, there will be another community effort covering the area of Roscoe Boulevard between Hillary and March Avenues, where volunteers will spread mulch on parkways that were cleared of weeds in June. Also, Pastor Brian Moorhead of Rocky Peak Church has offered a crew of volunteers and is calling for projects to benefit the neighborhood. They need the submissions of proposals by Sept. 5. Michael Castro is asking that project ideas be submitted at the committee's next meeting.

Committee Reports And Announcements:

Chair Bob Brostoff said the Emergency Preparedness Committee will have a disaster plan ready to submit at the next board meeting. He also said CERT training begins July 10, 6:30-9 p.m. at Shomrei Torah Synagogue. Those who last took the CERT training more than two years ago will need to re-train.

Government Relations Committee Chair Joanne Yvanek-Garb said she is looking for another budget representative from the WHNC to join the budget advocates group. Dan Brin and Vice President/Co-Chair Charlene Rothstein said they will appoint a budget rep at next month's board meeting.

Charlene Rothstein said the WHNC's Zoning & Planning Committee will meet on Tuesday, July 8, at 6:30 p.m. at Fairwinds West Hills.

9:28 p.m. - Meeting Adjourned.