



Help Guide the Future of West Hills
West Hills Neighborhood
Council



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FINAL
MEETING MINUTES
February 4, 2014

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

Attendance:

Present: Eric Augusztiny, Solomon Bash, Sandi Bell, Dan Brin, Robert Brostoff, Margerhy Brown, Michael Castro, Nicole Flessati, Carolyn Greenwood, John Hogue, Bonnie Klea, Franchon Lyons, Elliot Maggin, Steve Randall, Bill Rose, Charlene Rothstein, Barry Seybert, Ron Sobel, Alec Uzemeck, Daniel Wiseman, Joanne Yvanek-Garb, Ed Young and Jacquie Young

Absent: Ruwan Kotuwelle and Bobbi Trantafello

Opening Business:

Secretary Carolyn Greenwood called roll and announced a quorum of 21. President Dan Brin then called the meeting to order. Minutes later, Barry Seybert and Franchon Lyons arrived, bringing the total to 23.

The January 7, 2014 Meeting Minutes were approved.

Comments from the Chair:

Mr. Brin welcomed everyone and advised that we have 18 candidates running for the 12 positions on the Board. Elections will take place Sunday, March 16, at Shadow Ranch Park.

He also invited the public to join the first Orcutt Family Tour of Orcutt Ranch at 11 a.m. on February 8. The tour will be led by the granddaughter and grandson of William W. Orcutt and Mary Logan Orcutt, as well as other descendants of the couple who built the ranch in the 1920s.

Vice President Charlene Rothstein reported on plans for the West Hills Neighborhood Council elections on March 16. Stakeholders who wish to vote by mail need to complete an application and send it to the City Clerk's office. Ms. Rothstein said she has brought some applications tonight.

Ms. Rothstein also advised that candidate training will be held on Saturday, February 8 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Encino Community Center on Balboa Boulevard.

Public Comment:

WHNC Public Health Chair Sandi Bell said her committee has discussed the possible effects of the Santa Susana Field Lab cleanup. She stated that Los Angeles County epidemiologist Ramon Guevara, PhD, MPH, is willing speak on valley fever and give tips on prevention. Ms. Bell requested that he be put on next month's agenda.

WHNC Streets & Transportation Co-Chair Ron Sobel advised that the hours for the West Hills Post Office are changing. The new hours will be 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday and 10 to 4 on Saturday.

Stakeholder Lori Yalem requested that we all support three measures before the City Council to protect and cultivate bees. Also, she spoke for a measure banning genetically modified plants and seeds.

Stakeholder Chris Rowe stated she is concerned that the Bylaws shown on the website have not been approved by DONE. Ms. Rowe advised that the Board should be following the old Bylaws until the new ones are approved. Ms. Rowe is also upset that an e-mail blast was not sent out when the February agenda was amended. Ms. Rowe stated that there is now an item on the agenda that impacts her neighbors and they did not get enough notification.

Announcements:

Ms. Rosalba Gonzalez, field representative for California State Sen. Fran Pavley, reported that Sacramento is very busy these days. She said the senator is aware of the problems with EDD and is looking for input from the community. The senator is looking into the integration of non-traditional job training. Ms. Gonzalez said the senator takes a strong stand against domestic violence and is preparing a bill to extend protections for children through restraining orders.

Mr. Ian Anderson, field representative for California Assemblymember Matt Dababneh, introduced himself and invited everyone to the assemblyman's Valley swearing-in ceremony on February 16 at CSUN. Mr. Anderson noted that Mr. Chris Ramsey is the field representative for this area but he was unable to attend this evening.

Mr. Ron Rubine, deputy field representative for Council District 12, said that much of his energies in recent months have been focused on the 20th anniversary of the Northridge Earthquake. He showed brochures and guides Councilmember Mitchell Englander is distributing through the *Los Angeles Daily News* and also with help from the West Hills Neighborhood Council.

Mr. Tony Wilkerson, Independent Election Administrator for the southwestern San Fernando Valley, spoke about the upcoming election and his desire to get more people involved in Neighborhood Councils.

Mr. Brin advised that there has been a shift in the LAPD's Senior Lead Officers in the Topanga Division. SLO Dennis Cunningham is being transferred from the northern part of West Hills to the area around the Westfield Topanga mall to better use his areas of expertise. SLO Brent Rygh

will replace Officer Cunningham and will join us next month.

Mr. Brin then presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Mr. Ed Croson, coach of the Chaminade Eagles football team in celebration of their winning the CIF Division II State Championship. Mr. Croson noted that Chaminade stresses academics as well as athletics and even though the championships came during final exams, the GPA average for the team's 58 players is 3.2.

Presentation:

Mr. Bill Rose, co-chair of Zoning and Planning, introduced Mr. Shawn Evenhaim, owner of California Home Builders. Mr. Evenhaim is the owner and developer of the old Boeing Fitness property at the top of Fallbrook. He showed renderings of the proposed development of 94 homes —There will be 11 luxury single story homes, 32 one and two story homes, not luxury, and 51 two story smaller homes on smaller lots approximately 1500 sq. ft. The 11 single-story homes would back existing homes. Mr. Evenhaim stated that he has listened to the community and does not propose to have Michale Street go through to Fallbrook Avenue. He also agreed to a median down Fallbrook to minimize traffic turning east on Chase Street.

Eric Augusztiny, chair of the WHNC's ad hoc Internet Committee, introduced Ms. Stephanie Magnien Rockwell, policy director for Councilmember Bob Blumenfield. Ms. Rockwell said Councilmember Blumenfield is pursuing creating a municipal wireless broadband network. This would allow everyone access to the Internet. Currently, 30% of the population does not have access. A Request for Proposals for the project is being drafted. Applicants will be asked to make a 10-year commitment.

New Business:

14-0010 – Discussion and possible action regarding the proposed development at 22720 Vanowen St., West Hills, to be limited to 10 homes.

Ms. Charlene Rothstein, in her capacity as co-chair of the Zoning and Planning Committee, advised that the property owner wishes to build 39 homes and the committee recommends that only 10 homes be built on the property.

Stakeholder Lori Yalem said she supports the limitation as it is in keeping with the current lots in the neighborhood.

Stakeholder Rick Yalem stated that a new traffic study should be done. The study the developer is using was made before the new high school was completed, which has resulted in a substantial increase in traffic, he said.

Stakeholder Chris Rowe thanked the committee for its recommendation of 10 homes but wished more residents were present to give input. Ms. Rowe said the residents were not adequately notified that the agenda was amended and that this item was to be voted on.

Recommendation approved (19) (1) (2).

14-0006 – Discussion and possible action regarding the approval of the WHNC's January 2014

Spending Report.

Mr. Bob Brostoff advised that the date at the top should read January 2014, not December. Also, the \$1,319.10 shown for the Arts & Crafts Fair should be deleted. Spending Report approved (20 yes) (0 no) (0 abstain) (2 absent) (1 ineligible) and (2 left the meeting – Ms. Franchon Lyons and Dr. Daniel Wiseman).

14-0007 – Discussion and possible action regarding re-allocation of funds to be used to pay for rent at Hidden Lake Clubhouse, 8360 Sedan Ave., West Hills, for WHNC committee meetings.

Mr. Brostoff moved that \$750 from the Arts & Crafts Fair be reallocated to rent the Hidden Lake Clubhouse for WHNC committee meetings. Motion passed (19 yes) (1 no) (0 abstentions) (1 ineligible) and (2 left the meeting).

14-0008 – Motions to recommend parking restrictions along Platt Avenue, Valley Circle Boulevard and Roscoe Boulevard.

This matter was tabled.

14-0009 – Discussion and possible action on two one-month leaves of absence for WHNC board member Bob Brostoff

Board member Alec Uzemeck moved that Mr. Bob Brostoff 's request be approved.

Stakeholder Chris Rowe stated that she is against granting such leaves, as this is not the intention of having an attendance requirement in the bylaws.

Motion passed (17) (3) (0).

Council Reports & Announcements:

Board member Joanne Yvanek-Garb advised that the Budget Advocates are back at work developing their White Paper, which is due to the Mayor in April.

Streets & Transportation Co-Chair Barry Seybert advised that the City is coming back to fill pot holes on March 10 so please let Streets & Transportation know of any that need to be filled.

9:25 Meeting adjourned.