



Help Guide the Future of West Hills
West Hills Neighborhood
Council



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FINAL
MEETING MINUTES
August 3, 2011

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

Attendance:

Present: Solomon Bash, Sandi Bell, Shelly Bright, Dan Brin, Robert Brostoff, Edwin Dockus, Carolyn Greenwood, Donn Howell, Bonnie Klea, Stephen Lenske, Elliot Maggin, Walter Perfect, Bill Rose, Charlene Rothstein, Chris Rowe, Barry Seybert, Jeffrey Shapiro, Ron Sobel, Bobbi Trantafello, Joanne Yvanek-Garb and Jacquie Young

Absent/Excused: Ruwan Kotuwelle, Yoav Shalev and Daniel Wiseman

Opening Business:

Co-Chair Mr. Stephen Lenske established a quorum, called the meeting to order and asked that all in attendance follow Chaminade's housekeeping rules. He also asked any stakeholders who would like to speak to please fill out a speaker card so that the appropriate amount of time can be allotted for public comment. Mr. Lenske advised that each speaker would have two (2) minutes to speak and requested that each person respect the time limit. Mr. Lenske advised that the council has been putting out a fantastic monthly e-mail newsletter. Mr. Lenske stated that if anyone has information to be included in the newsletter to please get in touch with the Communication Committee. He also advised anyone interested to sign up on the e-mail list and receive WHNC updates.

Mr. Lenske advised that a seat is available on the Board. He encouraged those in attendance to review the list of committees and consider becoming part of the Board.

Mr. Lenske advised that there has been a development that has just come to the board's attention. It is a plan to have advertising on bus benches. There was a hearing on Aug. 3, 2011 at 2 p.m., about which the West Hills Neighborhood Council received no advance notice.

Minutes – the minutes of July 6th were approved as corrected.

Treasurer Ms. Bobbi Trantafello reported that she does not have a Treasurer's Report this month. The only activity was payment on the storage unit. Ms. Trantafello advised that she is still in the process of auditing the entire year. Mr. Lenske advised that the WHNC's equipment has been

moved to a smaller storage unit and effective Aug. 1 we should see a reduction in the monthly cost.

Announcements:

Mr. Ron Rubine, Field Deputy for the 3rd Council District, provided an update on activities in the area. National Night Out on Aug. 2 was a huge success. Thirty-five million people all over the country participated in the event. There is the Clean & Green project going on, which culminates Saturday. This project involved hiring 300 kids and paying them minimum wage to clean up parkways during the summer. Councilman Zine requested that he be part of any ribbon-cutting ceremony for the installation of the West Hills street signage.

Ms. Seme Park, Field Deputy for the 12th Council District, advised that she would have Councilman Mitchell Englander's response regarding contribution to the cost of the West Hills signage in District 12 by next week.

Ms. Park stated that Councilman Englander is looking into just how much money from judgments, as the result of those prosecuted for vandalism, has been recouped. Ms. Park advised that a reception will be held at 5 p.m. on Aug. 14 at Rancho Cordillera del Norte in celebration of the completion of the first phase of the San Fernando Valley Oral History Program.

Mr. Maximillian (Max) Reyes, Senior Field Representative of State Senator Fran Pavley, was introduced. He advised that the senator has authored a bill, SB 586, on elder and dependent adult abuse. All fines for elder abuse will double under this bill.

Ms. Joanne Yvanek-Garb spoke about city redistricting. Under a new plan, the Valley could have more power. Ms. Yvanek-Garb advised that the need for a ratepayer advocate is still a hot issue.

Mr. Sol Bash advised that the Emergency Preparedness Committee plans to hold the next Emergency Preparedness Fair again at Shadow Ranch Park. The date will be between March 31 and April 7. More information will follow.

Mr. Wally Perfect gave an update on upcoming Zoning & Planning meetings. At this time, the only meeting will be the regular meeting at the 911 Call Center.

Ms. Bonnie Klea advised that she attended the meeting on the proposed development between the Topanga and Westfield Malls. Ms. Klea advised that there would be no single-family homes, but there would be a 10,000 sq. ft. community center and the developers are planning to make a presentation to the WHNC Board in September.

Presentation

Mr. Dan Brin introduced Mr. William Vietinghoff. Mr. Vietinghoff is a former engineer at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory. Mr. Vietinghoff provided a brief history of the site and its many owners.

Public Comment:

Council member Bob Brostoff expressed his concern that the revised bylaws have not been

presented for a vote to date. Mr. Brostoff stated that the bylaws were to be read at this meeting and he failed to understand the reason this has not occurred.

Council member Bonnie Klea expressed her displeasure with the new Board committee assignments and not being allowed to be a voting member of the Environmental Committee although she is a former employee of the Santa Susana Field Lab and has been an environmental activist since 1995.

Stakeholder Margery Brown stated that we are running out of time to take action regarding what is happening at the Santa Susana Field Lab.

Board member Jacquie Young advised that she too has an environmental concern. Ms. Young stated that Boeing has been sending trucks of waste from the Santa Susana Field Lab and she is wondering if there have been any accidents or spills that we have not been notified of.

Government Report

Board member Joanne Yvanek-Garb advised that she did not receive any material to be presented at this meeting from Dr. Wiseman, who was unable to attend tonight due to conflicting vacation plans.

Old Business:

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

Mr. Wally Perfect advised there is nothing new and rather than take up time now there is going to be a meeting on Tuesday and he will then present the information to the board.

New Business:

11-0018 – Discussion and possible action regarding the West Hills Neighborhood Council conducting its biennial election of open Board seats in March 2012

Mr. Edwin Dockus advised the Board that the City Clerk is not running the Neighborhood Council election next March. We (WHNC) have the option of holding our own election or wait until 2013 for the City Clerk to hold the election, he said. We can hold our own election in a Town Hall meeting format and we again could work with other Neighborhood Councils. As in the past, working with other councils has lowered the cost of putting on an election.

After discussion, Mr. Dockus moved that the WHNC conduct a Town Hall election in 2012, subject to funding. Motion passed with 16 ayes and 3 nays.

11-0019 – Discussion and recommendations regarding the Santa Susana Field Lab

Ms. Chris Rowe provided an overview of the history of the Santa Susana Field Lab, the parties involved and a lawsuit regarding clean-up efforts. Ms. Rowe stated we have even heard from Dr. Mack, noted epidemiologist, who made a presentation to the Board saying he found no evidence of cancer clusters in our area. (His PowerPoint presentation can be found on the Public Health Committee page.) Ms. Rowe presented a Resolution in Support of An Environmental Impact Statement for Area IV of the Santa Susana Field Laboratory from the Environmental Committee (copy attached).

Mr. Dan Hirsch, President of Bridge the Gap, challenged information presented by Ms. Rowe. Mr. Hirsch stated that the City Council voted on the matter two months ago and unless Judge Conti gives relief in this lawsuit it will mean the end of funding for current cleanup efforts and the end of the cleanup.

Board member Bonnie Klea said she disagrees with Ms. Rowe's presentation in its entirety. She stated that every state, federal and local agency is currently involved in this cleanup effort under SB990.

Ms. Margery Brown advised that she has been on the West Hills Neighborhood Council Environment Committee from the beginning. Ms. Brown stated that the resolution presented by Ms. Rowe from the Environment Committee was only verbally presented at a committee meeting that was held on four days' notice and attendees were not given a written copy to review. Ms. Brown went on to state that even though this matter has not come before the Board, Ms. Rowe wrote to Judge Conti and represented herself as speaking for the Board.

Ms. Dorri Raskin advised that she has been an environment activist for 22 years and she opposes Ms. Rowe's recommendation.

Ms. Marie Mason stated she was very confused about the proposed resolution from the Environment Committee. She questioned taking any action that went against what the City Attorney was supporting.

Ms. Holly Huff advised that the vote taken by the West Hills Environment Committee on the resolution was close. It was not provided to the committee in writing before a vote was taken and she objected to that procedure.

Ms. Jeanne Londe stated she was puzzled and confused. Ms. Londe stated she has been involved with the Santa Susana Field Lab problem over 20 years and she has no idea what Ms. Rowe was talking about.

Mr. Ryan Moorman, Teens Against Toxins, stated that an agreement on cleanup efforts has been reached with very few objections. Mr. Moorman questioned whether it was wise to go against a recommendation of the City Attorney.

Ms. Devyu Gortnev, Teens Against Toxins, stated she is concerned about her health and that of others. She stated that the decision on cleanup efforts is affecting thousands of people.

Board member Elliot Maggin thanked Ms. Rowe for all of her work. Mr. Maggin spoke in favor of an Environmental Impact Statement because it would provide information that would be helpful in understanding a complicated issue.

Board member Sandi Bell stated that she finds it offensive that it appears that Ms. Rowe is being criticized by Board members and others in attendance that were using terrorist tactics.

Mr. Alec Uzemeck stated that he agreed with Ms. Klea and said that this cleanup issue is a very complex situation. Mr. Uzemeck stated that what is in place should be left to be completed and the council not get involved taking such action that would set the matter back.

Ms. Rowe made a motion that the Resolution be acted on by the Board. After additional discussion the vote was taken and the motion failed.

Ms. Rowe then read an eight-point recommended Resolution for the General Remediation of and Future Use of the Santa Susana Field Laboratory (copy attached).

After discussion, Board member Ms. Charlene Rothstein moved that the third item on the resolution be stricken. Motion passed without challenge from Ms. Rowe.

Board member, Mr. Bob Brostoff stated that the issue was far too complicated and that many of the board members did not understand it, and that he recommended a “no” vote on the motion.

Subsequent motions by Mr. Bob Brostoff and Mr. Wally Perfect to eliminate item numbers one and two failed.

Motion to accept Resolution as amended passed.

10:10 meeting adjourned