



Help Guide the Future of West Hills
West Hills Neighborhood
Council



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FINAL
MEETING MINUTES
February 2, 2011

Chaminade College Preparatory High School, 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, Stephen Lenske, Walter Perfect, Charlene Rothstein, Jeffrey Shapiro, Ron Sobel, Bobbi Trantafello, Daniel Wiseman and Jacquie Young

Absent/Excused: Bonnie Klea, Ruwan Kotuwelle, Bill Rose, Chris Rowe, Barry Seybert, Yoav Shalev, Alec Uzemeck and Joanne Yvanek-Garb

Opening Business:

Mr. Stephen Lenske went over the general rules and purpose of the meeting. He invited anyone interested in speaking to fill out a Speaker Card so appropriate time could be allotted. Mr. Lenske advised that there are sign-up sheets for anyone interested in being on the Council's e-mail list.

Mr. Lenske informed those present that if any of them were interested in touring the Santa Susana Field Lab, which he encouraged all to do, they could contact the tour office at 818-466-8163. Also, Mr. Lenske stated that the Museum of San Fernando Valley is in the process of doing an oral history of the San Fernando Valley. For anyone interested, their website is www.themuseumsfv.org

After the Pledge of Allegiance, a quorum was established.

Announcements:

Mr. Sol Bash advised that in conjunction with the 3rd Council District and the 12th Council District the Public Health and Public Safety Committee is devising a plan for assisting those who are shut in during a disaster. Also, on April 23, 2011, in conjunction with Shadow Ranch Park, the West Hills Neighborhood Council is sponsoring a health and Public Safety and Health Fair.

Mr. Dan Brin advised that the first meeting in preparation for the celebration of the 25th anniversary of West Hills in 2012 would be soon. The information will be posted on our website.

Dr. Dan Wiseman advised that the Budget Survey is out and encouraged all to complete it.

Minutes – Dan Brin moved that approval of the minutes of January 5th be postponed until next month as several corrections which he had submitted were missing. Motion passed.

Treasurer’s Report – Treasurer, Ms. Bobbi Trantafello, advised that only the approved expenses were processed last month. When asked about communication with DONE regarding payment for the West Hills signage, Ms. Trantafello stated DONE advised her that it does not issue purchase orders anymore. After some discussion, Mr. Lenske stated he would follow up with Councilman Zine.

Ms. Megan Murray, 3rd Council District Field Deputy Representative, advised that a meeting will be held among the City Attorney, the city’s Department of Public Works and the homeowners associations (HOAs) bordering Valley Circle to go over a proposed ordinance that would permit the HOAs to maintain the median on Valley Circle without assuming liability.

Ms. Murray advised that there is revised language on the unhitched trailer law to close existing loopholes and there is a cell phone number for reporting violators. She also advised that April 30, 2011, is the Mayor’s “A Day of Service on the L.A. River” and the city is requesting the submission of projects to be performed on that day.

Ms. Murray advised that the Councilman is looking into how to allocate \$5,000 to each neighborhood council for projects such as tree trimming and filling potholes.

Mr. Edwin Dockus asked if Fire Station 106 had received a generator. The necessity for this had come up in a previous meeting as Station 106 is identified as a disaster staging area. Ms. Murray will look into this.

Mr. Bob Brostoff advised those in attendance that the CD12 candidate forum was a huge success. All the candidates were there and were well received by those in attendance. The West Hills Neighborhood Council was praised by the candidates and event organizers for its sponsorship of the forum.

Presentation:

Board member Mr. Dan Brin introduced Board member Mr. Sol Bash, who in turn introduced the guest speaker, Capt. Richard Martinez of the Los Angeles City Fire Department. Capt. Martinez is the C shift captain for station 106 on Roscoe Boulevard. Capt. Martinez gave an overview of what the city is doing to close the budget gap. Currently there are brown-outs within the fire department, which means that 22 fire companies shut down every day and personnel are moved to cover different areas. As an example; the ambulance at 106 is closed down 10 days a month. This translates in a longer wait time should there be an emergency as an ambulance has to be sent from another distant area.

Capt. Martinez informed those present that there is an Fire Explorer Post at Station 106. The program is open to anyone between the ages of 15 and 21 and especially those who wish to become firefighters.

Capt. Martinez introduced Capt. Wendel Smith, currently assigned to L.A. City Fire Air Operations. Captain Smith introduced Battalion Chief Joe Foley and helicopter pilot Scott

Davidson. Chief Foley stated he will be leaving Air Operations and taking over Battalion 17. Chief Foley stated that we are very fortunate in L.A. City as the fire department does what is known as an interior fire attack as well as search and rescue. This means that the firefighters enter the residence to fight the fire and search the residence, often resulting in lives and homes being more effectively saved. Other fire departments only do an exterior attack, concentrating on the fire not spreading to other structures. Chief Foley went on to explain how valuable the so-called 10th man is when fighting a structure fire and how happy firefighters are that this position, which at one point was taken away, has been reinstated.

Capt. Smith presented a slide show showing the installation of the new heliport at the north end of Fallbrook Avenue. Chief Foley thanked the Board for its support in establishing this heliport. He went on to explain how important this heliport is. It provides an area for the landing and refueling, with fuel and water, of helicopters while fighting fires. Firefighter Scott Davidson gave an overview of the department's helicopters, how they fight fires and the importance of heliports to their operations.

Public Comment:

Stakeholder, Louis Pugliese advised those present that he is running for the LAUSD school board and wanted to introduce himself. Mr. Pugliese stated that he has been a teacher for 14 years and is currently training teachers at CSUN. Mr. Pugliese presented his strategy for improving the school system.

Board member Ms. Sandi Bell stated that she is very concerned about what happened at the recent lockdown incident at El Camino High School. She pointed out that nine schools were locked down, residents were kept from their homes, and children in the schools were not allowed food, water or lavatory access. Ms. Bell stated it showed just how unprepared we are for this type of situation and this issue needs to be addressed.

Governmental Relations Report:

Dr. Dan Wiseman encouraged everyone to complete the LA Budget Survey by going to www.LABudgetChallenge.lacity.org. The only identification required is your ZIP code. This is to make sure that all areas receive equal representation. There is also an area on each page for comments. These comments will be gathered and presented to the Mayor. In addition, the survey allows you to show what you want to fund and where you want the funds to come from. The last page of the survey is a survey asking you to indicate which 10 city services you feel are the highest priority and must be maintained at a reasonable level. Dr. Wiseman also presented an illustration of Pentagram in a Pentagon. It demonstrated the five key groups involved in the delivery of L.A. City services to the public and the development of a budget proposal to carry out these services.

Committee Report:

Board member Jackie Young advised that she was contacted by Stephanie Jennings from NASA. Ms. Young stated that Ms. Jennings wanted our input for a study on noise abatement at various intersections in West Valley. Ms. Jennings had explained the study is being done in preparation for the transport of contaminated material from the Santa Susana Field Lab. Mr. Lenske advised that this should go to the Environmental Committee.

Old Business:

09-0028 – Discussion and possible action regarding appeal by an HOA of T-Mobile’s proposed cell phone tower located near Lazy J Ranch Park in the vicinity of Valley Circle Boulevard and Ingomar Street in West Hills.

Ms. Charlene Rothstein advised that the appeal hearing would be on Monday, Feb. 7, 2011, at City Hall and our Council would be supporting the appeal.

10-0003 – Discussion and possible action regarding proposed changes to the T-Mobile cellular antenna located at Valley Circle Boulevard and Indian Hill Lane, south of Shomrei Torah Synagogue. Ms. Rothstein advised that she received a call on Thursday from Luke Snyder advising that construction will begin mid-February.

New Business:

11-0004 – Discussion and possible action regarding the West Hills Neighborhood Council’s Bylaws to be reformatted in accordance with DONE requirements for a uniform table of contents template and first reading of reformatted Bylaws.

Mr. Edwin Dockus advised those present that two draft copies of the Bylaws have been distributed. One, dated Feb. 2, 2011, is a draft of West Hills Neighborhood Council’s current Bylaws arranged in the DONE-mandated template. The second is a draft of the proposed Bylaw changes developed at meetings of the Bylaws Committee that must be presented to the entire Board. Mr. Dockus further explained that by formatting the current Bylaws in the mandated template and submitting this document, the Council will meet DONE’s April 5, 2011, deadline for submission of the reformatted Bylaws. This does not preclude implementing changes to the Bylaws as indicated on the second draft.

Mr. Dockus went on to explain that in preparation for implementing the proposed changes, the Bylaws Committee will meet with Mr. Mike Kabo, who heads up the DONE Bylaws Task Force, to have him review the proposed Bylaws and identify any areas that may not conform with DONE’s requirements. This is not a question and answer meeting, but a meeting to identify any areas of conflict, Mr. Dockus said. After much discussion, it was decided that the meeting with Mr. Kabo will be open to the entire board.

9:15 — meeting adjourned