

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE/ BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, November 11, 2015  
HIDDEN LAKE CLUBHOUSE

CALL TO ORDER: Alec Uzemeck called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM

MEMBER ATTENDANCE: Steve Randall, Alec Uzemeck, Char Rothstein, Bonnie Klea, Simone Best

PUBLIC ATTENDANCE: John Luker

COMMENTS FROM THE CO CHAIRS: The Co Chairs did not have any comments.

MINUTES: A quorum was established. Bonnie said there was a problem with the minutes and she wanted to know if Abe Weitzberg submitted the petition to ATSDR or if the CAG did. Alec told her that Abe submitted the petition on behalf of the CAG as noted on the petition and the ATSDR acceptance letter came back addressed to the CAG. Bonnie said she didn't remember the CAG approving the petition, but John Luker said that he remembered the CAG approving it last year. Alec said that he would go back to the CAG minutes to get confirmation. The minutes were approved.

#### AGENDA DISCUSSION ITEMS

Alec introduced the discussion about the direction the committee was taking since Marge, Bonnie and others questioned the problems and projects that were being addressed, Alec read the Mission Statement and said that all problems affecting West Hills should be examined but not such things as the chemistry or physics at the SSFL cleanup, however the SSFL truck traffic should be reviewed. Air sampling would be another area of interest. Bonnie felt that the committee should go back to being ad hoc and as for SSFL, most folks did not know what they are voting for. After further discussion, the committee decided that they would work on West Hills items first and for subjects outside of the community, they would vote to accept or reject a new project

Past projects have included Corporate Pointe, Dayton Canyon, and the Lederer property and the Committee had significant impact on these property developments. The Environment Committee talking about influence and various methods were discussed such as letters, CIS's and meetings with officials. The discussion centered on hard copy letters to officials, those from the public and particularly those from neighborhood councils and the education of the public. The Committee concluded that Council letters, resolutions and CIS's are the strongest actions.

John said that the Rim of the Valley study has been completed, and it includes four alternatives: do nothing, have the NPS act as a consultant, the NPS to have broader scope and authority to manage the property and purchase land, and the last is to manage and greatly expand the park. The report will go out for public review and then to Congress.

John also mentioned that the Dayton Canyon land transfer to the SMMC is underway. This turnover of 200 acres is part of the development agreement with the City.

John said that the excavation of earth at the Ecology pond is being done by the DWP with soil sampling and the pond will be seasonal not year around. Further plans are not known.

Char reported that the Vanowen property will not be developed, but may be sold. The Sherman Way project is on hold and the Lederer property is in the court system. Work continues at the Fallbrook project with demolition of the existing structures.

Simone revisited the subject of the CIS's saying they are a powerful tool, however she found that the Council has filed only one CIS. She will distribute an existing CIS for Committee review and she encouraged the Committee to produce more in the future.

Alec introduced the last item, ATSDR, and he asked Bonnie to speak first. Bonnie stated In 1999 ATSDR found no connection between the SSFL and offsite cancer and it was later found out that they falsified data and hid the bladder cancer study. Abe is a paid employee of the polluters, then changed to he's representing the polluters. She said that the agency had been investigated by congress in 2009 and had to pay a fine of \$700,000 and their findings in instances around the country favor the polluter eg. the St. Louis Landfill. She felt that Abe was an employee of Boeing and she expects that their study will favor the polluter. And she said that Alec had a conflict of interest since he brought matters from the CAG into the WHNC. Kaiser W. H. is reporting the largest incident of thyroid cancer in any of their facilities. West Hills Hospital is reporting brain cancer, lung cancer among young non-smokers and breast cancer.

The other members made these points: the petition called for a health review for the community, a good thing, the \$700,000 was given by ATSDR to fund the UCLA studies, the recent TV news segments alarmed the community and our response should be that we have the ATSDR coming in to do a health risk review and will report back to the community, we should look at all data and the study will provide more current information, at times the CAG items may be the same as the WHNC's interests and should be shared, and one federal agency investigating the work of another is not a conflict of interest. Bonnie responded that she has many statics showing cancer in the surrounding community and both Kaiser and West Hills Hospital were reporting increases in thyroid cancer and childrens' brain cancer.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.