



CITY OF
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CALIFORNIA



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WEST HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

JOINT BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE/BOARD ONLINE AND TELEPHONIC MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 @ 6:00 PM

Approved August 25, 2020

Numbers refer to agenda items:

1. Committee Co-Chair Brad Vanderhoof called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM. Those in attendance: Faye Barta, Tom Booth, Dan Brin, Jessica Fuentes, Heidi Manning, Olivia Naturman, Steve Randall, Tony Searce, Myrl Schreiberman, Ron Sobel, Joan Trent, and Brad Vanderhoof. Absent was Kian Gholibiek. Council member Bonnie Klea also attended. Stakeholders John Mazur, Reeyan Raynes and Elly Langsam were also present. A quorum was established.
2. The June 23, 2020 minutes were approved as amended.
3. Comments from the Chairs: none
4. Public Comment: Stakeholder John Mazur spoke about the dead/dying grass at Lazy J Park and surmised it was mainly due to low/no watering. John said the irrigation system for the Valley Circle median, between Ingomar and Roscoe, is not working and the contractor just landscaped it with new plants he feels will die. He also mentioned the overgrown medians between Victory and Vanowen.
5. Discussion and Possible Action on the Future of Community Clean-ups: Brad said the future of cleanups is "up in the air", but in the meantime there were activities which could be undertaken, such as small groups could gather to clean up areas as public citizens. Dan reported how he and two members of this committee have already done so. Heidi said that Dan, Brad, and Jessica had undertaken some door-knocking on Fallbrook to advise stakeholders of their responsibilities for parkways. Heidi said she herself has called 311 about several bad areas to be cleaned, with good success. Myrl advised the "paper street" at Keswick and Saticoy has again become a fire hazard. Brad said he has spoken with CD 12 about it and CD 12 is working on it, but there are severe budget problems. Steve asked if CD 12 can have contractors clean up the messes on Valley Circle. Reeyan advised the City has had problems with the legal status and continuing poor condition of the paper street, but the contractors who clean up Valley Circle are limited to the areas between the baseball field and Roscoe and the baseball field and Kittridge, but calling 311 might help. Dan also advised he has handed out brochures in other areas. Myrl suggested a marketing campaign to interest stakeholders to do cleanups. For example, make banners to place on street poles reading "Help Keep West Hills Beautiful" and to ask the Communications Committee for help to produce the banners. Steve added this idea can be promoted on Facebook. Dan said he could design a banner. Brad suggested coupling "Help Keep West Hills Beautiful" with the painting of the utility boxes being undertaken by Streets and Transportation.
6. Discussion and Possible Action on LA City Parks Maintenance: The committee held a lively discussion about various city parks. Myrl expressed that the committee is impressed with John Mazur's comments and work regarding various parks and asked John if he would give such a report at every month's meeting. John agreed. John said he would also determine if the irrigation on Valley Circle could be turned on. Heidi advised that 311 features a special category for parks. Tony volunteered to give a report on Taxco Trails Park every month. Brad can give the status of Knapp Park. There was discussion regarding whether the parks are officially open. Dan volunteered to talk with Bob Baker and find out. Myrl said this committee could organize stakeholders to create a "Friends of West Hills Parks" group. Heidi said perhaps a sub-committee could be created within this committee just for parks. Brad advised this matter will be tabled to the next meeting for review and further planning and proposals.

7. Discussion and Possible Action of Requesting Historical Notice of the Significance of the Palm Trees on March Avenue: Reeyan advised he and Dan co-authored a motion to designate the palm trees on March between Justice and Ingomar as a city landmark. Myrl asked if the palm species is native to the area. Reeyan said the landmarking is for historical significance and has nothing to do with whether the palm trees are a native species. Originally the palm trees were planted on March as a border for the Orcutt Ranch driveway. Brad suggested gauging public interest before proceeding. This item is postponed to August in order to obtain public opinion.

8. Discussion and Possible Action on Other Beautification Projects: Jessica volunteered to enlist her neighbors to clean Sherman Place near the hospital and will need to use the trash picker-uppers. Olivia volunteered to do the same on the Valley Circle medians and will need trash bags. She will post the cleanup on social media. The co-chairs advised that tools and supplies can be obtained by letting the co-chairs know what is needed and when. Joan advised there is a really unkempt property at the corner of Capistrano and Chase. Tom volunteered to help Joan with this problem, suggesting the owners may need assistance. Jessica volunteers to prepare an "adopt a street" and Brad will publish it. Bonnie again advised of the burned-out house at 8368 Sausalito. Heidi said she already notified Vector Control, which had already visited the property. The City already posted signs that the property had been vacated. Bonnie said the property should be fenced. Reeyan suggested that because of the covid situation, Building and Safety can post the property, but there is no money or time for follow-up. Reeyan indicated that the bad condition of the Sausalito house might be due to family misfortune and we may need to tolerate the situation. Brad said the best policy is not to harass victims.

9. Discussion and Possible Action on ROW Letters: Dan said that the sidewalk at Saticoy and Fallbrook is unwalkable. He left fliers on Maynard, the street which backs to that corner, and attempted to contact the realtor for one of the houses.

10. Discussion and Possible Action Concerning Progress with Removal of Abandoned Newspaper Vending Machines on Sidewalks: Item postponed until August.

11. Strike Team Reports: Some of these reports were given earlier during the meeting. Heidi said that any dead parkway trees should be reported to 311 for removal. Jessica said she has seen the City working on dead trees. She will report a dead tree on Sherman Way near the Malibu Winery. She also advised she cleans Royer to the hospital. Stakeholder Elly Langsam advised that she has tried to reach WHNC by sending emails and phone calling, but that no one had ever returned her emails or call messages. Her concern is that off Roscoe on Jonathan and left on Sudan and Royer, the street signs are bleached out and unreadable and need replacing. Dan explained he monitors the WHNC website for emails and forwards them to the appropriate committees. Tony Scarce, chair of Streets and Transportation, volunteered to speak with Ms. Langsam and try to help her with the problem, since the matter is more properly within the purview of Streets and Transportation.

Committee Co-chair Brad Vanderhoof adjourned the meeting at 7:15 PM.

The next meeting of this committee will be held Tuesday, August 25, 2020 at 6:00 PM, Online and Telephonically.