



CITY OF
LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA



P.O. BOX 4670, WEST HILLS, CA 91308
WWW.WESTHILLSNC.ORG
MAIL@WESTHILLSNC.ORG

WEST HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

JOINT BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE/BOARD ONLINE AND TELEPHONIC DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, December 21, 2021 @ 6:00 PM

Approved January 18, 2022

The Committee shall take official action by a simple majority of yes and no votes cast by the committee members present at a duly noticed regular or special Beautification Committee meeting, not to include abstentions. There shall be no proxy voting.

Numbers refer to agenda items:

Committee Co-Chair Brad Vanderhoof called the meeting to order at 6:18 PM. The meeting was recorded. Those in attendance: Faye Barta, Glenn Jennings, Heidi Manning, Steve Randall, Myrl Schreiber, Joan Trent, and Brad Vanderhoof. Absent were Dan Brin, Tariq El-Atrache and Anthony Scearce.

Members of the public present were Lisa Davis and Rina Queller. A quorum was established.

1. The November 16, 2021 minutes were approved as amended.
2. Comments from the Chairs: None.
3. Public Comment: Attendee Lisa Davis from Tarzana said she wanted to join a Beautification Committee. Faye obtained her email and will be in touch with her.
4. Discussion and Comments regarding the November Environmental Awareness Day event at the Chatsworth Train Station: Brad and Faye commented that it was a good event, but not as many people attended as they expected would attend. Steve said most of the booths were “display” booths. Heidi felt that since this was an “inaugural” event, next year’s event would be better.
5. Discussion and Possible Action on future cleanup events for January, February, March, April, May, June and July, 2022 (six months’ planning as was done before the pandemic):

For the January, 2022, cleanup, Faye reminded everyone that Dan suggested and we voted to finish up Fallbrook between Ingomar and Saticoy, which was left undone from a prior cleanup.

For the February cleanup, the date of 2/26/2022, as suggested by Glenn, was agreeable to all. Myrl suggested we clean Sherman Way west of the housing project towards Highlander. Heidi and Myrl suggested we clean Platt north of the condos at Sherman Way and Platt. Brad suggested that it would be better to get street services to do those areas because the lay of the land and the hills would be too dangerous and difficult for us to undertake. Heidi then suggested the Deveron Ridge Circle between the school and the park. Faye advised that the park does an adequate job cleaning its half of that cul-de -sac, but LAUSD has not touched its side of the street and its sidewalk, but the job was really too small to waste a whole event to do. Heidi then suggested the overgrown trees on the south side of Roscoe west of the firehouse, and necessary pruning above the sidewalk. Heidi then suggested Platt south of Ingomar near Taxco Park and the weeds between Ingomar and Pomelo/Keswick. Myrl advised that the area needs street cleaners and is not a good candidate for us to clean. Heidi moved to do the Roscoe trees and Steve seconded. The vote was unanimous in favor of the Roscoe trees for February cleanup. Although we wanted to choose areas to clean for March, April, May, June and July, there were no further suggestions. Steve suggested that we table the remaining areas (March through July) and look around to see areas which could use cleanup. Brad asked us to consider areas where we don’t live. Steve said the neglected, needy areas should be first choice. The choosing of cleanup areas for March through July, 2022, was tabled to the January meeting.

6. LA City Park Maintenance Updates, Including Reports from members regarding conditions of our local parks: This matter was tabled to our next meeting.
7. ROW Letters: There were no ROW reports. Brad indicated we should all go out and look for areas and advise at our January meeting.
8. Strike Team Reports:

None. Joan asked if we can ask the City to take care of some projects. Steve said it is difficult to get the City to do so, even though it is the City's liability. Heidi said a 311 request can be made, especially if there is some danger or emergency to take care of. Heidi also commented that even if the City cuts down an offending tree, it does NOT remove the stump. That stump goes to another department which has a very long list of stumps to remove.

9. Discussion and Possible Action on other Beautification Projects and Prior Suggested Projects:
 - a. Attracting nurseries/garden shops to beautify an area and then receive "free" publicity for the cleanup
 - b. Post office Update
 - c. Spring plantings – locations and sponsors
 - d. Suggestions for dog poop left by careless neighbors
 - e. Any new ideas???

Joan complained that when people pick up their dogs' poop, they deposit it in the next available trash can they see. Faye said it seemed better to pick up and dispose of poop in any available trash can than to not pick it up. Rina asked what we concluded in our discussion of November's item #10, planting trees or shrubs on empty dividers on Valley Circle between Victory and Vanowen. Faye read to her the paragraph from the November minutes regarding the discussion. There were suggestions from the committee: Heidi suggested sending letters to nearby residents to determine if they will help; Brad suggested digging up the asphalt and adding dirt and planting plants. He advised it was a BIG project, but suggested we do it. Steve suggested we ask CD12 to help. Brad said he will email Colin Crews to get some answers.

10. Planning and Suggestions for Committee Direction and Activity in 2022:

Brad said we are called "community gardeners" and we should plan to do more and when our members ask why we are doing this, we should advise that we are "community gardeners." Brad also suggested we could paint our fire hydrants. Myrl said he is angry and insulted that people suggest we should "do more" and requests specifics. Steve said maybe there is misunderstanding regarding what we do. As committee members, we want to be more than "cleaners," but what can we do beyond community cleanups? Myrl agreed, but says other committees can't and shouldn't do beautification. Steve said no committees are doing anything right now, but we should all be more vigilant going forward. Myrl said we should follow Beautification's "Mission Statement." Brad feels we need to make a REAL difference and do something different. Steve suggested we should look to what other NC's are doing and "google" beautification projects. Myrl advised that this committee's history began as part of Streets and Transportation and we should ALL read our mission statement. Brad agreed. This matter is tabled for further discussion.

Faye adjourned the meeting at 7:13 PM.

The next Beautification committee meeting will be held on January 18, 2022 at 6:00 PM on ZOOM.