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## WEST HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

### JOINT BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE/BOARD ONLINE AND TELEPHONIC FINAL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, October 18, 2022 @ 6:00 PM

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:

1. Committee Co-Chair Brad Vanderhoof called the meeting to order at 6:08 PM. The meeting was recorded. Those in attendance: Faye Barta, Vinura Kotuwelle, Heidi Manning, Rosi Mariconda, Steve Randall, Joan Trent and Brad Vanderhoof. Vinura Kotuwelle had requested to be a member of this committee and his request was granted. Also present was Christina Walsh. Absent were Dan Brin, Glenn Jennings, Anthony Searce and Myrl Schreiberman.  
  
A quorum was established.
2. The minutes of the September 20, 2022, meeting were unanimously approved as amended.
3. Comments from the Chairs: Brad had none. Faye reported that the turnout of committee members for last week's cleanup was only 6 (5 Board members and Heidi) out of 10 members, and only 5 out of 24 Board members were present. Faye added that only two Board committees, Beautification and Special Events, hold ongoing events with the public outside of the meetings and we need to attract more Board members' attendance at our cleanups. Faye reminded all that we need to attend both meetings and events to support our committee. If someone is not physically able to help, we understand, but every committee member should be present at events to give the rest of us support. Faye also mentioned that the vacant lot at the corner of Keswick and Saticoy has been cleaned off.
4. Public Comment: None.
5. Discussion and Comments regarding the September, 2022, cleanup, held at Orcutt Ranch Park to distribute seeding for the Monarch butterflies and of the October, 2022, cleanup. Faye and Brad agreed that the September event was well-attended and many seeds were distributed. For the October 15, 2022 event, Faye said that the 10 students who attended worked diligently. Heidi thought the students were great. Steve said the ROTC at El Camino Real High School puts our events on a bulletin board for credit. Brad said the event is circulated also by "word of mouth" in addition to the bulletin board. Brad also commented that the October cleanup was promoted in the CD 12 newsletter, but said he did not believe anyone from CD 12 showed up at the cleanup.
6. Discussion regarding future cleanup events for 2022:  
Faye advised that prior minutes showed that we have already chosen November 19, 2022, to clean up Valley Circle between Strathern and Roscoe and we added \$50 for snacks for that clean up. Faye also advised that we have already chosen to clean up the north side of Saticoy east of Woodlake to Fallbrook on December 3, 2022, and we added \$50 for snacks for that cleanup.

7. Discussion and Possible Action on “cleanup” events for 2023, and “beautification” events for 2023:  
Faye advised that dividing the Beautification events into two parts, one to just “clean” an area and one to “beautify” an area, will open more opportunities for the committee’s activities.  
The discussion for the January cleanup began with Heidi’s suggestion to move the cleanup to late in the month so the school kids who help us will have already returned to classes. Christina suggested El Escorpion Park, entrance to which is at the end of Vanowen. Steve inquired if that park is part of West Hills. The committee agreed it is. Steve moved to have a planting of milkweed at El Escorpion Park on January 28, 2023, from 9 AM to noon and the motion was seconded. Without further discussion, the motion passed with 7 Yes and 4 Absent.  
The committee then went on to discuss the “beautification” events. All those who were in attendance were very interested in this kind of event. Many suggestions ... garden contest, garden tours, floral spreads, best parkway, most improved, multi-categories, titling this as a showcase rather than a contest, and other ideas were expressed and discussed at length. Brad said this is do-able but will involve a lot of planning. Therefore, this matter was tabled to the November meeting, where a more specific initial plan will be discussed and chosen.
8. Discussion and Possible Action on Creating a Community Garden:  
This item also received many comments and suggestions, such as getting mulch and irrigation to areas to keep plants alive, choosing a great variety of plants and trees, getting stakeholders interested in assisting and preparing a community garden, choosing a location, and costs. Members requested more time to think about this topic also, so this matter was also tabled.
9. Discussion and Possible Action on Right-of-Way (ROW) letters:  
Brad and Heidi advised that they have not yet issued ROW letters to the houses east of Woodlake, as suggested at the prior meeting. Steve asked that four houses on the north side of Roscoe, east of Fallbrook, should also be considered for ROW letters. Brad, Heidi, and Steve agreed that the areas surrounding the sidewalk and items hanging over sidewalks and low-lying branches must be given ROW letters and probably a call to 311 to report them.
10. Strike Team Reports:  
Steve advised he cut low-hanging branches at three houses. Heidi suggested several members should get together and address the south side of Platt along Sherman Way or Platt from Candlewood down. Steve suggested parkway trees which block stop signs, particularly on Eccles east of Fallbrook, and perhaps a ROW letter should be sent first, especially those places where the foliage blocks stop signs. Brad agreed. Heidi offered that if there are trees, etc. blocking stop signs and traffic lights, the City will clean those places up. Heidi said that if we take pictures of the blockages and send them to her, she will do the 311 calling.

The meeting was adjourned by Brad at 7:12 PM.