

IT'S OUR NEIGHBORHOOD. LET'S BUILD A COMMUNITY.



West Hills Neighborhood Council

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JOINT BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE/BOARD SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday September 27, 2016
West Hills Hospital, West Hills

Those in attendance were: Tony Brosamle, Reeyan Raynes, Thomas Booth, Dan Brin, Michael Castro, Matt Davine, Ed Fischbock, Mary Fischboch, Ilana Furatti, Tom Longo, Heidi Manning, Deedra Moffatt, Ryan Moffatt, Olivia Naturman, Steve Randall, Ron Sobel, Jessie Strobel (Field Deputy, Twelfth District, City of Los Angeles), Joan Trent, and Brad Vanderhoof. A quorum was established.

Committee Chair Tony Brosamle called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM.

Numbers refer to agenda items:

- 2) The August 2016 meeting minutes were approved as amended.
- 3) Chair Comments: The Chairs recognized and welcomed Jessie Strobel representing Mitchel Englander and the Council District Twelve office. The Chairs also welcomed Michael Castro, former chair of the Beautification Committee. Reeyan reported Lowes Property has completed work to clean the property adjacent to Nevada Elementary School.
- 4) Public Comments: Michael Castro submitted a letter to the WHNC requesting a certificate of appreciation and congratulations for Alexander N. Ramirez, who is retiring from the Department of Recreation and Parks after 28 years of service. Mary Fischboch reported the Blue Star Commission has approved the marker for Orcutt Ranch and the stone is in place. They are awaiting completion of the plaque. Ryan Moffatt, from Troop 464 BSA, asked for suggestions for his Eagle Scout project. Dan mentioned three ideas: 1. a garden at the West Hills Post Office 2. adopt a median with a 'Welcome to West Hills' message at either Valley Circle or Victory or along Platt 3. graffiti in El Escorpion Park along the Pressman Trail. Michael Castro, based on his experience with Eagle Scout projects, commented on the importance of the project having a permanent aspect. He stated that clean-up efforts alone are not considered adequate for an Eagle Scout project.
- 5) 9/17 Cleanup: Reeyan declared the September event a rousing success thanks to Key Club members and all the other participants. He stated this led to recognition by Council District Twelve and the Mayor's office.
- 6) Valley Circle / Chatsworth Lake Cleanup: Dan reviewed the impromptu cleanup activity in cooperation with Chatsworth Lake Manor residents.
- 7) 10/15/16 Community Cleanup Project: the date in the agenda is an error as previously agreed; north side of Roscoe from Sale to Fallbrook

11/5/16 Community Cleanup Project: in cooperation with The Church at Rocky Peak

Heidi mentioned the west side of Shoup south of Roscoe has a problem with overgrown weeds. Olivia provided an update of the post office working group activities. A contact at the West Hills Post Office, Harvey, verified there is a gardening contract for the property. A contact from City Plants, Rebecca, said they can offer trees but no small plants and planting the trees does not require a permit. Tony reported that efforts to engage LAFD Station 106 have been unsuccessful.

8) Clean Streets LA Partnership: this item was addressed after item 14

Reeyan reviewed the basics of the program. Teams consisting of a lead applicant and at least two partner organizations compete for a \$25K grant from the City of Los Angeles. Kiwanis / Key Club, the local Chamber of Commerce, and Supporters of West Hills (a non-profit) have been identified as possible partners for the WHNC. The next step is to develop both an outreach plan and an implementation plan. Reeyan is taking the lead in this effort and also stated he needs ideas.

Reeyan asked for a motion to: Vote to approve in concept forming a partnership to participate in the Clean Streets LA Partnership Challenge and send to the WHNC Board for action. Steve seconded.

Approved by unanimous consent.

9) Committee Letters to the Community: Tony updated the status of this effort.

10) Property Conditions at Specific Addresses: tabled until October

11) Conditions at 24201 Highlander road: This is a rental property consisting of a detached single family home on a corner lot. Tom Longo, a homeowner who lives close to the property, presented a complaint about overgrown vegetation, some of which infringes on the sidewalks, and lack of upkeep on this property. He reported that a young girl sustained an eye injury from over-hanging vines while riding her bicycle on the sidewalk. Reeyan has contacted the Fire Department. Ron suggested reporting the property to Building and Safety. Jessie Strobel offered to try and help and alternatively suggested neighbors could use the 311 system. Steve suggested having Englander's office work through Building and Safety to address neighbor's concerns.

12) MYLA311 Walks: Tony urged the group to use the MY311 system to report issues.

13) Lazy J Ranch Park Fence Replacement: Jessie Strobel explained the current status of plans to improve the wrought iron fence around Lazy J Park. The Department of Recreation and Parks has two quotes to replace the fence with either new wrought iron or black vinyl-coated chain-link. Rec. and Parks favors the chain link option but wants public input. The wrought iron option would be more expensive and Rec. and Parks would likely ask the community to bear some of the cost. Ron reported that painters have completed refurbishing a significant portion of the fence and it is now adequate. Several people expressed the opinion that a fence is needed only around the playground area. Others disputed this idea because of the high speed traffic along Valley Circle. Dan suggested maybe the homeowner's association for the adjacent housing tract should pay any additional amount required for a more expensive fence. Heidi pointed out the fence gets a lot of wear from people parking on Valley Circle and hopping over the fence. Steve expressed his opinion that the existing fence can be inexpensively repaired. Tom stated the fence has some sections that have completely deteriorated and recommended the co-chairs walk the fence. Matt suggested leaving the existing fence and adding a secondary chain-link fence around the playground equipment area. Michael Castro said he would also like to see the existing fence remain and an additional fence placed around the playground due to increased coyote activity in the area. Jessie Strobel will have Rec. and Parks obtain quote for repairing the existing fence.

14) Vacant Parcel For Sale: tabled until October

15) Tony adjourned the meeting at 7:55 PM.

The next cleanup is scheduled for Saturday October 15, 2016, to clean the north side of Roscoe between Sale and Fallbrook. Meeting place is on Fallbrook north of Roscoe. Additional areas may be included as workload and workforce dictate.

The next meeting of this Committee will be held on Tuesday October 25, 2016 at 6:30 PM at West Hills Hospital, first floor Conference Room.