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CALIFORNIA



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WEST HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

JOINT BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE/BOARD ONLINE AND TELEPHONIC FINAL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, November 16, 2021 @ 6:00 PM

Approved December 21, 2021

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 6:05 PM. The meeting was recorded. Those in attendance: Faye Barta, Dan Brin, Tariq El-Atrache, Glenn Jennings, Heidi Manning, Steve Randall, Anthony Scearce, Myrl Schreibman, Joan Trent, and Brad Vanderhoof. No committee members were absent. Also present was Board member Kent Mariconda. Members of the public present were Reeyan Raynes, Christina Walsh, Annemarie Donkin, and 1-818-.....263. A quorum was established.
2. The October 19, 2021 minutes were approved as amended.
3. Comments from the Chairs: None.
4. Public Comment: Reeyan Raynes said he plans to reach out to Councilmember John Lee's office for formal recognition of the trees on March Avenue. Christina Walsh said she will host a monarch butterfly booth at the Environmental Awareness Day event on Nov. 20, 2021.
5. Discussion and Comments regarding the October 30, 2021, cleanup event at Orcutt Ranch Park.

Faye advised that Edgar Fuentes, Acting Park Maintenance Supervisor, texted her after our cleanup at Orcutt Ranch Park to thank us for what we had accomplished at the 10/30/2021 cleanup along March Avenue. Faye texted him back that in the future we will return to complete the rest of March Avenue and Justice Street. Dan stated that he thought the cleanup went very well and we should return to finish.

6. Discussion and Possible Action on the Event scheduled for Nov. 20, 2021 (Environmental Awareness Day):

Faye advised that our committee and the Environment Committee will be co-hosting a table at the event and we will be giving out WHNC souvenirs like our logo bags, pens, info booklets, bag clips and bike flashers. Heidi asked what she should or can do to help. Brad said everyone volunteers to do whatever they want to do and there are no requirements. Brad also said no coffee cups will be given out because the event will not be held within the borders of West Hills. Anthony showed a map of the area and where our booth will be. Dan said he will be attending but not until later in the afternoon. Kent said he thinks this is a great outreach opportunity and he plans to be there. Christina advised that she and Heidi should take pictures and post them on social media.

7. Discussion and Possible Action on future cleanup events for December, 2021, and January and February, 2022:

For the December cleanup, Faye reminded everyone that originally we had voted to paint hydrants in December, but that kind of event needs to be planned well in advance because of all the materials which need to be purchased and the outreach required. Faye suggested that instead we finish up the Orcutt Park cleanup. Dan suggested that we finish up Fallbrook between Ingomar and Saticoy, which was left undone from a prior cleanup. Anthony moved to finish the Orcutt project. Faye seconded.

The vote was taken: Yes: Faye Barta, Tariq El-Atrache, Glenn Jennings, Heidi Manning, and Anthony Scearce.

No: Dan Brin, Joan Trent, and Brad Vanderhoof.

Abstain: Steve Randall and Myrl Schreibman.

Yes – 5, No – 3, Abstain – 2

The motion passed.

Christina mentioned that there are people who always go to Justice Street to enter the park, and there should be signs placed to direct people to the Roscoe entrance. Dan advised that the problem occurs because there has not been any progress on a sign for the correct entrance gate, and that the signs should be requested from Recs and Parks by giving the request to Edgar.

For the January, 2022, cleanup, Dan moved to finish the Fallbrook project on January 22, 2022. Faye seconded.

The vote was taken: Yes: Faye Barta, Dan Brin, Tariq El-Atrache, Glenn Jennings, Heidi Manning, Steve Randall, Anthony Scearce, Myrl Schreibman, Joan Trent and Brad Vanderhoof.

Yes: 10, No: 0; Abstain: 0 The motion passed.

Faye said that we need to vote for food for the January cleanup. Anthony moved to spend \$50 for food for the event. Faye seconded.

The vote was taken: Unanimous for \$50 for food. The motion passed.

8. Discussion and Possible Action on creating a community garden; report on progress on “paper street” with Lee’s office by Brad and Steve; possibility of other locations.

Steve advised that he and Ron Rubine and the owner of the property next to the paper street have not yet heard back from the person at Councilman Lee’s office who was supposed to be investigating this. Steve said he will check and report back. Brad said there was a disagreement between leaving the lot dirt or putting asphalt there. Dan said maybe Brad is talking about Taxco Park and not the paper street. Brad will check and advise. Christina advised that using a mulch/chip drop would be the best option, then hold an event to spread it out on the lot, and then give the remainder to the neighborhood. The drop attracts worms and is free. Myrl advised the property is still owned by the City and there is also sewer access, which is a problem for planting. Brad said the paper street is part of a right-of-way, not a “real” property. He agreed free mulch is good but sometimes it contains detritus. Brad believes it would be better to work with LA Sanitation. Steve reminded us that we can’t do anything regarding the paper street until the City decided and he will follow up on that. Heidi reminded us that CSUN and CD 12 are interested in a pollinator park on the paper street and Chaminade is also interested in planting the paper street. Christina agreed with Heidi.

This item is tabled.

9. Discussion and Possible Action on Creation of a Pocket Park or Parklett – Related to LADOT Livable Streets Projects:

Heidi said there is no new information regarding this project. This matter is tabled.

10. Discussion and Possible Action on a West Hills’s stakeholder’s request to plant trees or shrubs on the empty dividers on Valley Circle between Victory and Vanowen:

Brad, Heidi, Joan, and Christina expressed different problems related to undertaking this request, including needing to remove

the asphalt presently on the dividers, making holes for trees, watering when no water sources are presently available, cleanups and watering would be required for these areas into perpetuity, even a community garden made up of box containers would require volunteers and/or a committee to keep clean and watered, homeowners nearby might have opposition to such plantings. Brad also stated that the entire project would be quite complicated and even the watering would be a huge project.

Based on this discussion this item was tabled.

11. Discussion and Possible Action on a West Hills Best Garden or Landscaping Contest, or possibly a Photo Contest:

Myrl said he did not understand this item, and, in addition, there are many variables and problems. Heidi said with a photo contest, entrants could submit a picture of their landscaping, and one category could be most improved or unique garden or parkway. Steve said the only positive would be that such a contest could encourage some homeowners to improve their landscaping. And the photo aspect could possibly be done as we did with the Halloween decorations. However, Steve believes the wealthier people might have an advantage, but that is with anything we do, but it might be worth it, since it could encourage homeowners to improve their homesteads. Joan said it could also make others feel bad because of the economic differences. Myrl said hand-me-downs could be used but there are many problems with this topic. This matter is also tabled.

The following items were also tabled due to time constraints:

12. LA City Park Maintenance Updates, Including Reports from members regarding conditions of our local parks:

13. ROW Letters:

14. Strike Team Reports:

15. 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???

16. Suggestions for the December Agenda:

Faye adjourned the meeting at 7:22 PM.

The next Beautification committee meeting will be held on December 21, 2021 at 6:00 PM on ZOOM.