



Help Guide the Future of West Hills
West Hills Neighborhood
Council



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FINAL
MEETING MINUTES
July 11, 2012

Chaminade College Preparatory, 23260 Saticoy Street, West Hills, CA 91304

Attendance:

Present: Sandi Bell, Shelly Bright, Dan Brin, Robert Brostoff, Edwin Dockus, Carolyn Greenwood, Donn Howell, Bonnie Klea, Stephen Lenske, Elliot Maggin, Walter Perfect, Bill Rose, Charlene Rothstein, Chris Rowe, Barry Seybert, Ron Sobel and Bobbi Trantafello, and Alec Uzemeck

Absent/Excused: Solomon Bash, Ed Young and Jacquie Young

Absent/Unexcused: Ruwan Kotuwelle, Jeffrey Shapiro, Daniel Wiseman and Joanne Yvanek-Garb

Opening Business:

Co-Chair, Mr. Stephen Lenske established a quorum, called the meeting to order. Mr. Lenske welcomed all those present. He pointed out that we are pleased to have a representative from Congressman Howard Berman's office and a very special guest, Councilman Dennis Zine.

Mr. Lenske turned the floor over to Councilman Zine. Councilman Zine explained that every ten (10) years the districts are realigned to allow for shifting/increase in population. The Third District exceeded the allowable number of residents and had to be adjusted. Councilman Zine felt rather than have West Hills split between the two districts it was better to keep it whole. He therefore supported having the entire West Hills in CD12. Councilman Zine stated that West Hills is in good hands with Councilman Mitch Englander. The councilman advised that we could be going through the same process in ten (10) years.

Councilman Zine stated that his purpose in coming to the meeting tonight was to say farewell. Councilman Zine expressed his enjoyment in working with the WHNC and spoke about things that have been accomplished during his time in office. In appreciation for the Board's dedicated service to the community of West Hills, Councilman Zine presented each Board Member with a Certificate of Recognition which were handed out by Mr. Lenske.

Mr. Lenske presented Councilman Zine with a Certificate of Appreciation from the West Hills Neighborhood Council.

Mr. Ron Rubine, Field Deputy for West Hills while in CD 3, stated he continues to get calls from the residents of West Hills. Mr. Rubine stated that he will not turn away any calls but will refer them to the appropriate person in CD12. Mr. Rubine advised that he is working with his counterpart in CD12 on items that were initiated in CD3.

Mr. Lenske introduced Ms. Courtney Hamilton from Congressman Howard Berman's office. Ms. Hamilton stated that she was here to observe and take any items or questions that residents might have back to the Congressman Berman. Ms. Hamilton can be reached at 818-465-9440

Public Comment:

Board member, Chris Rowe stated that 4 years ago Mr. Edwin Dockus asked her to run for office. She wished to thank both Mr. Lenske and Mr. Dockus. Ms. Rowe advised that there are several Environment Impact Statements coming up regarding Santa Susana Field Lab and how it is important to know what will become of that property which General Services is trying to liquidate.

Ms. Alisa Smith, the IEA for the Neighborhood Councils' elections, advised it is interesting getting to know each council and region. Ms. Smith stated that while board members cannot work their own elections, she would encourage everyone to work on the elections for other councils.

Board member, Mr. Barry Seybert, advised that the projector the council voted to be purchased has been received. Mr. Seybert stated that it would work with both MAC and a PC.

Council Announcements:

Minutes – The minutes of May 17, 2012 and June 6, 2012 were accepted as corrected.

Treasurer's Report – Ms. Bobbi Trantafello presented the current budget indicating a balance as of June 2012 of \$2,551.17. The budget was accepted as presented. Ms. Trantafello advised that the WHNC credit card has been reactivated.

Board Announcements:

Mr. Dan Brin reminded everyone that our election is coming up. Mr. Brin sent out a list of those board members who are up for election. The appropriate candidate form can be downloaded and submitted. Mr. Lenske reminded everyone that board members are in office until the new elected members are approved.

Mr. Walter Perfect advised that the two gentlemen who purchased the Lederer property on Sherman way advised him that there was going to be a hearing on August 7th regarding the building of two (2) senior residences on the site. Mr. Perfect advised that he has been told that there will not be a hearing until we have had the opportunity to give input. He has arranged for the appropriate neighbors to be notified and there will be a meeting on this matter August 14th at the 911 Call Center.

Mr. Edwin Dockus reminded everyone interested that a bylaws meeting has been scheduled for 7 p.m. on July 17th at the 911 Call Center.

Ms. Charlene Rothstein reminded everyone that Citrus Sunday is September 23, 2012 at Fields Market.

Mr. Ron Sobel advised there are two handouts at the back of the meeting room. The event on July 29th at the Wilkinson Center is for everyone, not just those interested in square dancing.

Old Business:

11-0016 – Discussion and possible action regarding the proposed amendments by the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment to the Bylaws

Mr. Stephen Lenske advised that DONE felt that our bylaws were not operative until they approved them. Our bylaws were held in limbo by DONE for nine (9) months. On June 28, 2012 Ms. Gracie Liu sent an e-mail stating that our bylaws were approved with certain modifications. However, per the City Attorney our bylaws are effective 10/26/2011 when they were approved by the Council and stakeholders and thereafter submitted to DONE and any proposed modifications by DONE are merely suggestions to be taken up by the Bylaws Committee at their next meeting. Our Board is operating under the amended Bylaws as approved by vote on 10/26/11. DONE further advised that no bylaw changes will be accepted by DONE until January 2013 because their inability to review bylaws due to reduced staff support in their department.

12-0001 – Discussion and possible action regarding findings and recommendations by the Grievance Committee regarding two (2) separate petitions for removal or censure filed against West Hills Neighborhood Council Board Member, Mr. Robert Brostoff.

Mr. Donn Howell advised that the findings and recommendations were in written form and were distributed to each Board Member and a copy of which is attached. Mr. Howell stated that this task was not something that was taken lightly and much effort was taken to deal with the facts along with continually acting under guidance from the Los Angeles City Attorney.

Mr. Brostoff called for point of order. Mr. Brostoff referred to a letter to him from the City Attorney which he claimed indicated that these proceedings were not valid. Mr. Edwin Dockus advised that as Chair the decision, based on further contact with the City Attorney after receipt of letter mention by Mr. Brostoff, is that the proceedings are valid. Decision on this matter requires a 2/3 vote. After discussion, which explained away the City Attorney communication, Mr. Brostoff moved for vote on upholding of the decision of the chair. Motion failed (7-10-0). After more discussion, Mr. Dan Brin moved that both petitions as presented be dismissed. Motion failed (8-10-0). After additional lengthy discussion, Mr. Dockus moved for the question. Motion passed (17-1-1 not voting). Mr. Donn Howell and Ms. Sandi Bell proceeded to read the four grievances filed, the committee's findings and recommendations, written copies of which were provided to each board member and attached to these minutes. The first recommendation is – removal from the board. **Recommendation not accepted (Yes 0 No 17 Abstentions 0)**. Second recommendation – Censure - aka- public reprimand. It was stated that the Board would decide what the appropriate written censure would be. **Recommendation accepted (Yes 11 No 4 Abstentions 2 (Shelly Bright and Elliot Maggin Abstained))**. Third recommendation – removal as WHNC Controller. **Recommendation not accepted (Yes 7 No 9 Abstentions 0)**

Because of the time and there was an item on the agenda that must be handled, Mr. Dockus made the motion to continue the adjourned meeting to July 19, 2012.

9:30 Meeting adjourned