

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



West Hills Neighborhood Council

P.O. Box 4670, West Hills, CA 91308-4670
818-254-WEST



WWW.WESTHILLSNC.ORG

MAIL@WESTHILLSNC.ORG

FINAL MEETING MINUTES

December 3, 2015

De Toledo High School (DTHS)
22622 Vanowen Street, West Hills, CA 91307

ATTENDANCE:

Present: Aida Abkarians, Sandi Bell, Simone Best, Thomas Booth, Dan Brin, Anthony Brosamle, Bob Brostoff, Margery Brown, Esperanza Butler, Nicole Flessati, Carolyn Greenwood, Bonnie Klea, Steve Randall, Reeyan Raynes, Ron Sobel, Barry Seybert (arrived at 8:00), Bobbi Trantafello, Alec Uzemeck, Ed Young, Jacquie Young and Joanne Yvanek-Garb

Absent: Eric Augusztiny, Bill Rose and Charlene Rothstein

Opening Business:

President and Co-Chair Dan Brin called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. Secretary Pro Tem Carolyn Greenwood called roll. President and Co-Chair Dan Brin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Comments from the Chair:

Dan Brin stated in light of all the tragedies occurring in the nation and in our area, we will have a minute of silence for all the victims around the world.

Announcements:

CD12 Field Deputy Jonathan Coto stated he is representing CD12 in Ron Rubine's place tonight. Mr. Rubine was engaged dealing with the gas leak in Porter Ranch. Mr. Coto wanted to remind those present about the Drive In Movie night at Shadow Ranch Park on Nov. 21 and that there will be a Holiday Bazaar in Reseda on Dec. 5. San Fernando Rescue Mission is trying to get a second mobile shower for our area. Mr. Rubine is still working on the Haynes Street Bridge and getting the parking signs for Platt Avenue and Roscoe and Valley Circle Boulevards.

Sen. Fran Pavley's Field Representative, Dusty Russell, advised that the governor released the revised budget on May 14 and it is expected to pass by the June 15 deadline. He spoke about several Senate bills that the senator has been involved with.

Captain Maureen Ryan from the Topanga Station spoke about crimes that occur this time of the year. Captain Ryan advised that we must all be super vigilant this time of the year and also be good neighbors. If you order things on line, have a neighbor pick them up off your porch if you are not home and have them held for pickup. Also, be careful about being distracted or multi-tasking when getting in or out of your car/home.

Ms. Simone Best took this opportunity to say that she would like to thank all the police officers involved in the mass shooting and for the handling of when the victims met with their loved ones. The fact that it was held in a building where the media was not allowed was super.

Presentation

Mrs. Joanne Yvanek-Garb introduced Mr. Herb Wesson. Ms. Yvanek-Garb said Mr. Wesson is the President of the Los Angeles City Council and a friend of the neighborhood councils who has initiated movement to restore funding to the neighborhood councils.

Mr. Wesson, who asked to be address as Herb, said he was here to listen to the questions and/or concerns of the community. He stated he would answer all questions to the best of his ability. Mr. Wesson stated that he felt that it is important to restore funding for the neighborhood councils to the original amount. Also at every meeting there have been questions about the city's handling of the funding. He expressed a feeling that it should be moved to a place that its only job is handling the funding.

Mr. Wesson responded to questions concerning the homeless situation. He stated that the city is in a crisis and to respond to this he has formed a five-member Homeless & Poverty Committee. The purpose of the committee is to determine what services are currently available and what is the best way to handle this crisis. We need a plan before any monies are spent.

Mr. Wesson responded to additional questions ranging from how the neighborhood council can get a list of trees that are to be trimmed/cut down to why there are not more women on the City Council. Mr. Wesson expressed his belief that the neighborhood council must establish a real and genuine relationship with its city councilman to aid in the establishment of true communication. Mr. Wesson stated that the more women are involved in city politics and are seen by the public, they will have a better chance of getting elected.

An invitation was extended, by a stakeholder to Mr. Wesson and the City Council to come out to West Hills and see for themselves the impact the Santa Susana Feld Lab clean up is having on the community.

Mr. Wesson was informed that the Beautification Committee chairs were told that we could not use city trucks to transport tools for beautification projects. Mr. Wesson stated he did not know why neighborhood councils could not use city vehicles and will have to look into this and get back to us.

Certificates of Appreciation

Ms. Aida Abkarians and Ms. Esperanza Butler presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Ms. Bonnie Abel of Nothing Bundt Cakes for her contributions to the community.

Mr. Dan Brin and Ms. Aida Abkarians presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Ms. Esperanza Butler for her tireless work in the community and on the Board.

Council Reports and Announcements

Mr. Howard Katchen, a member of the Sherman Oaks NC and a Budget Advocate, has been assigned as the Independent Election Administrator for Region 3 for the upcoming NC elections. Mr. Katchen stated that WHNC is a pioneer. We are one of the 35 councils out of the current 96 councils to opt to use online voting in the upcoming election. Mr. Katchen went over several dates for registration, certification, etc. These dates will be posted on the WHNC web site.

Government Relations – the impact statements will be presented next month.

By Laws/Emergency Preparedness – next Tuesday is an important By-laws meeting and at the Emergency Preparedness meeting next Thursday there will be a presentation on Map Your Neighborhood.

Health and Safety – at the next meeting in January there will be a speaker on mental health.

Education – next meeting is on 3rd Wednesday in January. The nomination forms for Teacher & Staff Appreciation will be available the first week in January.

Communications – developed a small working group for the web site and did a soft roll out. Committee chairs need to look at their respective pages and check those who are listed as being on their committees. Also, board members need to submit one-paragraph bios for the web site.

Beautification – next cleanup is on Dec. 12 at Justice Street near Sadring Avenue. The committee is promoting Adopt Your Own Block (like Adopt a Highway).

Budget – still haven't received notification of receiving the extra \$5,000 from the city.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.