

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



West Hills Neighborhood Council

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FINAL MEETING MINUTES March 5, 2015

New Community Jewish High School
22622 Vanowen Street, West Hills, CA 91304

ATTENDANCE:

Present: Aida Abkarians, Eric Augusztiny, Sandi Bell, Dan Brin, Esperanza Butler, Margery Brown, Bob Brostoff, Michael Castro, Ed Crowe, Nicole Flessati, Carolyn Greenwood, Steve Randall, Bill Rose, Charlene Rothstein, Ron Sobel, Bobbi Trantafello, Ed Young, Jacquie Young, Joanne Yvanek-Garb

Absent: Bonnie Klea, Ruan Kotuwelle, Elliot Maggin, Todd Marks, Barry Seybert, Joanne Yvanek-Garb

Opening Business:

President and Co-Chair Dan Brin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Secretary Nicole Flessati called roll and announced an initial attendance of 19 board members, meeting the requirements of a quorum. Vice President and Co-Chair Charlene Rothstein led the Pledge of Allegiance. Approval of the February 2015 meeting minutes was postponed until the April meeting.

Comments from the Chair:

There will be street asphalt repairs throughout West Hills on March 15. President Dan Brin is compiling a list of locations where repair is needed and requested that stakeholders inform him of any locations that should be included. Another round of repairs will take place in August.

Public Comments:

Public comments were led by Charlene Rothstein. Speakers were asked to keep comments limited to two minutes.

Kevin Bitar spoke regarding the Haynes Street pedestrian bridge. He said he has more than 60 signatures from area residents who want the bridge to be reopened for public use. He has requested that the council draft a resolution in support of the bridge reopening. Dan Brin recommends that Kevin attend the Streets and Transportation Committee and go through it to get a resolution drafted.

Sandi Bell, Public Health Chair, mentioned that every month the West Hills NC website is updated with the latest public health tips. This month's concerns the California Medical Association's recommendations for immunizations.

Ann Porter, stakeholder, spoke regarding a video called "A Question of Personhood." It supports the position that corporations are not people and should not have the same rights as individuals. The video is available on YouTube.

Christina Walsh, stakeholder, described the campaign to have the Santa Susana Fiel Laboratory site designated as a national monument. She is circulating a petition, which at the time of this meeting has more than 600 signatures. Postcards were presented that can be filled out and sent to the President of the United States. #monumentsmatter and #ssflnationalmonument are the social media hashtags that can be used to spread the word online and garner support for the designation.

Announcements:

Oscar Cordova, the new temporary Senior Lead Officer (SLO) for the northern part of West Hills, was introduced by Janet Zumstein, the SLO for southern West Hills. Officer Codova urged people to lock their second-floor windows to prevent break-ins. He recommends locking windows, installing security cameras, locking side gates and putting a "beware of dog" signs on fences. Taking these measures "hardens your target," he said.

Board member Eric Agusztiny asked what credentials should door-to-door vendors show to homeowners. Officer Cordova said they should call the Police Department to have vendors verified before engaging them in business.

Board member Margery Brown asked about the impact from the reduced sentencing for drug offenses from felonies to misdemeanors. Officer Cordova said monitors have seen case loads increase about 30-40%.

Certificate Presentations:

Doctors at Pet Medical Center, a West Hills veterinary practice, were presented with certificates of appreciation for their continued service to the community's pets, including those with homes and those without.

Pastor Brian Moorhead of The Church at Rocky Peak was present to accept a certificate of appreciation for public service. He noted 600 volunteers from the church performed in November at locations throughout West Hills. In November the church may send out 1200 church members for additional community service.

Presentation:

“Coyotes in Our Midst” by Bruce Kuhn of the Wildlife Learning Center

Old Business:

Agenda Item 14-0062 Discussion and possible action regarding the allocation of up to and including \$500 as a Neighborhood Purpose Grant to Hamlin Charter Academy. This was presented by the Budget Committee. Vote was taken and item was approved unanimously. 18 ayes.

New Business:

Agenda Item 15-0007 - Discussion and possible action regarding approval of WHNC’s February 2015 spending report. A motion was made by Bobbi Trantafello and seconded by Char Rothstein. A vote was taken and the report was unanimously approved.

Agenda Item 15-0008 - Discussion and possible action regarding the payment of rent of up to and including \$125 to Oak Lane Clubhouse for WHNC committee meetings. A vote was taken and the measure was approved unanimously. CONFIRM?????

Agenda Item 15-0009 - Discussion and possible action on amending the standing rules of the WHNC relating to filling vacant seats on the board, specifically Article V, Section 6. This recommendation came from the Bylaws Committee. A friendly amendment was made to the recommendation and a vote. The measure passed with 16 ayes, 1 no and 1 abstention.

Agenda Item 15-0010 - Discussion and possible action regarding an amendment to the standing rules for the use of *Robert’s Rules of Order* when *Rosenberg’s Rules* does not apply. This recommendation came from the Bylaws Committee. A vote was taken and the measure passed with 15 ayes, 3 nays and 0 abstentions.

Agenda Item 15-0011 - Discussion and possible action regarding a proposed resolution to support the Santa Monica Mountain Conservancy’s goals in purchasing a 16-acre site at Sherman Way and Woodlake Avenue for the purpose of implementing a stormwater project and creating a park-like open space. A friendly amendment was suggested by Allan Dietel and Dan Brin and accepted by Alec Uzemeck on behalf of the Environment Committee. A vote was taken and the resolution passed unanimously with 18 ayes.

Council Reports and Announcements

The Beautification Committee will have a clean up on Saturday, March 7, at 8 a.m. at Platt Avenue and Balmoral Way.

Event chair Bob Brostoff noted the Eggstravaganza Safety & Health Fair is coming up on March 28 and volunteers are needed. The entire board is expected to attend.

The Zoning and Planning meeting will take place this coming Monday.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.