



Help Guide the Future of West Hills
West Hills Neighborhood
Council



P.O. Box 4670, West Hills, CA 91308-4670
818-719-8656

<http://www.westhillsnc.org>

mail@westhillsnc.org

Final
MEETING MINUTES
January 5, 2011

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

Attendance:

Present: Solomon Bash, Sandi Bell, Shelly Bright, Dan Brin, Robert Brostoff, Edwin Dockus, Carolyn Greenwood, Donn Howell, Bonnie Klea, Ruwan Kotuwelle, Walter Perfect, Charlene Rothstein, Chris Rowe, Barry Seybert, Yoav Shalev, Jeffrey Shapiro, Ron Sobel, Daniel Wiseman, Joanne Yvanek-Garb, Jacquie Young and Alec Uzemeck.

Absent/Excused: Stephen Lenske, Bill Rose and Bobbi Trantafello

Opening Business:

Co-chair, Mr. Edwin Dockus called the meeting to order. Mr. Dockus advised that Mr. Lenske is ill and unable to attend. Mr. Dockus asked all in attendance to show respect for all speakers and if anyone wished to speak they would need to complete a Speaker Card.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, a quorum was established.

Announcements:

Minutes – Meeting Minutes from December 1, 2010 were accepted as amended.

Treasurer's Report – As Treasurer, Ms. Bobbi Trantafello, was not present, treasurer report will be held over until the next meeting.

Ms. Megan Murray, Field Deputy for Canoga Park, Reseda and West Hills from the 3rd Council District, advised that a task force has been formed to enforce the new parking restrictions for unhitched trailers. Several of those present stated that they saw Mr. Bruce Boyer disrupt the news conference regarding the task force. Board Member, Wally Perfect advised that he is on the task force and that Mr. Boyer has \$91,000 in fines as of the end of 2010. Mr. Perfect explained that this was because there was not a tracking system in place. The good news is that now the license plate numbers of all trailers cited are in the computer and if a license plate on the data base is sighted in any part of the city it can be impounded. Ms. Murray requested that we report any unlicensed trailers.

Ms. Murray advised that the Councilman has also formed a task force for potholes. Mr. Jose Martinez is spearheading this effort.

Ms. Seme Park, Field Deputy for the 12th Council District, advised that the San Fernando Valley Historical Society received a \$10,000 grant to compile the oral history of the San Fernando Valley. Anyone interested in the project can contact the society's office.

Dr. Daniel Wiseman asked Ms. Park if her office could give the board information on the 11 city propositions,, many of which were authored by Councilman Smith, that will be on the ballot. Dr. Wiseman advised that it would be helpful to understand why the City Council decided that these issues were important.

Senior Lead Officer Sam Sabra provided an update on law enforcement in West Hills. Officer Sabra advised that crime was down last month. Because of the heavy police deployment in the malls thefts were down. There is still a problem with Cadillac Escalades. Thieves are now stealing the GPS systems. One of Chief Beck's goals is crime prevention so the department is taking measures to stop crime before it happens.

Officer Sabra advised that the most current issue is two females, driving either a white Camry or red van. The women are dressed in black and look Hispanic but may be Gypsies. They are victimizing the elderly, distracting residents so accomplices can enter their houses.

Presentation:

Board Member, Dan Brin introduced the presentation speaker, Mr. Rick Silva, from the Department of Water & Power. Mr. Silva advised he is with the Water Conservation Program of DWP. Mr. Silva explained the various factors that affect the water rates and how our lowest winter usage establishes the water rate for the upcoming year. Mr. Silva advised that there are several free water conservation items offered by the DWP and there are several rebates available on appliances, toilets, and irrigation tools that reduce water usage. There is currently a rebate for turf removal. Complete information is available at www.socalwatersmart.com or the water conservation program can be reached at 1-800-544-4498.

Public Comment:

Board member, Daniel Wiseman, said that his Public Comment was in lieu of the formal Government Relations report. He told us about the recent activities of the FY2010-2011 NC Budget Advocates (NCBAs). They meet on the first and third Thursday of each with the Mayor's staff and are preparing the Mayor's Budget Survey (out soon), a formal presentation to the Mayor (in early March) and a Spring Budget Day for all NC Stakeholders. The NCBAs' 6 Committees are holding meetings with many city Department heads, employee representatives and expert (non-City) authorities to try to understand a wide array of Budget challenges. Everyone's participation is welcome ... via personal communications with the Regional NCBAs and attendance at NCBA meetings. Recent issues include the Public/Private/Partnership (P-3) agreements for the City's Parking Facilities and the effects of decreased funding to our City Attorney.

For more information go to the Mayor's Budget Page at the following:

<http://mayor.lacity.org/Issues/BalancedBudget/index.htm>

more and better links will be available, soon) or contact Dr. Wiseman at dwisemanmd@yahoo.com.

Board Member, Wally Perfect, introduced Mr. Brian Kovar. Mr. Kovar has applied to be a member of the board. Mr. Kovar provided information on himself and his reasons for wishing to participate as a member on the board.

Committee Report:

Mr. Alec Uzemeck, Chair of the Environment Committee, provided a status report on the Santa Susana Field Lab clean up. Mr. Uzemeck gave an overview of the parties involved in the clean up, the Department of Energy (DOE), NASA and the Boeing Company with oversight by the Department of Toxic Substances (DTSC) and the number of cleanups that have taken place to date. Mr. Uzemeck stated that there is a very, very significant cleanup effort going on at the lab. At one point Boeing proposed turning over the land to be made into a park after it was cleaned up. They even offered to provide \$75,000 a year to maintain the park. The current problem is that a consent agreement on cleanup has been signed by DTSC, DOE and NASA. The Boeing Company has not signed this agreement. There is no cleanup level specified in this agreement therefore excavation could be required. Excavation could result in the removal of thousands of cubic yard being removed and replaced. All of this soil would be transported by truck through West Hills. An assessment is currently being done to determine exactly how many cubic yards are involved as there are conflicting numbers.

Mr. Uzemeck stated that a letter should be sent to the DTSC asking what cleanup procedures they will be using and a letter to Boeing urging them not to sign the agreement. Mr. Uzemeck stated that because of the complicated nature and volumes of paper work on this subject he felt that this information needs to go back to the committee to work out the details and then bring it to the board. Mr. Uzemeck proposes to come back to the board in three months.

Board member Ms. Chris Rowe requested a special meeting with the principals involved as she feels they are not hearing us as a Board.

Ms. Chris Rowe also made a recommendation to the Board for a Motion to bring the SSFL issues back to the Board next month from the Public Health Committee.

Mr. Dockus stated that we have procedures for how to put things on the agenda. He stated that he understood Ms. Rowe's passion for the issue, but that he could not accept that Motion.

Stakeholder John Luker advised that he is optimistic and hopes for a sensible cleanup. Mr. Luker stated he agreed with Mr. Uzemeck 110% and encouraged everyone who is willing to work in a constructive community conscience way to attend the environmental meetings.

Stakeholder Abe Weitzberg, who worked at the Santa Susana lab, stated he supports Mr. Uzemeck and that the Board needs to make a stand.

Stakeholder Holly Huff stated she lives in Simi Valley and she is also concerned about what is happening at SSFL. Ms. Huff agreed that the traffic would not affect the other side of the hill but stated that until we know what is up there we do not know how many trucks will be involved.

Ms. Huff also went on to say that that Boeing cannot have it both ways: either there is no contamination at Santa Susana Field Lab or the dirt they are bringing down the hill is contaminated dirt. If it is not contaminated, no dirt needs to be moved. If so, those trucks filled

with contaminated dirt need to be logged and sent on a predictable schedule. The public needs to know.

Stakeholder Barbara Johnson stated that the discussion is very premature. Ms. Johnson stated that Boeing speaks out of both sides of its mouth and that we need to wait until the assessment is done. She stated that she and her fellow residents do not really care about turning the site into a park, they just want it to be safe.

Old Business:

02-0003 – Discussion and possible action re West Hills Street Signage

Mr. Edwin Dockus read a proposed resolution that DONE needs to fund the cost of the street signs. After discussion, the resolution was made that, “It is hereby resolved that the West Hills Neighborhood Council shall confirm acceptance of \$9,181.62 from Councilman Dennis P. Zine of the Third Council District as reflected in his correspondence of November 5, 2009, to the West Hills Neighborhood Council to be used with the funds of the West Hills Neighborhood Council for the West Hills Neighborhood Council Signage Project currently set at \$9,405.14.” Motion passed with two abstentions and one nay.

10-0019 – Ad Hoc Committee report on Administrative Staffing

Mr. Edwin Dockus stated that it was the consensus of the committee that the Executive Director, Michelle Ritchie be retained.

09-0028 – Discussion and possible action regarding appeal by HOA of T-Mobile’s proposed cell phone tower located near Lazy J Ranch Park in the vicinity of Valley Circle Boulevard and Ingomar Street

Ms. Charlene Rothstein advised that Ms. Adrian Patnaud from T-Mobile apologized for not being able to attend the meeting. Ms. Rothstein gave an update on what is happening with the cell tower near Shomrei Torah. Barry Seybert brought up the possibility of using approval of the Lazy J tower to get T-Mobile to keep its commitment regarding the Shomrei Torah cell tower as it was decided that they were two separate issues and we should just deal with Lazy J issue.

Stakeholder Jeff Bobrosky, who lives at Valley Circle and Ingomar, stated it just was not smart to put a cell tower in a well next to the park when there were several commercial buildings close by that could be used.

Ms. Rothstein pointed out several factors affecting installation of the cell tower at Lazy J. Ms. Rothstein stated that Valley Circle is designated as a scenic highway, an appeal has been filed opposing using this site, that the park is also an alternate landing site for Air Ops and Councilman Zine is totally opposed and backing the residents.

Stakeholder Tony Cassar stated that he is the resident who filed the appeal. Mr. Cassar advised that T-Mobile has not followed through in any way.

Ms. Rothstein moved that the Board advise T-Mobile that the proposed mono pine on Valley Circle at Lazy J Park be moved to an alternate site. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business:

11-0001 – Appointment of Neighborhood Council Animal Welfare Contact

Mr. Dockus advised that Mr. Lenske has appointed Mr. Walter Perfect as the new Animal Welfare contact.

11-0002 – Discussion and possible action regarding participation and related funding in CD12 Political forum

Mr. Dan Brin turned this item over to Mr. Brostoff. Mr. Brostoff advised that we are participating in the CD 12 candidate forum with six other councils and have been asked to appropriate up to \$100 for the event. After discussion as to why we are involved with CD12 and why this was not brought to the Budget Committee first, the motion was made that the West Hills Neighborhood Council appropriate up to \$100 for the January 31st CD12 candidate forum providing funds are available. Motion passed with four opposed.

11-0003 – Discussion and possible action on historical cultural monument designation for 8431 Pinelake Drive, formerly the residence at T.J. Craig's Peppergate Ranch

Mr. Dan Brin stated that currently there are three historical sites in the area and that there is an opportunity to have a fourth. The site was originally part of the 29 acres Orcutt Ranch sold to T.J. Craig that he named Peppergate Ranch. Just one house remains of the original 29 acres. The house is unique in that it was designed by Paul Revere Williams, the first African American elected a fellow of the American Institute of Architects. The U-shaped house was among the first hacienda style homes in the valley. Dr. Elizabeth Harris and her husband, Dodd Harris currently own the home.

Stakeholder Dr. Elizabeth Harris explained how she and her husband fell in love with the house and decided to restore it to its original beauty, a project that will take several years. As part of the application process, the Harris' requested to get the support of the Neighborhood Council before the next hearing on their application on January 13th.

After Dr. Harris addressed questions from the board and welcomed any who wished to see the home, Mr. Brin moved that the West Hills Neighborhood Council be on record as supporting that the application to the Heritage Commission be accepted. Motion passed with one opposed and one abstention.

9:50 meeting adjourned