



West Hills Neighborhood Council

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BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday January 26, 2016

West Hills Hospital, West Hills

The meeting was called to order at 6:42 PM by Reeyan Raynes, Committee Co-Chair.

Those in attendance were Reeyan Raynes, Steve Randall, Tom Booth, Simone Best, Dan Brin, Michael Teitelbaum, Heidi Manning, Brad Vanderhoof, Barry Seybert and Ron Sobel. A quorum was established.

The December 22, 2015 minutes were approved as amended.

Public Comments:

Heidi reported that only two of the eight schools she inspected have landscape issues. The two schools which may need Committee attention are Nevada Street Elementary and Justice Street Elementary. She also suggested that the adjacent shopping center containing Lowes and Wells Fargo should be contacted regarding clean up around Nevada Street. The group discussed the possibility of using recognition, for example a banner on the school fence, to help enlist help from Lowes. Dan suggested the Council could present recognition certificates. Heidi expressed the need for contact information for the schools and associated PTAs. Reeyan advised that the Youth and Education Committee should be involved to coordinate and activities with PTAs. Heidi also reported she attended a school principals meeting at Pomelo Elementary and found no awareness of the Neighborhood Council. Heidi committed to an action to work with Miguel on approaching the shopping center.

Around Lazy J Park, Heidi reported the sidewalks are marked for replacement along Valley Circle Blvd. and Ingomar St. in a similar fashion to the way sidewalks were marked around Taxico Park prior to replacement. She asked the committee to take action to investigate the matter so sidewalk work and removal/replacement of the rusted fence are coordinated. Reeyan cautioned that this would involve two different city departments (Streets and Transportation for the sidewalks and Parks and Recreation for the fencing), and the Neighborhood Council has little or no influence to coordinate interaction between city departments. Reeyan will add an item to the agenda for the next meeting to prepare a position on the issue for the Council to consider.

Old Business:

Woodlake Project Review:

Reeyan declared the effort a success with all goals accomplished and many 311 notifications submitted to the city. Reeyan also asked the committee attendees to remind neighbors and stakeholders they are responsible for street landscape maintenance around their property. Steve suggested the use of a follow-up flyer after clean-up projects.

February Project:

Reeyan reiterated the concern that the Committee has focussed on the area around Woodlake Ave. and Ingomar St. and called for a roundtable discussion to identify the location for February efforts. Heidi suggested the area across Fallbrook Ave. from the Fallbrook Mall near Criswell St. citing graffiti on the sidewalk, and a large amount of leaves and trash in the gutters and storm drains. She also mentioned there is no waste container at the bus stop. Michael reported that the vacant building, formerly OSH, on Victory Blvd. at Fallbrook Ave, is frequented by the homeless population and consequently a source of the trash. Reeyan stated this may need to be a CD12 project. Heidi reported the Platt Library parking lot cleanliness has improved with the removal of most of the larger items but there is still clean-up required. Reeyan commented that it is very difficult to work on City property and the refuse left by the homeless population may constitute a hygiene hazard for volunteers. Simone mentioned the Communications Committee may have money available for safety vests with the Neighborhood Council logo. Dan voiced his support for an effort at Platt Library citing the opportunity to work with the Woodland Hills Neighborhood Council and generate good publicity. Heidi mentioned Roscoe Bl. near Orcutt Park is in bad shape with bricks falling from the wall along the north side. Dan mentioned the east side of Fallbrook Ave. from Saticoy St. to Ingomar Ave. and the north side of Victory Bl. near Fallbrook Ave. are both starting to look "ratty". Barry mentioned the median along Valley Circle Bl. North or Victory Bl. Has weeds beginning to grow back. Reeyan commented that using mulch takes time to coordinate and is not feasible for the February clean-up.

The February project was scheduled for Saturday, February 13, 2016 to clean the east side of Fallbrook Ave. near Criswell St. Meeting location is the Fallbrook Mall parking lot near the intersection of Fallbrook Ave. and Criswell St. Dan will prepare graphic design for a flyer. Ron suggested using door hangers to publicize the event. Heidi requested the term 'clean-up' be changed to something more attractive to help encourage stakeholder participation. Reeyan stopped discussion citing time considerations.

Reeyan tabled discussion on 'Tony's Draft Letter' until a later date.

Reeyan provided an update on Operation Storm Drain.

Reeyan closed agenda item 8. Noting the inventory is complete and a permanent marker would be used for marking purposes. In additional discussion, Ron informed that new pressure sensitive laser printer labels are available, recommended them, and agreed to investigate cost and availability. Barry suggested using a hand engraver for identifying tooling. Dan will work on using the Neighborhood Council logo for labels but stated he needs specifications such as size required.

Tom reported that there is nothing new concerning the trees along with irrigation systems that were offered by LDS. The Committee agreed the next step is to prepare a proposal. Any plan must be approved and signed off by the LA City Department of Parks and Recreation. Barry expressed concerns about how the trees will be watered and protected from damage. Tom committed to an action to get more information and contact Robert.d.baker@lacity.org.

Reaching out to homeowners with an official letter to ask that they maintain their property maintenance was discussed. Various possible future Beautification Committee cleanup locations were discussed.

New Business:

EmPower LA wants clean streets initiative stories. Heidi suggested the Committee write a children's book.

Dan led a discussion on the blurring of responsibilities and actions between committees and the idea of possibly combining committees. For example Operation Storm Drain involves Beautification, Streets and Transportation, Emergency Preparedness and Communications. Steve suggested keeping the current committees separate but having joint meetings and increasing communication. Simone stated she supports better communication between committees.

The next meeting of this committee will be on February 26, 2016 at 6:30 PM at West Hills Hospital.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:05 PM by Reeyan Raynes..