



West Hills Neighborhood Council

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HOMELESSNESS SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

February 20, 2017

Chaminade High School, West Hills

Revised February 24, 2017

Those in attendance were: Simone Best, Tom Booth, Aida Abkarians, Fiona Kilner, Olivia Naturman, Joan Trent, Alec Uzemeck, Brad Vanderhoof, and Joanne Yvanek-Garb (arrived 8:10 PM).

Committee Co-Chair Tom Booth called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM. A quorum was established.

The January meeting minutes were approved.

Numbers refer to agenda items:

4. **Chair Comments:** Simone announced the next Homeless Liaison meeting is March 2 at 6 PM, which conflicts with the WHNC Board meeting. Simone asked for a volunteer to attend the liaison meeting on behalf of the committee; no one volunteered. Simone and Tom will decide if one of them will be able to attend. Tom mentioned he was really impressed with the community and WHNC Board member support for the Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count in January.
5. **Public Comments:** None
6. **Homeless Liaisons:** Simone and Tom are the WHNC Homelessness Liaisons. See item 4.
7. **Support for Families with Children in Local Schools:** Aida reported that for this school year homeless students are already in transition. Schools plan a year in advance and support activities are already being implemented for this school year.
 - However, school principals would like information on what the Homelessness Committee can provide in order to help them plan for the 2017-18 school year. Aida and Olivia lead a discussion regarding LAUSD privacy rules and the limited information schools can disclose concerning or identifying homeless or at-risk students. Aida stated LAUSD social workers mainly visit Title I schools. Only one of the 8 public schools in West Hills is a Title I school so most West Hills students and families who need assistance are not served. Fiona from Lutheran Social Services mentioned they can only work with truly homeless students and not help those at-risk.
 - The question raised is—how can we help West Hills at-risk students and families who do not attend a Title I school?
 - i. Aida will coordinate offering assistance to at-risk students with the Youth and Education Committee and report back to Homelessness at the March meeting.
 - ii. Alec commented that WHNC would probably have surplus funds at year-end and the committee should have a project planned.
8. **Mobile Showers:** Alec discussed that insurance and other requirements for mobile showers are burdensome for the property owner. Tom reported the Church of Living Praise in Chatsworth provides showers every Friday from 9 am to 12 pm. Alec will visit the church on a Friday to learn how the program works, and send an e-mail to committee members with his observations.

9. **Homeless Connect Day:** Alec reported LAHSA does not want WHNC to help plan an event but would let the NC co-sponsor an event. Currently there are 11 Homeless Connect Days planned for the Valley with the closest event to West Hills in Winnetka.
- Fiona informed the group that LAHSA requires co-sponsors to distribute some sort of aid (backpacks, food, or clothing) in order to participate.
 - i. The group decided to make give-away packages and to co-sponsor a LAHSA Homeless Connect Day later in the year.
 - ii. Tom will attempt to get Councilmember Englander to attend the event.
 - Tom suggested the committee promote its homeless outreach activities, LAHSA's Homeless Connect Day, and other organizations helping the homeless like SCSFV, to a larger group by sending them the committee meeting minutes each month.
 - i. A VIP email list will be prepared and include councilmembers Englander and Blumenfield, the West Valley neighborhood council presidents, DONE, Molly Reisman, the Mayor, and others.
 - ii. Fiona will provide a list of Homeless Connect Day events and the spreadsheet of aid items LAHSA has requested. Fiona mentioned LAHSA has a new Community Advisory Group of which a member or two were appointed from the SCSFVC and she will send contact information to the committee.
10. **Faith-based Community Connection List:** Olivia reported her initial introductions were met with positive responses and she now needs to follow-up with what the committee is requesting from these organizations.
- Due to his outstanding past presentations on homelessness, Simone asked Tom to lead a WHNC Homelessness Committee speaker's bureau and he agreed.
 - Olivia proposed having large meetings where our speaker's bureau could address several organizations at once. Olivia will contact a local mosque to see if they can provide space for a local faith-based town hall meeting on homelessness in May 2017.
 - The Church at Rocky Peak Service Day: Tony from the Beautification Committee asked for ideas. Suggestions included; cleaning and inventorying the LSS storage unit, once items have been obtained helping prepare backpacks like Giving Spirit provides, and beautification projects.
11. **CSUN:** Simone was contacted by the CSUN Women's Research and Resource Center (CSUN WRRC) who have a food and supplies pantry for homeless students. They asked if we could do a food and hygiene products collection for the students. Simone suggested CSUN WRRC be invited to participate in Spring Fest and will ask the Communications Committee to promote the collection via social media. The committee approved this action by unanimous consent. Simone will follow-up and report back.
12. **FY17-18 Draft Budget:** At Tom's request the group brainstormed ideas for budget requests. The group decided to ask for \$3980 with project specifics still to be determined, but targeted to providing hands-on help for West Hills stakeholders who are at risk of, or experiencing, homelessness or food insecurity.

The Committee Operating Rules were approved by unanimous consent and will be on the March agenda to confirm this action.

Tom adjourned the meeting at 7:37 PM.

The next meeting of this committee is on Monday, March 20, 2017 at 6:00 PM, Chaminade High School Condon Center, second floor conference room.