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WEST HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

JOINT HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE/BOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 21, 2017

Chaminade High School, West Hills

Revised August 24, 2017

Those in attendance were: Simone Best, Anthony Brosamle, Marge Brown, Alex Cohen, Amanda Coleman (arrived 6:45), Don Evans – CPNK (left 7:26), Olivia Naturman, Joan Trent, Brad Vanderhoof, and Fern White.

Committee Co-Chair Simone Best called the meeting to order at 6:40 PM. A quorum was established.

The following documents were distributed to the committee; ‘Community Impact Statement Recommendation; RE: CF15-1138-S27 – LHASA/Comp Homeless Strategy/RV Waste Disposal,’ and, ‘Electronics Recycling & Paper Shredding Event; Presented by Esperanza Butler.’

The July meeting minutes were approved.

Numbers refer to agenda items:

4. Chair Comments: Simone informed the group that co-chair Tom Booth is absent to attend a discussion with stakeholders at the request of Kevin Taylor from the Mayor’s office. Simone introduced Fern White.
5. Public Comments: Fern informed the group she has started a CrimeBusters Facebook page dedicated to homeless and transient encampments. Don reported the City Council voted to reject a proposal to build bond-funded supportive housing on a city owned lot in Boyle Heights due to neighborhood opposition.
6. Electronic Waste Recycling Event: In Aida’s absence, Simone described the event and stated the committee needs to work more on promotion.
7. Inter-faith Dialogue: Simone is working with United Methodist Church to secure use of their facility for the forum. Simone distributed a survey titled, ‘days of Compassion Participant registration and Questionnaire.’ After discussion it was decided Joan, Olivia, and Simone will finalize a questionnaire for the forum.
8. Woodland Hills Homeless Connect Day: Simone described Homeless Connect Days and the services provided, including the coordinated entry system. She said the goal is to identify individuals who are ready and get them enrolled in services, while providing same-day services for those who are not yet ready. WHNC has signed up to support the mobile veterinary services efforts. Joan described her experiences at the Homeless Connect Day held in Winnetka. Simone asked that anyone wishing to volunteer to call Jenny Portillo at Councilmember Blumenfeld’s office. Fern offered to try to recruit mobile pet groomers. Olivia reported LA County Animal Services will be on-site to provide veterinary services and grooming.
9. Community Impact Statement (CIS) for CF 15-1138-S27 RV Waste Disposal: Simone explained some background on the council file and urged the committee to support a CIS in favor of the S27 motion. Joan asked for clarification regarding the ‘enrolled in services’ provision; Simone and Fern explained. Fern reported the uproar she has seen on social media expressing the viewpoint that this would make the homeless more comfortable and lead to more RVs parked in residential neighborhoods. Olivia asked about funding and Simone replied it would come from the bond initiatives H and HHH. Simone called for a vote with an added stipulation to require a 30-day time-limit on publication of the report. The vote to support a CIS with the stated stipulation passed unanimously. Simone will submit the CIS to the WHNC for the September Board Meeting.
10. Meeting to Discuss Prop HHH: Simone will invite the public to a planned meeting to discuss the safe parking program when the meeting is scheduled. Tony encouraged committee members to have an answer for where a safe parking site could be located, as this question is sure to arise, and to remember they would be speaking for the Council and community.
11. The Church at Rocky Peak All Serve Day: Simone asked for project ideas. Tony said he will finalize the list on August 22nd. Simone asked that committee member be listed as contacts.
12. Administrative: Tabled until September.
13. Homegrown West Hills Outreach (HGWHO): Tabled until September.
14. Fostering Homeless Pets: Tabled until September.
15. CIS for CF 17-0274 Affordable Housing Linkage Fee: Tabled until September.
16. Suggestions for New Agenda Items: Marge asked the committee to consider small disaster preparation. She used the recent eclipse, and how to inform/warn the homeless population. Simone suggested this is more appropriate for consideration by the Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Committee. Tony asked for a calendar of contacts with faith-based and charitable organizations.

Committee Co-Chair Simone adjourned the meeting at 7:57 PM.

The next meeting of this committee is on Monday, September 18, 2017 at 6:30 PM, Chaminade High School Condon Center, second floor conference room.