



Help Guide the Future of West Hills
West Hills Neighborhood
Council



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FINAL
MEETING MINUTES
January 7, 2014

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

Attendance:

Present: Eric Augusztiny, Sandi Bell, Dan Brin, Robert Brostoff, Margery Brown, Michael Castro, Nicole Flessati, Carolyn Greenwood, John Hogue, Bonnie Klea, Ruwan Kotuwelle, Franchon Lyons, Elliot Maggin, Steve Randall, Bill Rose, Charlene Rothstein, Barry Seybert, Ron Sobel, Bobbi Trantafello, Alec Uzemeck, Daniel Wiseman, Ed Young and Jacquie Young

Absent: Solomon Bash and Joanne Yvanek-Garb

Late Entrant: Daniel Wiseman (8:20)

Opening Business:

The Dec. 3, 2013 Meeting Minutes were approved as corrected.

Secretary Carolyn Greenwood called roll and announced a quorum of 22. President Dan Brin then called the meeting to order.

Mr. Brin welcomed everyone and wished all a Happy New Year.

Comments from the Chair:

Mr. Brin showed an article on the front page of the *Los Angeles Times*' Sports Section reporting on how Chaminade's football team became state champions of Division II of the California Interscholastic Federation. He said we should honor the team for this achievement.

Mr. Brin announced a community tour of Orcutt Ranch at 11 a.m. on Jan. 11. The tour will be lead by members of the Orcutt family, including two grandchildren of William W. and Mary Logan Orcutt. (The tour was subsequently postponed due to an illness in the family.)

Public Comment:

There were no speaker cards for public comment.

Announcements:

Mr. Ron Rubine, Deputy Field Representative for District 12, stated it is a bad time for those who love plastic. A law is now in effect banning major grocery stores from giving out plastic shopping bags.

Mr. Rubine also advised that because next week is the 20th anniversary of the Northridge Earthquake, brochures titled *After Shock: Your Personal Guide to the Immediate Aftermath of a Major Earthquake*, developed by District 12, will be distributed with the *Daily News* this Sunday. He spoke of other activities related to the 20th anniversary, including a presentation on Tuesday, Jan. 14 titled "Imagine America without Los Angeles."

Mr. Brin presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Mr. Rubine for his efforts as master of ceremonies at the recent West Hills Arts & Crafts Fall Festival at Shadow Ranch Park.

Mr. Brin then announced that "we have a hero with us tonight." He introduced Officer Don Thompson, a member of the LAPD's Bomb Squad, who rescued a man from a burning car on the 405 freeway on Dec. 25, 2013. Mr. Brin presented Officer Thompson with a Certificate of Appreciation.

New Business Item 14-0005

To facilitate the stakeholders present, Mr. Brin moved forward "Discussion and possible action regarding a yard setback variance for property located at 8407 Sedan Avenue, West Hills. Los Angeles City Planning Department Case #ZA 20132251ZAA."

A representative for the homeowner stated that the request to extend three feet into the home's back yard set back normally would just require the agreement (signature) of the adjacent neighbors. However, because one neighbor refused to sign family now has to go through a formal variance procedure. Mr. Bill Rose, co-chair of the WHNC's Zoning & Planning Committee, said the committee held a meeting on this matter and no one was present to protest the action. Seeing that there was no one present tonight in protest of the requested variance, Mr. Rose reported that it is the unanimous recommendation of the Zoning & Planning Committee that the WHNC support the requested variance. **Motion passed (21) (1) (0).**

Presentation:

WHNC Vice President and Co-Chair Charlene Rothstein introduced Mr. Tony Wilkinson, who is the Independent Election Administrator for Neighborhood Councils in Region 3 in the southwestern San Fernando Valley. Mr. Wilkinson is a board member of the Panorama City Neighborhood Council. He described the importance of recruiting candidates for the WHNC's board elections on March 16 at Shadow Ranch Park. He wants each board member to recruit two new candidates. Candidates can file online at EmpowerLA.org by Jan. 30.

Mr. Brin then introduced LAFD Battalion Chief John Drake, who reported that the LAFD is working on a Community Based Strategic Plan in conjunction with USC and is engaging the community. He distributed a three-item survey requesting stakeholders' five top expectations, their areas of concern and their comments on the department's strengths. The survey can be found on line at www.surveymonkey.com/s/LAFD.

New Business:

14-0004 – Discussion and possible action regarding a 5K race through West Hills on Memorial Day Weekend.

WHNC Special Events Chair Ed Young introduced Mr. Mark Neudorff, president of the Canoga Park/West Hills Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Neudorff advised that his purpose in contacting Mr. Young is that he wants to have more involvement by West Hills. He sees West Hills as a full-fledged participant in the Chamber, not just a footnote. What better way to emphasize this idea than to have a Memorial Day Weekend 5K/10K race go through West Hills? Mr. Young agreed and moved that the West Hills Neighborhood Council partner with the Canoga Park/West Hills Chamber of Commerce to produce a West Hills 5K/ 10K race on Saturday, May 24th in conjunction with the Chamber's Canoga Park Memorial Day Parade festivities. **Motion passed (23) (0) (0).**

Committee Report – DTSC Meeting Update

Ms. Bonnie Klea, co-chair of the WHNC's Environment Committee, advised how Boeing has removed or remediated a great deal of contamination on the Santa Susana Field Laboratories site without significant trucking of hazardous materials. She reported that a judge has placed a temporary injunction on the cleanup in response to a lawsuit brought by three environmental groups. She also provided information on Dayton Canyon and Happy Valley.

Stakeholder Chris Rowe spoke about the lawsuit and said that she and her husband went to a hearing in Sacramento. Ms. Rowe stated that the judge's decision was based solely on whether the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) was violated.

New Business

14-0001 – Discussion and possible action regarding the approval of the WHNC's December 2013 Spending Report.

Treasurer Bobbi Trantafello advised that expenses listed were those left over from December. **Spending Report approved (20 yes) (1 no) (0 abstain) (2 absent) (2 ineligible).**

14-0002 – Discussion and possible action regarding the use of the remaining allocated funds of the Emergency Preparedness Committee to be used for handouts.

After some discussion, Controller Bob Brostoff moved that up to \$1,000 of Emergency Preparedness Committee funds be used for labels on earthquake preparedness materials to be distributed in the community. **Motion passed (20 yes) (1 no) (0 abstentions) (2 ineligible) (2 absent).**

14-0003 – Discussion and possible action regarding the appointment of WHNC board members who may submit Community Impact Statements (CIS).

After discussion, Dan Brin, Nicole Flessati, Charlene Rothstein, Alec Uzemeck and Joanne Yvanek-Garb were appointed as WHNC board members eligible to submit Community Impact Statements. **(21) (0) (0).**

Council Announcements:

WHNC Beautification Chair Michael Castro advised that his crew will assist pruning roses at Orcutt Ranch from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 11, and anyone wishing to participate is welcome.

9:18 — Meeting adjourned.