



West Hills Neighborhood Council

P.O. Box 4670, West Hills, CA 91308-4670
818-254-WEST



WWW.WESTHILLSNC.ORG

MAIL@WESTHILLSNC.ORG

Ad hoc Committee on Homelessness Minutes (appr 8.15.16)

May 9, 2016 -- 6:00 to 7:00 pm

**West Hills Hospital, 1st Floor Conference Room
7300 Medical Center Drive, West Hills, CA**

In attendance: Tom Booth, Simone Best, Aida Abkarians, Marge Brown, Joanne Yvanek-Garb, Ron Sobel, Alec Uzemeck, Brad Vanderhoof, Tony Brosalme, Joan Trent.

- 1) The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm by Tom Booth. A quorum was established.
- 2) The minutes from 4/4/16 were approved as amended.
- 3) Simone updated the group on the latest status of the Comprehensive Homeless Initiative CF15-1138-S11 by 8th District Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson.
 - Tony stated that in his opinion the motion contains four separate points the committee can use as topics for education of the Neighborhood Council and community outreach.
 - Joan expressed her opinion that a major concern of West Hills stakeholders will be how the motion affects planning and the potential opening of facilities like shelters.
 - Alec stated his opposition to blanket approval of the motion. Alec suggested organizing the available information and current status of all homeless proposals, initiatives and activities into a summary format accessible to all. Tony said the Communications Committee is working towards this end.
- 4) The group approved an updated mission statement to read:
The mission of the WHNC Homeless Sub-Committee is to inform and educate the stakeholders of West Hills on the issues of homelessness in Los Angeles, to work toward connecting homeless folks to resources, and support development of those resources.
- 5) Alec has not been able to perform mobile outreach at the Fallbrook shopping center but will start this effort. Tom will call Linda Milazzo to check on whether she is still interested in distributing mobile outreach material and send Aida copies of the outreach materials for the Sunshine Club to use.
- 6) Budget requests
 - a. LSS NPG was discussed. The need for further clarification on the budget portion of the LSS NPG was requested. Simone stated the director was not available to attend tonight's meeting but will invite the Director to the next

meeting. The NPG was approved by consensus to go to the budget committee as a request.

- b. The West Valley Food Bank NPG request was discussed and added to the proposed budget request. There was confusion as to which food bank we were discussing and decided it was the one associated with the Prince of Peace church.
- c. By consensus the committee approved sending a budget request of \$150 for meeting refreshments to support a West Valley NC Homeless Committee meetings.
- d. Joanne pointed out the NC cannot solicit donations, Simone will removed this language, the group voted to approve the following statement and add to the budget request - Printing - \$300 for brochures and hand-outs to educate and inform stakeholders on homeless issues.

Aida will invite a pastor from Calvary Baptist church to speak about that organizations efforts to combat homelessness.

7) Tom and Alec gave an update of their attendance to the SFV & SC Coalition on Homelessness meeting. Related events in the vicinity of West Hills were also mentioned. Alec will attend the next SFV & SC meeting.

8) Tom has contacted speakers to make an educational presentation on homelessness at the first available WHNC Board meeting. He is trying to confirm an invitation for someone with a personal story of transitioning from homelessness to a stable home to speak to the NC.

9) Tom reminded the group the Canoga Park Connect Day is on May 19th.

10) Joanne provided a Winnetka NC contact and Marge provided a Chatsworth NC contact. Tom will try to organize a joint venture of West Valley NCs to address homelessness.

11) Marge informed the group she attended a Chatsworth Neighborhood Watch meeting where a speaker with many years of homeless outreach claimed he never had a homeless person refuse to get off the street. According to the speaker, with education of options and a building of trust, even the most resistant homeless individuals want to change their situation. Tony pointed out the committee meeting time conflicts with the West Hills neighborhood Watch meeting at the Topanga Station. Tom will set a time and location for future meetings and may add discussion of meeting arrangements to next month's agenda.

12) The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm.