

## Minutes

# Community Services Committee Meeting

February 25, 2013 – 6:30 p.m.

Fire Station 84, 21050 Burbank Blvd., Woodland Hills, CA 91364

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**Committee Chair, Bill Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.**

Pledge of Allegiance was conducted by the Chair.

**Roll Call** was conducted by the Chair; a quorum was reached with 8 committee members present: Bill Anderson, Kathy Davis, Heath Kline, Zack King, Sean McCarthy, Pat Patton, Albert Sauer, and Melanie Smotrich-King (*WHWCNC Education Committee Chair*). Absent: Matthew Creith, Anna Davies, Marty Golden, and Brad McCall. Also attending the meeting was Dennis DiBiase (*WHWCNC Vice Chair*). There were no other visitors.

**Public Comment Period:** There were no public comments.

### Committee Agenda Items

#### 1. **Neighborhood Clean Up Program**

The Committee discussed the need to create a program to keep Woodland Hills neighborhoods clean rather do a series of “one time” projects that take Committee time without providing an ongoing solution. Painting curbs and fire hydrants and clean up of weeds and debris from curbs and parking on residential streets was discussed. Several areas in the city were cited as examples of possible “clean-up” including Oxnard between Desoto & Winnetka and Del Valle Street next to the 101 between Shoup and Fallbrook. These areas evidenced two of the reasons that curbs / parking becomes overgrown with weeds and trash: 1) unclear responsibility between the City of LA and other jurisdictions; 2) property owner ignorance with regard to keeping up their property clean to the curb. It was pointed out that homeowners could many times solve clean up problems by calling 311.

It was discussed how Neighborhood Council area representatives could be used to keep the Committee informed about problem areas on a monthly basis. Variations included dividing each area amongst its six reps for problem tracking. Another involved the assignment of one representative the responsibility. Regardless of organizational details, it was observed that it was the Neighborhood Council Reps responsibility to keep on top of the problems and as needed inform the City Councilman’s office. The Committee decided that a project Mission Statement and preliminary plan was needed. Bill Anderson volunteered to write a draft Mission Statement for the program.

Several groups were suggested that might be included the execution of any “clean up” projects: *El Camino Charter School, Taft High School, Pacific Lodge Boys Home, Chaminade High School, Louisville High School, the Tree People, The Boy Scouts* were also suggested. Eagle Scout projects have to be large projects and may require fund raising by the scout. Projects are processed all year long based on the scout birthday. Dennis di Biase volunteered to research program details. Sean McCarthy reported that Woodland Hills Tarzana Chamber of Commerce has money for community beautification projects.

**Action Item:** Write a draft Mission Statement and present to the Committee at its next meeting. (*Bill Anderson*)

**Action Item:** Research and report back to the Committee how the Eagle Scout program works. (*Dennis di Biase*)

**Action Item:** Contact the Woodland Hills Tarzana Chamber of Commerce see if it is possible for the Committee's proposed Neighborhood Clean Up program to interface with the Chamber's beautification program. (*Sean McCarthy*)

## 2. DWP Smart Meter Program

The Committee discussed the proposed DWP plan to install "Smart Meters" in Woodland Hills' residences and businesses. Committee member Melanie Smotrich – King made the following motion which was to be taken to the full Board of the Woodland Hills Warner Center Neighborhood Council:

The Woodland Hills Warner Center Neighborhood Council would like to make it known it supports a temporary moratorium of the installation of wireless smart meters and related equipment in, along, across, upon, under and over the public streets and other places within the Woodland Hills Warner Center area. Because the potential risks to the health, safety and welfare of residents are so great; the Council should send letters to the Los Angeles DWP, Mayor Villaraigosa, and Councilman Zine, stating our concerns and encouraging a city wide moratorium until a wired smart meter option can be implemented. Additionally, the Council should reach out to other Neighborhood Councils to make them aware of the health and safety concerns of wireless smart meters, encouraging them to support a moratorium of wireless smart meters and requesting them to send similar letters to the Los Angeles DWP, Mayor Villaraigosa and their local officials.

The motion was seconded by Heath Kline.

The ensuing discussion focused on the need for DWP to provide the residents and businesses of Woodland Hills with more information about the Smart Meter program. It was felt that this information should include scientific information about how the meters' radiation affects or does not affect health and what options are available to homeowners regarding allowing or declining meter installation. The Committee was of the opinion that it would be better for the full Board to send a letter to DWP requesting that the agency set a meeting with the Council to present the aforementioned information and answer any additional questions that may arise about the Smart Meters and their installation. Sean McCarthy made the following friendly amendment to original motion:

Based on concerns that have been raised by stakeholders at the 25 February 2013 Community Services Committee meeting regarding the health impacts of smart meters, the Committee felt there was a sufficient concern about the use of "Smart Meters" to warrant the following:

1. That the Woodland Hills Warner Center Neighborhood Council request LADWP to attend a upcoming Woodland Hills Warner Center Neighborhood Council Board Meeting to explain in detail the purpose of the smart meter systems.
2. That LADWP representatives answer community concerns about the potential health impacts associated with Smart Meters.
3. Answer critics concerns including but not limited to:
  - a. The systems will be installed,
  - b. What systems were rejected,
  - c. How the public will be notified about the program and
  - d. Options should a rate payer choose not to participate.

The friendly amendment was accepted by Melanie Smotrich-King and then seconded by Heath Kline. The motion was passed unanimously: 8 for; 0 against; 0 abstentions.

**Action Item:** The Motion is to be included in the agenda of the 13 March 2013 meeting of the Woodland Hills Warner Center Neighborhood Council and presented by the Committee Chair at that meeting. (*Bill Anderson*)

### 3. Senior Citizen Program

Kathy Davis reported that she had received an email from Garth Richardson regarding the 2013 edition of the Senior Symposium. It is scheduled for 20 April. She reported that she is awaiting further information about the WHWCNC booth.

The Committee discussed the need to find out from senior citizens what their needs are. It was suggested that the upcoming senior symposium would be an ideal venue for a poll to gather this information. The Committee would need to create a questionnaire for this. The instrument could also be used at this summer's Concerts in the Park to poll seniors as to their needs. The committee was of the opinion that such a questionnaire should cover the following topics that are important to seniors: transportation programs; food programs; medical services; social activities; grab bars; lifeline systems; the need for home assistance.

It was pointed out that many seniors are unaware of current programs available to them such as the MTA Access Program. Research on these programs could be done in order to put together an information sheet that could be given out to seniors.

Pat Patton reported that Westfield has announced plans to construct a community center at a restaurant site at the corner of Vanowen and Owensmouth in Canoga Park. This is also supposed to provide space for a senior citizen center. It is unclear as to whether Westfield will go ahead with its previously stated plans to include a community center in the proposed new mall at Victory and Topanga/Owensmouth. A community center at the restaurant site would need to have an administrative structure in place. The question arose as to whether Westfield would do this. One possible alternative is for a non-profit organization to be in charge.

Bill Anderson suggested that the Committee may want to organize an information seminar about the Affordable Care Act and how it will affect senior citizens. Sean McCarthy reported that the Valley United Chamber of Commerce was planning to do such a seminar, in the coming weeks.

**Action Item:** Research the City Directory for what programs with special regard to the MTA Access Program to determine what services seniors could take advantage of. (*not assigned*)

**Action Item:** Create a questionnaire for use at the Senior Symposium. (*not assigned*)

**Action Item:** Melanie Smotrich-King volunteered to contact Larry Green at Westfield to inquire about the administrative structure that will be created for the proposed community center at the corner of Vanowen and Owensmouth. (*Melanie Smotrich-King*)

### 4. DWP Rep Assignment

Bill Anderson reported that he had not found someone to serve as the DWP representative but was still looking.

Meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Bill Anderson,  
Committee Chairman



**Disabilities Act Notification:**

As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services and activities. Sign language interpreters, assisted listening devices, and other auxiliary aids/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability of services, please make your request at least three business days (72 hours) prior to the meeting you wish to attend by contacting the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at (818) 756-9628, (818) LA HELPS.

**Brown Act Notification:**

*In compliance with Government Code 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the board in advance of a meeting, may be viewed at [www.whcouncil.org](http://www.whcouncil.org).*