

Minutes Community Services Committee Meeting

May 29, 2013 – 6:30 p.m.

Woodland Park West, 21711 Ventura Blvd., Woodland Hills, CA 91364

Committee Chair, Bill Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Roll Call was conducted by the Chair; a quorum was reached with 6 committee members present: Bill Anderson, Zack King, Heath Kline, Sean McCarthy, Pat Patton, and Albert Sauer. Absent: Kathy Davis and Melanie King. Also attending the meeting were Dennis DiBiase (*WHWCNC vice Chair*) and Scott Silverstein (*WHWCNC Chair*).

Approval of Minutes: The draft of the April 30, 2013 meeting minutes was approved. As there was no draft minutes available for the March 26, 2013 meeting, approval was postponed.

Public Comment Period:

Sean McCarthy commented on the letter sent by the WHWCNC Board to Pierce College concerning the gun safety extension class held on campus. Sean reported that the copy of the letter he had seen did not list the names of three WHWCNC officers and that he felt that this letter did not reflect the language agreed upon by the Board at its 8 May 2013 meeting. Scott Silverstein said that all language agreed upon by the Board was contained in the letter that was sent to Pierce. However, he said that he may have posted the wrong copy of said letter and that he would check to see if this was the case. Dennis DiBiase said that all changes voted upon at the 8 May meeting had been made to the letter.

The Committee discussed the need for all materials that are part of WHWCNC meetings, be available to the public. Sean McCarthy said that the WHWCNC should use its best efforts to provide the number of copies needed at each meeting. Scott Silverstein said that the material also needed to be put up on the WHWCNC website. Heath Kline observed that the Council may consider the creation of a second Secretary position to administer website posting. Scott Silverstein announced that each Committee is being requested to write a monthly, 100 word summary about the work that the Committee is doing. This is to be posted on the WHWCNC website.

Committee Agenda Items

1. DWP Smart Meters – New Information

Zack King reported that Cindy Sage of Sage Associates, who participated in the Smart Meter Forum at the 8 May 2013 WHWCNC Board meeting, has indicated that she felt that there were certain inconsistencies in the presentation made by Marcelo Di Paolo of the DWP at the meeting. These may require follow up.

Zack also reported that he had received a reply letter from the DWP with regard to his request to opt of the smart meter program. He reported that the letter said that the agency may not honor his request to opt out.

Zack reported that he recalled that Marcelo Di Paola had stated in his presentation to the WHWCNC Board on 8 May, that the DWP smart meter program in Chatsworth was only a study and that there currently were no plans to expand the program. Several committee members expressed skepticism of this assertion. H

Heath Kline suggested that the Neighborhood Council's DWP MOU Rep should monitor smart meter developments. Heath suggested that Cindy Sage's questions should be forwarded to Marcelo Di Paolo for response. Scott Silverstein suggested that the committee start talking to other area Neighborhood Council about the issue. Zack King volunteered to be the Case Leader for the smart meter issue.

Action Item: Send Cindy Sage questions to Marcelo Di Paolo with cover letter saying, "forwarding to you for response." (*Zack King*)

Action Item: Attend the 1 June DWP/Neighborhood Council MOU meeting. (*Zack King*)

2. Candy Cane Lane Holiday Power Rate Reduction

The Committee discussed approaching LADWP about a possible holiday rate reduction for electricity in the area of Woodland Hills known as Candy Cane Lane. Many residences in that area put up elaborate Holiday decorations. These displays draw many visitors to the area and have become a Holiday tradition. Dennis DiBiase reported that he had called Councilman Zine's office about working to provide the rate reduction. The office was not interested in such a reduction as it would have to be offered to others in CD 3 to avoid the issue of "preferential treatment."

The Committee decided to refer the matter to incoming Councilman Blumenfield's office and pursue at a later date.

3. Neighborhood Clean Up Program

Consideration of revised Program Mission Statement

Bill Anderson presented the following revised Mission Statement for the Neighborhood Clean up Program:

The WHWCNC Community Services Committee's "Neighborhood Clean-Up Program" will educate the residents of Woodland Hills about their responsibilities with regard to property maintenance so that all residents can enjoy a clean and safe community environment. The Neighborhood Clean-Up Program will help to build awareness amongst stakeholders regarding property owner responsibilities to maintain their premises. The Program will seek to foster assistance from the City of Los Angeles to distribute information to stakeholders about the resources available, be a liaison with the City Council District 3 office, and foster grassroots action to improve and maintain the neighborhoods of Woodland Hills.

Zack King made a motion to approve the Mission Statement as worded. Sean McCarthy seconded. The motion was passed unanimously – 6 Yes 0 No.

Consideration of draft action plan

Bill Anderson presented the following draft action plan:

**WHWCNC Community Services Committee
Neighborhood Clean-Up Program
Draft Action Plan
as of 29 May 2013**

- 1) Each month the Committee Members will identify any “clean-up” issues they find in the Area of Woodland Hills that they represent or, in the case of stakeholder Committee Members, in which they live or do business.
- 2) In addition to their own canvas of their Area, Committee members are encouraged to involve the other WHWCNC Area Representatives as well as local HOA and other such groups in their Area with regard to identifying clean-up issues.
- 3) Clean-Up issues so gathered, will be brought to the Committee’s monthly meeting for discussion.
- 4) The Committee will evaluate each issue and determine a course of action:
 - If the clean-up issue should be brought directly to the attention of the District 3 City Council office, directly to an appropriate City Department, to another elected official’s office.
 - Whether the issue is of such complexity and importance that
 - * More information should be gathered for written report to be submitted to WHWCNC Board and then to the District 3 Council office.
 - Whether the issue represents a “pattern” of resident behavior that an educational program be created in conjunction with the District 3 Council office and / or an appropriate City Department. \
 - If there is a possible “community” solution that would involve the creation of a one-time project done in conjunction with an outside organization such as the Boy Scouts.

Zack King made a motion to approve the draft Action Plan. Sean McCarthy seconded.

Discussion of the Action Plan included the need for the Committee to establish procedures in order to operate the plan successfully.

The motion was passed

5 Yes 1 No.

Action Item: Create a set of procedures that will guide operation of the Neighborhood Clean up Action Plan.
(The Committee)



As the Committee was obligated to vacate the meeting space by 9 p.m., the remaining agenda items (Senior Citizens Program; LA Dept. of Sanitation Plan for City Wide Exclusive Franchise System for Municipal Solid Waste Collection and Handling; New Business) were not discussed.

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.