

**Chatsworth Neighborhood Council (CNC)  
Public Safety & Transportation (PS&T) Committee  
March 20, 2012 Minutes**

Item 1 – Scott Munson called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM at the Chatsworth Train Depot, 10038 Old Depot Plaza Road in Chatsworth.

Roll was taken. Council Committee Members present: Diana Dixon-Davis, Scott Munson, Erik Pampalone, Jim Van Gundy, Lucie Volotsky and Matt Weintraub. Stakeholder members Michele DeGaetano and Clara Woll were present. Carol Lucas and Helen Davis were absent. There was a quorum. Stakeholders Glenn, Helen, Jeannie, Jesse, and Steven were present. Tim Fremaux, Steve Gaur and Michelle Mowery of the Department of Transportation attended, as well as William Larsen of the City Attorney. Lesa Slaughter and Joe Masotta represented Sierra Canyon Schools. Lucie left the meeting at 9:00 PM.

Item 4 – Three representatives from the Department of Transportation presented their proposal for bicycle lanes on Winnetka between Nordhoff and Devonshire. There are currently three lanes in each direction, with one used as a peak hour lane. The DOT proposal would turn the lane closest to the curb into a bicycle lane with striping between this lane and the other traffic lanes. DOT says one traffic lane can handle 800 cars per hour and the current usage is around 1100 cars per hour, thus two lanes should be sufficient for the current traffic load. There are already bike lanes on Winnetka from Gault (one block south of Sherman Way) to Nordhoff. This would create continuous bike lanes from Devonshire south to Gault. **Scott moved and Matt seconded a motion to support the proposed Winnetka Avenue bike lanes from Devonshire Street to Nordhoff. The motion was unanimously approved (eight votes in favor).**

Item 9 – The representatives of Sierra Canyon presented the latest plans for Phase II of the High School Athletic Field. The school's architect explained that Phase II permit applications are broken into off-site work and on-site work. The off-site work consists of widening De Soto Avenue up to the Rinaldi Street intersection including a right turn pocket, re-striping the intersection, a 12-foot sidewalk along the west side of De Soto adjacent to the field, improvements to De Soto Avenue 300 feet south of the Rinaldi intersection, and a new private driveway into the property. The on-site work includes: a baseball field; lowering and repairing the 1918 DWP pipe that crosses the field; putting in a total of 90 parking spaces with 76 of the spaces to the south of the baseball field, 10 spaces parallel to the fire road to the east, and four handicapped stalls also on the east side; a hammerhead vehicle turnaround; a toilet building; pads for 300 seats east of the football field and 150 seats near the baseball field; a score board for both the football and the baseball field; lighting for the fields and the parking lot; two lanes out and one lane into the property; and improvement of the horse trail. There was a lengthy discussion of the placement of a sidewalk east to west across the property that could accommodate both pedestrians and bicycles. Sierra Canyon indicated that the CUP does not specify that the sidewalk must be dedicated. Thus, they believe the language is unclear. Scott stated that he and this committee believe that since the CUP stated that a sidewalk is to be provided, it must be provided unless the CUP is changed "after" a public hearing. Sierra Canyon is currently looking into the possibility of putting in a sidewalk to the south of the equestrian trail on land currently owned by the City but encroached upon by a resident and a nursery. Scott noted that their proposed plan showed a "straight" horse trail directly over the DWP vault lid and not angled to the traffic light as it is currently constructed. Joe indicated that DOT is requiring a gate be put across the driveway at the sidewalk and therefore the horses

would have to use the sidewalk to cross the driveway. Scott stated that the equestrian group might have a problem with this. Scott took a straw vote to determine if the committee had any preference whether the sidewalk went to the north or the south of the equestrian trail. The committee members indicated that they did not have a strong preference as to where the sidewalk was located, as long as there is a paved sidewalk. Lesa and Joe updated the committee on the other public improvements Sierra Canyon is involved in. They indicated that they had a permit for the improvements at Chatsworth Street and De Soto but the work has been delayed for discussions by DOT with the immediate neighbors. Lesa believes that DOT has agreed to some minor striping changes, but that DOT intends for the project to go forward substantially as planned. Joe indicated that they were close to a permit for the work at Mason and Chatsworth Street, but there was a disagreement between the signaling and the timing units of DOT. That work will be delayed until an agreement can be reached within DOT. The Bureau of Engineering and DOT have signed off on the plans for the improvements at Rinaldi and Variel, but Sierra Canyon is awaiting approval of the Urban Forestry Division. Jeannie asked why the large Sierra Canyon sign painted on the retaining wall at the north end of the field was tarped over rather than painted out. Lesa indicated that wind and rain had prevented them from taking further action. She also said that Sierra Canyon would be exploring further identification signage of the appropriate size and location.

Item 2 - Public/Stakeholder Comments: William Larsen of the City Attorney's office advised the committee that the last marijuana clinic in Council District 12 had been closed but has reopened on Topanga Canyon Blvd. The Chatsworth Branch of the City Attorney's office has been closed and has merged into the Van Nuys office. He also mentioned that a number of persons recently released from State Prison have ended up in a "Skinhead" home just west of Topanga. This has resulted in several incidents. Erik reported that two suspicious massage parlors have recently opened. Mr. Larsen requested that Erik contact LAPD vice Unit and also provide him with the addresses. Mr. Larsen provided his phone number and e-mail address. Jeannie asked a question regarding the licensing of a home for mentally disabled adults. She was advised that the licensing is a State issue. She also asked about an equestrian property where the owner has allowed people to pitch tents. He responded that Building and Safety had cited an owner in a similar situation for operating an illegal boarding house, but it did not stand because the owner was operating a "camp ground". Mr. Larson said that the City Attorney has not yet taken any action.

Item 6 – The Chatsworth Chamber of Commerce had considered having a family festival in June but has now decided to hold it in September. This item will be postponed until that time.

Item 7 – Scott suggested some changes to the draft letter prepared by Jim. **Scott moved and Erik seconded approval of the revised draft letter allowing property owners to voluntarily limit smoking in apartments and condominiums. The motion was unanimously approved (seven votes in favor).**

Item 8 – This item was postponed until next month due to the lateness of the meeting.

Item 5 – **Scott moved and Clara seconded a motion that Glenn provide the body of a letter to the State or other appropriate agency regarding the pedestrian/equestrian activation buttons on northbound Topanga Canyon at the 118 Freeway on and off ramps. The motion was unanimously approved (seven votes in favor).**

Item 3 – Committee Minutes: **Scott moved and Matt seconded the motion to approve the February 21, 2012 minutes. The motion was approved (six votes in favor, with Diana abstaining).**

Item 10 – The discussion of a possible anti-bullying program was postponed until Vicki is available to provide additional information.

Item 11 – The discussion of the need for public access near Plummer and Topanga Canyon was postponed until Ankur is present to provide additional information.

Item 12 – Discussion of the Action Item List was postponed until the next meeting.

Item 13 – Committee Member comments were not made due to the lateness of the meeting.

Item 14 - Erik moved to adjourn and Scott seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 PM.