



CHATSWORTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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Jeff Hammond - President, Andre van der Valk - Vice President, Vicki Briskman - Treasurer, Jill Mather - Secretary

Dorothy Allison, Georgia Altmayer, Kamesh Aysola, Shekhar Chikhalikar, Mark Cox, Frank Geraty, Rob Glucksman, Daniel Huffman, Marianne King, Jeff Mackie, Marina Mackie, Nicolas Montaña, Carey Tri, Linda van der Valk, Jim Van Gundy, Summer Walters, Geoffrey Williams

Chatsworth Neighborhood Council Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday October 6th, 2021 at 6:30 P.M.

AGENDA

1. Welcome, call to order, and Roll Call.

ATTENDING: Jeff Hammond, Andree van der Valk, Vicki Briskman, Jill Mather, Dorothy Allison, Georgia Altmayer, Kamesh Aysola, Frank Geraty, Rob Glucksman, Marianne King, Jeff Mackie, Marina Mackie, Carey Tri, Linda van der Valk, Jim Van Gundy, Geoffrey Williams, Shekhar Chikhalikar (late)

EXCUSED: Daniel Huffman

ABSENT: Mark Cox, Nicolas Montaña, Summer Walters

2. NEW BUSINESS: All listed motions include discussion, possible action and or vote, Community Impact Statements and NPGs.

3. Presidents Report:

A. MOTION: To approve the CNC Board Meeting minutes: (Sent separately to the board)

1. May 5th, 2021, CNC Board Meeting Minutes – **Unanimous Pass.**
2. May 27th, 2021, Special CNC Board Meeting Minutes - **Unanimous Pass.**
3. June 2nd, 2021, CNC Board Meeting Minutes - **Unanimous Pass.**
4. August 4th, 2021, CNC Board Meeting Minutes - **Unanimous Pass.**
5. September 1st, 2021, CNC Board Meeting Minutes – **Hold onto next meeting because the one seen did not have results of the motions included.**

GUEST SPEAKER: CONGRESSMAN BRAD SHERMAN – also represented was Kimberly Caceras is a new constituent service in the office. 818-501-9200 is the phone number to reach her and then she reports to Congressman Sherman.

Renew your passport, if you can, if you need help contact his office. PPP program – Loans to small business – next step is to have your debt forgiven. Refundable tax credit for children – started giving you the credit as of July.

4-Covid relief bills are being approved in Congress right now...(1) continuing regular government because no agreement for what to provide for each agency for the year. (2) whether the Treasury Dept can rollover the debit – House already passed the bill – Senate is in partisan dispute. (3) Fiscal infrastructure bill has been passed in the Senate (4) Child tax credit extended bill. Ongoing appropriations he has gotten some projects for SFV – a clinic in Winnetka that deals with homeless – Tree People to plant tree and take care of trees in SFV, caring for them for 3 years \$100K budget he believes.

Brad Sherman Town Meeting – November 16th at 7PM/

4. Treasurers Report:

A. MOTION: To approve of the August, 2021 MER. **Passed Unanimously.**

5. Representatives of elected officials or elected officials.

ERIC MOODY:

CD 12 Shredding Event - hosted by CD12 and Northridge East NC. Line up early.

Emergency Renters Assistance Program – Call office or contact housingiskey.com

Council approved an ordinance to have to show prove of Covid vaccinations prior to entering businesses. Councilman Lee was against this because does not address the issue of getting people vaccinated. Goes into effect November 4th.

Eric is retiring at the end of the month after a number of years.

KIM OLESON: What is the Councilman doing about sending people to encampments that have active Covid breakouts? **ERIC MOODY:** You will have to contact lacity.org in order to get an answer to that question.

6. Standing Committees:

A. Land Use & Equestrian Committee - Committee update.

Thanks to the LAFD, LAPD and county for the quick response on the recent fire in Santa Susana Park North.

1. MOTION: To support a Conditional Use Permit, at 22232-22280 Devonshire Street, to allow the continued use and operation of a school serving specialized education for K-

12th grade in a RA Zone. Applicant: The Academy for Advancement of Children with Autism. Applicant proposes to continue the use of the existing school site, utilizing the existing buildings and classroom. The project will provide education for up to 80 school age children Campus hours will be 8:45 AM - 3:15 PM Monday through Friday.

GEORGIA ALTMAYER: What is the timeline for construction?

SUE STEINBERG: Timeline – we need a conditional use permit and will not come about until next year. No construction or expansion.

JAKE & LESLIE: Will be open sometime in the 2022-23 school year. Things are moving slower than anticipated. Have to go on the state's timeline. Moved our school temporarily to a site in West Hills and have operated there for about a year. The pandemic has made it very slow to make this process happen. Call 818-882-0200 for job openings or enrollment – Karen Vanderpool is the person to talk to.

The former owner is taking care of the site right now.

Having the kids on sight has made a world of difference for the kids rather than doing zoom meetings. Project is a labor of love. The school is K5-12 – they take the five major disabilities for students. Mostly there is developmental challenge children – that is their area of specialty. They are not an ED school though.

LINDA VAN DER VALK: Wanted to make sure that they do not use the gate that goes into the horse trail. **Unanimous approval vote.**

2. MARIANNE KING: Proposed letter to the Planning Dept regarding clarifying information with respect to what projects are administrative, and which ones have a formal determination based on project type and all these SB's and AB's that have been approved but not updated in our LAMC. ***This may include a vote.*** Letter sent separately.

MOTION: to approve the email letter. **Unanimously approval vote.**

3. MARIANNE KING: Re-Districting at the "City" level is in the Draft Map stages and there will be Regional Meetings on 10/9, 10/13 & 10/16. The adoption is October 21 – then it goes to City Council. Does the CNC want to review CD12 & Chatsworth and submit a CIS to the LACCRC? ***This may include a vote.***

GLENN BAILEY: If the valley had 40% of the city's population we would have 6 full City Council districts – we have 37% so not quite enough to have it totally within the valley. Mulholland Drive is the boundary line for the valley. West Hills and Chatsworth stayed in CD12.

Recommends that we write a CIS that we support Chatsworth being in CD12 and the Nature Preserve to continue to be intact in CD12. And that we support the map K-2.5.

This was **Unanimously passed.**

4. The Housing Element is being updated, and involves specific parcels for all communities, including Chatsworth, to be "up-zoned" to meet the RHNA requirements. There is expressed concern about this approach. Is this something the CNC wants to review and submit a CIS on?

The housing element is updated every 8 years to meet regional housing goals – RENA reviews how much housing is needed for all income levels based on existing and projected population. The 6 counties in Los Angeles are allocated 1.3 million units needed in the city of LA in the next 8 years. We have a shortfall of 250K units. There is now a re-zoning focus because of this shortfall. Re-zoning basically up-zoning. Chatsworth is in the up-zoning proposal. Re-zoning will occur in the next 3 years.

There is an opportunity to give your comments at the city planning Commission hearing.

B. Public Safety and Transportation Committee - Committee update FRANK GERATY.

1. MOTION: To formally support the John Lee proposed ordinance CF21-0975 that concerns street racing penalties with a letter and a CIS.

LINDA VAN DER VALK: The crosswalks at Devonshire and Topanga need to be repainted. Is there anything that can be done. **FRANK GERATY:** We have taken that up in committee and being sent to LADOT.

Unanimously passed vote.

KAMESH AYSOLA: What happened as a result of the letter sent to Ralph's? **FRANK GERATY:** Result is that there is security and the lighting has changed. Landlord was very receptive to the letter.

MIKKI LOI: Senior Lead Officers will be at Farmer's Market at Northridge Fashion Center October 13th.

C. Outreach Committee - Committee update – JIM VAN GUNDY

1. Discussion of the potential issuance of a monthly CNC newsletter through Constant Contact.

Newsletter example was sent to board for review by **JILL MATHER**. Would need some help in putting this together because we have a small committee. **KAMESH AYSOLA:** We would like to get one out after the board meeting each month. Kamesh will be there to be part of the group doing the newsletter. **JILL MATHER:** Want to get everyone's comments and items that they think would be valuable to the public. Make it fun, informational and something that the public would read – only 25% of the people that get email blasts actually read the newsletter but that is 1K people who might read what we do.

JUDY DANIELS: If we do not concentrate on Chatsworth events and/or blast too often people will unsubscribe in her experience. There would be a concern that people would unsubscribe and the 4K list would dwindle down and this is used for the **Chatsworth selection.**

JEFF MACKIE: People will unsubscribe to a newsletter. Put the newsletter on a CNC email so that you do not lose the full email list.

This will go back to committee.

- 2. MOTION:** to spend up to \$2K on an advertising package for the Chatsworth Holiday Parade put on by Kiwanas Club to be held Sunday, December 12, 2021. **Unanimous Vote approval with 17 votes.**

Package is the diamond package, which includes the corporate logo on the advertising brochure, a full-page ad in the official parade program inside the front cover, a float or vehicle entry in the parade, a link to our company logo company website on a quantum website. Also we get a booth at the festival and organization name announced the event. And then the parade organization banner will be presented at the main stage. The normal cost for this package is \$2,600 and we get a \$650 savings by getting the \$2,000 package. A decision who rides in the car can be decided later.

- 3. DOC-U-SHRED EVENT** - we are sponsoring and any volunteers are needed.

D. Beautification & Enrichment Committee – KAMESH AYSOLA

- 1. MOTION:** To approve an NPG in the amount of \$2.5K to **SAVE CHATSWORTH, INC.** This money will be used to help fund a community botanical garden and gardening co-op.

JOHN LUKER: A new 5-year project on two acres on the outskirts of the DWP property. Planting at least two native gardens on this property. There will be an educational program from these gardens as well. There will be a vegetable garden in co-op for locals as well which John Luker will be take charge of distribution. There is no name for the co-op group yet. Eventually want to turn over to Recs & Parks for long-term maintenance. This will help locals in Lake Manor and Chatsworth for generations. We do not need funds until halfway through the first quarter 2022 because the license agreement has not been signed as of yet. We do have insurance on this project through State Farm Insurance – the co-op will need its own insurance when it comes to that timing.

JUDY DANIELS: DWP used Round-Up in this area? **JOHN LUKER:** They have been doing this for years but are changing since working with us. The lifespan of Round-Up is a year where it is not detectable. Used properly it can be used safely. DWP is now mechanically cuts the weeds predominantly.

GEORGIA ALTMAYER: I am a volunteer for the group, though not on the board. Do I recuse myself from this vote?

JOSE GALDAMEZ: Recommended that this item needs to be tabled for a month in order for Georgia Altmayer and Kamesh Aysola to be advised if she should recuse themselves from the vote since she is a volunteer for Sky Valley Volunteers.

VIKKI BRISKMAN: Recommended that John amend the request to specify that the monies are just for the community botanical gardens, not the co-op.

JEANNIE PLUM: Asking for organic and chemical testing of the soils before someone puts money into contaminated soils. This should take allot more looking at. The project is flawed from beginning to end. **SAVE CHATSWORTH** should not have any part in this project. **JEFF HAMMOND:** responded that this will be something that John Luker will have to take care of this. He has contributed a great deal to Chatsworth and we are pretty sure he would not do anything to jeopardize anybody.

2. The CNC's Beautification and Enrichment Committee (BEC) has developed a list of services provided by the City of Los Angeles, and other agencies. This is to be posted on CNC website, Facebook etc. It will be periodically updated as needed. Jeff will put on the website.

3. Exploring the possibility of installing a statue of a horse or any other on Chatsworth medians and surveying the community for input. **VIKKI BRISKMAN:** We decided that we need more research – budget, pictures, etc. in committee.

4. Discuss the starting of monthly cleanup of selected areas with CNC participation. Call it beautification event rather than clean up. **JILL MATHER:** Would do a monthly clean up that may be a Sunday in November – maybe the olive trees on Lassen could be a sight. **VIKKI BRISKMAN:** Does anyone object to a monthly clean up so that Jill can progress with this. **MARIANNE KING:** I struggle with this. Your volunteer group seems to be doing well with this without the CNC. **JILL MATHER:** I was thinking more of beautification – leaf clean up, weed work, etc. rather than trash clean-up. We will call it Beautification rather than Clean-up.

5. MOTION: To approve up to \$2K for pruning the historic olive trees along Lassen St, west of Topanga Canyon. Blvd. that are not part of private property. **Motion passed with 13 approved – 2 NO (ROB GLUCKMAN, MARIANNE KING) and 1 ABSTAIN (CARY TRI).**

LINDA VAN DER VALK: Talked to John Lee's office and the trees need to be thinned and trimmed which would cost \$5,200 in overtime pay. They have not been thinned since 2003. Requested that they also do the bottom... then apply this \$2K to that price to bring it down in cost.

JILL MATHER: There are allot of historical trees in the valley – the education that I went through recommended that we attempt to get an Ordinance through all the NC's to then get the city to take responsibility for these historical trees. The figure that came out was that it was going to be \$1,200 per tree to do them correctly – and arborist quote.

MARIANNE KING: This money is for the south side of Lassen trees that were not in the original monies spent on this project. I believe that the suckers have already been trimmed by someone. I think that the monies need to more specific for what it is for. I think the city should be responsible for these historical trees.

KAMESH AYSOLA: These monies are for next year.

E. Selection Committee - Glenn Bailey, Neutral Third-Party. Update.

GLENN BAILY has been chosen to be our neutral party representative to the committee.

1. MOTION: To have an in-person Selection at the Chatsworth Train Depot on March 19th. In case of pandemic mandates then we will go for a Selection by mail.
Unanimously passed vote.

2. MOTION: To accept the timeline for the March 5th, 2022, Selection.

LINDA VAN DER VALK: *Amendment that the last day to move to January 10th as the last day to accept applications.* **Unanimously passed vote.**

GLENN BAILEY: The timeline for vote by mail remains the same as what the board previously approved.

4. MOTION: To write a letter to Councilmember John Lee and file a CIS on Council File #21-0407, with our concerns about having Elections and Selections the same across the board for 99 Neighborhood Councils that do not reflect the differences of each community. These council file would force significant changes to our by-laws. Realizing that motion Council File #21-0407 is just an analysis on how by laws of different Neighborhood Councils vary on election issues. **Motion passes with 16 YES votes and 1 NO vote (GEOFF WILLIAMS).**

MARIANNE KING: Could we get things like this sent to us before the meeting so that we can digest it and have time to get comments together.

JEANNIE: Do your best to not disenfranchise a group that we really need right now which is the horse border and horse-riding of the area.

JUDY DANIELS: The reason we are concerned about this issue is that we believe that each NC is allowed to make its own decision on this issue, not city council.

RENAY GRACE: Is there a way or time that is before the election that could be less cumbersome to prove your stakeholder status for the election, so that you are not rushed in the process. **LINDA VAN DER VALK:** We can put this on the agenda for the next committee meeting. **VIKKI BRISKMAN:** There is the provisional vote currently in place that allows so much time for a person to prove your stakeholder status.

F. Homeless Awareness Committee – Committee report. NO REPORT.

7. NC Budget Advocates Report - Region 2 BA – GLENN BAILEY

8. D.O.N.E. Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate (NEA) Jose Galdamez commenting on any D.O.N.E. changes and new information.

Make sure that you take the anti-bias training that has been added. This training is just for the NC's. **VIKKI BRISKMAN:** Does this training effect funding? Can you come back to us with an answer for the November meeting.

11. Adjournment. Called at 9:30PM