

Minutes of the Chatsworth Neighborhood Council Meeting
Location: So Cal Gas – 9400 Oakdale Ave., Chatsworth
Wednesday, August 1st, 2018

Jeff Hammond welcomed everyone at 6:31pm.

Rudy Schultz led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll was called. In attendance: Jeff Hammond, Andrew van der Valk, Tracey Pomerance-Poirier, Dorothy Allison, Cher Bentley, Vicki Briskman, Mark Cox, Sheldon Itzkowitz, Rudy Schultz, Linda van der Valk, Jim Van Gundy, Lucie Volotzky, Dean Wageman, Anne Weaver, and Matt Weintraub. Those excused were Susan Eskander, Darlene Brothers-Wageman, Daniel Huffman, Nicolas Montano, Michael Preis, and Kamesh Aysola.

David Meza, Public Affairs Manager, Southern California Gas Company, welcomed the CNC.

President's Report:

1. The Ad Hoc Homeless Solutions Committee is no longer needed because the CNC will now establish a standing Homeless committee. The following CNC board members will be members of this committee: Linda van der Valk, Rudy Schultz, Vicki Briskman, Cher Bentley, Mark Cox, Sheldon Itzkowitz, and Nick Montano. Stakeholder members will be chosen at the first meeting of the committee which will be held the fourth Wednesday of the Month; the first meeting could take place Wednesday, August 29 (in this case, the fifth Wednesday of August).
2. Susan Eskander has resigned as Treasurer. Linda van der Valk nominated Vicki Briskman to be the new Treasurer. All but one board member (Vicki herself) voted to elect Vicki Briskman the new CNC Treasurer.
3. Board member motion to reimburse Vicki Briskman \$250.20 for three years of website hosting by Hostgator.com. Matt Weintraub seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.
4. Board member motion to reimburse Andre van der Valk \$133.74 for oranges for the COLT ride. Dorothy Allison seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.
5. Syringe problem in Chatsworth – Discussion ensued. Ron Rubine, Mr. Englander's District Director, said that he will discuss with the Councilman safe drop off methods for these syringes. It was suggested that the Public Safety committee write a letter to the Councilman, and Judith suggested that Public Safety contact the County Health Department, which might be able to provide safe containers to community members who want to assist in collecting these syringes. Additionally, there are red boxes near the new Kaiser facility in Porter Ranch.

Treasurer's Report

With Susan's departure and Vicki's election as the new Treasurer, we lost a signer, therefore we must elect a new signer. We will agendize the election of an alternate signer for September's meeting, however, as of July 1, this additional signature is not mandatory.

Standing Committee Reports

-Enrichment: No report

-Land Use: A proposal for the development of the vacant lot on the south side of the Winnetka Theatres will be discussed at the upcoming land use meeting on August 16. A one-story commercial building across from the Country Deli is scheduled for demolition. This will also be discussed at their upcoming meeting.

-Public Safety and Transportation: Valley Disaster Preparedness Fair happening on Saturday, Sept. 29, 9:00am – 1:30pm in the Northridge Mall parking lot next to the theatres. Also, National Night Out is Tuesday, Aug. 7 at Northridge Park, and the movie Ferdinand will be shown.

-Ad Hoc Homeless Solutions: At this week's meeting, the committee discussed disbanding in order to form a standing homeless committee of the CNC.

-Equestrian: Dark last month. A representative from Vulcan Quarry in Sun Valley will speak at upcoming August meeting to discuss the possibility of using that facility as a staging area for horses in case of a disaster. The committee will also vote for their budget for this year.

Ron Rubine said that Councilman Englander's office will fund an electronic sign at De Soto and Chatsworth as well as at Canoga and Chatsworth.

-Beautification: Motion to spend \$1,500 for work on the historic olive trees along Lassen, west of Topanga. Discussion ensued. Trimming these trees must be done annually to ensure that the trees stay healthy. There is a certain way to trim olive trees (not just anybody with tree trimmers can do the job). We will continue to get bids, however, we have been happy with the company we're currently using. Anne suggested we might want to discuss the fact that we take care of these olive trees on our website.

-Outreach: Voting on Motions A-H

Motion A: To spend up to \$500 on advertising (cost of ad in booklet) at the Chatsworth/Porter Ranch Chamber of Commerce state of the community breakfast on Oct 5, 2018. As members of this chamber, Vicki and Linda recused themselves from this vote. Passed unanimously among voting board members.

Motion B: To spend up to \$2,000 on an advertising package for the Chatsworth Holiday Parade. Passed unanimously.

Motion C: To spend up to \$500 on printing of Chatsworth Neighborhood Council informational materials. Passed unanimously.

Motion D: To spend up to \$500 on Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Council events (includes March mixer). Passed unanimously.

Motion E: To contribute \$500 for the Congress of Neighborhood Councils. Saturday, September 22 is the annual networking event. Amount includes security, lunch, sound system, etc. Passed unanimously.

Motion F: To spend up to \$500 on new magnetic name plates for board members. Passed unanimously.

Motion G: To spend up to \$500 on new shirts for board members. Passed unanimously.

Motion H: To spend up to \$1,000 on a laptop and camera to be used for live streaming of CNC board meetings. Discussion ensued. It was suggested that someone might donate a laptop, however Linda said that the City prohibits neighborhood councils from accepting donations. However, someone could loan the CNC a laptop. The motion passed with one no vote and one abstention.

Informal discussion of COLT: The COLT event has been moved from the purview of the Public Safety & Transportation Committee to the purview of the Outreach Committee. Jeff and Marina Mackie to be the new chairs of the event. For this reason, they should become stakeholder members of the Outreach Committee. Matt has put together a budget (to be voted on at the August Outreach Committee meeting) and flyer for next year's event, which will take place on Sunday, June 9, 2019.

-Selection Committee: No report

Announcements

Jeff talked about how all CNC committees need stakeholders to get involved. He also reiterated that CNC board members need to be active participants in their respective committees.

Cher expressed concerns that the decision to hold this evening's CNC board meeting at The Gas Company headquarters upset a number of people in the community due to the ongoing dispute over the Aliso Canyon gas leak.

Public Comments

Christopher Trujillo from the Freedom Church spoke about their various programs to aid the homeless and those in recovery, including their shoe giveaway on August 12.

Vincent Neill from the Canoga Park Neighborhood Council suggested that Neighborhood Councils collaborate on some of the more pressing issues that affect all of us.

Susan Gorman Chang is trying to coordinate the various Neighborhood Council Homeless Committees in order to maximize effectiveness in dealing with this area-wide problem.

Kiko Garcia from KG Sports Training Foundation is partnering with Hope of the Valley Mission and is leading a clean-up at Winnetka and Lassen.

Jay Grewal of Dorose Liquors recounted an incident at his store involving a homeless man who assaulted him. The man hangs around his business and has been a problem for a long time. He is losing business as a result of this man and the police aren't doing anything to help. Ron Rubin said that he personally was not aware of this situation and gave his assurances that he would look into the matter and figure out what could be done to assist this business owner. Jeff added that this is another example of how the homeless problem has negatively impacted the lives of Chatsworth residents and business owners and strongly implored Ron to act to remedy this situation.

Glenn Bailey reminded everyone that the Congress of Neighborhood Councils is open to community stakeholders. Also, for older areas with no sidewalks or streetlights, the Northridge East Neighborhood Council has created smaller Neighborhood Watch signs. These work well for communities without large Neighborhood Watch signs and might be a good idea for Chatsworth. Ron Rubine said that his office has some NW signs.

Ron Rubine gave a short report: West Nile Virus has been found in some mosquitos in the Valley; standing water is an issue. He spoke about motorized bikes also being an issue/problem. Street racing is another problem; the Councilman is working on some proposals to address this public safety issue. He also discussed the Chatsworth Train Memorial event happening on Sept 12. More information is forthcoming. He also invited people to take advantage of the Council office's Rapid Response Team,

which deals with various street services, weed abatement, bulky item pickup, etc. If you want the city to address any of these issues, please call his office directly at (818) 882-1212.

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In response to Ron Rubine's mention of the Train Memorial event, Vicki stated that the CNC should be involved.

Judith said that she had spoken to the Councilman about the CNC being involved with this event, especially given the fact that members of the CNC were on the scene of the accident, assisting first responders, providing meals, etc.

Ron Rubine explained that the CNC was not intentionally left out of the planning...

It was decided that Andre would call Mitch regarding this issue.

Linda van der Valk gave a shout out to community members who took it upon themselves to pick up needles.

It was mentioned that Saturday, August 4 was the last day that people could visit Valley Relics Museum, as it had found a new home in Van Nuys.

Meeting adjourned at 8:34pm. Minutes respectfully submitted by Tracey Pomerance-Poirier