

CHATSWORTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2012 MINUTES - FINAL

AGENDA

(1) Call to order: 7:02 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Nick Montano.

Roll Call:

In Attendance: Dorothy Allison, Kamesh Aysola, Vicki Briskman, Jelena Csanyi, Judith Daniels, Jeff Hammond, Mary Kaufman, Chuck Knolls, Carol Lucas, Scott Munson, Erik Pampalone, Linda van der Valk, Andre van der Valk, Jim Van Gundy, Lucie Volotzky (7:07), Matt Weintraub.

Excused: Dan Huffman, Richard Nadel, Diana Dixon-Davis, Linda Ross, Justin Weiss.

There is a quorum.

(2) Public Comments:

(a) Captain Nelson, LAFD Station 96 – •Announced Bea Berman’s birthday. •Thanked the CNC for the air conditioner in use on their apparatus floor. •Informed us on high hazard days a firefighter crew is hired to staff Engine 496. •Provided evacuation information as part of the LAFD Ready, Set, Go! advisory and urged everyone to search for it on the Internet. •Rattlesnakes are out there. Be careful. Call 911. •The North Hollywood community took up a collection to pay for the ambulance bills of the two women fatally electrocuted while attempting to assist a car crash victim. •There have been a few drowning incidents this summer. Fire Station 96 and LACO Engine 75 used the Rockpointe pool for response training. •There have been no incidents involving the Orange Line Metro Bus Line. •The 405 Freeway closure Friday, September 28, 2012 to Monday, October 1, 2012 at the Mulholland Bridge will affect response involving travel through the area.

(b) Paula Boland, Dale Penn, SOLID - •Thanked everyone for their ongoing support in providing the Devonshire Division with needed items not supplied by LAPD. •Described Phase I and Phase II of the remodeling of the upstairs Roll Call room and the Lunchroom, respectively, and the costs involved. •Fundraiser at Menchie’s Frozen Yogurt, 17840 Chatsworth Street, Granada Hills, Monday through Thursday, September 10-13, 2012. Bring the flyer. •Fundraiser at Los Toros, 21743 Devonshire Blvd, Chatsworth, Monday, September 24, 2012 from 4:00 PM to close. Bring flyer for donation of 20% of dinner bill back to SOLID. •Fundraiser “All You Can Eat” Pasta Dinner, St. Nicholas Church, Balboa & Plummer in Northridge, Friday, October 19, 2012 from 5:00-7:30 PM for \$8.00 per person.

(c) Robert Dager, Santa Susana Mountain Park Association -•The DTSC just released a survey in order to gather public feedback and concerns regarding the investigation and proposed cleanup plan for Chatsworth Park South. Completed surveys are due to DTSC by Friday, September 14, 2012.

(d) Matt Margolis, Case Worker for Congressman Brad Sherman -•Contact Brad Sherman’s office for assistance with issues regarding Federal programs as part of his Constituent Services Program. •Contact his office for assistance in reserving tours in Washington D.C., military academy appointments or interning in his office. •Congressman Brad Sherman is sponsoring “Salute to Kids” on Saturday, September 8, 2012 at Lanark Park, 21816 Lanark Street, Canoga Park, from 10:00 AM.

(e) Todd Zink, candidate for State Senate 2012 -•Introduced himself and spoke of his concern with government’s failure of fundamentals. He is focused on public safety, jobs and education.

(f) Paul Drapkin, National Association of Letter Carriers -•The May 2012 Food Drive netted 70 million pounds of donated food nationally with 21,555 pounds donated from Chatsworth. Two Chatsworth food banks, FISH and the Partners of Hope with the United Methodist Church, shared the donations equally.

(g) Lori Yalem, Volunteer and West Hills Neighborhood Council -•Provided information on “Yes on Prop 37” Californians’ right to know in the labeling of genetically engineered food.

(h) Jesse Fuller, Cyclist, Stakeholder -•Announced a city tour cycling event starting at the Chatsworth Train Station on Saturday, October 20, 2012, 9:00 AM.

(3) Announcements:

(a) Bea Berman, Chair Pioneer Day – Pioneer Day will be held at The Acre on Sunday, October 7, 2012 from 11:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M..This will be Bea’s 22nd year of chairing this fundraising event benefitting the Chatsworth Historical Society. The competition in the Chili Cook Off is always hot and spicy. Councilman Englander is providing shuttle services from the Chatsworth Train Station to The Acre.

(b) Jarrold Degonia, San Fernando Field Deputy for Mike Antonovich, Supevisor 5th District County of Los Angeles and Board of Directors for Metro – Introduced himself and committed to attending the CNC meetings periodically due to his recognition of issues in the unincorporated areas affecting the CNC. His office is located at 21943 Plummer Street in Chatsworth.

(c) Mary Kaufman, Equestrian Committee Chair – Ride With Pride is holding its “Concert in the Canyon” fundraiser on Saturday, September 29, 2012 from 6:00-10:00 PM at 12051 Browns Canyon. There will be a performance by the Doo-Wah Riders, a silent auction and BBQ dinner by the Kiwanis. For more information and tickets so to [www.ridewith prideth.org](http://www.ridewithprideth.org).

(d) Carol Jensen, NHW Coordinator – The September Basic CAR Meeting will be held on the fourth Thursday, 9/27. The meeting begins at 7:00 P.M. at St. John Eudes Church. The presentation will be by school police.

(e) Jelena Csanyi, Co-Chair Enhancement – •The Chatsworth/Porter Ranch Chamber of Commerce is hosting a Family Festival on Saturday, September 15, 2012 from 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM at the southwest corner of Rinaldi and Porter Ranch. •Caution: do not list your home phone number on your cell as “home” in case your phone is lost or stolen.

(f) Andre van der Valk – The DWP has issued a telephone scam alert involving callers asking for personal banking information. •Metro is hosting Rail~Volution at the Loews Hollywood Hotel from October 14-17, 2012. This is a national conference joining people from across the country to explore and discuss the building of livable communities with transit.

(4) Approval of Minutes for June 6, 2012:

The minutes were approved with two changes in attendance.

(5) LAPD Officer Report: Danny del Valle:

Not present.

(6) Councilman Englander’s Office - Megan Cottier, District Director:

• Chatsworth Park South – The surveys were sent by the DTSC to measure what the public knows about the Park and the closure. There will be a community meeting in October 2012 to discuss the release of the work plan followed by the release of a work plan early next year and another community open house meeting. The brush clearance was finished in July 2012 by work crews certified to work in the designated hazard area. There is a possibility Rec & Parks will open the Recreation Center first.

•Jarrod Degonia: The County has undertaken the Northwest/San Fernando Valley Master Trail Program is an effort to develop a master plan for the San Fernando, Santa Clarita and San Gabriel Valleys to connect the trails. The Antelope Valley would also be included. The first public meeting was held last Thursday. It will be a work in progress. The County is working with the City on this project.

•The National Park Service contacted Megan today to notify her of a meeting to be held November 15, 2012 to discuss the designation of the Rim of the Valley as a national park. Additional information will be in Councilman Englander’s newsletter.

- Family Fun Day will be Saturday, September 15, 2012 from 10:00AM – 7:00PM at Porter Ranch Drive and Rinaldi Street. Councilman Englander will have a booth so stop by and visit.
- Beautification Grants – Keep Los Angeles Beautiful (KLAB). Competitive matching grants will be awarded to community groups for neighborhood beautification projects. The grant total is \$30,000 with the maximum awarded for each at \$5,000. The deadline for submittal is September 21, 2012.
- Septic Tanks: There are three different risk areas – high, medium, low. Residents will be charged for a permit every three years depending on the degree of your risk area. It is a complicated assessment process. There will be a meeting in Granada Hills around September 12th. Megan will send Andre and Saul the information for distribution to the community.
- Prop K funds for the Pocket Park on DeSoto: The competitive process is just starting. The first meeting is October 4th and it is a public meeting. Megan will confirm the date and time. They did apply for the competitive grant for the property acquisition and development for Chatsworth/DeSoto area. The public participation process will start soon. Megan will keep the CNC updated.
- Chatsworth Park Advisory Board: The Board has not met since the Park was closed. The PAD was to advise on uses of the Park. Rec & Parks steers the advisory boards and they do not have direction to do that at the moment.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS:

(7) President's Report:

- CNC Letter Discussion – Committee letters directing actions are not to be sent out under CNC. The letters are to be limited to asking for information. The new website will include positional letters and responses and informational request letters.
- CNC Office – DOT and Councilman Englander's office have not signed off on the approval.

(8) MOTION: As Presented by Treasurer, Vicki Briskman, to Approve Monthly CNC Expenditures and Other Financial Matters.

MOTION: Vicki Briskman moved to accept the CNC expenditures as presented. **Second: Mary Kaufman. Adopted unanimously (15 For).**

(9) STANDING COMMITTEES:

(a) Legislative Committee: Matt Weintraub

MOTION: To support a feasibility study to allow urban beekeeping in R-1 zones.

Adopted unanimously (15 For).

MOTION: To support the concept of a Veteran's Memorial located at the Train Depot on the north end of the parking area near Devonshire.

Adopted unanimously (15 For).

MOTION: To co-sponsor candidate forum with Chatsworth Chamber. No CNC cost is involved. It will be held on October 4, 2012 from 7:00-9:00 AM at the Porter Valley Country Club. The breakfast is \$18.00 at pre-registration and \$22.00 at the door.

Adopted unanimously (15 For).

(b) Public Safety & Transportation: Scott Munson

MOTION: To approve up to \$200.00 for a CNC sponsored emergency preparedness booth at the September 15, 2012 Chatsworth-Porter Ranch Chamber of Commerce Family Festival.

Adopted unanimously. (15 For).

MOTION: To approve up to \$100.00 for support of The Orange-A-Thon Walk Ride.

Oppose: Jeff Hammond. Motion Carries (14).

MOTION: To approve up to \$300.00 to sponsor a CERT class in Chatsworth.

Adopted unanimously. (15 For).

MOTION: To approve up to \$250.00 towards Reserve Animal Services Officer Training.
Speaker not present. **MOTION TABLED.**

(c) Land Use: Linda van der Valk

MOTION: To deny a CUP request for a church located at 10801 Topanga Canyon which is zoned RA-1-K.

Recuse: Jelena Csanyi. Motion Carries (14).

Discussion: 10801 Topanga Canyon Blvd. Presenting, Jonathan Pae. Property is a RA1-K lot, at the southwest corner of Tulsa and Topanga Canyon. The City Planner assigned to this project has already told Mr. Pae this is not a favorably viewed project. He wants to understand why that is, if we do not favorably view this project, why. West Side of Topanga; 1997 Q and T conditions; lot is 80,851.5 square feet; the proposed religious structure is 17,125 square feet. FAR is 4.7:1. Parking is 132 spaces, 76 standard parking spaces, 49 handicap, 7 compact. Parking requirement is one space for 5 members; 124 parking spaces are required based on the sanctuary area, so they exceed the requirement. Small sanctuary, plus education areas; 7th day Adventist religion. It's a good religion based on history, to participate in the community and provide community service. Building is low, 16 feet maximum, so with landscaping will be hidden. Upon questioning from the committee, it was admitted that the top of the tower is 24 feet from ground. Tower is optional (but appeared on all presented drawings). Committee Secretary notes – she could not locate the height of the building on the diagrams provided. Current landowners (the church) acquired the property six or seven months ago. A child care center for the neighborhood (not just the church) is planned, with low costs to serve neighborhoods. Driveways are off Topanga on the map, but committee members noted that driveway access from Topanga will not be allowed, he will have to have driveway access from Tulsa. Comment this is a dedicated horsekeeping area; the community has a long history of being protective of the horsekeeping in this area, especially. Linda quoted community plan text – several horsekeeping areas, such as areas north of Devonshire and west of De Soto are dedicated horsekeeping. Comment that the tower is drawn more than another 8 feet in height over the church; it appears from rough measurement based on a 16 foot high base height, the tower is about 14 feet in height. It was noted that lower intensity lights are also part of the standards in this area, to further retain the rural character, north of Chatsworth Street. Improvements for equestrian trials, hydrants, and street improvements were said to have made the prior project impractical to build.

Mark made a motion to: Not approve the project, as incompatible with the Chatsworth community plan and with standards set in the neighborhood; the proposed structures are very large and incompatible with nearby dwellings. Additionally, horsekeeping currently is available on every RA lot along Tulsa. We do not want to have non-horsekeeping uses approved in this area. We have an absolute policy and goal to retain larger horsekeeping lots in this area. These larger horsekeeping lots are a key component to our community, but they are under constant threat by community organizations seeking large lots for purposes other than horsekeeping. Mary seconded the motion. All approved the motion, except Jelena recused herself.

MOTION: To approve a CUP for the continuation of Egremont School at 19850 Devonshire.

Adopted unanimously (15 For).

Discussion: CUP for continuation; presented in June, but a quorum was not present. After brief discussion, the June motion, with minor modifications to specify certain size and hours noted in the CUP application, was presented for approval as follows.

Motion – We moved to support approval of the CUP as presented; there is no change from any prior CUP. No new construction; 240 students maximum, hours M-F 7am – 6pm; the school serves preschool through 5th. We recommend that the school ensure there is notification to neighbors and address any concerns that arise. Jelena made the motion; Teena seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: To support the extension of the CUP time period for RIDE ON located at 10860 Topanga.
Recuse: Jelena Csanyi. Motion Carries (14).

MOTION: To send a letter concerning Sierra Canyon’s Athletic Field in regards to future interactions of pedestrians, equestrians and vehicles and their impact in the vicinity of this heavily traveled intersection (DeSoto/Rinaldi).

Adopted unanimously (15 For).

Discussion: The concept has been agreed upon. Linda will rewrite the draft and send it in October. Presented in June, but a quorum was not present. Brian McQueeney presented in the June meeting. After brief discussion the following motion was made.

Motion – Teena moved, Mark seconded. To support the extension of the CUP time period for Ride On, with the same operating conditions as the current CUP. Review and possible improvement of the arena lights used for night lighting is to be considered. Jelena recused, but otherwise the motion carried unanimously. This motion was considered because it was old business from the prior meeting, although it was not specifically on the agenda for tonight’s meeting.

BOARD MEMBER MOTION: To send a letter to Councilman Englander requesting parking limit signage at the SE corner of Mason/Devonshire.

Motion: Linda van der Valk. Second: Jelena Csanyi. Adopted unanimously (15 For).

Presentation and Discussion: Draft Letter to Sierra Canyon and the Planners - The draft letter that summarized various committee suggestions developed at the June Land Use meeting was discussed. The letter was drafted after the meeting to be mailed to applicant and various City personnel involved in the project. Mary moved that we approve the letter for presentation to, and signature by the full council; Mark seconded. Approved unanimously for approval by the full Board with a letter to the various responsible parties.

The draft letter to Sierra Canyon and the Planners, as presented, is below.

Draft of letter to Sierra Canyon; from LU; copy Planning Department...and Hannah Lee and responsible designer with City was reviewed and discussed.

Thank you for coming to the Land Use Committee to discuss your Phase 2 project for the athletic fields. As the project was described to us, and later discussed, we had several suggestions that we believe will assist your project integrate better with the equestrian impacts created by your project. As you are aware, the project is impacting a historic trail called the Mission Trail that goes along Rinaldi in this area, and there are multiple concerns about the future interactions of pedestrians, equestrians, and vehicle impacts along this heavily travelled De Soto and Rinaldi intersection, which is significantly changed by your project from open space to a highly improved concrete urban setting, that still is to be used by equestrians and therefore must be designed to accommodate this historic and continuing use. Comments in this letter focus on the light pole on the west side of De Soto, although the comments regarding required access for equestrians are still applicable to the east side of De Soto and should be considered for that pole design and layout.

Positioning the demand light pole that is at the De Soto and Rinaldi intersection correctly for equestrians, at the edge of the driveway, should avoid requiring equestrians in the street and avoid

equestrians needing to be on the sidewalk push the crossing demand button. All parties involved in the design of this area must recognize that it is unsafe for equestrians to be in De Soto due to traffic volume and speed, and under California law, it is ILLEGAL for equestrians to be on the sidewalk. Many horses become more nervous when they are immediately next to speeding cars, and may not stand quietly, which is another issue that must be faced to create a safer design.

The pole on the west side of De Soto for requesting the crossing light that will be used by equestrians and pedestrians needs to be changed; so the equestrian button is relocated so it is accessible by riders. The proximity of the do not walk button, and the equestrian crossing demand button need to be changed so the equestrian button can be reached easily by a mounted rider, and is readily accessible. Some pictures and details on acceptable distance between equestrian crossing signal request and do not walk buttons are included.

This area will include concrete vaults in that immediate area that horses may need to stand on as demand for lights are made. The vaults must not open as horse hooves stand on them, and the pressure created by a single hoof can be quite significant. We request that Cal Trans heavy traffic rated vaults be used exclusively in this area to prevent damage to vaults by horse hooves especially and improve safety.

You advised there would be a 15% slope along the driveway from De Soto into the parking lot. This is steep. The driveway should be finished with a rough broom finish to provide a rougher surface and reduce slippage by horse shoes along the driveway. The rough finish should be from the street, through 12 feet away from the street, creating an equestrian suitable surface (at the approved width for an equestrian trail) along the entire driveway into the parking lot from Rinaldi.

The available waiting space at the light for equestrians will be very limited and very exposed to De Soto traffic. A request was made at the meeting, that an additional equestrian demand for crossing light be located at the easterly side of the equestrian trail, next to De Soto. This demand light to be set at equestrian height and as an additional crossing demand pushbutton. (The equestrian pushbuttons at the signal remain). Many horses may be very intimidated by standing at the light due to traffic and standing in a less confined, softer surface space while waiting for the light to begin changing at the east edge of the equestrian trail would provide a safer “holding” area and will have some more space for the horses. In designing this, also make sure flashing countdowns of time to the light change (the do not walk box) are visible to this area, so equestrians holding in this area can move forward to wait momentarily at the crossing light pole as the light begins to cycle to a stop light and allow crossing of De Soto.

We believe incorporation of the above suggestions will help improve the safety of this very difficult area for our equestrian members that are an important part of Chatsworth’s history and are common in this area.

Sincerely,

cc: Hannah Lee

cc: hearing officer

cc: City staff in charge of specific design issues for this project

DRB-Andre updated us with the most recent news – There has become an issue with a lighted, flashing sign. A business on Devonshire, just west of De Soto has installed a flashing lighted sign, and is adamant that the minor penalty for an infraction will not stop him from continuing this sign that is not allowed under the Specific Plan. Enforcement has been requested.

Community announcements – Colmer sold the property approved for approximately 22 homes; north of Tulsa, west side of Topanga; new owner didn't google well as being sensitive to the community. We need to watch what transpires there. Original project said all work under oaks must be done by hand, we continue have concerns about oak tree protection.

(d) Equestrian: Mary Kaufman
No Motions.

(e) Outreach: Jim Van Gundy

MOTION: To allocate up to \$350.00 on sponsorship advertising at the Chatsworth-Porter Ranch Chamber of Commerce Family Festival.

Adopted unanimously (15 For).

MOTION: To allocate up to \$500.00 for emergency preparedness starter kits at the Valley Preparedness Fair on October 6, 2012 from 11:00-3:00 PM at Fire Station 87, Balboa/Devonshire. CNC is sponsoring the event.

Adopted unanimously (15 For).

Discussion: Councilmember Englander and nine other NC's are co-sponsors. SOS is the vendor. Individualized invoices will be provided to each NC.

MOTION: To allocate up to \$500.00 on sponsorship advertising at the Metrolink Holiday Toy Express Event.

Adopted unanimously (15 For).

MOTION: To allocate up to \$1000.00 on the purchase of CNC promotional items.

Adopted unanimously (15 For).

MOTION: To allocate up to \$40.00 for printing meeting materials at All About Printing.

Adopted unanimously (15 For).

(f) Community Enhancements: Richard Nadel, Jelena Csanyi

BOARD MEMBER MOTION: The Community Enhancement Committee motion of \$250.00 for a NPG to North Valley YMCA was amended by Board member motion to increase it for a total of \$500.00. The additional \$250.00 expense is to be shared equally by PS&T, Equestrian, Community Enhancements, Beautification and Outreach committees at an outlay of \$50.00 each. This results in \$300.00 from Enhancement and \$50.00 from the PS&T, Beautification, Outreach and Equestrian Committees.

Motion: Vicki Briskman. Second: Jim Van Gundy. Motion Carries (15).

MOTION: To allocate \$1250.00 for a Neighborhood Purpose Grant to the Chatsworth Historical Society for archival supplies and museum display needs.

Recuse: Vicki Briskman, Jelena Csanyi, Linda van der Valk, Andre van der Valk. Motion Carries (11).

MOTION: To allocate up to \$200.00 for the purchase of food, drinks and supplies for the 2012 Annual Stoney Point Cleanup. CNC is sponsoring the event.

Adopted unanimously (15 For).

MOTION: To allocate up to \$400.00 to purchase supplies for the 2012 Women's Veteran and Active Service Luncheon. CNC is sponsoring the event.

Adopted unanimously (15 For).

(g) Beautification: Kamesh Aysola

No Motions. Discussion: Beautification will partner with BID in providing \$600 for enhancements to the planter.

(12) Board member comments / reports VANC – Scott Munson:

- Scott Munson: Letter sent by VANC to DWP on the rate increase having a greater impact on the San Fernando Valley.

(13) Adjournment: The September 5, 2012 CNC meeting was adjourned at 9:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by CNC Secretary Carol Lucas.