

Minutes of the Chatsworth Neighborhood Council Meeting
Lawrence Middle School Library
Wednesday, April 4, 2018

Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Andre van der Valk.
Roll was called.

In attendance: Andre van der Valk, Jeff Hammond, Vicki Briskman, Dorothy Allison, Kamesh Aysola, Cher Bentley, Shekhar Chikhalikar, Mark Cox, Susan Eskander, Daniel Huffman, Sheldon Itzkowitz, Nick Montano, Tracey Pomerance-Poirier, Michael Preis, Rudy Schultz, Jim Van Gundy, Anne Weaver, Matt Weintraub

Absent: Darlene Brothers-Wageman, Dean Wageman, Linda van der Valk, all excused.

Minutes from February were approved.

New board members elected on March 17 were installed by Glenn Bailey, and new officers were elected unanimously as follows:

Jeff Hammond – President

Andre van der Valk – Vice President

Susan Eskander – Treasurer (effective as of May meeting after appropriate training)

Tracey Pomerance-Poirier – Secretary

2nd Signature – Dorothy Allison

LAPD Senior Lead Officer Danny Del Valle spoke about crime in and around Chatsworth, and how the residents of Chatsworth can work together with LAPD to help reduce crime. Officer Del Valle hosts a monthly meeting at St. John Eudes Church to discuss issues affecting our community.

L.A. School Police Sgt. Lara discussed their role in keeping our children safe. She spoke about what types of crimes are within the School Police's jurisdiction, how they work with the LAPD, what steps they can take to maximize safety at area schools. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the problem of bullying in schools, specifically at Lawrence Middle School. It was suggested that parents could volunteer at school libraries in order to help maintain a safe environment for students. Sgt. Lara stated that the school police do provide trainings for parents to help with traffic circles.

Andrea Gibson, the local district coordinator for the LAUSD spoke about individual safety plans that her office can create for a student who does not feel safe for any number of reasons. One person suggested that emphasis be placed on stopping the students who are committing the bullying, rather than teaching the victims how to cope with it.

Scott Schmerelson, LAUSD board member for the 3rd District addressed the meeting. He spoke about the 105 schools within his jurisdiction and how he had visited all of them. He acknowledged that bullying is a problem in the district and offered to assist, but suggested that any complaints start with the administration, then come to him if need be. He also noted that there are psychiatric social workers within the district that can be called upon to assist.

It was suggested that further discussions take place among all parties involved, including parents, schools administrators, L.A. School Police, LAPD, and Scott Schmerelson's office to better assess what steps to take to alleviate bullying and other issues within our schools.

Dennis Banks, representing Anantra Thai, wanted support from the CNC regarding a beer and wine license, but he was reminded that there was nothing that the CNC could do until the hearing on April 17 at Van Nuys City Hall.

Samantha Veloz, from the L.A. City Attorney's office spoke about their Victim Assistance Program. The program has received a grant from the City and is tasked to assist victims of violent crime. They provide a variety of services, including mental health resources, etc. Their website is: helpLACrimeVictims.org.

Margaret Kim, Instructional Director of the LAUSD's Local District Northwest, mentioned that Porter Ranch Community School and Superior Elementary School received the Distinguished Schools Award.

Motions:

- Presented by Andre van der Valk: To write a letter to Councilmember Mitch England, DOT and BOE? Concerning the widening of Canoga and Chatsworth Street southbound with a left turn signal and right turn-through lane. The motion passed unanimously, with the amendment that the area warranting further traffic study is the area between Topanga and De Soto, rather than Canoga and De Soto.
- Presented by Vicki Briskman, Treasurer: To approve the February MERS report. Motion passed unanimously.
- Presented by Boardmember ? To approve reimbursements. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion presented by Kamesh Aysola to support Lawrence Middle School's School Based Management waiver as it pertains to hiring. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion presented by Vicki Briskman? To revise budget to reflect \$850 allotted to NPG's; \$1,350 to Outreach, \$500 of which will go to Day of the Horse to take care of and insurance and permits needed.

Standing Committees - Monthly meeting dates and times:

Enrichment; 3rd Wednesday at 6:30pm

Public Safety and transportation; 3rd Tuesday at 7pm

Equestrian; 2nd Wednesday at 7pm

Land Use; 3rd Thursday at 7pm

Outreach; 3rd Monday at 6pm

Beautification; 2nd Tuesday at 7pm

Homelessness; 4th Wednesday at 6:30pm

Board members should join a committee or two; stakeholders are invited to join committees as well. All committee meetings are held at the Chatsworth Train Depot.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:26pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Tracey Pomerance-Poirier