

Minutes of the Chatsworth Neighborhood Council Meeting  
Lawrence Middle School  
Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Jeff Hammond called the meeting to order at 6:38p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Andre van der Valk.

Roll was called.

In attendance: Jeff Hammond, Andre van der Valk, Vicki Briskman, Tracey Pomerance-Poirier, Dorothy Allison, Cher Bentley, Shekhar Chikhalikar, Steve Columbus, Mark Cox, Daniel Huffman, Sheldon Itzkowitz, Jeff Mackie, Marina Mackie, Nicholas Montano, Linda van der Valk, Jim Van Gundy, Lucie Volotzky, Summer Walters, Matt Weintraub.

Absent (excused): Rudy Schultz and Kamesh Aysola.

President's Report

- A. Jeff Hammond read the names of CNC committee chairpersons:
  - Linda van der Valk – Land Use
  - Steve Columbus – Equestrian
  - Kamesh Aysola – Beautification
  - Vicki Briskman - Enrichment
  - Jim Van Gundy – Outreach
  - Summer Walters and Lucie Volotzky – Public Safety and Transportation
  - Mark Cox – Homeless Awareness
- B. Day of the Horse Report: The event was very successful and it came in under budget.
- C. CNC Retreat will be May 18<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 am to 12 noon. This is not a regular meeting, but an effort to do some pre-planning for the upcoming year.
- D. President's Motion: To approve an NPG for \$850 for the Southern California Preparedness Foundation, to be used for the 2019 Valley Disaster Preparedness Fair. Motion seconded by Cher Bentley. Lucy Volotzky discussed the fair in more detail: The fair will be held at the Northridge Mall on October 12 from 9:00am – 1:30pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

- A. Motion to approve March 2019 MER. Motion seconded by Linda van der Valk. Passed unanimously.
- B. Motion to approve Dorothy Allison as the second signer and CNC purchase cardholder. Passed unanimously.
- C. Motion to approve the amended board budget as of May 1, 2019. Linda van der Valk seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.
- D. Motion to approve an NPG for \$500.00 to help cover expenses for the Chatsworth Kiwanis Club's Fishing Trip for kids who otherwise couldn't afford this type of outdoor experience. Dan Huffman seconded the motion. Michael Herrera for the Kiwanis Club spoke about the event and thanked the CNC for its support. Motion passed.

Minutes of the April 3<sup>rd</sup> CNC Board Meeting were approved unanimously (from Item 1 on the agenda).

Dani Wang from Assemblymember Christy Smith's office spoke about the community coffee they recently hosted. They will be holding these events quarterly and encourage people to attend. On May 18 they will be hosting a state boards and commissions workshop to encourage people to apply for these positions. She spoke about various bills Assemblymember Smith is introducing, including one to assist disabled veterans, and one to assist students applying for financial aid. The Assemblymember held a DMV hearing to ensure that the DMV continues the reforms it has promised to enact. Linda van der Valk asked whether Assemblymember Smith has come out in favor or against SB 50 (the zoning measure that CNC opposes). Dani wasn't sure of the Assemblymember's position and said she'd get back to us on that.

Two representatives from Cal State Northridge spoke about CSUN's resiliency plan, a project launched to help anticipate and reduce the severity of economic downturns and other stresses on a community. Resilience can be interwoven into any **planning** process for a particular area, such as an economic development plan, hazard mitigation **plan**, or parks and recreation **plan**. There have been two community surveys and based on those surveys, recommendations are being written and will be finalized over the summer.

Ron Rubine from Councilmember Greig Smith's office spoke about the unveiling of Virginia Watson Way (at the west end of Devonshire near Chatsworth Park South), to take place on May 3. He also reported that the L.A. City Council took a vote 12-0 against SB 50. The Council is currently holding budget meetings throughout the city as it works to complete the 2019-2020 L.A. City Budget. There will be a senior dance at Northridge Rec Center on May 31. Through the Chatsworth Coordinating Council, the council office is pushing for a plaque commemorating Stoney Point as the birthplace of California rock climbing.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### Enrichment

Vicki Briskman reported that the committee met and signs are being made for Chatsworth's monuments. The committee is looking for other ideas.

#### Public Safety and Transportation

Lucie Volotzky started the discussion about Sierra Canyon and its plans to increase seating at their stadium. Cher Bentley spoke about the graffiti at the old Lamplighter site. Vicki Briskman suggested hiring a security person.

#### Homeless Awareness

Mark Cox spoke about the Homeless Connect card that was being created, containing a listing of community resources that would be helpful to those experiencing homeless. The card will be completed very soon.

#### Beautification

Vicki Briskman reported for Kamesh Aysola.

**Motion #1:** Vicki asked that the council approve the cancellation of the balance of our contract with Oak Springs for the watering of the trees on Mason between the 118 Fwy and Devonshire, as it's not necessary. Motion passed unanimously.

**Motion #2:** To allocate \$1,100 to Oak Springs to water aforementioned trees 2 times per month in May and June. Nick Montano seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

**Motion #3:** To approve \$350 for the Chatsworth Fine Arts Council Art Fair to take place at the Chatsworth Depot on June 8. Cindy from the Fine Arts council spoke about the event. Dan Huffman seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

#### Outreach

Jim Van Gundy thanked everyone who volunteered at the Nature Preserve Open House, Day of the Horse, and the Chatsworth Garden Festival. The COLT website is up and running and the flyers have been printed and are available at the meeting.

**Motion #1:** To approve cancellation of previous motion allocating up to \$1,000 for a laptop computer and camera to livestream CNC meetings. Cher Bentley suggested that we should revisit this issue in the future, as the council recognizes that there is a benefit to engaging Chatsworth residents who cannot for whatever reason, come to meetings. Dorothy Allison seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

**Motion #2:** To approve \$1,000 for the purchase of giveaway items at the COLT ride. Cher Bentley seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

Shekhar Chikhalikar asked whether we needed to second committee motions. Jeff Hammond responded that we should, just in case there are any questions about the motion. Judy Daniels added that technically we don't need to second these motions.

#### Selection

No reason for this committee to meet at this time.

#### Land Use

**Motion #1:** To support a Condition Use Permit to allow the sale and dispensing of beer and wine for on-site only consumption at 21425 Devonshire Street, which will become Painting with a Twist (an arts and crafts venue) with seating for 42. Motion passed unanimously.

**Motion #2:** To support the proposal to add bleachers to the Sierra Canyon athletic field, bringing the total to 1,630 seats from 292 seats, and conduct a shared parking analysis for use of campus-wide parking to support the additional seats.

Discussion ensued:

Jeremy Chin from Sierra Canyon School spoke in defense of the bleacher project, acknowledging that the surrounding communities would be concerned. There will be five varsity football games and possibly two additional playoff games. He tried to allay any fears of increased noise, traffic, etc. and was working to ensure that the neighborhoods to the west of the school felt comfortable that their quality of life would not be negatively impacted by the increase in attendance for these games.

In response to Jeremy's comments, Jim Van Gundy stated that safety concerns must be addressed. Nick Montano was concerned about increased noise, parking problems and traffic safety issues. Dan Huffman expressed support for the project.

Additional comments from community members:

-Jeanne Plumb stated that a traffic mitigation study still needs to be done.

-Clara Woll was concerned about access on DeSoto.

-Renee Grace Rodriguez suggested that there weren't enough bathrooms for the amount of people expected at these games. Also, she had safety concerns about people crossing De Soto to get to the field.

-Lisa Slaughter from Sierra Canyon talked about how the idea of a pedestrian bridge had been explored.

Steve Columbus moved that we table the motion as presented by the Land Use Committee, as more discussion was needed to determine CNC's position on this proposal. Nick Montano seconded the motion. Motion passed.

#### Equestrian

Steve Columbus spoke about horse evacuations and people can become certified to deal with horse emergencies. Micro-chipping and horse licensing were also discussed. The councilman's ride is coming up in June and all who wish to participate are invited.

Dorothy Allison thanked Helen Murphy for volunteering at DOTH, and Vicki Briskman for getting insurance for the event.

#### Public Comments/Announcements

Jeanne Plumb reported on the recent court ruling regarding Brown's Canyon. She said that Wayne Fishback was convicted of running an illegal dumping operation in Brown's Canyon. She said the courtroom was filled with concerned citizens.

Jose Galdamez (Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment) spoke about an upcoming Neighborhood Council Planning workshop and encouraged people to attend. Information flyers are available. There will be Orientation Trainings for new Neighborhood Council members coming up on May 25, May 28, May 29 and June 8. Additionally, Jose gave the following deadlines: Last day for an event to be approved for the year: May 20. Last day for check payment requests: June 1. Last day for credit card payments: June 20.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:28pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Tracey Pomerance-Poirier

