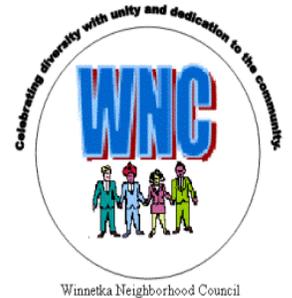




WINNETKA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

PO Box 3692, Winnetka, CA 91306
(818) 648-6219

www.winnetkanc.com



President	Vice President	Secretary	Treasurer	Sergeant At Arms
Erick Lace	Eric Lewis	JJ Popowich	VACANT	VACANT
Board Members				
William Hilliard	Mike Mikaelian	Tess Reyes-Dunn	Natasha Somerville	Stephanie Aguirre
Greg Sullivan	Marilyn Robinson	Tom Sattler	Tara Walker	VACANT

WINNETKA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, May 11, 2010 – 6:30 PM
Valley Village

20830 Sherman Way, Winnetka, CA 91306

Board Member	Present	Absent
JJ Popowich		X
Eric Lewis	X	
Erick Lace	X	
Mike Mikaelian	X	
William Hilliard		X
Tara Walker	X	
Tess Reyes-Dunn	X	
G. Sullivan	X	
Marilyn Robinson	X	
Tom Sattler		X
Natasha Somerville	X	
Stephanie Aguirre		X
Total	8	

Minutes and Roll Call noted by Greg Sullivan

The public is requested to fill out a “**Speaker Card**” to address the Board on any agenda item before the Board takes an action. Public comment is limited to 3 minutes per speaker, but the Board has the discretion to modify the amount of time for any speaker. Before a vote on each item any member of the public who has not filled out a “**Speaker Card**” will be accorded 1 minute to make a statement. This period will not last longer than 5 minutes total.

The public may comment on a specific item listed on this agenda when the Board considers that item. When the Board considers the agenda item entitled “Public Comments,” the public has the right to comment on any matter that is within the Board’s jurisdiction. In addition, the members of the public may request and receive copies without undue delay of any documents that are distributed to the Board, unless there is a specific exemption under the Public Records Act that prevents the disclosure of the record. (Govt. Code § 54957.5)

The Winnetka Neighborhood Council holds its regular meetings on the second Tuesday of every month and may also call any additional required special meetings in accordance with its Bylaws and the Brown Act. The agenda for the regular and special meetings is posted for public review at

- 1) **Limerick Avenue Elementary School**, 8530 Limerick Ave., Winnetka, 91306;
- 2) **Fulton Cleaners**, 20109 Roscoe Street, Winnetka, 91306
- 3) **Canoga Park Bowl**, 20122 Vanowen St., Winnetka, 91306;
- 4) **Smart & Final Store**, 7224 Mason Ave.;
- 5) **Express Pack & Ship**, 7657 Winnetka Ave., Winnetka, CA 91306,

The Winnetka Neighborhood Council complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and does not discriminate on the basis of any disability. Upon request, the Winnetka Neighborhood Council will provide reasonable accommodations to ensure equal access to its programs, services, and activities. Sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure the availability of services, please make your request at least 3 business days (72 hours) prior to the meeting you wish to attend by contacting the Neighborhood Council Secretary at (818) 648-6219, or please send an e-mail that states the accommodations that you are requesting to jedi_yoda@msn.com.

1. Call to Order and Board Members Roll Call.
2. Explanation of Meeting Rules.
3. Approval of Minutes from last meeting. Minutes passed out by Greg. Motion by Tess to accept, Mike seconded to unanimous approval.
4. Public Comments– Comments from the public on non-agenda items within the Board’s subject matter jurisdiction.
The public is requested to fill out a “**Speaker Card**” to address the Board on any agenda item before the Board takes an action

City Controller Wendy Gruel spoke to the WNC. (Nancy Hernandez deputy) (Signs pay checks so speaks first. :)

WG spoke of what the City controller does in a time of fewer resources. Time to do things differently due to many challenges. \$224 million dollars deficit this year, \$500m next year...short. Has 170 employees for her work. Financial reporting is her job to report cash flow to Mayor and the Federal and State Government. Tells people things they don’t want to hear, last May 5th and May 19th. 73 M dollars withheld by DWP was not helpful to cash flow. Now taking money out of reserve fund now a 5% reserve fund. Now only 30m in reserve fund....”found money” changed assumptions for property tax. Letter from Wendy is what we know today versus the assumptions made by the city council. WG is responsible for payroll and vendor payments...including Michael Jackson’s funeral and the lunches for fireman 1st responders for \$50,000 from Arrowhead.(35,000 sandwiches.). WG said policy is wrong. Laura Chick, the previous controller, said to have the lowest # of auditors which with more auditors can find better savings. Another example was that 45% of equipment in some departments couldn’t find the equipment until pressed. DONE wasn’t doing well and was ill equipped. Petty cash put in bank accounts or split purchases for same item on credit cards... not good.

Audits not looked at by DONE. 2 things have changed. Charge cards have gone up to \$2,500 and decided not to have petty cash. Roll over funds had a 5.6M discrepancy. Gruel requested that NC’s not be dinged. Roll over funds available next year? CDD (Community Development Dept), who will be running the NC’s, may have someone else do our accountings. There was as early as 1979, a study which mentioned the ballooning pension crisis. 50% of budget is pension funds. Police 9% when economy is good; 8% when bad. Now is time to talk to unions. Reordan article on bankruptcy; Wendy Gruel disagrees with Mayor Riordan on the possible need for bankruptcy. WG wants to make tough decisions now to avoid the problems. City council felt the mayor’s budget assumptions were a bit rosy. Her 6 year old said it a tough time to be a controller. WG is going around to Neighborhood Councils and groups to get to know the issues. Tess asked about the people who bought capital goods on the public dime such as frigerators and such that are in people’s homes. Wendy is working on prosecuting. An item under 5,000 the city doesn’t track. So WG working on auditing and tracking. Tess wants to lower the 5,000 limit, “doesn’t seem that hard to track’, Tess felt. On the web site one can see what is found. The general managers will stand next to Wendy and agree with the problems which Wendy finds. Nancy Hernandez has sign in sheets so all can get the audits when they come out. 5NC’s had some that absconded with money previous to the audits. We should cc Wendy’s office when we send something to DONE! nancy.hernandez@lacity.org

DONE’s financials will be out shortly.

Jessica Yas, staff assistant to the Honorable Brad Sherman welcomed the new members. Was a year since she visited. Brad Sherman is currently in Washington, but is happy to talk to constituents and happy to be recognized in town. Say hello if you see him. Town hall meeting have had 5 or 6, but none this month; one in July 11th. Reseda high is the projected location. Constituent Dept. will help re tax issues, Soc. Sec., visa expedited etc.. Happy to help. Come to next town hall! Office is 9 to 6 every day on Van Nuys Blvd.

Jose Martinez, from Dennis Zine’s office, spoke on quality of life issues. Jose warned of foreclosed homes with freeloaders pretending to pay rent and is working with LAPD and Building and Safety. Jose and Officer Maldonado are watching these homes. Marilyn called Jose Martinez to track these homes. Tara took Jose around Winnetka and Oso to see these homes and work together and report issues. Jose mentioned a Mortgage help the seminar. Tom Sattler had worked with Jose regarding parked car on the lawns and Jose worked on that.

Jose Maldonado was glad to be the SLO for Winnetka. Pretty busy crime wise, statistics are going up. Maps tell you what the symbols mean. Reviewed what the symbols mean and coded on Crime maps (CAR). One of the keys to fight crime is neighborhood unity. Report crimes and suspicious activities! Invites all to new Neighborhood Watch location at the Topanga Station. Aylet Feiman, Neighborhood DA will speak on prosecuting local quality of life crime. Officer Maldonado speaks on issues for police dept., teaches and coaches people how to get police and other gov. services. Ultimate goal is to improve. Officer spoke of an officer involved shooting, where a mother called the police about her son, a murder suspect. The son came out with gun at best buy and made way toward best buy waving gun around. Officer shot and killed the suspect 6 officers’ involved in shooting, which is a sensitive issue to deal with for all.

Now have one officer following the vandalism. LAPD is watching the types of gang graffiti. Regarding Squatters, get the name of the broker or the bank to secure the property; LA will put up a fence. There is a professional squatter who found a million dollar home south of Pierce college, the criminal misspelled name on rental contract which tipped off the officers. The owner says he was being cheated so filed a trespass report. If you have guy walking down the street selling magazines, don't let anyone in. Say you are busy and not interested. Squatters are now very sophisticated. Tara mentioned census people walking door to door, and is worried about census workers going door to door. Erick says the black bag is an is for them. The bicycle cops are focused on areas of higher crime. SLO helps to focus adequate resources on different issues. Home invasion robberies are not too common, but they do occur. Be cautious about opening door! Play the games and say "I've got it honey!". Come to NW!

5. State and local government representatives updates: Senator Alarcon's representative, Assemblyman Levine's representative, Mayor Villaraigosa's representative, Councilman Smith's representative, Councilman Zine's representative, and other government representatives who may wish to attend. None attended.

6. Possible action on selecting volunteers as Board members to fill up to 3 open offices.

Erick says we have three positions treasurer and two members.

Wilson Linares was born and raised in SFV back in Winnetka in '96; father of three. In law enforcement (LAPD) and works on the Winnetka Park transients which he helps clean up the park. Lives in area and notes that officers don't live in the areas which they serve. Now works with sex offenders; monitoring them. Can see megans law website and you can see the cluster of sex offender which the state has snuck in. Sunland got upset by these places and got them closed down. Does ask to work on safety and sensitivity issues. knows how to motivate officers to help a problem. Coaches two teams, on advisory board of Winnetka. Involved with Limerick school board, speaks Spanish and his father was a part of the early amnesty. Erick nominated, Tess seconded; 8 unanimous approval by all.

Walter Baneggas Lived in Winnetka and wants to help. Got his BA in Northridge. Works in law firm since he was 17 in financial records. Fully owns his real estate business. Wants to volunteer his time to help keep financial records. Interested into the treasury seat. 8 votes unanimous.

7. Discussion and possible action on forming committees. Erick to start discussion of setting up committees.

Wants to try to get a meeting limited to two hours. Perhaps with 15 min increments voted on to continue. Committees have met once a month. Seemed to be interested in committee system

Eric motioned and Mike seconded moving the Youth Committee into the Outreach Committee. Unanimous vote.

Greg nominated Marylyn for Outreach Committee and Tess seconded. Unanimous vote.

Eric wants to be on PLUM.

Mike interested in public works committee.

Marilyn wants to help Wilson chair with the public safety committee.

Rules election and by laws needs the officers plus two total of 7 to be on by laws committee, says Erick.

Finance Committee is Natasha, Greg, Mike, JJ and Erick with Walter Baneggas.

8. Reports from any liaisons: DWP Oversight Committee, Councilmember Smith's Service Cabinet, VANC, LANCC, etc. None provided.

9. Discussion and possible action on the following Committee reports & recommendations:

- Finance Report (including Treasurer's Report)
- Outreach & Events Committee Report: (Robinson) Greg nominates
- PLUM Committee report: (Popowich)
- Public Safety Committee Report (Chair).
- Public Works & Transportation Committee Report (Chelebian)
- Rules, Elections, and By-Laws Committee Report (Lace)
- Youth (Chair) schools, murals, booths.

10. Other Board Business –

A. Comments on Board Member's own activities/Brief announcements.

Erick made a treasurer's report. Copies of the audits were in the storage units which were sold off; all our records are gone. Never got a call back from public storage. Eric will talk to Marilyn to see if he can't get the records of the financials back. Greg mentioned the letter from Bagwhan kim re approved expenses by city council. Valley Village approves getting our mail instead of from the post office. Marilyn says there is a post office expense for a PO box. Erick proposes to the board that we write a letter to the board to say that our records are now gone and that we would be transparent with the city to mention this fact.

A motion is made for Erick (by Erick, Marilyn seconded) to write a letter to the city that we have lost our much of our financial records in public storage so cannot provide all records requested. Greg voted no, all others vote yes; measure to write a letter to the city passed.

Erick moved to go dark in the summer for one month, which July or August or not? Greg Smith is coming in August? Committees can go dark if they wish. July 13th and Aug 10th are the meeting dates. The consensus seems not to go dark.

Marilyn announcement; June 7th WNC and chamber mixer and commander Canzler is the speaker.

Notify Erick a few days in advance for agenda items.

Erick attended a training session. Another Sat in the NW quarter 8 to 1pm breakfast seminar very helpful topics included Treasury issues. This Saturday east half of Valley will be another session. There is a mentoring committee. One person can get training for sergeant of arms and for parliamentarians etc.; explains how with local business we can do outreach. Mentors were giving ideas out to NC's for getting people informed about the NC system. Credit card swipes are now up to \$1000., Which will help eliminate paperwork.

Tara mentioned, June 13th for empowerment to women in Northridge; Muslim Empowerment League, May al Hassan, which will feature a poetry reading.

B. Introduction of any new issues for consideration by the Board at its next meeting/request that the item be placed on the next meeting's agenda.

C. Requests for Board Members to research issues and report back to the Board at a future time.

11. Future Agenda Items and other Calendar Events

(All meetings held at 20830 Sherman Way Winnetka, CA 91306, unless otherwise noted):

Next Meeting Tuesday, June 8, 2010, at 6:30 pm at Valley Village.

12. Adjournment

PROCESS FOR RECONSIDERATION

The Board may reconsider and amend its action on items listed on the agenda if that reconsideration takes place immediately following the original action or at the next regular meeting. The Board, on either of these two days, shall: (1) Make a Motion for Reconsideration and, if approved, (2) hear the matter and Take an Action.

If the motion to reconsider an action is to be scheduled at the meeting following the original action, then two items shall be placed on the agenda for that meeting: (1) A Motion for Reconsideration on the described matter and (2) a {Proposed} Action should the motion to reconsider be approved.

PROCESS FOR FILING A GRIEVANCE

Any grievance by a Stakeholder must be submitted in writing to the Secretary of the Board of Directors. The Secretary shall then within no more than 30 days refer the matter to an ad hoc grievance panel comprised of 3 Stakeholders who are randomly selected by the Council secretary from a list of Stakeholders who have previously expressed an interest in serving from time-time on such a grievance panel. The Secretary will coordinate a time and a place, not to exceed 10 days for the panel to meet with the person(s) submitting a grievance and to discuss ways in which the dispute may be resolved.

Thereafter, a panel member shall promptly prepare a written report to be forwarded by the Secretary to the Board to be heard at the next board meeting outlining the panels' collective recommendations for resolving the grievance. The Board of Directors may receive a copy of the panel's report and recommendations prior to any meeting by the Board, but the matter shall not be discussed among the Board members until the matter is heard at the next regular meeting of the Board pursuant to the Ralph M. Brown Act.

This formal grievance process is not intended to apply to Stakeholders who simply disagree with a position or action taken by the Board at one of its meetings. Those grievances can be aired at the Board meetings. This grievance process is intended to address matters involving procedural disputes, e.g., the Board's failure to comply with the Board Rules or these Bylaws, or its failure to comply with the City's Charter, the Plan, local ordinances, and/or State and federal law.

In the event that a grievance cannot be resolved through this grievance process, the complainant has the right to appeal the matter to the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment for consideration or dispute resolution.