



**WINNETKA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**  
 PO Box 3692, Winnetka, CA 91306  
[www.winnetkanc.com](http://www.winnetkanc.com)



<b>President</b>	<b>Vice – President</b>	<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Sergeant at Arms</b>
JJ Popowich	Art Sims	Mary Ann Smiley	Erick Lace	Jozef Essavi
<b>Board Members</b>				
Armineh Chelebian	Nina Essavi	Nalini Natarajan	Edesa Aghakhanmoshabad	Tess Reyes-Dunn
TJ Martens	T. Alan Schweizer	Greg Sullivan	Angela Terracina	Stephanie Aguirre

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
 Tuesday, September 8, 2009 – 6:30 PM  
 Valley Village  
 Winnetka Ave. Winnetka, CA 91306

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 **Limerick Avenue Elementary School**, 8530 Limerick Ave., Winnetka, 91306; **Fulton Cleaners**, 20109 Roscoe Street, Winnetka, 91306; **Express Pack & Ship**, 7657 Winnetka Ave., Winnetka, 91306; **Canoga Park Bowl**, 20122 Vanowen St., Winnetka, 91306 (near Bar & ATM Machine); **Walgreen’s Store**.

**1. Call to Order & Board Member’s Roll Call**

Board Member	Present	Absent	Excused
JJ Popowich			X
Art Sims	X		
Erick Lace	X		
Mary Ann Smiley	X		
Jozef Essavi	X		
Armineh Chelebian	X		
Nina Essavi	X		
Nalini Natarajan	X		
Edesa Aghakhanmoshabad	X		
Tess Reyes-Dunn	X		
TJ Martens	X		
T. Alan Schweizer	X		

G. Sullivan	x		
A. Teriacina	x		
Stephanie Aguirre			
Total	13		1

**2. Explanation of Meeting Rules**

**3. Review minutes from last meeting**

**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. The Speaker Card is requested so that the Speaker’s names are complete and correct in the meeting Minutes.

**Referring to #7 she would like to Nihan Kulukain, Estelle Goldman, Mark Reed. Ron Forbes.**

**5. State and local governments representatives’ updates**

Lauren, Padilla’s office. Local efforts to get ready for the 2010 census. Two bills: Senate bill 23-mobile home safety-Intent to establish better safety of mobile home parks. A public safety plan drafted and posted in an area where visible to tenants to review. Senate bill 17- smart grid plan for the state of California. Make it more reliable and more efficient. The idea is to address the 2010 census. JJ will be contacted by her to get the committee members to be involved. More information will be provided.

**6. John Rudolph from Smart and Final to discuss the possibility of taking the Albertson’s building as it is currently vacant.**

Table for next month as he is not here

**7. Peggy Burgess to present on behalf of the Veterans and the Coalition of Opponents, an opposition to the proposed apartment complex at the Sepulveda VA.**

In favor-

Ben from New Directions- provides housing, dual diagnosis care, job placement and LAUSD teacher on site. To discuss Housing Project to house disabled veterans on this site. Nationally recognized program- A Community of Friends partnering with New Directions and feel they have addressed some of the concerns the community has. Propose that 147 units for homeless disabled veterans. The North Hills campus has been vacant and the mission is to end homelessness. Own and manage to build a hospital that they have already built to house these people. Some issues that people who oppose this project is that they are taking hospital space for these areas. Buildings to rehabilitate are not hospital buildings and if the VA chooses to build a hospital there is plenty of room on the campus. Another concern-will it serve veterans? New Directions only works with housing veterans and this is their goal, according to them. The vacant building is there and being utilized for filming and this could be the place to house disabled veterans. The building needs repairs, but will be able to provide continuum of care for the homeless veterans. Currently in LA there are 14,000-18,000 homeless veterans. There are 2,000-3,000 in the San Fernando Valle alone. There is no permanent housing at this time, only transitional housing for up to 6 months, but they are unable to afford on their own. This is a non government and non profit agency. There is a 75 year lease and the VA will take full ownership of the land. New Directions will supervise these tenants and services will be provided at the building. Security will be there 24 hours a day. This is supportive housing and non psychiatric care. Criteria- physical disability, PTSD and mental health disability. The residents have to qualify and receive veterans services. Some would work and go to school. They may also volunteer in the community. The length of stay is due to the fact that they will need support and may stay permanently and will reside there as much as they need to.

Oppose- Peggy Burgess. 493,000 people opposed this project. Facts- Community of Friends. NED is umbrella of locked down housing. Land 7.5 acres. A study of this project was conducted in 2004 to see if this would help the veterans. No it will not. To house a few would be criminal. Veterans want and need psychiatric units and want hospital rebuilt and buildings 4 and 5 refurbished. Veterans are entitled to receive treatment in their own area. There were 3 in the valley and there now is only one. In 1993 when it was a full service hospital, many were treated and the average population was 510 thousand. 1996

hospital was demolished and it was not urgent care for them. Everything important was moved to West LA. Lease can be amended again and again and reassigned to any one and not just disabled veterans. There are no provisions. During 2009, if they wanted to really develop housing they could build it for half the cost. Improve the property and to give it back. The lease does not have to contain language. All they need are beds and staff. Requesting to pass the motion to refurbish buildings 4 and 5 etc..... Mark Reed spoke-This is a veterans issues. Invasion on their territory. We owe to our veterans and the VA needs to have a message to be sent to them. Veterans need some one to relate to. Join together to stand with combat veterans to tell that we will not tolerate this.. They should be served by VA. Stand with veterans. WWII veteran spoke and in a nursing home. Criminal to fight for everything they get. His mobilized wheel chair he had to fight for it at the Sepulveda Center. New Directions- is a land owned and have millions in the bank. This issue is a veteran affair. Family of Friends develop land. Deception is to help veterans but they really do not want to help them. Help the homeless as they do not come back the same. A lot of psychological issues and are not being treated. They need hospitals as we have so many coming back from this war. Sepulveda should be a hospital again. Art motioned to support the other NC's that have already joined together to oppose the new housing project located on VA Sepulveda property. Tess seconded it. Yes to oppose the housing project- Motioned passes to oppose. 14-1

- 8. Discussion and possible action on a request by Dr. Saad Tanious for approval of the addition of a church to be located at 19733 Stagg St., Winnetka. This may include discussions of any necessary zoning changes or conditional use permits. Not present last month.**

Not present and tabled for next month.

- 9. Discussion and possible action to support up to \$2,500.00 for Valley Interfaith Council as it will provide food for the pantries in the San Fernando Valley. Per Linda, she had previously received an approval for all of the NC's for this particular support. (10 minutes) Linda was not present last month.**

Not present and will be tabled for last month.

- 10. Discussion and possible action on requesting cross walks on Sherman Way from CRA. A follow up to last month. (5 minutes)**

Art motioned to send a letter requesting that CRA support the funds for this beautification and for safety issues. Josef seconded it. All approved.

- 11. Discussion and possible action on supporting a memorial plaque for Dwight Burgess. This will include a discussion of where to place the plaque. A follow up to last month. (5 minutes)**

Erick will review and evaluate the plaque or name the basket ball court in his name and will bring it to the next meeting for further review by board members.

- 12. Discussion and possible action on funding requests by the Winnetka Recreation Center.**

Joe Harris was present and requesting support for Winnetka Recreation Center. Alan motioned to support up to \$1,500.00 for football equipment. Erick seconded it. All approved.

- 13. Discussion and possible action to endorse the NC Election Map.**

Erick motioned that the board endorse the election map of Winnetka. All Approved.

- 14. Discussion and possible action on the Verizon poles that may be affecting the Winnetka are for a.**

Unable to discuss at it has been done.

- 15. Discussion and possible action on a certain board member with a number of absences. (5 minutes)**

Absences- special meeting if missed does not count. Arminah, if missed tonight would have missed 3 total, so therefore she showed up. The board still has to vote and the other member will also be reviewed for total absences. No action taken. No more excused absences.

- 16. Discussion and possible action on a certain board member with a number of absences.**

Have issues go to the committee. As far as having committees and the issues are being by passed and going straight to the board. Committee chairs need to be cognizant that there should be meetings monthly.

## **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **17. Finance Committee Report (Including Treasurer's Report, Lace): (5 minutes)**

**Discussion of monthly report. Erick motions to resolve to support the Wom, Odessey in their plumbing for \$4,000.00. by the Neighborhood Purposes Grant. Tess seconded it. Approved.**

**National Night Out billing has not been sent to Erick so he is still waiting for the paper work.**

### **18. Interfaith Committee Report (Chelebian): (5 minutes)**

#### **19. Events Committee Report (Martens): (5 minutes)**

Chair was unavailable.

#### **20. Youth Committee Report (Schweizer): (5 minutes)**

**Discussion of a new date for the upcoming Youth Expo.**

Youth Expo date needs to be changed to next spring in March or April. Tabled to next month for a new date.

Alan revealed that he is leaving the board. His resignation is due to accepting a job assignment at a VA Hospital in Philadelphia. He said his goodbyes and left the meeting as he needed to continue to pack to leave the state at the end of this month.

**Discussion and possible action to support up to \$2,500.00 for Safe Passages to purchase laptops, printer and other equipment to better assist their needs. All committee members approved this item during the Youth Committee Meeting in September.**

Alan motioned to support up to \$2,500.00 for Safe Passages and Tess seconded it. All approved.

#### **21. Planning & Land Use Committee (PLUM) (Popowich): (5 minutes)**

**Has not met.**

#### **22. Public Works & Transportation Committee (Chelebian): (5 minutes)**

Has not met, but issues have been brought to the board member meeting. Every board member should email in ask what is the reason for the lack of watering the plants. Art will email us the contact people.

#### **23. Public Safety Committee (Smiley): (5 minutes) No report as there was no meeting.**

#### **24. Emergency Preparedness Committee (Martens): (5 minutes)**

Chair was unavailable to report.

#### **25. Rules, Election & By-Laws Committee (Popowich): (5 minutes)**

#### **26. Future Agenda Items & Calendar of events:**

- Youth Committee: September 1, 2009
- Public Safety Committee: September 15, 2009
- Events Committee: TBD
- Public Works & Transportation Committee: TBD
- Interfaith Committee: TBD
- Emergency Preparedness: TBD

#### **27. Adjournment**

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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 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\\_voda@msn.com](mailto:jedi_voda@msn.com).

**SI REQUIERE SERVICIOS DE TRADUCCION, FAVOR DE NOTIFICAR A LA OFICINA 3 Dias de trabajo (72 horas) ANTES DEL EVENTO. SI NECESITA AYUDA CON ESTA AGENDA, POR FAVOR LLAME A NUESTRA OFICINA AL (818) 648-6219.**

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### **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. A Board member who has previously voted on the prevailing side of the original action taken can only make a motion for reconsideration.

If a motion for reconsideration is not made on the date the action was taken, then a Board member on the prevailing side of the action must submit a memorandum to the Secretary identifying the matter to be reconsidered and a brief description of the reason(s) for requesting reconsideration at the next regular meeting. The aforesaid shall all be in compliance with the Brown Act.

### **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.