

NORTH HOLLYWOOD WEST NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes Wednesday, August 10, 2011 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Grace Community Church
13248 Roscoe Blvd, Sun Valley, CA 91352

1. Call to order and roll call.

Attending: Robin Ibrahim, Willy Lewis, Vince Stamboni, Dario Svidler
Not Attending: Leighton Merrit
Quorum is seated

2. General public comment on items not listed on today's agenda (3 minutes per speaker).

- a. Rose L. reported that she was pleased to see the street sweeper in her neighborhood, although the sweeper could not sweep numerous curb areas where street sweeping (No Parking) signs were not posted.
- b. Nancy C. asked if the CERT speaker was going to attend this meeting based on a motion made at a prior Public Safety meeting. It was clarified that the motion pertained to the General NC Board meeting and that a speaker had indeed been lined up for the upcoming NHWNC meeting.

3. Approve minutes of the July 20, 2011 meeting.

- a. Minutes approved as-is without changes
Vote: FOR - 4, AGAINST - 0, ABSTAIN - 0

4. [Item moved ahead of original agenda] Update on prioritizing "List of concerns" distributed at the July meeting

- a. Vince S reported that he had met with Jim K and was hoping that Jim would provide original raw data from Cara in order to use for prioritizing the data. Unfortunately, Cara had indicated that the data was from so many different sources that it might not be able to be used for prioritization, especially if used by someone unfamiliar with sources of the data.
- b. Vince instead suggested that it might be more prudent and accurate if the list of concerns was provided to the community for prioritization, instead.
- c. There was general agreement with proceeding in this direction, although it was not clear in what form the information might be provided to the community to produce the desired result.

5. [Item moved ahead of original agenda] List of ideas for future speakers and topics

- a. In addition to the items on the list provided, the following were suggested:
 - i. Valley Traffic (Officer James York and Captain Ivan Minsal were mentioned as possible speakers)
 - ii. Wendy Greuel
 - iii. AEG (regarding the possible/proposed downtown stadium)
 - iv. Green Team training group

- b. It was similarly suggested that outside input from the community be solicited in prioritizing this list to try to get those speakers who would be most requested by the community. But again, it was not clear in what form the information might be provided to the community to produce the desired result and the possibility of it being confused with item 4c above.

6. Guest Speaker: LAPD Senior Lead Officer Carol Sawamura

- a. Officer Sawamura presented the July crime statistics for Basic Car 15A21 and was pleased to report that reported Part 1 crimes were down to 44 from 46 in June
- b. She had additional reports on the following incidents among others:
 - i. 7042 Ethel was formerly a “gang house” occupied by members of the 18th street Gang. The house has been foreclosed on by the bank, ousting the suspected gang members. The house has recently been purchased and the new owner intends to renovate it, which should keep it out of gang hands in the future.
 - ii. 13135 Welby Way, an abandoned house which is on the rear side of the eternally problematic Vanowen Garden Apartments, was reported by neighbors as being used as a drug house among other things. The house has been checked out and the FHA representative has been contacted regarding neighbor concerns and a huge hole in the rear block wall which is providing a ready access way for possible unsavory visitors from the apartments. The house has been secured and there has been a commitment to repair the broken wall to restore an element of safety to the property and to the adjoining neighborhood.
 - iii. 7039 Alcove has been the site of recent narcotics arrests
 - iv. Distraction burglaries have been reportedly widespread and there have been arrests made in the area of Gypsies being involved. Although some of our area has been reporting Hispanics being involved, Gypsies are generally considered of European/Mediterranean origin. The possibility exists that there could be some confusion, or perhaps there are different groups operating, but the Gypsy group(s) is (are) considered to be operating in multiple parts of the City. Officer Sawamura suggests calling 911 for any type of possible distraction burglary suspicion.
 - v. The number one concern in the northern part of 15A21 has been street racing. A recent major accident that occurred in the area and was brought up during the meeting, however, was determined NOT to stem from street racing.
 - vi. The Godfather “gentlemen’s club” is currently not open for business, but the property is still under the same ownership and it not necessarily going to stay closed.

7. Discuss possible Safety Fair partnered with other NC

- a. Vince S provided some insight into his experiences with the Safety Fair held in conjunction with a Firefighter’s Pancake Breakfast by the Greater Valley Glen Council area just south of us. They have held this event for the past 3 years and it is generally well attended. He revealed the budget for the events that were held for the first two years were \$18K and \$12K, respectively. These of course were years where the GVGC annual allocation was \$75K/year and where they were allowed to rollover prior year unused funds of twice that figure. Vince stated that it is clear that such an event could be done for less money but the figures clearly emphasize that it might be imperative to partner with another agency in order to avoid straining the NHWNC’s budgeted event funds. It was suggested that the Safety Fair was considered one of the GVGC’s major Outreach events, as well as a Public Safety event.

- b. In addition to partnering with another NC, it was also suggested that there was the event held at the Saticoy School that might provide a better opportunity for such partnering, if it is going to be held again. It could provide a location, restrooms, a dedicated audience, and personnel resources associated with the school and its parents.
- c. There were generally positive comments associated with trying to do something along this line, and a motions was formulated as follows:
 - i. PSC MOTION: That the NHWNC determine sources/amounts of available budget funding for the purpose of pursuing the possibility of partnering with a nearby NC or School to stage a Safety Fair event for both the purpose of promoting Public Safety and for the purpose of Outreach.
 - ii. Moved by Willie L, Seconded by Robin I
 - iii. Vote: FOR – 3, AGAINST – 0, ABSTAIN – 0

8. Discuss presentations for CERT training graduates

- a. This would include providing graduates of NHWNC-sponsored CERT training classes copies of a book (approx \$3.50 each) titled "It's a Disaster, and What Are You Going to Do About It?"
- b. The discussion was tabled to a future meeting when a copy of the book might be available and when the discussion might be more timely.

9. Report on National Night Out and other CPAB activities

- a. Willie reported that NNO went well. Vince commented that Rose L was an absolute champ at providing information to visitors to the NHWNC's booth. The booth was supported by Willy and Rose Lewis, Jim Kompare, Fobin Ibrahim, and Vince Stamboni.
- b. The NH CPAB will not be meeting during the month of August, but will resume meetings on September 15 at the Kaiser Permanente Labs at 11668 Sherman Way.

10. How to form a Neighborhood Watch

- a. Reference materials that are available on line were cited at URL <http://www.laneighborhoodwatch.com/> and more specifically at URL <http://www.laneighborhoodwatch.com/StartYourNeighborhoodWatch.asp>
- b. Vince indicated his inability to get together with Officer Carol to discuss specific areas that might be either easy/ready to rekindle an NW or that might be strategic for trying to push an NW. There were two things that he was able to glean from prior conversations with Officer Carol
 - i. Some degree of effort must be expended to try to get some sort of "Business Watch" set up because about ¼ of the NC area is non-residential usage
 - ii. It would be beneficial to create a list of prior NW leaders and similar candidates, as a start, and try to get them together to try to rebuild a Residential NW network. Some of the names that were resurrected from the past were Amanda, Elvia, Amy, Joe & Sandy, Tania, Mary Louise, Grace, Bea, and Andrea (surnames withheld and/or unknown). It might also be a good idea to have this as a subject at Officer Carol's bi-monthly meetings and to possibly recruit from the meeting attendees past and present.

11. Discuss possible "Public Safety Committee" page on our website, including agency and emergency contact numbers

- a. All members present agreed that this should be a goal. Dario commented that since he is the head of a "webpage committee" he would to try to have a web page available for each of the standing committees who might want/need one.

12. Committee member comments on subject matters within the committee's jurisdiction.

- a. Comments on committee members' own activities/brief announcements
 - i. Willy L indicated that he would be out of town starting around the middle of August and would miss any committee or board meetings that might be held during that time.
 - ii. Officer Carol's meeting has been "penciled in" to take place on Saturday Sept 10 at 1PM at the NH Police Station near Burbank Blvd. and Colfax.
- b. Brief response to questions posed or statements made by persons exercising their general right to public comment.
 - i. (See 2b above)
- c. Introduce new issues for consideration by the committee at its next meeting.
 - i. None discussed

13. Adjournment.

Please be advised that the bylaws of the North Hollywood West Neighborhood Council provide a process for reconsideration of actions as well as a grievance procedure. For your convenience, the bylaws are available during every meeting. In compliance with Government Code Section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the board in advance of a meeting may be obtained from the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment by calling 213-485-1360.

Approved 09/14/11