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Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes Wednesday, July 20, 2011 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Wat Thai Temple
8225 Coldwater Canyon, North Hollywood

1. Call to order and roll call.

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

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

- a. Issue of distraction burglaries happening in his area involving 2 Latina/Gypsy women and a baby. Knock on doors and ask for something for the baby and one of the women who is pregnant. One of the women picks up items from the house while the owner is tending to the other woman and the baby. They hit homes of two elderly women in his neighborhood on Sunday AM. He advises the word be spread throughout the area to caution about this scam. This was followed by discussion of similar activities that are occurring in Sherman Oaks area
- b. Issue of people finding their mail being opened by unknown individuals after it has been put in their mailboxes by mail carrier. Cautioned that people need to watch for their mail when they are expecting SS checks and similar items or switch to Direct Deposit. Cautioned people not to leave their outgoing mail clipped to their mailboxes for the mail carrier to retrieve....these often contain checks to pay bills, etc. Caution also that public mailboxes have recently been stolen with mail in them. Concerns also arose regarding problems of misdelivered mail due to similar recipient names, as well as mail carrier error.

3. Discuss choosing a committee chair.

- a. Agreement that there needs to be a chair
 - i. Willy nominated Robin
 - ii. Vince quickly seconded
 - iii. Vote: FOR – 3, AGAINST – 0, ABSTAIN – 0

4. Discuss topics of special interest.

- a. Based on comment obtained in 2b above, Willy motioned that the committee propose to the NC that a speaker be invited to a future meeting from the Postal Service to talk about and respond to questions regarding mail security:
 - i. Seconded by Robin
 - ii. Vote: FOR – 3, AGAINST – 0, ABSTAIN – 0

- iii. PSC MOTION: To set aside time at a future NC meeting to allow for a Postal Service representative to address the topic of personal Mail Security and to respond to questions from the community.
- b. No additional topics

5. Discuss connecting with Neighborhood Watch.

- a. 2/3 of those present were currently involved in a NW including a several NW leaders
- b. The vision of creating a network of NWs across NoHoWest to both act as a dissemination network and a data collection network for issues that are of concern to the community. Discussion of the role of the Council and the Committee to act as both a catalyst and as a promoter of additional NWs by providing
 - i. information/organizational support
 - ii. provide lessons learned to encourage the feeling of community among NW members
 - iii. provide training and training materials to the NWs to facilitate their ability to make a difference and make a contribution to the sense of community
 - iv. consider providing NW support materials such as window decals, NW street signs, idea/method booklets, etc
 - v. expand the NW idea to the business/commercial community
- c. ACTON: Vince took the action to get together with Officer Carol to identify current NWs that could be used as resources or that might be in need of such resources in support of expanding and/or strengthening NW network

6. Discuss CERT training: outreach, future agenda and possible motions to the board.

- a. Discussion of what CERT is and what CERT training entailed in both content and time commitment
- b. Discussion regarding disseminating and expanding CERT knowledge/training through the proposed NW network (see 5b above)
- c. Discussion of possible more near term training being initiated (25 minimum attendees required) by calling on some of the following groups as seen most benefited by such training in the short term:
 - i. school admin/teaching personnel
 - ii. church admin/staff personnel
 - iii. NC members
 - iv. joining jointly with nearby NCs
 - v. existing NW membership
- d. Vince motioned that the committee propose to the NC that a CERT speaker be invited to a future “high visibility” meeting from the Fire Department and/or their CERT branch to talk about CERT, its benefits, and the benefits of supporting community training:
 - i. Seconded by Robin
 - ii. Vote: FOR – 3, AGAINST – 0, ABSTAIN – 0
 - iii. PSC MOTION: To set aside time at a future NC meeting with anticipated high attendance for an LAFD or CERT representative to address the need, importance, and promotion of CERT training for the community.

7. Gather list of concerns from community for future agenda items, discussions and possible motions to the board.

- a. Reviewed the existing list of concerns that was compiled from submissions to the original NoHoWest NC formation group. The list did not appear to be in any prioritized order

- i. ACTION: Vince volunteered to prioritize the listing by frequency of suggestion if that raw data can be provided to him by the NC President.
- b. Suggestions were solicited from the Committee members and the public meeting attendees. Suggestions included (in no particular order):
 - i. Running businesses out of home in neighborhood environment (mechanics, etc)
 - ii. Lack of municipal code enforcement (fencing height/type, setback, permeability requirements, etc)
 - iii. Sober living homes (halfway houses) in neighborhoods
 - iv. Texting/phoning while driving
 - v. Pet annoyance issues (loose pets, pet defecation, noise, etc)
- c. It was suggested that once the list of issues can be prioritized, we will try to line up appropriate speakers for either or both the NC meetings or committee meetings for the higher issues on the list

8. Discuss “street cleaning” signs and current locations.

- a. Discussion was initiated regarding trying to get “No Parking on Street Cleaning Days” signs posted on upper Bellaire as a means of getting autos to be moved periodically
- b. Past experience by Vince in approaching one of the Street Services officials during a Kerkorian Town Hall Meeting a year or so ago, was that there would be no additional street cleaning signs posted in the city that were not already approved.
- c. There was also some discussion of the value of such services as they were currently being (poorly) conducted.
- d. Vince offered that street cleaning in itself was not a safety issue as much as a community beautification issue and should be addressed by that committee. No evidence was presented and it has never been noted that Bellaire was any more in need of street cleaning than any other street. If the object is to have cars moved, it was strongly suggested that it should be directly approached by reporting the cars under the existing laws and not get other secondary costly bureaucratic services needlessly involved.
- e. There was definitely a division of opinion on this topic

9. Committee member comments on subject matters within the committee’s jurisdiction.

- a. Comments on committee members’ own activities/brief announcements
 - i. The question of representation on the NH CPAB was raised. Willy is already on the CPAB and was acknowledged as been the natural fit to represent our committee. It was determined that it would be a good contribution to future meetings if Willy would provide a short report on any appropriate CPAB activities at our future meetings
 - ii. National Night Out was brought up and Willy and Rose Lewis will be setting up a booth to represent our council. They are looking for volunteer to help on Aug 2 between 5 and 9pm. Vince volunteer to help are 7pm and several other present also volunteered to help. The event will be at NH Park in thw southwest quadrant of Magnolia and Tujunga.
- b. Brief response to questions posed or statements made by persons exercising their general right to public comment.
 - i. (See 4a above)
- c. Introduce new issues for consideration by the committee at its next meeting.
 - i. The question of supplementing the committee with stakeholder members of the public. The question was raised about peace officer participation and it was indicated that they only needed to be stakeholders. This will need to be formulated for discussion and actions at the next meeting.

10. 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 08/10/11