

Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council Special Meeting

October 11, 2007

Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council
P.O. Box 726
Sun Valley, CA 91353-0728
www.ftdnc.org

c/o Department of Neighborhood Empowerment
Attn: Melin Canas
Project Coordinator
14410 Sylvan Street, 4th floor
Van Nuys, CA 91401
813-274-9894
Melvin.canas@lacity.org

FTDNC Board Members

President	Cile Borman	P
Vice President	Kevin Davis	
2 VP Outreach	Royan Herman	
Treasurer	Mary Benson	P
Rec. Secretary	Ken Keeble	P
Cor. Secretary	Terry Kaiser	P
	Cris Hughes	P
	Bart Paul	P
	Erwing Davis	
	Electra Kruger	P
	Frank Buchanan	
	John Blue	
	Cheryl Greslie	
	Maryann Greyer	
	Billy Hays	P

Call to Order:

Cile Borman calls the special meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Cile Borman: Representatives from the Solid Waste Integrated Resources Plan (SWIRP) will be presenting the new Zero Waste Plan to the neighborhood council. The program will be held on Monday, October 16, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. at All Nations Church in Lake View Terrace. The neighborhood council can take part in this event. It's a good educational program. **Cile Borman** suggests co-hosting the meeting where the representatives will give their complete 90 minute presentation.

Ken Keeble asks for more information about the kind of presentation, and he questions why the neighborhood council needs to be involved.

Edith Darling (minute taker) explains that the Zero Waste Plan representatives will present a power point presentation giving the details of the plan, especially those relevant to the community.

Bart Paul wants to know if the FTDNC will be responsible for promoting the event.

Mary Benson agrees with **Cile Borman** that a longer presentation would be good for the community. She suggests sending out the information about the event to the members of the e-mail list. The alternative to the full-length meeting is a brief presentation at the FTDNC meeting. It would be abbreviated to about fifteen minutes instead of 90 minutes

Cile Borman asks for a motion. **Bart Paul** introduces a motion to co-sponsor the meeting with the representatives from SWIRP. **Mary Benson** seconds.

Vote taken: 7 vote in favor, and 1 abstains. The motion carries.

Cile Borman will post the information about the event on the e-mail chain.

Mary Benson introduces a motion to adjourn the special meeting. Terry Kaiser seconds.
The special meeting is adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council Executive Meeting October 11, 2007

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CALL TO ORDER/Roll Call

Cile Borman calls the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

I. Public Comments (3 min.)

Sue Marchant, stakeholder, introduces herself to the FTDNC. A resident of a house on Camaloa Avenue, **Sue Marchant**, lives adjacent to the Harris Project. She and other members of her community had fought against this development project, successfully reducing the number of homes from 22 two-story buildings to 10 homes.

The construction began. Her complaint is about the 12-foot cinder block retaining wall built by the construction company. Her property is surrounded by a 6-foot wood fence, but the retaining wall makes her feel as though she's living in a prison yard. She wants help determining whether the construction company is within its legal rights building a 12-foot wall at the edge of the construction zone. She has contacted the Department of Building and Safety to find out the rules regarding retaining walls with no avail. She believes that the retaining wall should be at the most six feet high.

Ken Keeble asks **Sue Marchant** if the wall is truly a retaining wall, that is, a wall with dirt piled up on the other side. If the wall is not a retaining wall, but a regular wall, it can be no higher than six feet.

Cile Borman has sent a copy of **Sue's** original e-mail to **Dell Thrush**.

Sue Marchant says that **Maryann Greyer** had suggested that she contact **Wendy Gruel** and **Dan Green** at the zoning administration office to find out whether the construction company has a variance permitting the 12-foot wall.

Sue Marchant only wants to be able to obscure the wall with plants or decorations. She wants to plant something by the wall if it is legal to do so.
Terry Kaiser advises that **Sue** measure her property and find the property line in relation to the wall.

Ken Keeble says that the company would not have been able to get a variance without asking the board and consulting the neighbors.

Mary Benson agrees with **Ken**, saying that the FTDNC would have found out about the variance through a CNC notice. She also does not think the developers would be required to put up horse trails.

Cile Borman: The FTDNC will address **Sue Marchant's** complaint by contacting **Dell Thrush** and **Dan Green**. Her complaint will be on the agenda for the October 18 meeting.

Terry Kaiser tells **Sue** to e-mail **Wendy Gruel's** office in Tujunga to inform them of the situation so that they will be aware before **Wendy** brings up the issue before them.

II. Discussion and possible action items will be selected for FTDNC general meeting agenda for Thursday, October 18, 2007 at Stonehurst Elementary School, 9851 Stonehurst Avenue in Shadow Hills

Cile Borman introduces agenda items proposed by **Cris Sable**.

1. Designate a back-up person to file community impact statements other than **Cile Borman**. One other person would be designated.
2. Allowing official communication from committees for information gathering and dissemination.

Mary Benson clarifies the statement, explaining that the proposed item would allow the chair of a committee to write to a department and request information. The chair would be able to do so without asking for a vote from the neighborhood council. The suggested agenda item also allows committees to abstain from making a comment on an issue if it is deemed of insufficient interest to the council.

3. The FTDNC Watershed Committee reports an update on past agenda items, such as Angeles National Golf Club, Woodward Street vacation, community impact, La Tuna Canyon Property, fishing in Hanson Dam, and skate park in Hanson Dam.

Billy Hays suggests adding to the agenda a motion for reconsideration of the vote to send the letter against the creation of the Hanson Dam Skate Park.

Terry Kaiser adds that the neighborhood council made the decision to approve the letter without getting any input from the stakeholders. Although there were young skateboarders at the meeting where the vote was held, all of them were from Pacoima.

Cile Borman: A group of young skateboarders came to the last meeting and spoke in support of building a skate park in Hanson Dam. At the original vote, **Cile** was reluctant to approve the letter because she noted the neighborhood council's lack of outreach. She is now sure that reconsideration would give the neighborhood council a chance to do good community outreach.

Royan Herman worries that building a skate park in Hanson Dam will destroy the area's natural environment.

Cile Borman and **Ken Keeble** say that the park will be placed between the pony rides and the utility yard, an area already paved and developed.

Mary Benson would like to see the skate park placed at the lot near Pacoima Pony Fields on the north side of Osborne, unused land owned by the Army Corps. If the skate park is placed at Hansom Dam, the kids will have to cross Foothill Blvd. and Osborne to get there.

Ken Keeble says that the skate park was placed at Hansom Dam because it would be close to the ranger station, allowing supervision of the skate park during the hours it is open. The police presence would enforce the rules and compel the youth to wear helmets when riding.

Ken Keeble suggests addressing **Cris Sable's** proposed agenda point #3 at the Land Use Committee rather than at the Watershed Committee. He notes an overall problem that Watershed and Land Use Committees often have overlapping agendas. He would prefer to get a single combined committee report rather than several committee reports.

Royan Herman suggests gathering the committees together to discuss the allotment of their responsibilities.

Terry Kaiser suggests combining the Watershed and the Land Use Committee, and **Cile Borman** says that the combined committee would be too large.

Cile Borman: By clarifying the responsibilities of the Watershed Committee, the overlap between it and the Land Use Committee may be reduced.

Mary Benson explains about the watershed committee. Addressing **Ken's** idea about a single combined committee report, she explains the by-laws require a written and single treasurer's report. As to the overlap of the Watershed and Land Use Committees, **Mary** reminds that the water does not float above the land. Rather, it flows through it.

Cile Borman accepts **Royan Herman's** idea to gather the committees for a discussion of their parameters. She would also like to clarify the parameters of the watershed committees. **Mary Benson** suggests the language of the agenda item be "an opening of the floor for a discussion to address areas of responsibility for different committees."

Cile Borman introduces possible agenda items suggested by **Bart**.

1. A physical description of the six voting districts within the Foothill Trail district's voting district
2. Discussion and possible action on a change of the voting number for changing bylaws as discussed in the September general meeting with language to be supplied by DONE.

Ken Keeble suggests removing DONE's name from the language in order to speed up the process as including DONE will protract the procedure for another month.

3. A proposed change of the by-laws to add a procedure for the removal of members of the executive board.

Mary Benson suggests framing the item on the agenda as an introduction.

Cile Borman notes that Viral Research wants to hand out surveys during the public comments section of the next meeting. She does not have all the information about the content of the survey.

Erwing Davis asks if the company is certified by DONE, and **Mary Benson** wants to look further into the purpose of the organization.

Ken Keeble says that the group can speak freely and give out literature without the board's approval.

Cile Borman will check up on Viral Research and their representatives tomorrow, the 12th of October.

Erwing Davis would like his committee and the FTDNC to work together on a Christmas party. His committee will provide the refreshments. Both groups would invite the community. He will prepare a report for the November meeting.

Royan Herman wants to know who will hold the lease. **Mary Benson** takes it and says that she will attach it to the payment confirmation.

Royan Herman wants to add an agenda item addressing the manure problem. She will give more information at the meeting, and she plans to invite Reba Fabrecon.

Ken Keeble asks for more information and says that the Crown Dump was still open for him. He' is unsure if Royan's complaint lies with the city.

Mary Benson suggests to **Royan** that she get statistics about the volume of horses and their excrement. Los Angeles has only 800 horses registered. Because of the low number of registered horses, it does not see a need to keep the dumping lots open. Gathering statistics will help **Royan** make her case.

Cile Borman tables the discussion and adds the item to next meeting's agenda.

Royan Herman adds an informational item to the agenda regarding the Stallion Estates subdivision. The developer wants to divide what would have been 5-acre plots into 2.5-acre plots to deal with the increased cost of real estate. **Royan** intends to make a case about the changes in the development plan.

Cile Borman asks **Royan Herman** to ask the Land Use Committee about the issue.

Billy Hays would like to add an item on the agenda regarding the proposed rate hike by the Department of Water and Power. He would like to invite Jack Humphreville of the DWP Oversight Committee, a representative from DWP, and Richard Alicone. He would like the neighborhood council to speak against the rate hike. The final vote will be held on October 31, so time is of the essence.

Cile Borman will invite the proposed guests to the meeting on October 18.

Erwing Davis asks when the next budget meeting will be. **Mary Benson** says that she will set it up as soon as the office is open.

Mary Benson adds an item to the agenda requesting approval of expenses, and she suggests placing the item after her treasurer's report. She needs approval for the Lake View Terrace Eagles' Outreach and FIRP Neighborhood Watch Block Party and Outreach.

Cile Borman announces that **Maryann Geyer** had informed her via e-mail that they had set a date for the general retreat. **Terry Kaiser** and **Erwing Davis** say that they discussed possible dates without settling on one.

Mary Benson says that the FTDNC has to come up with a new plan altogether because Gary De la Rosa has left.

ROYAN HERMAN LEAVES AT 8:34 P.M.

Electra Kruger suggests adding an agenda item asking Councilmember Wendy Gruel to consider placing a motion that the slope density ordinance will affect all zoning areas, not just hillsides.

Mary Benson suggests adding an agenda item to November's meeting concerning the health risks of possums in house attics and barns. The possums have fleas that carry typhus, and the fleas can infect dogs, posing a risk for the animals and the children around them. The possums' droppings can infect bales of hay and cause horses to get EPM, a disease that will render horses unridable in sixty percent of the cases.

Mary Benson suggests adding an agenda item concerning mailbox thievery in Shadow Hills. **Larry Martinez** could be the spokesman. This item could be addressed at November's meeting. She will talk to the representatives about it.

Electra Kruger suggests adding an agenda item asking Wendy Gruel to get the city council agendas to identify the affected neighborhoods and council district. She suggests placing it at the bottom of the agenda for the meeting on October 18.

Ken Kruger suggests adding an agenda item to November's meeting. He would like to discuss Village Christian School's proposed expansion into LaTuna Canyon.

III. Comments from FTDNC Board

IV. Adjournment

Cile Borman calls for a motion to adjourn.

Meeting is adjourned at 8:45 p.m.