

Mission Hills Neighborhood Council  
Meeting Minutes  
Aug. 11, 2009

(Members David Guzman, Joyce Sipes, Patricia Aidem, Irma Zaragoza, Yolanda Anguiano, Joseph Chicas, Randy Kuluva, Fred???, and John Samuelson were present. )

The monthly meeting of the MHNC was called to order at 6:15 p.m. at San Jose Elementary School by Chairman David Guzman

**Reports:**

- Senior Lead Officer Mike Braun introduced himself and gave a brief report. Local crime is down 15 percent, but daytime burglaries remain a problem, spurred in part by the poor economy. Officer Braun urged residents to report any suspicion activities in their neighborhoods and to remain aware of possible problems. He offered 818 734 2223 as a number to call in to the LAPD's Mission Hills' non-emergency line.
- Manny Figueras, representing City Council District 7, thanked supporters of the recent National Night Out. He also briefed the board on Councilman Alarcon's motion last week to remove some billboards. He announced an Aug. 12 meeting at Sepulveda Middle School for parents and an Aug. 13 event to introduce City Attorney Trutanich.

**Presentations:**

- Maria Cano of the Los Angeles Unified School District briefed the council and public on school construction projects in the immediate area.
- Presentation by Lydia Rojas, on behalf of The Jay Nolan Logan's Run, Walk, and Roll for Autism Awareness. The program is for those with autism and others developmental disabilities.

**Committee Reports:**

- Zoning and Land Use: Member Jerry Laguzando announced his resignation from the Board of Governors and plans to remain chairman of the Zoning and Land use Committee through October. Chairman Guzman thanked him for his service.
- Public Safety: Chairman Joseph Chicas announced an Emergency Response Subcommittee has been created to form an emergency master plan for Mission Hills. John McCabe was introduced as chairman. The group meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Mission Hills LAPD station. 200 people have signed up for the community's new e-policing program.

- Outreach: Joyce Sipes read a report on behalf of Chairwoman Elizabeth Marx, who was absent. The council's second annual Movie in the Park is scheduled for Aug. 29 at Pico Adobe Park.
- Beautification: Chairwoman Yolanda Anguiano said a pedestrian-friendly area being developed along Devonshire Street between Woodman and Arleta already is attracting crowds, including youth headed from west of the 405 Freeway heading to the skate park.
- Budget and Finance: Balance: Approximately \$60,000 in the MHNC account.

### **New Business:**

- The council held a public hearing on a request from the North Hills West Neighborhood Council to join it in opposing plans to convert two vacated buildings at the Sepulveda V.A. into 149 studio apartments for homeless veterans. The proposal involves a 75-year lease to develop the project on seven acres of the 160-acre facility. Stakeholders primarily opposed the project, concerned veterans' land would be in the hands of a private organization. One speaker urged support for the plan. The council voted 7-2 in favor of a motion by Chairman Guzman and seconded by Fred ???, to oppose the 75-year Enhanced Uses Leases between the Department of Veterans Affairs, New Directions and A Community of Friends as well as the expenditure of \$40 million, or more, of public funds for the conversion of two medical buildings into a 149 unit apartment complex at the Sepulveda VA. According to the motion, the MHNC is opposed to any private sector development (public, profit or non-profit) at the Sepulveda VA or elsewhere on Veterans' Land. Further, that the MNCH call for buildings 4 and 5 to be refurbished and staffed as medical buildings, the hospital rebuilt and the Sepulveda VA restored as a full service hospital-medical center, starting with buildings 4 and 5. Yolanda Anguiano and Patricia Aidem opposed the move.
- On a motion by David Guzman and seconded by Joyce Sipes, the council unanimously approved changing the monthly Board of Governors meeting to the Second Monday or Wednesday of every month in lieu of the current; every second Tuesday of the month. Any decision to change to a different monthly meeting date is contingent on the approval by San Jose Elementary School.
- The council unanimously approved a motion by Chairman Guzman and seconded by Joyce Sipes to amend the frequency of printed newsletter distribution from once a quarter to every other month by changing distribution method from USPS (\$1,057) to the Walking Man (\$675), and thus dropping distribution cost; and by changing from current format and printer (\$1,100) to online printers (\$475-\$895). Requested change is on a trial basis for both the printer and the flyer distributor.

- The council unanimously approved a motion by Chairman Guzman and seconded by Fred ??? to hire a locksmith to open the MHNC file cabinet storing official documents. The expense is approximately \$60 to \$80 dollars.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.