



The Hacienda Heights Improvement Association

Meeting Minutes August 18, 2014

LOCATION: Hacienda La Puente Unified School District, 15959 E. Gale Ave., Industry, CA

MEETING STARTED: 7:00 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE: The Pledge was led by Francine Godoy

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Maury Edwards, Ellen Gervase, Henry Gonzales, Sandy Keat, Joan Licari, Jeffrey Lin, Brent Palmer, Lucy Pedregon, Mike Williams, Jeff Yann, Adria Ybarra, Hanny Zamora.

MINUTES: Minutes of the July 21, 2014 meeting were not available and approval was deferred to the September, 2014 meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Expenditures of \$534 were recorded for a six-month payment on the storage space, leaving an account balance of \$8,267.27.

LAW ENFORCEMENT UPDATE:

Town Sheriff Brian Sanford reported that crime in Hacienda Heights is reduced 11 per cent from last year. He also reported that youth impersonating police officers in an attempt to sell newspapers have been reported. When asked about activities to reduce homeless people in some locations, he stated that little can be done for people who do not want assistance.

PROGRAM: MRCA Ranger Francine Godoy gave a presentation on training and services provided by the rangers who patrol the Habitat Authority preserve above Hacienda Heights. While rangers are trained to take first action on disturbances prior to arrival of Sheriff's personnel, they are also cross-trained in natural history interpretation and resource management. They also police proper maintenance of fuel modification zones and trail maintenance problems. With the need to open trail gates before arrival of visitors and close them 30 minutes after sundown, rangers are often on duty from 7:00 AM to 10:00 PM in the summer. Chief Ranger Kenn Hughes also mentioned trail and trailhead improvements at Seventh Avenue and Orange Grove Avenue in which HHIA personnel played a significant role. He also reiterated the intent of MRCA rangers to close gates leading to hills above Hacienda Heights within 30 minutes after sundown. Usage of these trails has increased nearly tenfold in the last twenty years. The security hot line number is (562) 698-1446.

COMMUNITY REPORTS

Ms. Angie Valenzuela reported that the community center is now 97 % complete with a few wiring items yet to be completed in the theater. The dedication will occur on Saturday, October 25.

The intern now working in the Rowland Heights office will return to classes next week.

Dickie Simmons is now in physical therapy and will make a decision on returning to work in October.

Amy Boteilho reported that library activities are back in full swing with school classes now back in operation. She reminded attendees that the Hacienda Heights Library continues to serve as a cooling center on hot days.

OLD BUSINESS:

Hanny Zamora questioned status of the Hacienda Blvd, greening project that was discussed some time ago. As reported at the April, 2014 meeting, a project to complete planting of vines in front of the walls has been fully funded and is in progress.

Mike Williams provided results of his investigation into false claims made by opponents of the San Gabriel National Recreation Area and stated his opinion that HHIA should reconsider sending a letter of support to Congresswoman Judy Chu for her legislation to create the NRA. Following his motion to that effect, seconded by Jeff Yann, a significant discussion took place between board members and audience member Henry Pedregon. During this discussion, many points countering incorrect information previously stated by various opponents were provided. The following actions were taken to close the discussion:

MOTION: That HHIA postpone vote on the initial motion

MOVED: Henry Gonzales Second: Sandy Keat MOTION FAILED : 5-6-0

MOTION: HHIA to revise, reflecting current information, and send a letter of support previously tabled in June for legislation by US Representative Judy Chu to implement the San Gabriel National Recreation Area.

MOVED: Mike Williams Second: Jeff Yann MOTION PASSED 8-2-1

NEW BUSINESS: A few corrections were suggested for the new HHIA brochures prepared by Joan Licari. Adria Ybarra stated the need to print these brochures for the membership mailing.

MOTION: That HHIA authorize an expenditure estimated at \$300 for printing 1,000 brochures.

MOVED: Adria Ybarra Second: Mike Williams MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

Mike Hughes was honored for his selection to serve as Grand Marshall for the 2014 July 4 Parade.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Code Enforcement: **Henry Gonzales:** Reported status of code violations being investigated by County enforcement personnel. He continues efforts to clean up trash at the Von's parking lot and remove illegal signs.
- Community Relations: **Sandy Keat:** Reported that Kiwanis was able to fill a bus with \$8,000 worth of school supplies for less fortunate students in the HLPUSD. She also reported on activities at the His Lai Temple and Workman Temple Homestead Museum.
- Environment: **Jeff Yann:** Reported on activities in progress to close the Puente Hills Landfill and stated the funding for park planning at the landfill and environmental documents has been authorized.
- Membership: **Adria Ybarra:** Membership renewals will be sent out when brochures are printed.
- Newsletter: **Brent Palmer:** No report.
- Parks & Recreation: **Maury Edwards:** Reported on upcoming activities at Schabarum and Steinmetz Parks, including upcoming bus trips offered by the Steinmetz Senior Center.
- Programs: **Ellen Gervase:** Reported that Patty Mejia of Verizon will attend the September meeting to discuss a proposed communication tower. Jeff Yann will provide contact information for Frank Moreno for a possible presentation on the new park at the landfill.
- Public Relations: **Mike Williams:** Solicited suggestions for possible future events where HHIA could provide membership information.
- Public Safety & Health: **Lucy Pedregon:** Reported on Lion's Club efforts to collect used eyeglasses for refurbishment and warned that Asian tiger mosquitoes still present a hazard to health.
- Streets & Highways: **Jeffrey Lin** Reported that construction on Sigman Street will begin soon. The EIR for the project at Hacienda Blvd. and Gale Avenue is expected out in October.
- Water & Utility Services: **Joan Licari:** Reported that water conservation regulations have not yet been issued for Hacienda Heights and provided information on lawn replacement incentives.
- Website: **Joan Licari:** She is seeking pictures for the website.
- Zoning: **Hanny Zamora:** Described recent cases submitted to Regional Planning.

PRESIDENTS REPORT : No report

PUBLIC INPUT:

- Mike Hughes advised that the Habitat Authority's 20-year anniversary celebration will occur on Sept. 27.
- Mr. Daniels expressed concern about impacts from the Verizon communication tower, including exhaust from operation of the emergency power source.
- A resident expressed concern about activities at the nursery beneath transmission lines near Halliburton.
- Joan Snyder stated her opinion that businesses in Hacienda Heights catering to Asian customers should also have sign within the store printed in English.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 9:28 P.M.

PREPARED BY: Jeff Yann, Secretary