



The Hacienda Heights Improvement Association

Meeting Minutes June 16, 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 Rudy Obad

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Maury Edwards, Ellen Gervase, Henry Gonzales, Joan Licari, Jeffrey Lin, Lucy Pedregon, Jeff Yann, Hanny Zamora. In the absence of President Palmer, the meeting was chaired by Henry Gonzales.

MINUTES: Minutes of the May 19, 2014 meeting were approved unanimously on motion by Maury Edwards, seconded by Joan Licari.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Expenditures of \$316 were recorded for HHIA's parade banner, postage and payment on the storage space, leaving an account balance of approximately \$8,680. Taste of the Heights has been postponed, which may reduce HHIA's expected earnings by \$400.

LAW ENFORCEMENT UPDATE:

Town Sheriff Brian Sanford reported on the upcoming Emergency Preparedness Fair to be held at Schabarum Park. Residents in attendance described incidence of car burglaries, vandalism, and late night partying in the hills near Orange Grove Avenue and questioned policies for locking this entrance gate in the evening.

PROGRAM: Belinda Faustinos, former Executive Officer of the RMC, provided information regarding the background of the study performed by the US National Park Service at the request of former Congresswoman Hilda Solis in 2001 to evaluate a potential role for USNPS in the San Gabriel River watershed. This study culminated in a bill recently introduced in Congress by Congresswoman Judy Chu, who was elected to represent Solis' district after Solis was appointed Secretary of Labor in 2009. The legislation would create a National Recreation Area including most of Angeles National Forest, foothill areas currently protected by individual actions by several San Gabriel Valley cities, the main stems of the San Gabriel River and Rio Hondo, and a portion of the Puente-Chino Hills Wildlife Corridor adjacent to Hacienda Heights and Rowland Heights. The bill protects all existing property rights and regulatory jurisdictions and authorities but provides an opportunity for Federal assistance in protecting and enhancing recreational opportunities in the NRA. While heavily developed urban areas will generally be excluded from the NRA, several cities, including El Monte and South El Monte, requested inclusion of these areas in order to allow potential assistance by USNPS in improving and maintaining local city parks.

Concerns were expressed by audience members representing the Gabrieleno Kizh tribe regarding potential impacts on the Whittier Narrows area. NRA designation will have no effect on current management policies of the Corps of Engineers and County Parks and Recreation.

COMMUNITY REPORTS

A representative from Congressman Royce's office described activities and events underway in his congressional district.

Lauren Yokomita introduced herself as representative of the Fourth Supervisorial District in the absence of Dickie Simmons and Angie Valenzuela. She described the Orange Grove Park dedication ceremony and will follow up on issues raised regarding gate operations security in the vicinity of this park. She also reported on upcoming County sponsored events in the local area.

OLD BUSINESS:

Maury Edwards reported that Kiwanis has agreed to sponsor Jim Davis Beautification Day and cover liability insurance requirements. Invitations have been sent out to potential participating organization. Volunteers are needed to support this event and HHIA float decoration for the July 4 parade.

NEW BUSINESS: No new business was discussed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Code Enforcement: **Henry Gonzales:** Reported status of code violations being investigated by County enforcement personnel.
- Community Relations: **Sandy Keat:** No report.
- Environment: **Jeff Yann:** Provided information on potential benefits to the local hills that would result from creation of a National Recreation Area and recommended that HHIA support this legislation.
MOTION: HHIA to send a letter of support for legislation by US Representative Judy Chu to implement the San Gabriel National Recreation Area.
MOVED: Jeff Yann Second: Joan Licari MOTION FAILED : 2-6-0
During discussion of this motion, members expressed concern that not enough information was available to fully understand the ramifications of the bill. A motion to table this issue for potential future consideration was introduced and passed 7-0-1.
- Membership: **Adria Ybarra:** No report.
- Newsletter: **Brent Palmer:** No report.
- Parks & Recreation: **Maury Edwards:** Reported that County personnel now have keys to the grounds at Orange Grove Middle School so that park access can be available when school is not in session.
- Programs: **Ellen Gervase:** Reported that she will invite Congresswoman Chu to provide additional information on the NRA legislation. Another possible program could involve representatives from Quemetco.
- Public Relations: **Mike Williams:** No report.
- Public Safety & Health: **Lucy Pedregon:** Reported on the recent public meeting concerning new equipment being installed at the Quemetco battery recycling facility to further reduce emissions. She also reported that the dedication ceremony for the new community center will occur this fall.
- Streets & Highways: **Jeffrey Lin** No report
- Water & Utility Services: **Joan Licari:** Reported that MWD is offering rebates on high efficiency toilets. She also provided information on a hazardous waste roundup to be conducted on July 12.
- Zoning: **Hanny Zamora:** Described recent cases submitted to Regional Planning. The most significant project is the construction of the new church at St. John Vianney.

PRESIDENTS REPORT : No report

PUBLIC INPUT:

- Mrs. Ortega reported concerns with vicious dogs and other problems associated with hillside areas adjacent to neighborhoods along Beech Hill Avenue and urged support for permanent closure of the Orange Grove trailhead.
- Rudy Obad reported that a significant amount of trash is once again accumulating in and around the Von's parking lot.
- A resident expressed concern about the large number of illegal fireworks being shot off in Hacienda Heights over the July 4 holiday and requested additional Sheriff's patrols to apprehend those responsible.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 8:40 P.M.

PREPARED BY: Jeff Yann, Secretary