



WOODLAND HILLS-WARNER CENTER NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Board Meeting Minutes

Westfield-Topanga Mall/Neiman's Court
6600 Topanga Canyon Blvd, Woodland Hills, CA

Call to Order at 7:10 p.m. Attendance: 19 voting members, quorum established. Also present: 4 alternates & 33 guests.

Minutes: M/S/P. The draft minutes for the Sept. 11, 2007 Board meeting were approved, with the clarification that the preschool referenced by Betty Salverson (Public comment period) was the Ivy Academy for Kids on Fallbrook Ave.

Announcements from Councilman Dennis Zine's office. Field Deputy Jose Martinez announced various events occurring in the community and also advised that Mr. Cliff Ruff had been appointed Chief of Staff. It was suggested that the Council office report back at the next meeting regarding the status of previous information requests regarding traffic, schools, etc.

Westfield Mall – "The Village" presentation. Westfield Vice President of Development, David Gensemer and Development Manager Jaclyn Baumgarten described the conceptual ideas being considered for their company's properties located south of Victory Boulevard, east of Topanga Canyon Boulevard, west of Owensmouth Avenue and north of the Promenade Mall. Currently entitled by existing zoning to construct approximately 2 million square feet of office space, Westfield is contemplating a project consisting instead of approximately 540,000 square feet of office space, 560,000 square feet of retail space, 300 hotel rooms, and 360 residences. Gensemer and Baumgarten also anticipated the future plans would include space for community/cultural uses, open space, "green" technology, water/energy conservation measures, and would be LEED-environmentally certified. Three features were highlighted: all parking would be below the project, an internal "main street" would be constructed, and a village square would provide a community gathering place along with a potential museum. The two representatives acknowledged that the challenge confronting the project was the traffic generated by the development and the impact on the surrounding streets. These impacts and possible mitigation measures will be studied and discussed with the Neighborhood Council and community.

Public comment period. Shirley Blessing praised the Council's newsletter. Stephen Naczinski invited members to a meeting with the DONE and Dept. of Aging general managers scheduled for Oct. 18th, 6:30 p.m. in Kaiser Hospital auditorium #5.

Treasurer's report. Fiana Feldman provided a summary of the Council's finances and announced that the Board-approved expenditure for cameras to be utilized by the LAPD was being implemented.

Item 1. (WH-07-046) M/S/P. In regards to ZA Case 2007-3997 (F), the Council approved a motion that the fence located at 23050 Cumorah Crest Drive be reduced to 42" in height. (17 yes votes, 1 abstention, Mr. Murley recused)

Item 2. (WH-07-047). Regarding the senior housing project proposed for 20905 Deering Circle. Not considered, no action taken.

Item 3. (WH 07-048). Heath Kline reported on the successful negotiations undertaken with the Department of Water and Power regarding “high heat valley microclimate” utility rates. Heath was asked to draft a letter thanking DWP for their participation in the discussions.

Item 4. Stephen Naczinski summarized the 912 Commission Report. No action taken.

Warner Center Specific Plan Citizens Advisory Committee. Co-chair Brad Rosenheim stated that the Committee was dissatisfied with the lack of progress on the Plan restudy by the responsible City departments. Brad said that Specific Plan delegates would be meeting with City planners to discuss the work plan and also that the Committee is seeking approval of a contract with an urban design consultant to assist in revising the Plan.

Community Services. Heath Kline announced that the upcoming Oct. 20th “Aging in Place: Senior Citizens and Care Givers Conference” was fully subscribed and, due to the overwhelming public interest in the event, consideration for a second conference might be explored.

Elections. Mark Bernsley reported on election publicity and preparations for the November 1st candidates forum and the November 8th Neighborhood Council Board election.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Dawson
Board Secretary