

## **WISPPA Meeting Minutes 10-5-19**

South Pasadena Senior Center Great Room, 11021/2 El Centro Street, So Pasadena, CA 91030

Present: Betty Emirhanian, Bianca Richards, Ellen Daigle, Ellen Wood, Kim Hughes, Sally Kilby, Lynda Sullivan, Dollie Chapman, Delaine Shane, Susan Sulsky, Madeline DiGiorgi, Sheila Rossi, Evelyn Zneimer, Jeremy Ding, Zhen Tao, Lela Bissner, Ben Tansey, Gary Pia, Dawn Lyon, Linda McDermott, Andrea Fox, Anne Bagasao, Roxi Ortiz, Melisa Wilson, Debra Beadle

**I. Call to Order by Betty Emirhanian at 9:30.**

**II. Introduction of New or Prospective Members and Guests (9:30)**

**III. Approval of Minutes from September 7, 2019:** M/S/C meeting minutes approved.

**IV. Old Business**

- a. Board Nominations – Bianca Richards presented the board slate for next year. Write in candidates are welcome up until the vote on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Since there are two founding members on the board, there is no need to fill the Founding Advisor position. Also, since Bianca is the past president and will be filling the VP position, there is no need for the Past President position.
- President – Betty Emirhanian
  - Vice President – Bianca Richards
  - Secretary – Ellen Daigle
  - Treasurer – Ellen Wood
  - Membership Chair – Dollie Chapman
  - Member at large – Lisa Roa

**V. New Business**

a. Commission Reports

i. Finance – Ellen Wood:

- 1) The city now has 2 co-directors. The Finance Commission is working well with them.
- 2) The Fee Study and restructure: A great deal of time and energy went into updating the fee schedule. It hadn't been updated for 10 years which is one of the reasons there were some large increases. The city had been subsidizing a number of activities.

ii. Public Works and Freeway & Transportation Commissions – Kim Hughes (Joanne Nuckols by email)

- 1) Caltrans is considering losing a lane on each side of the Arroyo Parkway (110).
- 2) A letter was sent to Metro by a number of organizations including No on 710 and Families on Fremont regarding the funding for transportation projects. There was a disconnect with the criteria for SGV (710 corridor) cities and that used for city and county of LA. They get multi modal projects, but SGV does not. The letter requests equal consideration for all projects
- 3) Two bills are currently on the Governor's desk (SB 7 Portantino and AB 29 Holden) that would eliminate the 710 from the CA Streets and Highways Code by 2024 from Calif Blvd in Pasadena and Alhambra Ave in Los Angeles (El Sereno).

- 4) The South Pasadena Public Works Department has developed a new plan for the loop ramp on Fair Oaks. There is concern that the new Public Works Director doesn't understand the history and complexity of this issue.
  - 5) Pasadena has a plan for development on the 710 stub.
  - 6) There will be a joint public works and Freeway and Transportation meeting on Tuesday, October 15. Important for residents to come out for this.
- iii. NREC – Madeline DiGiorgi
    - 1) A City Green Action plan has been created by the NREC commission and will be presented at the November 6 city council meeting.
    - 2) Water bottle refilling stations are being set up throughout the city/parks to reduce plastic water bottle usage.
    - 3) The NREC wants to keep organic composting local. Athens plans to truck organic material all the way to Victorville using diesel trucks.
  - iv. Public Safety – Jeremy Ding. Nothing new – next meeting Oct 21.
  - v. Parks and Recreation – Dollie Chapman
    - 1) Last full meeting was in May. There was a 10-15 minute meeting in September. Interim staff dropped the ball. There will be no doggy days, no snow day, and fewer movies next year. This was not discussed with commission.
  - vi. Animal Commission – Betty Emirhanian
    - 1) Dealing with resident who wants peacocks rounded up and moved elsewhere.

## VI. General Discussion

- a. A number of issues were discussed. Below is a list of issues that our membership wants to focus on:
  - i. Transparency: Communication between city and its citizens on all issues
    - 1) Find ways to encourage city to communicate more effectively
    - 2) Invite John Pope, Communications director to a WISPPA meeting
    - 3) Ask city to improve its website
    - 4) WISPPA newsletter to focus more on what is happening in city including a link to city calendar
  - ii. Want to know more about Economic Development in city
    - 1) What is city doing to encourage businesses to come to SP?
    - 2) Is the city handling new businesses effectively?
  - iii. Taxation
    - 1) Is the city looking at the need for revenue holistically? We seem to go from tax crisis to tax crisis.

Adjournment: 11:00 AM by Betty Emirhanian.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Betty Emirhanian, WISPPA president