

WISPPA
Women Involved in South Pasadena Political Action
April 1, 2017 Minutes
Cavalry Presbyterian Church

Attendance:

Dollie Chapman, Bianca Richards, Betty Emirhanian, Barbara Sinclair, Kelly Koldus, Camille Levee, Gary Pia, Robin Da Silva, Kelly Rivers, Clarice Knapp, Harry Knapp, Ron Rosen, Ellen Wood, Janetta Ayzy, Gretchen Robinette, Katrina Perez, Joan Tagle, Kris Morrish, Jon Primuth, Janet Braun, David Watkins, Judith Harris, Dana Farrar, Mary Ferrar, Chiquita Sipos, Lela Bissner, Linda Krausen, Ellen Daigle, Kim Hughes

Welcome

Bianca Richards, as the acting President, opened the meeting at 9:08 a.m. The first order of business was the announcement that due to family issues, Dana Farrar would be resigning her post as President of WISPPA. Janet Braun then took the platform and outlined the board's recommendation that Bianca Richards, the current Vice President, be considered to take over the helm as President of WISPPA. A motion to elect Bianca was put forth by Gary Pia and seconded by Ellen Daigle. The motion passed unanimously.

Visitor and Guests Welcomed

Camille Levee introduced her guest Robin Da Silva. Other guests included Janetta Ayzy, Joan Tagle and Katrina Perez. We are pleased that everyone took the time on a Saturday to attend the meeting.

May 6th South Pasadena Eclectic Music Festival

The festival is fast approaching and the organizers are looking for volunteers to help with the festival. WISPPA members assisted last year in volunteering hours for the festival. There is a sign-up sheet and volunteers can also contact the South Pasadena Chamber of Commerce. Volunteer can take 3-hour shifts the day of the event.

WISPPA Writer

A volunteer or two are needed to help draft article regarding WISPPA for the "South Pasadena Review"

City Council Liaison Report

Ron Rosen attended City Council meetings and shared that at the March 15th meeting, the council featured a “Merchant Minute” segment and the featured merchant was Laurie Hendricks from her gallery. The council also is adding a segment to focus on pet adoptions.

The council approved joining the Vector Control District. This will cost around \$11.00 a year for property owners. This will provide for abatement for mosquitos and other insects. Dr. Schneider was the only vote against joining the district. He did not feel that we are an area with a severe issue.

The council had a discussion on debt management and how to borrow when needed. \$39,000 is needed for dealing with asbestos. Another \$100,000 is needed to complete Eddy House updates.

The council also had a discussion regarding the Design Review Board and the processes for how homes are approved, etc. Zoning codes changes could be coming.

Public Safety Commission Report

Ellen reported that there is going to be a “Map Your Neighborhood” Class on April 12th. This is an important step in preparing for a natural disaster. There are possible coming budget concerns in relationship to police and fire.

New members have been added to the Public Safety Commission including Grace Kung. This is a helpful connection, as she is also connected to the PTA. This will be a great conduit to the schools.

There is a desire to expand our Neighborhood Watch participation. The South Pasadena Police Department has added a new officer, so the department has a full complement of police officers.

The Police Department has a difficult time retaining officers, as the pay and benefits offered by the city are about the lowest in the region.

There is a School Reserve Office, as well as two canine officers. The department also has a special enforcement team. Residents should also be proud that the South Pasadena Police Department officers have been trained in some basic medical response. The department also has a mental health team. Other excellent programs include the “Coffee with a Cop” and the Citizen’s Academy.

The residents should also be proud of the South Pasadena Fire Department. 175 volunteers have gone thru the CEERT Program. The department has 19

members. The department is down 4 paramedics. We are not competitive with other cities. In 1991, the average was 1,600 calls a year, now the SP Fire Department experiences 2,500 calls a year.

WISPPA Budget Report

Ellen Wood reviewed the annual WISPPA budget with the membership. There is around \$6,000 in the organization's account. Janet Braun shared how the balance is higher than had been planned, as the organization had planned on spending funds hosting a candidates' debate for the last major election, but there were no competitors for the seats up for election, so there was no debate. Thus, the funds were not spent.

A motion was made by Betty Emirhanian to approve the WISPPA budget. This was seconded by Gretchen Robinette and the motion was approved by the membership.

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A motion was made by Barbara Sinclair to approve the minutes and this was seconded by Ellen Daigle. The motion passed.

General Plan Overview

Kelly Koldus, who is on the Planning Commission made a presentation about the City of South Pasadena's General Plan process. The city is in the process of updating the General Plan and the Mission Street Plan. These plans have not been updated in about 20 years. The plans help to guide the growth and development of the city for the future.

Kelly provided information about her background. She has a Masters in City Planning and is a Certified Planner. She has been working in real estate appraisals, so she has a unique perspective to look at both sides of planning a community.

Kelly shared that there will be a number of community meetings to seek resident and business input about the new plan. A survey is available on-line and everyone is encouraged to complete and submit a survey about their thoughts about the city and its future. April 1st is the last day to submit comments.

There is a core and advisory groups that will part of the process. WISPPA members are encouraged to check out the process and participate.

Kelly and David Watkins shared that the General Plan provides goals and direction for the City for the future. California law requires that a city have a General Plan and that the plan must contain at least 7 specific items.

As part of the planning process, the city is sponsoring a number of lectures being conducted by field experts in transportation, parking and healthy communities. The information can be helpful in sparking ideas and discussions.

As part of the overall planning process, the City has hired an outside consultant to help guide the process and assist in developing the final plan.

Not only is the City required to include particular elements in the General Plan, but recent legislation also needs to be taken into consideration. Some of these include SB743, AB52, which touches on greenhouse gases, and AB379.

The process will look at various elements for the City as a whole and the Mission St./Fair Oaks Plan. Elements will include our Natural Community, Healthy and Safe Communities, as well as Creative and Accessible.

The first phase of the process will culminate in a week-long "Charrette" process from April 24-28, 2017. There will be daytime and nighttime sessions and discussions.

- April 24-Economy-6:30 p.m.
- April 25-Vibrant Downtown-7:00 p.m.
- April 26-Mobility and Parking-7:00 p.m.
- April 27-Great Neighborhoods-12Noon (no evening session)
- April 28-Open House-6:30 p.m.

Information will be available on-line and also at Neighborland South Pasadena.

Questions were entertained, and Gretchen had a concern about issues that cross over a number of the focus areas, such as the arts. How are these types of issues being considered? Responses from focus groups are being recorded and would be available on-line.

The RFP response is also available on the web site. The environmental impact report will also need to be done, but will take time.

One issue that also came up is the Rialto and how it is being considered.

Gary Pia is encouraging participation in the process.

One interesting building in the city that perhaps is often overlooked is 1414 Fair Oaks. It is a historical building and was Smith and Williams.

A question was asked about what is going on with the former Blockbuster site, it was shared that it is going to be a Blaze Pizza restaurant.

There was a question about the name of the process "Charrette" as it is not clear and maybe there should be a more simple term used to get better participation.

There was a question as to where the school district fits into the process. Kelly shared that the district is involved.

Everyone is encouraged to spread the word about the meetings and to get people involved.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Bianca presented Kelly and David with gifts of appreciation,

Announcements

The Rotary Club will host the "Taste of South Pasadena" event on April 19th.

The WISPPA cocktail party is planned for June 19, 2017.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kim Hughes.