

WISPPA
Women Involved in South Pasadena Political Action
September 9, 2017 Minutes
Cavalry Presbyterian Church

Attendance:

Ron Rosen, Bianca Richards, Ellen Wood, Betty Emirhanian, Ellen Diagle, Dollie Chapman, Cynthia Liu, Camille Levee, Yvonne Pine, Lydia Baskin, Gary Pia, Theresa Patzakis, Suzie, Abajian, Geoff Yantz, Clara Richards, Judith Harris, Lynda Sullivan, Kay Mouradian, Katrina Perez Ferguson, Becky Thompson, Kelly Rivas, Kim Hughes

Welcome

Bianca Richards welcomed everyone at 9:08 a.m. She recognized visitors. Those included Cynthia Liu, Theresa Patzakis and Yvonne Pine.

Bianca also mentioned that recent events that included WISPPA members were successful. These included the performance of "American Home" and a jazz night. It is hoped that more such gatherings can be arranged in the near future.

Coming Elections

Bianca shared that the WISPPA leadership elections are coming up soon and that the nominating committee would be developing a roster. If anyone would like to nominate someone for an office or if there is personal interest in being on the WISPPA board, please contact Janet Braun. There positions include: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, City Council Liaison, etc.

Minutes Approval

A motion was made by Ellen Daigle for approval of the minutes and this was seconded by Dollie Chapman. The membership approved the minutes.

City Council Liaison Report

Ron Rosen reported that the Finance Commission did not approve the purchase of pocket parks, but the City Council chose to move forward with the purchase of the properties. The concern of the Finance Commission is the projected revenue and expense shortfalls projected in coming years.

Dr. Schneider brought up the need to have a plan for Monterey Road. This was at first agreed to by Councilmember Mahmud, but after comments by Councilmember Khubesrian that the issue of Monterey Road would be part of the

General Plan and that the General Plan discussion was in progress, it would be better to wait and not have a separate discussion yet. Everyone agreed to put off the issue for a while.

The City Council heard a report of about the golf course and that it was making more money under the current agreement.

The council also took up the issue of the redistricting and reviewed a number of map options for the development of the five voting districts.

Ron brought up concerns over the council meetings running so long and that key topics are often not taken up until late in the evening. When important topics don't come up until the late hour, attendance can dwindle. Ron shared that he is going to send a letter to the council saying that the meetings are going too long and that important topics are not taken up until very late in the evening.

Bianca Richards brought up the issue that perhaps a letter could also come from WISPPA about adjusting the City Council meetings. A motion was made to draft the letter by Betty and seconded by Ellen. The motion passed.

Public Safety Committee Report

Ellen shared that Holy Family Church will be hosting a special mass honoring the police and fire department. Ellen reported that the SP Fire Department helped with a regional fire.

Guest Speaker Dr. Geoff Yantz-Superintendent South Pasadena School District

WISPPA member Judith Harris introduced Dr. Yantz. He shared that he is a graduate of USC and has held positions as an elementary school teacher, an Assistant Principal and a Principal. He has also had leadership positions in education.

Dr. Yantz lives in Redondo Beach with his wife. He was with the El Segundo School District for 17 years. He came to the South Pasadena School District because he wanted a new challenge.

He presented a video about the school district that was produced by the "Dudes" volunteer organization. He said that there are key goals for the South Pasadena School District and one of the key goals is to enable greater achievements by our students. He said that the dual immersion program has been successful. He also shared that the high schools has added a new internship program.

There is also an importance to making sure that our students are exposed to the arts. In order to again prepare our students; broadcast journalism, bio-medicine and engineering have been added to the assortment of classes available.

The district desires state of the art curriculum and instruction. It is also important that the district maintain financial stability.

Dr. Yantz also pointed out that that our facilities need to support excellence. The school district needs to create a pathway to college and careers. We are looking towards the future and future career needs.

Dr. Yantz shared that there are financial and physical limitations. In the 1970s property tax revenue went to the schools. The amount that was earmarked per student was about \$8,400. But, with new formulas, the school district is receiving fewer funds per student now. Unfortunately, expenditures are going up and our revenue is going down. Because of the financial situation, the district is considering placing a new measure of the ballot for next June to increase revenue.

The school district receives funds from the following sources:

-Measure S	\$2, 300,000
-Property Rentals	\$ 350,000
-SPEF	\$ 800,000
-Booster Club	\$ 200,000
-PTA	\$ 600,000
-Facility Rentals	\$ 350,000

The district is maintaining a 7% reserve fund.

Dr. Yantz shared that with the new formulas developed in Sacramento, school districts that have involved communities and can raise funds to support their schools will receive fewer funds from the state.

Facilities

There are a number of facilities that needed assistance. These included the pool, trees for the high school, security cameras, track replacement and energy efficiency. Much of these issues have been addressed. There has been a full inventory of the trees in the district and their condition. New trees have been added. Proposition 39 funds have been used to help with some of these improvements.

Bond Program

There are four bonds in place and they are in different phases. These can assist with facilities, but not programs. The district is going to use the funds that will be

coming from the recently passed bond measure to update the Middle School and High School Auditoriums. There will also be improvements coming to the high schools sports facilities. There will also be a new math and science building.

Information about the projects and plans can be found on the school district's web site.

The district is very proud of the performance of the district and its students.

Bianca thanked Dr. Yantz and presented him with a WISPPA mug.

Comments

Bianca recognized Betty for her work on the weekly newsletter. It was also mentioned that we should support of the "South Pasadena Review." They have been very supportive of WISPPA.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:42 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kim Hughes