

WISPPA
Women Involved in South Pasadena Political Action
October 3, 2015 Minutes
Cavalry Presbyterian Church

Attendance:

Lela Bissner, Dollie Chapman, Betty Emirhanian, Ellen Daigle, Janet Braun, Becky Thompson, Ron Rosen, Gary Pia, Judith Harris, Dana Farrar, Kim Hughes, Lynda Sullivan, , Gretchen Robinette, Florence Nelson, Marty Wetzel, Vicky Bartlett, Suzie Abajian, Carrie Adrian, Becky Bartlett, Bianca Richards, Mary Urquhart, Linda Krausen, Gail Malk, Polly Podewell, Mary Ferrero and Bee Web.

Betty Emirhanian called the meeting together at 9:11 a.m. She welcomed everyone to the annual meeting.

Bylaws Changes

The ballots were handed out regarding the proposed changes to the WISPPA Bylaws. The changes reflect the growing organization and new needs. The ballots were collected and Becky Bartlett worked on tabulating the results.

City of South Pasadena Budget & Financial Presentation

City of South Pasadena elected Treasurer opened the presentation explaining that South Pasadena is very lucky to be in good financial shape and that is because the city has a three-prong system to oversee the city's finances. The city has an elected City Treasure a staff member who is the Finance Director and a city volunteer advisory Finance Committee.

The current representatives are:

City of South Pasadena Treasurer	Gary Pia
City of South Pasadena Finance Director	David Batt
City of South Pasadena Finance Committee	

- Carrie Adrian, Chair
- Jeff Burke
- Frank Catania
- Stephen Peters
- Devin Robinson

David Batt explained a PowerPoint presentation about the budget process. The planning involves a five-month process. Planning starts in January with the outline of objectives. The process is unique in that during the whole process,

there are six of opportunities for citizen involvement during the budgeting process.

Revenue for the city comes from our property taxes, sales taxes, special revenue fund, Proposition A & C. We are fortunate in that we have a stable source of funding. We do not fluctuate with a key business, such as with car dealerships.

2/3 of the city's budget is directed to salaries and benefits. This is because the city provides services. A key focus of the most current budgets has been on fixing our infrastructure, such as streets and sidewalks.

Police and fire services take 50% of the funds.

California Public Employee's Retirement System Municipal Pension Funds

The California program recently had to review the program and has found that the program needs to make some adjustments, as people are living longer and the return calculation is being reduced to be more conservative. These changes result in that municipal cities need to contribute more to the funds.

Gary Pia explained that the City of South Pasadena is going to need to increase its contribution for a number of years in the future. Our contribution level will just about double over the next five years. After that period of time, the contribution amount will level out.

Our safety personnel contribute between 7% and 9% to the pension fund. In the past the city also matched the contribution. The City recently completed labor contracts and the next contracts will come up for negotiation in 2017.

The City of South Pasadena has been recognized for 27 years in a row for excellence in financial reporting. The city has a good reserve in case of emergencies.

Carrie Adrian presented an overview of the Finance Committee, which was formed in 2000 as an investment review committee. This was spurred by the bankruptcy that Orange County experienced in that year or so. The Finance Committee also reviews the city's investments and accounts. We work with Morgan Stanley and Bank of America. The State of California sets the investment policy for cities.

The presentation concluded with the group inviting all WISPPA members to be part of the budget development process.

WISPPA September Minutes

Lela asked for a motion for the approval of the September 2015 minutes. Janet Braun made the motion and it was seconded by Judy Bartlett. Membership voted all approved.

WISPPA Bylaws Vote

The results were announced that there was a unanimous vote to accept the bylaw changes. The vote results were read by Lela Bissner.

Group Photo

The entire membership present posed for a group photos for the WISPPA web site.

WISPPA Budget

Betty handed out a copy of the proposed 2016 budget. The organization is in good financial shape. The fundraiser was especially successful due to the donations of food, wine and such from members.

2015/2016 \$3,375

One of the expenses that were not needed was the costs associated with a City Council Candidates Forum, as there were no challengers to the current City Councilmembers.

One issue that might need to be discussed in the future is if the organization needs to transition into becoming a 401 C3 group. This can come up in future discussions.

Commission Openings

One of the key goals of WISPPA is go encourage members and women to become involved in boards and commissions. The group was encouraged to visit the City of South Pasadena web site and go to the "Boards and Commissions" page and at the bottom is a link to "Maddy" and that will list the city's boards and commissions and where there are or will be openings. This will also be linked on the WISPPA web site.

Upcoming Events

-Oct. 14, 2015	School Board Election Forum
-Oct. 17, 2015	Rialto 90 th Anniversary Event

If the group knows of any events, then send the information to Betty and she will see that it is posted on the WISPPA web site and distribute it to the membership. The goal is to focus on local event and not events for seniors or kids.

Meeting Refreshments

Ellen Diagle has volunteered to bring the refreshments to the November meeting.

Reports

Public Safety

Janet Braun

Janet gave praises to the changes that are taking place at the South Pasadena Convalescent Hospital. The new operator is making very positive changes and there are improvements. Recognition was also given to South Pasadena Police Chief Art Miller for his continuing effort to deal with the problems with the facility and to help bring about the positive changes.

CEERT Training continues and has been very positive.

The Safety Open House in September was popular, even though it was a very hot day.

Janet participated in the review committee for a new Tri-Cities Fire Chief. There is also a performance committee and it looks like the candidates are down to two possible candidates.

Coffee with a Cop is planned for October 17, 2015 at the Starbucks on Huntington Drive from 8AM to 10AM.

City Council Report

Betty Emirhanian

The council looked at asset management for Western Asset, as they offer a conservative approach.

The council discussed the City of South Pasadena getting out of the COG and joining other cities to form an Arroyo/Verdugo group. The thought is that the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments does not match the city's needs and goals. This is still being discussed.

The council discussed a sewer overflow and associated costs.

There is a plan to take all of the maintenance of our parks to all electric with electric lawn mowers and blowers.

Metro is right now refusing to conduct additional air testing in regards to the Environmental Impact Report related to the expansion of the 710 Freeway and tunnels. They will also not discuss the "Beyond the 710" options.

We have a new city representative from Edison. The representative spoke to the South Pasadena City Council about recent power outages and that the cause is related to old circuits and they will be replacing circuits in 2016, which will cause planned outages to businesses and residents for 4-6 weeks.

The city council discussed the possibility of the city hosting part of the Amgen 2016 Bicycle Race. There is a concern over the costs to host this event and what it would bring to the city. This will be continued at a follow-up council meeting. Sergio will be putting together a budget and costs analysis.

New construction water connection charges were passed by the council.

Natural Resources and Environmental Commission Kim Hughes

Kim discussed the issue of a new property construction that would take place on Mockingbird Lane and Cedar Crest. The issue of removing trees came before the NREC, but the commission has other questions about the project, but because of authority, could only address the tree issue. The commission agreed to the removing of two trees and the project will retain one tree.

401 city trees are being watered during the drought. No new trees are being planted, due to the warm weather and the drought. New trees will be considered in the spring.

The city is looking for a location for an electric vehicle charging station.

The NREC is investigating a ban on Styrofoam for the city.

WISPPA Officers Election

22 ballots were cast with a 21 for the slate of candidates and there was one blank ballot.

Lela and Betty presented yellow roses to the previous board members as a thank you for their service. The color yellow was selected as it was the color of the suffragettes.

Dollie shared that we currently have 72 members in the organization and we do have some members who have not paid their dues.

The group spoke about conducting an exit interview for those that do not pay their dues and thus do not want to continue their membership. The group talked about perhaps developing name tags for members.

The next meeting is planned for Saturday, November 7, 2015

Meeting was adjourned at 11:37 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kim Hughes