

**Minutes**

**November 2, 2019**

**MEETING LOCATION: South Pasadena Senior Center 1102 Oxley Street**

*Attendance: Sheila Rossi, Stephen Rossi, Ellen Daigle, Bianca Richards, Dollie Chapman, Ellen Wood, Betty Emirhanian, Charles Trevino, Carmen Trevino, Linda Wah, Sean Abajian, Steve Zikman, Suzie Abajian, Delaine Shane, Tucker Nelson, Ron Rosen, Anne Bagasao, Anny Celsi, ? Keanney, Sierra Betinis, Gail Maltun, Sherry Plotkin, Gary Pia, Sally Kilby, Roxy Ortiz, Chris Bray, Gretchen Robinette, Florence Nelson, Lynda Sullivan, Mary Urquhart, John ?, Rachel Hamilton.*

1. **Call to Order** (9:30) by Betty Emirhanian
2. **Introduction of New or Prospective Members and Guests**
3. **Approval of Minutes from October 5, 2019:**  motion Linda Wah/second Bianca Richards/passed unanimously
4. **WISSPA board election.** 
   1. No Nominations from the floor.
   2. Ballot was distributed to members only for the election of the following:
      1. Elisabeth (Betty) Emirhanian – President
      2. Bianca Richards – Vice President
      3. Ellen Daigle – Secretary
      4. Ellen Wood – Treasurer
      5. Dollie Chapman – Membership chair
      6. Lisa Roa – Member at large
   3. All were unanimously elected to the WISPPA board which will be comprised of only the people listed above..
   4. Betty thanked outgoing Treasurer Lela Bissner and Secretary Judith Harris.
5. **Old Business** 
   1. Brief History of WISPPA – Bianca Richards, Gretchen Robinette, and Ellen Daigle shared how WISPPA was started and why.
6. **New Business** 
   1. WISPPA going forward in our world of social media and instantaneous messaging - What role does WISPPA play in issues brought up in the media & social media?

Example: controversy over Alison Smith

* Previously news went out with Patch and So. Pas Review. Today we have social media (Facebook, Twitter and NextDoor) and SouthPasadenan and the So Pas Review. Members are more informed about what is going on in the city like never before.
* WISPPA is a moderating voice to encourage critical thinking (Gretchen)
* Place for community involvement and dialogue with Commissioners and Council (Gary)
* WISPPA is a neutral respectful voice. .(Ann)
* Great grassroots voice - active and powerful but neutral (Linda Wah)
* Bring people together with a moderate voice
* WISPPA needs more presence on Social Media not to comment, but to let people know about meetings, issues coming up, etc.
* WISPPA should use social media to get a handle on what issues the public cares about
  1. Discussion:
     + - Regarding the ballot measures A & C: There was no forum for the pros and cons on Measures A & C. The city gave a poor explanation of Measure C and there was no outreach to the community on the measure.
       - General plan update and why the rush – Need supporting documents
       - Discussion on Alison Smith problems led by Steve and Sheila Rossi
         * Need to know more about city inspection program
         * More transparency
         * Great concern over how city handled situation
* Sanitation Plan on file? Need to know more.
  + - * Discussion on water problems by Charles Trevino
      * Discussion on some loss of autonomy on commissions with Staff setting agenda and giving annual reports
      * Discussion on mass tenants’ eviction and need for urgency ordinance by council
        + Need to know more about the negotiations
        + Housing Rights Center
        + More transparency
  1. To do for WISPPA in the future
* WISPPA needs to be more involved in providing pros and cons on city ballot issues – forums perhaps?
* A possible forum with all city council members taking questions from the public. (3-5 minute question and answer)
* WISPPA needs to understand exactly what the roles are for City Manager, City Council, and Mayor
* WISPPA needs to ask the question “Is this normal?” “Does this sound right?”
* WISPPA should hold forums to educate public
* WISPPA needs to continue to encourage city involvement, accountability and transparency
* WISPPA should be a place where members and residents can have their voices heard
* WISPPA is where members and residents should be able to hear the facts in a neutral, unbiased environment.
* WISPPA needs to educate on process

1. **Adjournment** (11:30

**Next Meeting: January 11**

**Minutes prepared by Ellen Daigle & Betty Emirhanian**

**Signed by WISPPA secretary, Ellen Daigle \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**