

WISPPA Meeting Minutes 11.3.18
1020 El Centro Street, Senior Center Great Room, South Pasadena, California 91030

Present: Betty Emirhanian, Dollie Chapman, Brian Solinsky, Janee Hannible, Suzie Abajian, Sean Abajian, Sheila Rossi, Avick Manukian, Judith M. Harris, Bianca Richards, Lela Bissner, Mary Urquhart, Janet Braun, Charles Trevino, Carmen Trevino, Lynda Sullivan, Roxy Ortiz, Yvonne Pine

1. Call to Order: By Bianca Richards at 9:35AM
2. Introduction of New or Prospective Members and Guests: Tabled to introduce speaker, Interim Police Chief, Brian Solinsky by Bianca Richards. Interim Chief Solinsky discussed his background, his longevity and experience with the SPPD, his education, the kinds of issues the SPPD is faced with both from citizenry and financially, plans he has formulated and instituted, and plans he wants to institute while he is serving as Interim Chief.
3. Old Business
 - a. Minutes of 10.6.18 WISPPA meeting voted upon and approved.
 - b. Year in Review: Betty Emirhanian shared WISPPA's accomplishments in 2018 (See list Below)
4. New Business
 - c. 2019 Budget presented by Lela Bissner and Betty Emirhanian; voted upon and approved.
 - d. Change of discretionary spending limits for President and Executive Board:
 1. Current President-increase from \$50 to \$75: voted upon and approved.
 2. Current Board-increase from \$150 to \$250: voted upon and approved
5. Reports
 - a. Commission Updates- Public Safety by Ellen Daigle, Planning by Janet Braun, Animal Commission by Betty Emirhanian. , City Council Report by Bianca Richards
 - b. Miscellaneous---Above-mentioned reports spawned a discussion about the need for citizen input re: the the way in which city business needs to be conducted in 2019. It was stated by several commissioners that city commission reports were being sent directly to the new City Manager, Stephanie DeWolfe, instead of directly to City Council. Commission and WISPPA members expressed concerns about transparency in government; belief that commission reports should go directly to City Council; not first go to City Manager to possibly be amended/edited before reaching council members. It was decided that WISPPA needed to take a public stand at the next City Council meeting re: clarifying the city's reporting process and other issues involving communications and the City Manager. Bianca Richards, City Council liaison for WISPPA, was chosen to be WISPPA's spokesperson at the meeting. Concerns to be addressed/inquired about were identified as:
 1. Access to the City Manager-it had been appearing as though the new City Manager was not making herself readily accessible to commission members and citizens.
 2. Transparency w. reports: Commission reports should be given directly to City Council, not to the City Manager first.
 3. Many city positions have been vacated and left vacant with issues arising and no one to address them.
6. Results of 11.3.18 Election for 2019 WISPPA Executive Board, reported by Janet Braun:

Betty Emirhanian elected President, Ellen Wood elected Vice President, Judith Harris elected Secretary, Lela Bissner elected Treasurer, Dollie Chapman to be Membership Chair. Bianca Richards will serve as Past President. Ellen Daigle will serve as "Founding Member."

7. Announcements:

A. Metropolitan Water District Board announcements by Charles Trevino:

1. The water district is offering a free trip to the Colorado River and WISPPA members are welcome to participate; interested parties should contact Charles.
2. The City installed 4 carbon filtration systems at the San Gabriel reservoir so that ground water can be utilized.
3. A ¾ mile bike trail opened up through South Pasadena; the hope is that the trail will be extended all the way to Downtown LA.

B. Janet Braun. Planning Commissioner announced:

1. Applications for open commissioners are available and being accepted now.
2. Residents and City Council pushed So Cal Edison to declare a "Right of Way" by Garfield Park.
3. South Pasadena has been approved as a "California Creative City." There are now two art galleries, one at the SP Chamber of Commerce office and one at City Hall.

C. Bianca Richards announced for Kim Hughes, Public Works Commissioner who was not present " The issue of SP combining two commissions including "Public Works" and "Transportation" has been tabled for one year. Also see below for her commission report.

7. Adjournment: Bianca Richards at 11AM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Judith M. Harris, WISPPS Secretary

2018 WISPPA Accomplishments

Meetings:

- October 6th - League of Women Voters: "JUST THE FACTS - California State Proposition Pros and Cons"
- September 8th - "It's All About U, The Utility Tax Takeaways" South Pasadena City Treasurer, Gary Pia outlined the facts of what the loss of the Utility User's Tax will mean.
- June 2nd - "The Future of WISPPA."
- May 5th "Cinco De Mayo" - "South Pasadena's Hispanic Heritage and Its Influences Upon Local Architecture and Art." Judith M. Harris, WISPPA secretary, moderated our panel:
- April 7th "Celebrating the Arts - Lissa Reynolds - A Woman of Independent Means"
- March 3rd "Addressing Homelessness in South Pasadena and Surrounding Communities."
- February 3rd - 4th Annual Community Connections Forum
A panel gave us an enlightening overview of the services they provide and the challenges they face.
 - Mayor Richard Schneider-representing the City;
 - Steve Fjeldsted, Director of Library, Arts, and Culture;
 - Sheila Pautsch, Community Services Director ;
 - Jon Primuth, SPUSD board member.
- January 6th -Topic: State of the State Address Speaker: State Assemblyman Chris Holden

Special Events:

- In January, the **award winning documentary SANDS OF SILENCE: Waves of Courage** was presented by WISPPA and the South Pasadena Library at the South Pasadena Library Community Room. This special screening was in honor of Human Trafficking Prevention Month and National Human Trafficking Awareness Day
- In March, **WISPPA Co-Sponsored "HERstory"** presented by the Pasadena Commission on the Status Of Women
- WISPPA was pleased to co-sponsor the **candidate forum** with the South Pasadena Chamber of Commerce on Oct

Just for fun:

- WISPPA SUMMER CONCERT MEET-UP in July
- SOUTH PASADENA 2018 FESTIVAL OF BALLOONS!
- WISPPA at the PASADENA PLAYHOUSE in September

Note: At least one WISPPA member attended every City Council meeting.

Commission Report from Kim Hughes.

In regards to the Public Works Commission and its activities, the following is a re-cap of recent activities. At the recent City Council meeting, the outside consultant presented an overall presentation about the Arroyo Verdugo Communities Joint Powers Authority Measure M 5-Year Projects. The funding is allocated and the allocation is limited to \$1.2 million for South Pasadena over five years.

Based on the timeline and the budget, the Public Works Commission had put together some suggested projects that could be done within the budget and in the timeframe. Those included a signal at Garfield and Oak, looking at the northern city boundary at Columbia/Pasadena Avenue and Fremont. Looking at the southern area, the recommendation is at Huntington Drive and Fremont to re-activate the right-turn arrow going north on Fremont and adding a left-turn arrow on Fremont going south. There was also the recommendation is address the congestion at the Grevelia and Fair Oaks intersection.

The City Council approved the overall list and the city can move forward when funds are released. There are also funds pending from Measure R and we are hopeful that the plan for a hook ramp could be funded.

The new Arroyo Seco Bicycle & Pedestrian Trail opened.

The city also just installed four new granular activated carbon (GAC) filtration tanks at Wilson Reservoir in San Gabriel to help with the water issues the city has been experiencing. The city will now be able to utilize its allocation for groundwater and not have to rely on purchased water that has reacted and caused coloration issues. Two of the four GAC tanks are permanent, while the other two are temporary and will be replaced with permanent tanks sometime in January. There will be eight tanks in total at Wilson Reservoir at the completion of the project, which will cost about \$2.7 million.

The city is working on the War Memorial Building. The work consists of asbestos, lead and mold remediation and abatement in the basement level of the building. Interior finishes will also be improved in the space and installation of new flooring upgrades. Exterior improvements include removing and replacing the concrete sidewalk, installation of a drainage system, thermal and moisture protection including waterproofing and minor exterior finishes.