

**Minutes of a Meeting of
Women Involved in South Pasadena Political Action (WISPPA)
November 4, 2017 at 9:00 am
Calvary Presbyterian Church, South Pasadena, CA**

Location: Calvary Presbyterian Church, 1050 Fremont Avenue, South Pasadena, California
Date: November 4, 2017
Attendance: Bianca Richards, Betty Emirhanian, Debrah LeMattre, Dollie Chapman, Ellen Wood, Barbara Sinclair, Sally Kilby, Camille Levee, Sean Abajian, Suzie Abajian, Ron Rosen, Gary Pia, Janet Braun, Lynda Sullivan, Mary Urquhart, Dave Grenbemer, Gretchen Robinette, Vic Robinette, Kelly Rivers-Kempton, Diana Mahmud and Judith Harris.

1. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 9:05 by Bianca Richards, President. Janet Braun agreed to act as Secretary for the meeting. Bianca welcomed newcomers to the WISPPA meeting and introduced new members and guests.
2. Election of WISPPA Board for 2018. Janet Braun reviewed the slate of officers for election to the WISPPA Board for 2018, as it had been presented at the October meeting. The following individuals were on the ballot for the offices indicated:

President:	Bianca Richards
Vice-President:	Ellen Wood
Secretary:	Judy Harris
Treasurer:	Lela Bissner
Founding Advisor:	Gretchen Robinette
Communications	
Chair:	Betty Emirhanian
Membership	
Chair:	Dolly Chapman

Janet indicated, that as past president, she would serve as past president on the Board. She asked if there were any nominations for any Board positions from the floor, and there were none. Written ballots were distributed to all members for collection and tabulation by Janet.

3. Budget. Ellen Wood presented the budget for 2018 to the members at the meeting. She noted that without fundraisers like those done in the past, WISPPA would lose money during the year. Ellen answered questions regarding the proposed budget. Upon motion by Janet Braun, seconded by Gary Pia, the members approved the budget as presented.
4. Minutes of the October 2017 Meeting. Bianca thanked Kim Hughes for such a great and thorough job taking minutes of the WISPPA meetings for the past two years. Upon motion by Janet, seconded by Ellen Wood, the members approved the minutes of the October 7, 2017 WISPPA meeting as presented.
5. Review of WISPPA Accomplishments in 2017. Bianca thanked Betty Emirhanian for all of her great work updating the WISPPA website and her regular emails to members about upcoming events in South Pasadena and surrounding communities. Bianca also thanked the

2017 WISPPA Board for their hard work. Bianca reviewed all of WISPPA's accomplishments and activities for the year, including many fabulous speakers, the Community Connections forum, a great Cocktail Party, participation in the July 4 parade, social events that included a night at the Blue Guitar and production at the Fremont Centre Theater.

Bianca further noted that one of WISPPA's goals is to encourage qualified women to run for office and serve on commissions, and she noted that 15 WISPPA members currently serve on South Pasadena Commissions, several more members serve on ad hoc committees, many WISPPA members are involved in other South Pasadena organizations and members continue to write opinion pieces to the South Pasadena Review regarding various issues. She also noted that WISPPA had sponsored a public art utility box.

Bianca further announced that the Board had preliminary discussions about modifying WISPPA's name, but that any such change would not change the WISPPA acronym.

6. Commission Reports. Bianca asked for Commission reports. Diana Mahmud and Janet Braun both announced the City Council/Planning Commission joint meeting to be held on November 8, 2017 regarding the General Plan. Diana also announced a November 21 meeting regarding Measure R funds. Bianca gave a brief report on the City Council meetings held since the last WISPPA meeting, that included discussions about water and sewer rates and the payment of the attorney's fees for the districting of the City, which bill was paid under protest by the City. Diana Mahmud noted that the City of Poway filed an action in US District Court in San Diego seeking injunctive relief regarding the districting issue, and that the San Gabriel Valley Cities would be filing an amicus brief in that action which challenges the California law allowing private persons to mandate districting in cities such as South Pasadena. The Council also considered the lease for the San Pasqual stables .

7. Speaker—Desiree Jimenez, Deputy City Clerk. Bianca introduced Desiree Jimenez, the Deputy City Clerk for the City of South Pasadena for over 5 years, and noted Desiree's many accomplishments, a municipal career of over 10 years including working in the cities of Covina, Malibu and South Pasadena, and work experience in law firms and the House of Blues (Desiree is an outstanding vocalist). Desiree received her bachelor's degree from Azusa Pacific College, magna cum laude, and is bilingual in English and Spanish.

Desiree gave an outstanding and thorough presentation of services offered by the City Clerk's office. The presentation included information regarding the election schedule change, the transition to district elections, city resources, responsibilities of the City Clerk's office, the City's website and a weblink demonstration and how to browse and search for documents on the website, noting that City Council minutes go back to 1888. Desiree responded to questions from WISPPA members.

Desiree answered questions from the members. Bianca thanked Desiree for her outstanding presentation and presented her with a token of WISPPA's appreciation.

8. Election Results. Janet announced that the following persons had been elected to the indicated positions to serve on the WISPPA Board for 2018:

President:	Bianca Richards
Vice-President:	Ellen Wood
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9. Other Business. Gretchen Robinette suggested that WISPPA write an open letter to Assemblyman Chris Holden and State Senator Anthony Portantino regarding the importance of addressing sexual harassment issues in the workplace, including the California Assembly and Senate, members of which are currently exempt from harassment training. The members approved this action. Gretchen agreed to prepare and draft for discussion by the Board.

Ron Rosen that he and WISPPA had written a letter to the City Council regarding improving the efficiency of meetings. Ron noted that the efficiency of the City Council meetings has improved.

10. Adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 am. Bianca indicated that Kelly Rivers would stay until 11:00 am to teach interested members how to use Instagram and Twitter, and noted that the next WISPPA meeting would be on Saturday, January 6, 2018 at 9:00 am, with social at 8:30 am at Calvary Presbyterian Church.