

## **WISPPA meeting minutes-3/2/2019**

South Pasadena Senior Center

Attendees: Bianca Richards, Ellen Wood, Betty Emirhanian, Dollie Chapman, Barbara Sinclair, Sheila Rossi, Kim Hughes, Becky Thompson, Delaine Shane, Diana Mahmud, Vicky Bartlett, Lela Bissner, Ellen Daigle, Lynda Sullivan, Kay Mouradian, Roxy Ortiz, Gail Maltun, Marina Khubesrian, Vic Robinette, Gretchen Robinette, Sally Kilby, Mary Ferrero

Call to Order 9:35am

Betty opened meeting with quote from Dr. Erika Endrijonas, recently appointed new President of Pasadena City College (PCC). Dr. Endrijonas spoke at NWPC San Gabriel Valley general meeting on Feb. 25, 2019  
Women are not the chocolate chips in the batter of history – they are the brownies”

There were No new or prospective members and guests

Approval of 2/2/19 Minutes M/S/C with edit- 5.B) The City of South Pasadena presented WISPPA with a certificate of appreciation for donating supplies to fill backpacks with necessities for the homeless on January 16, 2019

### Old Business

a. Celebration 2020 Betty explained in more detail Celebration 2020-19<sup>th</sup> amendment centennial. Small subcommittee will form to plan events. Suggested that other community groups be involved. Subcommittee will report back ideas to membership

### New Business

a. Change of WISPPA name-Board Presentation  
Women Involved in South Pasadena Political Action

The word “public” is more encompassing than “political”  
“Public” addresses the large part of our mission which is to offer opinions and advocate for positions concerning the well-being of the

City of South Pasadena, and to provide information to the electorate regarding City Council candidates and city issues.

“Public” addresses the encouragement of women to serve on commissions which are not political.

“Public” addresses WISPPA’s mission to push for accountability, integrity and transparency in our city government

“Public” does not preclude our mission to encourage well qualified candidates to run for office.

“Political” has negative connotations that discourages new members

Discussion and comments:

Awareness before Action

Political in name was a barrier when researching meeting places in city

History of WISPPA-Political due to actions then of city council

Keep word Political-strong word for advocacy; Public loses strength

Political Action sounds like a PAC

Add another “A”, Public Awareness and Advocacy

Messaging needs to be clearer-Awareness, Advocacy, Action-focus on branding, messaging

Mission-Purpose: awareness to public

Betty reminded members that acronym WISPPA will remain-all agreed since WISPPA is well established and known for getting Women

Involved

WISPPA’s evolution=started out political, that was the launching point but evolved into other

“A” for activism-grassroots political activism –positive connotation, not negative, appeal to younger generation

WISPPA is not a political pact; “P” is not partisan, political is not a bad word, WISPPA should not retreat from claiming our space

WISPPA must still stand for transparency

Advocacy could have negative connotations (advocate for a person)

Reminder-WISPPA does not Advocate for candidates but for issues

501C3 status: can’t advocate for candidates but can do issues; tax purposes for 501C3 are due to earning a profit therefore accounting needed as corporation status

Past President Janet Braun, Ellen Wood, and Vic Robinette had consulted with an attorney and it was not recommended to go with a 501C3 status. Then revisited again with Co-Presidents Diana Mahmud and Barbara Sinclair-filing as organization has costly fees and not worth

it at that time. Conclusion: WISPPA is more like an association than a corporation

Vote was taken on the following name changes:

Political Activism

Public Action

Public Awareness

M/S/C- CHANGE NAME TO "WISPPA INVOLVED IN SOUTH PASADENA POLITICAL ACTIVISM"

Majority felt this better portrays whom we are and what we are about

Gretchen Robinette closing comment "does not matter, we are WISPPA"

Ellen Wood and Betty will now proceed to apply for Tax ID #, bank account, and PayPal.

Sheila Rossi, background in marketing, volunteered to work on bullet points regarding branding and messaging-using words: Awareness, Advocacy, Action

[The WHY JOIN WISPPA? Handout was shared-changes will be made in future to reflect name change, messaging and dues]

New Business

b. WISPPA dues- suggesting \$40 to incremental change of \$45. At the moment WISPPA has money to cover expenses but in order to maintain a healthy balance, a small increase in dues seems necessary

Lela went over budget-expenses and costs

Suggestion-put out donation jar for refreshments at meeting

Prorating dues-incentive for new, young folks to become members

Biggest expense is cocktail party-in past, one member has been very generous and covered major costs, that will not always be the case

Comments-charge some folks for attending cocktail party-that was not widely supported since the Cocktail party is a thank you to the city staff and others, many elected are invited and good community building

Ask for donations at party  
Ask businesses to help underwrite expenses  
WISPPA does ask for donations for silent auction

M/S/C----dues raised to \$50 beginning September 2019  
Fund Raising ideas-subcommittee will be formed

#### New Business

c. A subcommittee for cocktail party and fundraising was suggested  
Place To Be Announced

Speaker-waiting to hear back from new TOR President, SP resident  
Laura Farber

Date June 17, 2019

2019 Cocktail Party will also be the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of WISPPA

#### Reports:

- a. Board report-all covered within Agenda of 3/2/19
- b. City Council-Bianca passed due to time
- c. Commission Reports: Kim Hughes Public Works-thankful that PW commission was extended with Transportation and Mobility

#### Items:

Signal at Oak and Garfield

Left turn lane south at Fremont and Huntington Dr.

Looking at Columbia and Fremont interchange

Speed bump study

Stop sign study

Hook ramp -Fair Oaks reconfigured: hook ramp, synchronizing lights from Huntington Dr. to Pasadena, losing the bulb outs

PW and Freeway and Transportation will continue to work jointly

Delaine had question regarding cut through traffic-Diana Mahmud and Kim urged residents to attend PW meetings to voice concerns. Streets have to be looked at globally and consequences for changes-stop light at Orange Grove and Monterey Rd. and Oak and Garfield have back up traffic concerns

Ellen Daigle Public Safety: suggested that PW and Public Safety work together, Public Safety has 5 new members that are getting up to date; Emergency Operation Center is an accomplishment; CERT training will continue along with Neighborhood Watch; social media sites popular; Homeless Program awarded \$60,000 from Measure H

Linda Wah, PCC District # will be hosting a meet and greet with new PCC President on Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 5-7pm.

Becky Thompson comment-update on staying connected during emergency, important to recover from emergency, city not taking on infrastructure-directed toward Marina K.

Diana M. -City Manager (CM) hired crisis consultant and results from survey will be made public.

Ellen Wood Finance: commission has 3 new members that are newer to SP, nice balance and new perspective. April Meeting of WISPPA will focus on city budget and finances.

Diana Mahmud reported on success so far of the Clean Power Alliance stats.

Marina Khubesrian reported on changes in city hall, good robust planning, now that the 710 "Crouching" is over, city can focus on enhancing quality of life-city more involved on regional level with transportation, energy, housing and general plan (GP). GP is being resurrected. Residents need to be assured of transparency-many volunteered hours to GP.

Most agreed who attended the first Commission Congress that is was well received and thanked city staff and council. Becky Thompson commented that the commission packets were getting better.

Meeting adjourned: 11:25AM

Minutes submitted by Bianca Richards 3/5/19