

WISPPA Meeting Minutes 5.4.19

South Pasadena Senior Center Great Room, 11021/2 El Centro Street, So Pasadena, CA 91030

Present: Betty Emirhanian, Bianca Richards, Judith M. Harris, Barbara Sinclair, Joanne Nuckols, Ellen Daigle, Ellen Wood, Kim Hughes, Sally Kilby, Charles Trevino, Carmen Trevino, Becky Thompson, Yvonne Pine, Roxy Ortiz, Bill Kelly, Mary Ferrero, Lynda Sullivan.

1. Call to Order: By Betty Emirhanian, President: 9:31AM
2. Approval of 4.6.10 Meeting Minutes: M/S/C meeting minutes approved.
3. Old Business
 - a. Cocktail party to be held on 6.17.19 at the home of Lisa Roa, 309 Grand Ave., So Pas
Need volunteers. Betty will send out a sign-up sheet.
 - b. Celebrating 19th Amendment in 2020: WISPPA wants to join in with another or other groups to sponsor an activity in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment which gave not only women but black and people of color, “all US citizens,” the right to vote. Some open forum discussion followed about the controversy over the theme and float design of the So Pasadena 2020 Tournament of Roses (TOR) Rose Parade Float. Many meeting attendees were displeased with the accepted design of the float which to them reflects “stereotypic portrayals of women,” and does not capture the entire meaning of the contents of the amendment.
 - c. Follow up on last month’s meeting re: City Budget: discussed more fully in open forum. Many opinions and controversial issues re: City Budget were discussed.
4. New Business:
 - a. Commission Reports
 1. Public Safety: Ellen Daigle reporting: Stated “nothing much to report.” Ellen stated she was to attend a meeting that “would be the first meeting in a while;” that since the new City Manager made changes in how commissions are run the experience of serving on this commission had “felt distant; out of touch.”
 2. Transportation: Joanne Nuckols reporting: Two bills are going through the State of CA legislature to end the 710. These bills are expected to be signed. There is some controversy about proposals being made to So Pas and surrounding cities for dispersal of \$30 million for transportation projects that not all cities, including So Pas, want. It was not formerly known that cities could have projects they want; no voting mechanism for this was outlined. There has been an increase of attendance at Transportation Commission meetings, as this is a “once in a lifetime chance” for cities to get State funds to do projects they want. The increase in public attendance and comment from residents along Fremont and Meridian (who are negatively impacted by no/so traffic) is because of the lack of transparency by Metro as to the right projects to solve the problem, now that the 710 is almost dead. Additionally, there is a concern that the City may not be getting their fair share of the 710 Measure R money to resolve the traffic problems in the corridor.
 3. Public Works: Kim Hughes reporting: Much to report and discuss about “public works:” Salient points were:
 - a. The city has come up w. \$3million of projected proposed street maintenance and repair projects but does not have the funds.
 - b. City is hiring a new a new “Public Works” director.
 - c. It currently takes 2 years to get streets fixed. Currently streets being considered for maintenance and repair: Edgewood, Lyndon, Maple, Mission, Arroyo Verde, Meridian and Pine.

- d. The city has a 5 year “Capital Improvement Plan.” This includes maintenance and repair of sewers, water, streets and city buildings. The plan remains unfunded.
 - e. Traffic signals are another “public works” issue the city is trying to address. There is a plan to resurrect the right turn signal at Huntington and Fremont. Other signal issues that the city needs to look at are at Garfield and Oak, and Orange Grove.
 - f. Many of the “public works” issues are political and complicated. The CPUC has some jurisdiction over them. So. Pas has been looking for its share of funding. Some resolution may be sought by appealing to Anthony Portentino and Kathryn Barger.
 - g. Both Fremont and Fair Oaks Avenues need attention for traffic flow, etc. According to Diana Mahmud, So Pas City Councilwoman, this is a very complicated issue. Fremont can not be fixed before Fair Oaks is fixed. City Council has pushed for removal of “bulb outs” on Fair Oaks. Approvals were given, application for funding made, but still not resolved.
 - h. Judith Harris inquired of Kim Hughes about the procedures for registering with the city areas/locations needing streetlights and stop signs for public safety in the city. Some locations where no safe crossing provisions exist, presenting dangers for pedestrians and all traveling public in So Pas are at: (1) Magnolia and Orange Grove; (2) Magnolia and Meridian; (3) Fremont and Hope.
4. Natural Resources: Bill Kelly reporting: Athens Services, So Pas’ contracted waste disposal company, is working on “green waste/organic waste” disposal methods which abide by environmentally sound policies and simultaneously reduce costs. Commission is looking at reducing waste and costs by researching waste disposal methods in other counties, and companies other than Athens. There are possibilities for composting and reducing costs.
 5. Library: Bianca Richards reporting:
 - a. Library has adopted a theme, “One city-one story.”
 - b. There is a citywide summer reading project.
 - c. In the fall there is a plan to engage the So Pas Unified School District more.
 - d. There is now a collection of 20 “things” to check out such as a bicycle flat tire kit.
 - e. Steve Fjeldsted, long-standing city librarian and “Director of Library Arts and Culture” is retiring at the end of this month. Library must be creative in terms of repositioning staffing.
 6. Cultural Heritage/Design Review: Becky Thompson reporting: The architectural community seems delighted with the fact that submittals of plans have become easier. Stephanie DeWolfe, City Manager, who has a planning background, worked with the city to streamline processes in the Planning Dept.
 7. Finance: Ellen Wood reporting:
 - a. Sales tax issue: Looking into whether assumptions behind issues are accurate. The city may need to hold a “special election” in November to raise sales tax in So Pas before LA county puts the issue on an election ballot.
 - b. Fee Study: A fee study is underway. Many of the city’s fees have not been raised for many years. Fees charged are not keeping up w. city costs. Raises in city fees are overdue.
 8. Animal Commission: Betty Emirhanian reporting: The Animal Commission is sponsoring an education program on “mosquito” issues on June 11 at 7PM at the So Pas Library Community Room.
 9. Adjournment: 11:26AM by Betty Emirhanian.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Judith M. Harris, WISPPA Secretary