

WISPPA
Women Involved in South Pasadena Political Action
September 10, 2016 Minutes
Cavalry Presbyterian Church

Attendance:

Jon Primuth, Gary Pia, Yuki Cutcheon, Dollie Chapman, Jean Zenas, Susie Abajian, Sally Kilby, Ellen Wood, Ron Rosen, Camille Levee, Kim Nguyen, Geoff Yantz, Lynda Sullivan, Betty Emirhanian, Ellen Diagle, Julie Giulioni, Bianca Richards, Vicky Bartlett, Kari Afschar, Michele Kipke, Deborah Fox, Dana Ferrar, Becky Thompson, Clara Richards, Vic Robinette, Judith, Harris, Gretchen Robinette, Joy Knapp, M. Wetzal, Lela Bissner, Kim Hughes

Janet opened the meeting at 9:06 a.m. and introduced Kim Nguyen who is running for a Superior Court judge position, Seat 158 in the upcoming November election. She is asking for support. She provided information on her background. She lives locally and has a strong prosecution history. She is going to be holding a fundraiser event on October 16, 2016.

Yes On SP Presentation

Janet introduced Yuki Cutcheon and Jean Zenas who are heading up the "Yes on SP" campaign. Superintendent Yantz also provided information. They shared that the five South Pasadena five schools were built between 1939 and 1984. The school district conducted an independent research report on the physical condition of the schools. The report found that the schools were in need of major physical repairs and upgrades.

The movement for the "Yes on SP" bond measure grew out of realizing the physical needs of the schools. The bond measure on the 2016 November ballot will ask for an approval that would result in a property tax increase of about \$60.00 for each \$100,000 of assessed property value.

The facilities study conducted on all of the campuses showed that there are portable classrooms that were tended to be temporary, but have been in use for years. These portable classrooms are not energy efficient and do not have a lot of technology support for students.

The schools are in need of technology upgrades, the Middle School Auditorium needs repairs, and the high school needs a dedicated area for the arts.

Telephone surveys were conducted to gage the interest in the community of supporting a bond measure for the schools. There was also an on-line survey. The School Superintendent also met with all of schools and met with student

families to discuss needs. In addition, focus groups were also held to brainstorm ideas. Out of these efforts, ideas such as having dedicated STEM space and a sports complex at the high school came out.

There was also a meeting with the Chamber of Commerce to talk about school needs.

The state does not provide funds for facilities. Local bonds would allow for matching funds from Proposition 51. These funds are only available to school districts that have passed bond measures in support of school facilities.

There have been bonds passed in the past in the City of South Pasadena for the schools, such as Measure L in 1995 and Measure M in 2002.

The survey results and community discussions showed that there appears to be support for a new bond measure. The funding would go to replace roofs, plumbing, remove hazardous materials, as well as upgrade facilities to support math, science, technology and the arts. The funds would also assist in providing more support for students with disabilities.

Informational sheets have been developed about the plans for the funds. The overall measure implementation would be overseen by a citizen's committee. All the bond funds would stay local.

Questions

Is Measure M still being paid? Yes, the community is still paying on that bond. The funds from the measure were used to upgrade the Middle School. There were questions about what oversight would there be to make sure that funds are not eaten up by contractors and construction. The oversight committee would assist in watching the projects. Many attendees felt it was important to have citizen construction experts on the oversight committee.

What would be the cost to the property owner? The speakers shared that the current average value of a property in the city was \$400,000 and the cost would be \$60.00 for each \$100,000 or $\$60.00 \times 4 = \240.00 as an example.

There was a question about re-opening up Oneonta again. The issue is that the property now provides revenue and the cost of upgrades are high. The revenue is \$350,000, while the upgrades would cost \$1 million or more.

The report about the schools is available on the internet at yesonsp.com.

The bond measure does not have an exemption for seniors.

The bond amount for Measure SP would be for \$98 million payable over 30 years. The current bonds, Measure L expires in 2024 and Measure M expires in 2032.

The payback rate is 1.75, which is considered low.

City Council Liaison Report

Ron Rosen provided an update. The city council voted for the city to join the Mosquito Vector Control District with a 4-1 vote. The council also voted to improve the 911 System by adding room for a third dispatcher. They also approved the purchase of a new police vehicle, but were concerned that heavy-duty police vehicles are not available as hybrids. The council is going to send a letter to vehicle manufacturers showing support for the development of heavy-duty hybrid vehicles.

The Intercon Parking contract was originally on the agenda, but was pulled. This company is the contractor that handles parking enforcement for the city. There are questions whether the city can legally hire an outside contractor for parking enforcement pursuant to state law. The City Attorney is looking into the legality of such a contract. Research is being conducted regarding whether the Council previously voted against using an outside contractor and whether that vote was followed.

Because of new state requirements, the City Council is required to move municipal elections to even-numbered years to coincide with state elections. This is seen as a way to encourage more voter participation. The Council had several options of when to move the election. It directed city staff to draft an ordinance moving the elections from 2017 to 2018 and 2019 to 2020, respectively, thereby extending each current Council Member's term by one year.

Membership Committee Report

Dollie shared that there are 81 members, but there a number of members who have not paid their dues. Dollie has sent out a number of e-mail notices and reminders. There is also concern that members are not attending the meetings. Dollie is going to put together a list of the members who have not paid their dues and share it with the board.

Finance Committee Report

Ellen wood shared that the organization's account balance in July 2016 was \$6,892.18 and \$709.00 was received in August. The expenditures were \$40.00 in support of the Women's Equality Film event and the meeting location rental cost of \$50.00.

Development Committee Report

There was a meeting of the committee and the key areas of discussion were the issue of the condition of trees in the city and the general plan. Gretchen shared that the committee was going to look into the issue of the trees. We need more education on taking care of trees and the responsibility of parkway trees.

Public Safety Committee Report

We joined the West Covina Task Force and that provides support funds for drug busts and the recent mail theft apprehension. We are getting a new ambulance. The Public Safety Fair is September 18, 2016.

Bylaws Revisions

The printed requested change to the bylaws was available to everyone. The change extends 1 month the position of the officers and election. Betty moved for approval and this was seconded by Bianca. The motion passed with a majority of approvals.

Approval of Minutes

One change was requested, which was the addition of Camille for attendance at the August meeting. Ellen made a motion for approval with the change. Betty seconded the motion and was approved by the membership.

Nominating Committee Report

Betty and Lela are getting information out to the membership and will have a slate for the October meeting,

Events

Betty shared that there are requests to promote businesses and milestones. The thought is that promotion can take place when it fits with the mission of the organization. The parties that want to promote something can put cards and flyers on the registration table.

The next meeting is October 1, 2016. We will run an ad to promote the meeting, where a representative from the League of Women Voters will be discussing the upcoming election and select ballot measures.

This could be a good meeting to bring a friend. The November meeting could also be a good membership recruitment meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:13 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kim Hughes.