

WISPPA
Women Involved in South Pasadena Political Action
October 7, 2017 Minutes
Cavalry Presbyterian Church

Attendance:

Ellen Wood, Barbara Sinclair, Bianca Richards, Betty Emirhanian, Alisa Diaz, Dollie Chapman, Gary Pia, Camille Levee, Sally Kilby, Evette Kim, Ellen Diagle, Mary Ann Lutz, Lynda Sullivan, John Reeder, Lela Bissner, Diana Mahmud, Dick Helgeson, Janet Braun, Marina Khubesrian, Katrina Perez, Joan Alexandria Tagle, Monica Hong, Kim Hughes

Welcome

Bianca Richards welcomed everyone at 9:09 a.m. She recognized visitors and new members and those included John Reeder and Mary Ann Lutz, who is the former Mayor of Monrovia.

Coming Elections

Bianca introduced Janet Braun who presented the slate of candidates for the next WISPPA board. The nominating committee was comprised of: Janet Braun, Lynda Sullivan, Ellen Wood and Bianca Richards. The slate of candidates for the WISPPA 2018 year are:

President	Bianca Richards
Vice President	Ellen Wood
Treasurer	Lela Bissner
Secretary	Judith Harris
Membership	Dollie Chapman
Founding Advisor	Gretchen Robinette
Past President	Janet Braun
Communications	Betty Emirhanian

The election will be held at the November meeting.

South Pasadena High School Presentation

Ms. Alisa Diaz wanted to share exciting information in regards to the high school's performing arts department. A new professor Nick Hoffa will be the new drama teacher. He has an excellent background, including being a part of ACT in the Bay Area. He will bring his expertise to the school. He will be assisting with the production of a student play in December and a spring musical, "The Adams

Family.” The school is looking for community support for these upcoming performances.

September Minutes Approval

A motion was made by Ellen Wood for approval of the minutes and this was seconded by Camille Levee. The membership approved the minutes.

Public Safety Committee Report

Ellen Diagle shared that the SP Fire Department has taken possession of a new fire truck. There are three new firemen that have been added to the SP Fire Department. Our department recently provided assistance in the Las Vegas area.

An on-going issue is the narrow streets in the hills area and the access for fire trucks. The issue has gone to the Public Works Commission who is looking into the issue. There is a request to make sure it is clear where red curbs currently exist that restrict parking and where new red curbs will need to go in to minimize the choke points. The issue is a concern if the trucks can access the road and if the trucks cannot get by, due to parked cars; they are not able to respond to emergency calls.

The SP Police Department has conducted homeless sweeps of encampments in the city and provided helpful information to homeless individuals. Our safety personnel have provided support to the recent LaTuna Fire, demonstrations in Santa Monica and school openings.

The safety personnel have suggested designs for a new Emergency Operation Center that are being reviewed by the City Council and City personnel.

Planning Commission Report

It was shared that another General Plan meeting is scheduled for October 10, 2017 at the Community Room at the SP Library.

Public Works Commission Report

Kim Hughes provided information and background on the upcoming issue of the adjustments to the water and sewer rates. The key issue is that the City of South Pasadena gets almost all of its water from the San Gabriel Valley Aquifer. The aquifer is getting very low, due to the years of drought. There is a Watermaster who oversees the aquifer. In order to maintain the health of the aquifer, the Watermaster will be purchasing outside water to replenish the aquifer. This outside water is expensive and all cities that utilize the aquifer will need to contribute to pay for the cost of this water. The City of South Pasadena will need

to support this purchased water, not just for one year, but for a number of years. This is what is driving up the costs and the need to adjust the water rates.

City Council Liaison Report

It was reported that the City Council selected a modified district map for future elections. They selected a modified “Green Map” for the districts. The council also reviewed a report that showed that the city has deferred maintenance and it will cost an estimated \$3.8 million over 10 years to bring our city facilities up-to-date. This includes roofs, lighting and other key elements.

Guest Speaker Dr. Elisabeth Ritacca-Citrus College-Professor of Women’s Studies and History

“The Women’s Suffragette Movement”

Bianca introduced Dr. Ritacca. Professor Ritacca shared that the issue of women’s suffragette movement is timely with the issues of the recent election and women and harassment in the news. She shared that when she speaks to her students, many of the students do not know much at all about the movement. The students are aware for the women’s movements in the 1960’s and 1970’s and some students think that is when women gained the right to vote. She shared that she finds that students tend to have a blasé attitude about the women’s movement. They tend to take it for granted.

Dr. Ritacca shared that the women’s suffragette movement was complex, as it involved real women. Women were granted the right to vote in federal elections in 1920. The 19th amendment enfranchised American women. In some cases women in parts of the country could vote in school district and other elections before the 19th amendment.

The amendment defended on ethnic and location issues, such as Jim Crowe issues. The suffragette movement succeeded by appealing to the American belief in equity.

One interesting fact was that an American U.S. citizen woman could lose her citizenship if she married a non-citizen man up until the 1940’s.

Another fact is that one of the movement’s arguments to women getting the vote was that women are less corruptible. They argued that women are different and bring something different from men to decisions. They are less competitive and value peace.

In the late 19th century the women’s movement dropped some of their arguments. After the civil war, new arguments were made in support of women getting able to vote. The 14th and 15th amendments were used as arguments in

trying to get the vote for women. The 14th amendment said that if you were born in the in the United States than you were automatically a citizen. The women's movement used this as rationale for women getting the right to vote. A roadblock was that the 14th amendment used the word "male" in the amendment.

Leaders in the women's movement Susan B. Anthony and Katie Stanton were against using the 14th amendment, due to the fact that the term "male" was in the amendment.

It was at this time that there was a split in the women's movement. They took on different strategies, but the groups came back together in the 1880's. They decided to just focus on getting the right to vote and took the emphasis off getting women into the church or clergy.

The women's movement reached out to women's groups. There was a famous parade on March 31, 1913 where there were 8,000 participants and all of them wore white to show solidarity. The parade participants were insulted and called names by bystanders. 100 parade participants were hospitalized. What was interesting was that African American women were banned from the parade, but Ida B. Wells did march in the parade.

In a movement to gain support for women voting, the women in the suffragette movement came out in support of the war in 1917. They felt if they showed their patriotism that President Wilson would show his support of providing the vote to women. The 19th Amendment was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives in May 1919, the U.S. Senate in July 1920 and ratified in August 1920. An interesting fact is that the last state to ratify the amendment was Mississippi in 1984.

A national women's party was started by Harriot Stanton Blatch, who was the daughter of Elizabeth Cady Stanton. The party did not gain a lot of traction.

There currently is an Indivisible Suffragette Group that meets in Pasadena. The group hopes to continue to push the "Equal Rights Amendment." There is still a fight going on for women.

Bianca thanked Dr. Ritacca and presented to her a WISPPA mug.

Comments

Marina Khubesrian shared that the city was recently recognized by the AQMD for its Green Zone efforts.

There will be a Rotary Club fundraiser on November 4, 2017.

Laurie Wheeler of the South Pasadena Chamber of Commerce was recently recognized at a business luncheon for her leadership.

The next WISPPA meeting will feature speaker, the City of South Pasadena City Clerk Anthony Mejia. There will also be the WISPPA elections.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:28 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kim Hughes