

WISPPA Meeting Minutes of 4.7.18

Meeting Location: South Pasadena Senior Center, 1102 Oxley Street, So Pasadena, CA 91030

Present: Betty Emirhanian, Ellen Wood, Dollie Chapman, Kim Hughes, Howard Spector, Jon Primuth, Judith M. Harris, Mary Urquhart, Lissa Reynolds, Cindi Bemel, Susan Singer, Roxy Ortiz, Delane Shane, Ron Rosen, Kelly Rivers, Wayna Kato, Joe Potts, Sandy Kitto, Lela Bissner, Susan Gelb, Deborah LaMotta, Linda Krausen, Marina Khubersian, Mark Dreskin, Chris Armstrong, Donna Scarantino, Matilde Gonzales, Gretchen Robinette, Kylie Cheung, Bianca Richards, Michael Cacciotti, Diane Crum.

1. Call to Order: 9:05AM by Ellen Wood, WISPPA Vice President
2. Introduction of New or Prospective Members and Guests: Cindy Bemel, Roxy Ortiz, Delane Shane, Sue Singer, Matilde Gonzalez
3. Approval of 3.3. 18 minutes: M/S/C for approval of 3.3.18 minutes
4. New Business: Betty Emirhanian, WISPPA Communications Chair:
 - A. Gretchen Robinette, who was serving on the 2018 WISPPA board as the "WISPPA Founding Member," officially resigned. All WISPPA board members wish Gretchen and her husband, Victor, well.
 - B. "The Eclectic Music Festival" is to take place throughout the City of So Pas on 4.28.18. The organizers are in need of volunteers. To sign up to volunteer go to <https://www.theeclecticrocks.org> or see/contact Betty Emirhanian.
 - C. The So Pas Chinese Club (SPCC) will be sponsoring their annual dinner dance on 4.21.18. It will be held at NBC Seafood Restaurant on S. Atlantic Blvd. in Monterey Park, CA. This year a table of WISPPA members will not be organized. Individual WISPPA members and guests are encouraged to attend on their own if they choose.
 - D. National Women's Political Caucus (NWPC) is sponsoring a workshop for women who want to run for office. WISPPA is co-sponsoring it. It will be held on Saturday, April 14.
 - E. WISPPA's annual Cocktail Party will be held on Monday 6.18.18 at the home of Mary Urquhart, a WISPPA "founding member." A "Save the Date" notice will be e-mailed soon. The invitation will follow. Also, please look for "sign up" sheets on sign-in tables at WISPPA meetings, and for an e-mail concerning bringing hors d'oeuvres and helping with matters such as set up and clean up the day of the party.
 - F. Announcement of law suit brought by the City of Rosemead re: 710 being resolved.
5. Reports:
 - A. Public Works Commission, Kim Hughes: A \$2 million, two year process of street repairs in So Pas is due to take place; some repairs have started. If you know of street repairs that need to be addressed, please send written notice to the City of So Pas Dept. of Public Works. There was a measure proposed for funding for lighting and landscaping. It did not pass because not enough citizens voted.
 - B. City of So Pas UUT (Utilities Tax), Ellen Wood: The City of Sierra Madre will take up the issue of that city's UUT tax next week. The results of the vote in that city may be indicative of what will occur here in So Pas next fall when voters in So Pas will vote upon whether to maintain our city's UUT at a slightly higher level than it has been or vote not to have the tax at all. The City of So Pas' budget and many city services will be drastically cut if the UUT measure does not pass here.
 - C. Animal Commission, Betty Emirhanian: There will be an event re: dog and cat pets on 4.21.18 called "Doggie Days and Cats, Too" sponsored by the City of So Pas, held in Garfield Park.
 - D. Announcement re: Coyote Citing, Betty Emirhanian: There have been postings on a social media site called "Next Door," which is an online platform for neighbors to stay in touch w. each other re: issues occurring within neighborhoods. The website is designed to keep neighbors apprised of especially safety issues. There is info on the city website about coyotes and how to deal with them including info regarding "hazing," or making coyotes afraid of humans.
 - E. City Council Report: Ellen Wood, Kim Hughes: Discussion was held re: lack of affordable housing locally, regionally, and statewide, and changing state laws; Stephanie DeWolfe, new City Manager, participated:
 - 1) Insufficient supplies of affordable housing locally and statewide/ changes in the CA local cities' control vs. regional and state control over housing including issues such as density were topics discussed at the recent city council meeting.

WISPPA Meeting Minutes of 4.7.18 Continued:

(E. City Council Report continued:)

- 2) The state has created over 150 new laws pertaining to housing, some of which may result in local areas losing subsidies if local areas are not in compliance with new laws.
- 3) South Pas, as many cities and regions, has much expensive housing and very little housing for categories of “very low income,” “low income,” “moderate income” residents as prescribed are necessary, especially in new state laws.
- 4) State law SB827, which will supersede local zoning laws, asserts the state’s jurisdiction over local zoning within ½ mile radius of public transportation hubs; thus, meaning in So Pas, loss of local control over zoning within ½ mile radius of local transportation hubs.
- 5) State law SB827 is still in committee, and citizens are still able to provide feedback.
- 6) The City of South Pasadena has written a letter of feedback to the committee considering SB827 re: the impact/hardships that may be brought to bear upon our small city re: loss of local zoning control as it pertains to housing near transportation hubs, and, in general.
- 7) Cal Trans Housing Sale situation:
 - A. Cal Trans, a separate State of CA agency, has made the purchase and ownership of their properties much more difficult by raising their demands.
 - B. Cal Trans apparently does not want the properties under their ownership to be made into “affordable housing” as described in new legislation.
 - C. Cal Trans has apparently placed new restrictions on purchases of Cal Trans-owned properties such as that the properties cannot be passed on through inheritance.

6. Program:

In celebration of the arts for the April, 2018 WISPPA meeting, Lissa Reynolds, WISPPA member, actress and co-owner with her husband, actor, James Reynolds, of So Pas’ Fremont Center Theater, performed an abbreviated version of the one-woman show, “A Woman of Independent Means,” which she made synonymous with “Fremont Center Theater” by initially taking a 6 week run of the play and parlaying it into a 6 month run of it! The one-woman show is based upon a book of the same title, A Woman of Independent Means, which was written by one of Lissa’s favorite authors, Elizabeth Forsythe Haley. It catalogues stages of her grandmother’s life, through a series of letters presented as she had written them to various significant people over the course of her lifetime. Both the book and play reflect common customs and practices, including those of English usage, and many issues related to etiquette between men and women, and treatment of men vs. women over the time span in which Haley’s grandmother figure grew from a young girl into an “independent” woman; spanning times when society looked upon women much as it did upon children: mostly “to be seen and not heard;” times during which it was difficult for any woman to assert herself and be of “independent character.” Lissa performed the play in character as the one and only protagonist, reading the letters, transforming herself into the persona of the grandmother character throughout the various stages of her life. The WISPPA audience was spellbound by Lissa’s highly-skilled, creative, poignant transformation into the character as she lived and transitioned through the trials and tribulations of stages of her lifetime. Lissa performed a 90 minute version of the 2 and ½ hour play, leaving the audience wanting more. The WISPPA board and audience have much gratitude towards Lissa for helping us all “lose ourselves and find ourselves in the arts” during this program showcasing “the arts” in South Pasadena.

7. Meeting Adjournment: 10:35AM by Ellen Wood

Minutes respectfully submitted by Judith M. Harris, WISPPA Secretary