

WISPPA Meeting Minutes of 2.3.18

Present: Barbara Sinclair, Judith Harris, Susan Groveman, Kay Mouradian, Suzie Abajian, Alan Jutzi, Monica Hong, Dina Hughes, Mary Ann Locher, Jon Primuth, Kim Hughes, Sheila Pautsch, Dollie Chapman, Betty Emirhanian, Vic Robinette, Sheila Rossi, Gretchen Robinette, Deborah Fox, Rich Schneider, Lynda Sullivan, Mary Urquhart, Aliza Diez, Gloria Kilian, Paul Kilian, Ellen Daigle, Ed Donnelly, Janet Braun, Steve Fjeldsted, Mary Furrbru, Melisa Wilson, Linda Krausen, Marina Khubersian, Michael Cacciotti, Linda Wah, Rose Lizcano, Steven Lawrence, Evette Kim, Sean Abajian, Bianca Richards, Ellen Wood, Harry Yadav, State Senator Anthony Portantino

1. **Call to Order:** By Bianca Richards, President, presiding at 9:00AM
2. **Introduction of New and Prospective WISPPA Members and Guests:** Susan Groveman, City of So Pasadena's first Public Service Information Officer, Rose Lizcano, Alan Jutzi, Mary Ann Locher, Sheila Rossi
3. **New Business:** Bianca Richards announced to the audience that 2.16.18 was the deadline for submission of nominees for Chris Holden's District 41 "Woman of Distinction" Award; that nominees whose outstanding service to the community were being sought.
4. **Approval of Minutes:** M/S/C to approve minutes of 1.4.17; M/S/C to approve minutes of 1.6.18.
5. **Old Business:**
 - A. **City Council Report by Bianca Richards:** no report
 - B. **Safety Commission Report by Ellen Daigle:** Ellen, calling fellow commissioner, Mary Urquhart to the podium, provided an overview of the Safety Commission's accomplishments of the past year reviewing issues she discussed in her report about the commission on 1.6.18 notated in the meeting minutes.
 - C. **Other Commission Reports:**
 1. **Public Works Commission Report by Kim Hughes:**
 - a. Streets in So Pasadena are being repaired and there is a call for the city to learn of streets needing repair. Reports are to be submitted to Larry Abelson, Public Works Commission President, or Leanne DeWitt, liaison for the city.
 - b. There is great interest in the Clean Power Alliance of Renewable Energy of CA which is working on a clean sustainable future in the state. There is push back on this from the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) as they are getting pushbacks from the "big power energy companies." Three options have been discussed, 33% renewable energy, 50% renewable energy and 10% renewable energy. The 33% option may be the most feasible option at this time.
 2. **Finance Commission Report on the Utility User's Tax (UUT) by Ellen Wood:**
 - a. Someone has gotten up a proposal to abolish the UUT.
 - b. Abolishing this tax would bring great hardship upon the City of So Pasadena as 25% of the budget is derived from this tax.
 - c. A 7.5% tax from the City of So. Pasadena is levied on all utilities including cell phones. This extra tax goes to pay for almost all city services.
 - d. The September, 2018 WISPPA meeting topic will be "City Finances and the UUT," as the UUT is up for re-election and WISPPA wants to provide education to the community about this issue.
6. **Community Connections Speaker Panel Highlighting "City and School Services:"** Mayor Richard Schneider, representing the City of So Pasadena; Sheila Pautsch, Community Services Director, also representing the Senior Center; Steve Fjeldsted, Director of Arts and Culture, So Pasadena Library; Jon Primuth, representing the SPUSD School Board. These speakers discussed "plusses" and "challenges" regarding the various entities they were representing. A common theme amongst all entities was "financial issues."

RE: Mayor Schneider's Report: The city has pension liabilities and, financially dependent upon the UUT funds continuing, needs information about the importance of maintaining the UUT to be disseminated to allow the city to continue providing existing services. Mayor Schneider complimented the good works of city commissions, and praised WISPPA for the work the organization has done with encouraging citizens to serve on these commissions.

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6. Community Connections Speaker Panel continued:

RE: Sheila Pautsch's Report: Ms. Pautsch provided an update on services provided by the Senior Center including a much improved "Dial-A-Ride" system that takes seniors all the way to Pasadena, Alhambra and Arcadia for appointments now. Ms. Pautsch's department oversees contracts with the batting cages, golf course and stables as well as manages the Camp Med after school/ summer camp programs, recreational classes and "Concerts in the Park." Ms. Pautsch also announced that the city has purchased two parcels of land that will be developed into pocket parks. A challenge Ms. Pautsch mentioned regarding the Senior Center includes that the city is in need of social work or gerontology interns or a professional to help with training and providing assistance for resources for seniors and sometimes, their families. The city signed an agreement with USC to provide interns, but none have been assigned a position in So Pasadena for several years.

RE: Steve Fjeldsted's Report: Mr. Fjeldsted announced that several prominent So Pasadena residents who were instrumental in supporting the library had passed away, former City Councilwoman, Dorothy Cohen, and Norma La Valley. Mrs. La Valley's family is donating her collection of books and archives to the So Pasadena Library. The library has now added an Assistant Library Director and new technology. Thus, many programs, including the children's and the arts and culture programs, are running robustly. Mr. Fjeldsted announced a number of programs that were being supported by the Library in the month of February including several that were being held in conjunction with the South Pasadena Arts Crawl on 2.24.18. He announced that the library staff has had a training day on "engagement" of patrons which included how to handle some of the more fragile or belligerent patrons of the library.

RE: RE: Jon Primuth's Report: Mr. Primuth gave updates about new programs that have been added or will be in all five public schools as well as facilities improvements completed, in the process, or that will be completed due to some newly passed funding legislation. He also briefly discussed the upcoming election of "Measure S," a funding bill that presents a parcel tax to property owners, up for re-election currently.

After reports all panelists participated in "Q and A" with audience members.

7. Announcements:

A. State Senator Anthony Portantino, who came to attend the meeting, asked for time to address the WISPPA audience. He commended WISPPA for the organization's hard work in advocating for changes in state legislation. Two important bills that are in process now and will likely pass are AB403 and SB 419. These are "Whistle Blower" protection bills that are about, respectively, protection of staff who work for legislators in the capital; and protection to everyone, even if not working as a "staff" person or legislatively, but including lobbyists and contractors, etc., working in the capital. Another bill which has currently passed the State Senate is a bill mandating that insurance companies pay for autism treatment.

B. Senior Scam Stopper Program to be held 2.9.18 at noon at the So Pasadena Senior Center

C. WISPPA will no longer be able to use Calvary Church as the meeting venue past March, 2018.

Sheila Pautsch offered the Senior Center as a venue for WISPPA meetings, and will be in touch with Bianca Richards to work out details.

D. Twoey's Restaurant is moving from the crossroads of Huntington Drive and Garfield Avenue to the location where Carmine's and Craft Hill used to be on Fair Oaks Avenue in the OSH shopping center.

8. Adjournment: 10:40PM by Bianca Richards, President

Minutes respectfully submitted by Judith M. Harris, Secretary

