

WISPPA Meeting Minutes of 5.5.18

Meeting held at: South Pasadena Senior Center "Great Room," 1021 Oxley St., South Pasadena, CA 91030

1. **Call to Order:** 9:05AM by Ellen Wood, WISPPA Vice President
2. **In celebration of Cinco de Mayo, Classic Latin Jazz Music** compliments of jazz ensemble comprised of SPHS student musicians, Kenneth Schultz, Ian Wang, Benjamin Fogel, Frank Figueroa, Mathew Son, Max Meszaros. WISPPA gives a big "shout out" to these talented student musicians for so enhancing the celebration with their beautifully performed Classic Latin Jazz selections, and a big "shout out" to Kelly Coughlin, SPMS Band Director, for gathering this ensemble of her former SPMS students to perform for WISPPA!
3. **Guests new to WISPPA:** Dr. Carolyn Lamb, Mark Gallitin, member of the So Pas Cultural Heritage Commission, Mike Wang, parent of musician, Ian Wang, Jolino Beserra, muralist and speaker, David Byrd, rock poster creator and Mr. Beserra's spouse, John Lesak, architect and speaker, Julie Acosta, public relations expert for John Lesak's architectural firm, Kim Lesak, John Lesak's spouse, Dr. Leonor Vasquez, Michael Androus, Russell Shane, Felix Gutierrez.
4. **Old Business:** Approval of 4.7.18 minutes; M/S/C Minutes Approved.
5. **New Business: Announcements and Commission Reports:**
 - A. **South Pas Preservation House Tour to be held on 6.3.18 from 1-5PM.** For more info go to: sppreservation.org. Announcement made by Mark Gallitin, WISPPA guest.
 - B. **WISPPA Cocktail Party** to be held at Mary Urquhart's home at the corner of Monterey Rd. and Chelton Way on 6.18.18 from 6 to 8PM. Reminder to please sign up for donations of food and for work shifts to help set up before and to clean up. **WISPPA really needs help from people to stay afterwards for clean up!** Report provided by Betty Emirhanian. **Questions/want to participate? Contact Betty Emirhanian or Bianca Richards.**
 - C. **Public Safety:** Ellen Daigle: 1) City hired 3 full time parking control personnel; parking control is no longer contracted out but now handled by the city; 2) Police and fire departments are now fully staffed; all fire department and EMT personnel are fully trained; 3) Fire Department is focusing on brush clearance; 4) City/public safety department and commission is reviewing/revising city's Hazard Plan.
 - D. **City of So Pas Strategic Planning Meeting:** Betty Emirhanian: 1) City of So Pas is making a 5 year strategic plan. Challenges exist re: pension fund. CalPers has not made enough income on their investments, resulting in the cities/ governmental entities being forced to unexpectedly shoulder the responsibilities for filling in gaps on funding pensions. 2) With the confusing way the UUT (City Utilities Tax bill) is worded, as a repeal wherein a vote of "yes" means that a voter is voting to repeal/abolish the sorely needed tax and remove funds the city relies upon, So Pas stands to lose approximately 12% of the city's income. (More info on UUT and financial ramifications for city should the UUT measure fail will be discussed during this meeting.)
 - E. **Tree Commission:** Betty Emirhanian: This commission gets involved with tree removal permits in So Pas. The commission is aiming to involve residents in more climate change planning.
 - F. **Finance Commission:** Ellen Wood: 1) Stephanie DeWolfe, new So Pas City Manager, along w. city council and Finance Commission, are working on a strategic plan, mentioned in "D" above, with alternatives for operating the city should the UUT measure fail in 11/2018. 2) The UUT is the second highest generator of city revenue. 3) If the UUT fails, the city will be forced to cut many services, programs and personnel across the board. 4) This would be a grave situation citizens need to be made aware of.
 - G. **Water Report:** Kim Hughes: 1) The City of So Pas has lost our water conservation/ environmental coordinator; No one has been selected to replace her at present. 2) Although there has been a discoloration of the water in some parts of So Pas, the water has been verified as safe to drink. 3) The discoloration is due to a chemical reaction having to do with chloramine.
 - F. **Ad Hoc Report of City Councilwoman, Diana Mahmud:**
 - 1) Re: UUT: A citizen group to advocate for "not repealing" the UUT is forming. City Council cannot legally advocate.
 - 2) The UUT must be addressed in 2018; an extension may be asked for which would last until 2021 so that the city would not have to address the UUT again until 2021. 3) Though coming from the tap as brownish in color in some areas of So Pas, the water is verified as "safe to drink."

6. Special Cinco de Mayo Celebration program and speakers:

“South Pasadena’s Hispanic Heritage and Its Influences Upon Local Architecture and Art,” presented by John D. Lesak, local restoration architect, former member of the So Pas Cultural Heritage Commission, current member of the So Pas Planning Commission, and faculty at USC’s School of Architecture, and, Jolino Beserra, renown architectural muralist whose works have been commissioned by and installed in the South Pasadena Public Library as well as commissioned by many other public and private entities.

Biographical Statements of Speakers:

John D. Lesak, AIA, FAPT, LEED-AP

John D. Lesak, AIA, FAPT, LEED-AP is an architect with over 25 years’ experience specializing in the preservation, repair, and adaptive reuse of historic buildings and sites. A partner in the firm of “Page and Turnbull” and director of their Los Angeles office, John has worked on several sites in California that date back to the Spanish Colonial and Mexican periods, including the Royal Presidio Chapel/San Carlos Cathedral in Monterey and the Rancho Santa Margarita Ranch House Complex at Camp Pendleton. Currently, he is leading adaptive reuse of vernacular Buildings at the Leo Carrillo Ranch Historic Park in Carlsbad and the design of the Cheech Marin Center for Chicano Art, Culture and Industry in Riverside.

A firm believer in community service, John served as a South Pasadena Cultural Heritage Commissioner from 2005 to 2014. And again in 2017 (Chair 2009, 2010, and 2014). Currently, he sits on the City’s Planning Commission. From 2008 to 2010, he was a member of Mayor Villaraigosa’s City of Los Angeles Design Advisory Panel. Additionally, John has been active in South Pasadena’s Schools, sitting on the Monterey Hills Elementary School Site Council (2005 to 2008). He was appointed the South Pasadena Representative to the West San Gabriel Valley special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) Community Advisory Council (CAC) from 2004 to 2008 (Chair 2006-2008).

Since 2010, John has taught courses as an adjunct faculty at the USC School of Architecture Masters of Heritage conservation program.

Jolino Beserra, BFA, MFA

California native Jolino Beserra was born in Los Angeles and grew up in the San Gabriel Valley. He met his husband of 38 years, the celebrated rock and theater poster artist, David Edward Byrd, in 1980, creating Byrd/Beserra Studios in 1985. After an 18 year career, his transition from the world of graphic illustration and TV advertising to mosaic artist came with his summer of volunteering at the Watt’s Tower. He was creating small gallery pieces and residential installations when first approached to design and create his first large scale mosaic for Camarillo’s new public library. His mosaic installations and sculptures can now be seen in Southern California libraries and in public parks created for the Trust for Public Land and the Los Angeles County and City of Los Angeles Departments of Parks and Recreation. His home mosaics were featured in the Los Angeles Times Home Section in 2011, and his mosaic Alebrijes for the Benito Juarez Park won the “Best in Situ Award” at the 2016 Mosaic Arts International Competition.

John Lesak and Jolino Beserra have generously allowed WISPPA to provide their 5.5.18 informative, entertaining and inspiring power point presentations on the WISPPA website, www.wisspa.org. Mr. Beserra also led a tour of audience members to view his installations at the So Pas library after the meeting adjourned.

Meeting Adjourned: 10:45AM by Ellen Wood

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Judith M. Harris, WISPPA Secretary