



## SANTA MONICA CANYON CIVIC ASSOCIATION

### **Board Minutes November 13, 2018**

**Recorded by:** Melissa Campos

**Attending:** Lisa Bittan, Melissa Campos, Deborah Castleman, Elizabeth Daniels, Nancy Frey, Wesley Hough, Sharon Kilbride, Marise Relfe, Natalie Schaefer, Julie Silliman, Ron Staake, Marilyn Wexler, Cynthia Winter, George Wolfberg

**Excused:** Steve Boyers, A.C. Chaudhry, Bob Doblinski, Emile Levisetti, Debbie Warfel

**Absent:** Carrie Frazier, Amy Hopper, Henry Lichstein, Scot McIntosh, Isabelle Mizrahi, Cathy Russell

**Guests:** Zachary Gaidzik (Field Deputy, LA County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl)

**Meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by President Marilyn Wexler.**

#### **Minutes October 2018.**

Minutes from October were deemed approved.

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

Scot McIntosh submitted the report after the meeting.

Checking	\$ 6,379.69
Savings	21,649.18
Total	<u>\$ 28,028.87</u>
Grove balance	<u>\$ 6,006.87</u>
Aircraft noise	<u>\$ 3,044.97</u>
Courtyard	<u>\$ 757.90</u>

Currently there are 353 paid/voting members.

**CD-11 Report** – no updates from Lisa Cahill. Field Deputy for LA Country Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, Zachary Gaidzik, provided an update on the on the ongoing fires affecting the North County and Ventura. He mentioned that Palisades High School had been set up as an evacuation center for those affected. As of the meeting, Zachary indicated that firefighters were hopeful that a brief break from the Santa Ana winds would allow them to contain more of the fire. For the most up-to-date information regarding the fires and affected areas, visit [lacounty.gov/Woolseyfire](http://lacounty.gov/Woolseyfire).

In the future, the county is committed to working on evaluating its brush and forestry practices to help minimize the impact of wildfires. Prior to the fire, the county had developed Emergency Survival Guides to distribute to residents to help with family preparation in the event of a natural disaster. For a copy of the LA County guide in various languages, visit the [county website](#).

Elizabeth Daniels asked about existing emergency alert systems and wondered if the systems were adequate after hearing that many residents did not receive notifications. George Wolfberg mentioned that residents could text “READY” to 888777 to sign up for alerts but noted that they weren’t area specific. Elizabeth expressed an interest in looking into other emergency alert systems that would provide more local, real-time support like the system in place in Topanga Canyon for example.

Several members also raised concerns about unhealthy or dead trees located throughout the canyon, including along Rustic Creek and on Mesa and Entrada. Zachary said he’d follow up with those individuals to get more details and get them in touch with the right people. He also noted that there’s a non-profit called Angel Lumbers that reuses downed trees and turns the wood into furniture. Their website mentions that they are not licensed to cut down trees but for more information, visit their website on [their requirements](#).

Elizabeth also asked about the best way that residents could give back to those affected by the fires. Zachary replied that at this stage, money is the best form to give as it’s easier for organizations to manage and get exactly what they need.

**Park Update** – Park Director Paige Barnes could not attend the meeting, but Julie Silliman and Nancy Frey provided an update. They had just attended the most recent Park Advisory Board meeting where they discussed the estimated total raised for Rustic Nights (~\$30,000) which was slightly less than last year. They also mentioned that the park building is being painted and is planning to host a few events in the coming months including a murder mystery event early next year.

**BOCA Report** – Sharon Kilbride provided an update. She mentioned that there wasn’t much going on except that the project under construction on the 200 block of Entrada had homeless individuals living in it. The owner and authorities have been notified.

### **Committee Reports**

- **PCH Taskforce** – George Wolfberg gave an update on the latest PCH Taskforce meeting, including sharing the latest brochure highlighting safety measures for drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists. He also mentioned that they hold quarterly meetings and prioritize maintenance of PCH. There were some changes to the Task Force members, including the addition of the Mayor of Malibu who is a firefighter.
- **Homelessness Task Force** – Sharon Kilbride provided an update. She mentioned that the PPTFH also prepared for the local fires deploying outreach workers to Palisades High School to help address those affected individuals, but they did not encounter any.

She also shared a recent success story where the PPTFH was able to arrange a same-day reunification between a man who had been found in an encampment and his sister who had been looking for him.

Since inception, the PPTFH has housed 63 individuals and helped 90 people get off the street. For the month of October, there were 116 homeless individuals

passing through the area that were not interested in services. There were 11 vehicle dwellers, primarily located at PCH and Sunset, and 3 permanent vehicle dwellers. They have also cleaned a total of 65 encampments, only 2 of which are located on private lots. LAFD has contacted the owner to let them know.

- **PPCC Report** – George Wolfberg provided updates on the latest PPCC meeting. This year, PPCC will be awarding the Citizen of the Year to two individuals, Jimmy Dunne and Bob Harter, for their work in planning a Veterans’ Gardens at Palisades RC, splitting the award for the first time ever. Two Golden Sparkplug awards will go to John Steadman and Dede Vlietstra for their work in community cleanup and homeless cleanup respectively. The awards gala will take place on December 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM at Gladstones. For those interested, they can purchase tickets through the [PPCC ticketing website](#).

Sharon asked if there was a way to create an award for Officer Rusty Redican for his outstanding work with the PPTFH on his beach patrol. George mentioned that the PPCC has debated other awards in the past but concluded that it works best to keep the awards gala program to the designated awards for consistency and brevity. He and Marilyn suggested that SMCCA could award him a certificate in recognition of his continued efforts in the canyon and present it to him at the annual meeting.

- **School Report** – Scot McIntosh was not able to attend the meeting, so no update was provided.
- **Aircraft noise** – Wes Hough provided an update for Debbie Warfel who could not attend. He mentioned that they need to fundraise to cover ~\$6,000 of expenses for upcoming oral arguments which are expected to take place in 4-6 months. The board asked about whether it was feasible to raise the funds and if a GoFundMe campaign had been attempted. Wes indicated that he thought they could hit their fundraising goal for oral arguments given the timeline but said they had not set up a GoFundMe page though West Adams had. They will evaluate funding options as time goes on.

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You can also contact the following government representatives and officials directly:

- Congressman Lieu's representative: Joey Apodaca, 323 651-1040, [joey.apodaca@mail.house.gov](mailto:joey.apodaca@mail.house.gov)
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- Councilman Bonin's representative: Geoff Thompson, 310 568-8772, [geoffthompson@lacity.org](mailto:geoffthompson@lacity.org)
- LAWA, Dir. of Planning & Environmental Affairs: Kendrick Okuda, 424-646-7357, [kokuda@lawa.org](mailto:kokuda@lawa.org)
- LAWA, Noise Management: Kathryn Pantoja, 424 646-6501, [kpantoja@lawa.org](mailto:kpantoja@lawa.org)
- **School Construction** – George Wolfberg and Nancy Frey provided an update on the latest events regarding the school construction project. George mentioned that the committee (Steve Boyers, Bob Doblinski, Nancy Frey, Isabelle Mizrahi, George Wolfberg) has had one meeting with school board reps where they agreed to do a focus meeting where the school board people will listen to concerns in the community. Marilyn Wexler expressed an interest in having LAUSD come to the January SMCCA board meeting. George mentioned that the subcommittee was waiting to get answers from the LAUSD and then report back to the board.

#### **New Business.**

- **Paradise Fires.** Julie Silliman will be heading up to Paradise the weekend of the November 17<sup>th</sup> to visit her father who was affected by the fires. She plans to deliver gift cards to help residents affected by the fires which has become the largest fire in California history and burned thousands of structures in an area with a significant elderly population. For residents interested in purchasing gift cards, you can drop them off at 441 Sycamore Road.
- **Pumpkin Patch.** Nancy Frey asked what happened to the pumpkin patch located at Mesa and West Channel. The board informed her that in error, the city had removed the pumpkins in her absence. The city apologized for the error and mulched the area. The community is taking steps to apply for a legal permit to landscapr the small section to avoid confusion in the future.
- **December Meeting.** The board elected not to have a meeting in December given holiday travel. The next SMCCA meeting will be January 8.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.**

**Next meeting, January 8<sup>th</sup>.**