

Whittier Uptown Association
Minutes of the
Regular Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, January 11, 2016

Location: Brookdale at Chateau Whittier, 13250 E. Philadelphia St. Whittier CA 90601

Call to Order: 6:07 pm

Board Members in attendance Rick Gonzales, Liz Apodaca, Remoun Said, Marilyn Brinegar, Chief Garry Couso-Vasquez, Cesar James, Tony Williams, Frank Medina, Melanie Coward.

Board Members not in attendance: Steve Caringella, Jesse Bosque, Hector Alvarado.

Non Board Members in attendance: Olivia Rios (WUA), Lieutenant Bryan Ellis (Whittier Police), Charles Scheida (Bright Thrift), Marilyn McCarty (WUA), Conal McNamara (City of Whittier), Johnnie Perkins (Athens Services), James Breitling (Athens Services), John Beynon (Whittier Area Environmental Coalition and United Nations Association).

GUESTS: John Beynon reported on the Earth Day Event to be held in Uptown Whittier in April and asked for the support of the WUA.

Charles Scheida spoke about the drought and suggested the WUA support the removal of planters along the sidewalk.

Johnnie Perkins introduced Athens Services and spoke about the trash contract currently before the City; the benefits Athens will provide to Whittier residents and Athens' employees if the contract is ratified by the City; and Athens' support for WUA.

CITY REPORT: Conal McNamara reported that the City has hired Katie Galvin-Surbatovic from the Chamber to fill Angelica Frausto's position in Community Relations, starting on January 19. The assessment district consultant will start work and will report in the near future. Jodi Turner in Business Licensing has resigned.

Lieutenant Ellis reported on the number of police calls near the theater and Starbucks. There have been several calls about the homeless in all parts of Whittier and Santa Fe Springs.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Tony Williams moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of December 14, 2015. Chief Garry Couso-Vasquez seconded. Melanie Coward abstained. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Remoun Said reported on the year to day Profit & Loss Statement, bank balances and Assessments received. Rick Gonzales reported that we transferred \$10,000 from the Pacific Western Account to Banc of California and that we removed signers from both accounts.

NEW BUSINESS

- Election 2016 – Rick Gonzales reported on the status of Director and Officer terms. Rick Gonzales appointed Melanie Coward and Remoun Said to the election committee after they volunteered. Mr. Gonzales also appointed Sarah Salazar (Boys & Girls Club) to serve on the committee.
- Rock & Roll Concert – Chief Garry Couso-Vasquez reported that Chief Piper asked for donations to their Rock & Roll Concert Fundraiser. Remoun Said moved to purchase 10 tickets to the event for \$20 each and donate the tickets back to the fundraiser. Chief Garry Couso-Vasquez seconded. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Farmers Market Renewal Contract – Update: Tony Williams reported that Daniel Ramos (NRD Productions) has signed the 2016 contract.

Calendar Girl Calendar: Marilyn McCarty reported that the calendar was delayed for various reasons. Ms. McCarty is looking for another printer. The artwork is ready.

Silver Shields – Vote: Rick Gonzales reported that the WUA supports the Chamber with more than \$5,000 in business. Chief Garry Couso-Vasquez moved to sponsor the Silver Shield event at the Chief Sponsor level up to \$1,500. Tony Williams seconded. Motion passed.

Hiring Office Staff – Update: Olivia Rios reported that she received 450 resumes in response to our posting. Ms. Rios screened the resumes and has approximately 10 candidates. Tony Williams suggested we extend the position to Janelle Gonzales.

Website Development - Update: Tony Williams reported that Ross Gile will present at the Retreat.

Retail Stroll and Art Walk – Update: Oliva Rios reported that the City advised that this will move forward after Katie starts at the City.

Thursday Family Street Faire – Update: Tony Williams reported that the meeting with the City will occur tentatively at the end of the month. This meeting must occur before the event will be submitted to the City Council. Aikido Ai is still opposed. They will be invited to promote their services at the event, with demonstrations.

Historic Banner Project – Phase 2: Olivia Rios reported that she met with Greg Alaniz, the new Director of Parks & Recreations at the City, who proposed to purchase brackets in exchange for temporary use of some of the poles for their banners. He's presenting to the Community Foundation for approval. Marilyn Brinegar reported that the new 7 foot banners are up as of January 8. Ms. Brinegar suggested that we relocate the 5 foot banners to Bright and Comstock, and reported that Friends of Uptown may donate \$1,600 to cover the cost.

Delinquent Members – Update: Rick Gonzales reported that we will need to work with the new staff at the City.

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Misc: Rick Gonzales reported that we need to discuss the social media intern at the Board Retreat.

Dates to remember:

January 12 - City Council Meeting, 6:30pm.

January 13-14 – Mailing out Election Notice and Application to WUA Members.

January 20 – Whittier Chamber Business Expo – Radisson

January 26 - City Council Meeting, 6:30pm.

January 30 – WUA Board Retreat – 9am-5pm at Spin Lounge and WUA office.

February 4 – Boys and Girls Club Whittier Youth of the Year annual ceremony, at the Shannon Center.

February 8 – WUA Board Meeting, 6pm.

February 26 – Silver Shields Award & Dinner at Pacific Palms Resort. 6pm

Adjourned to Closed Session at 7:15.