

West Ranch Town Council

Minutes of the Meeting Dated:

Wednesday, May 6, 2015

Stevenson Ranch Library Community Room

25950 The Old Road

Stevenson Ranch, CA 91381

- A. 6:30 PM Call to Order, Welcome/ Introduction Of Council – Dave Bossert
 - a. Present: Dave Bossert, Don Fleming, Rick Ryan, James Zimmerman, Chuck O’Connell

- B. Approval of Prior Month’s Minutes – Chuck O’Connell
 - a. Motion-Don Fleming, Seconded-James Zimmerman, Approved unanimously

- C. Treasurer’s Report and Banking Update-James Zimmerman-
 - a. Bank Account Balance- \$25

- D. LA County Updates
 - a. LA County Parks and Recreation Department Report-Doug Newell
Richard Rioux Park
Summer Day Camp starts June 15 to Aug 7; Youth Co-ed Soccer registration starts 7/25 to 8/15; Youth Co-ed Basketball 6/22-8/8; 4th of July Fireworks – Gates open 6:00 PM , Show starts 9:00 PM

 - b. LA County Sheriff’s Report- Deputy Kevin Duxbury
Relatively quiet. Crime continues down; Some shop lifting continues at Valencia Marketplace; Some vehicle burglaries continue to occur at the Gym area; Amgen Bicycle Tour is set to kick off on Citrus near Magic Mt. Pkwy on May 14-15.

 - c. California Highway Patrol Report-Officer Christopher Proper
18 DUIs for the month. May is motor cycle safety month; 14% increase in motorcycle accidents this year.

 - d. Newhall Land Report- Alex Durell
Draft EIR for the Entrada South Project has been submitted and is open to comment at LA County Regional Planning from 4/15/15 to 6/29/15. There will be a public meeting at Rancho Pico Jr HS on June 4, 2015 at 6 P.M.

 - e. LA County Supervisor Antonovich’s Office Report – Rosalind Wayman
LA County Supervisor Michael Antonovich will be the keynote speaker at the 7th Annual “State of the County” Luncheon on May 22, 2015 at the Hyatt Regency Valencia.
The County Board of Supervisors has “continued” / postponed action on the proposal by the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority

(MRCA) to upgrade the Mentryville facility to accommodate and train At-Risk Youth at the overnight camping facility to be developed. The MRCA will make a presentation to the WRTC at the June 3, 2015 meeting.

The Board of Supervisors is considering a proposal by Kuehl and Solis to raise the minimum wage to \$15.25 per hour. Probably hold future meetings for discussion.

“Old Glory” will have new decorative fencing and benches by mid-June.

The SCV Sanitation District is considering all alternatives to Deep Well Injection.

E. Guest Speakers- Assemblyman Wilk via telephone conference call.

Assemblyman Wilk discussed the LARWQCB discriminatory 100 ppm water chloride levels mandated for the Santa Clara River by the LARWQCB that have no basis in actual scientific evidence-research. Current levels ranch from 117 to 130. Higher levels are permitted in some Ventura County rivers by the LARWQCB. It may be necessary to litigate and or lobby Sacramento for a reasonable chloride level. An option also includes trucking brine to facilities to the south. In the mean time Wilk has legislation in the works that would require the SCV Sanitation District Board to hold their meetings in the Santa Clarita Valley and not in Whittier, so that residents can have access to the Board.

F. Old Business –

a. Updating of WRTC Bylaws & Procedures-Committee Report Rick Ryan

Rick Reported the following> Committee Members Rick, Ed Spurling and Jim Lynn met once formally since the last WRTC meeting and Rick has had a number of informal discussions with community leaders concerning updating WRTC Bylaws & Procedures, including Election Procedures, etc. Each WRTC member was given a packet of information to review, which included (1) A L.A. County provided description of the Town Councils, (2) Rural Town Councils-A Guide and Handbook(by Mary Ann Floyd), (3) Bylaws of the WRTC, (4) Note to WRTC members effective September 2007, (5) Charter and Bylaws for the Aqua Dulce Town Council, and (5) General Policies and Procedures for the Castaic Area Town Council and Bylaws for the Castaic Area Town Council, Inc.

Rick reported that the Committee intends to meet formally at least once a month and to have a number of informal meetings and discussions with the intention of presenting the WRTC written recommendations, and options, in the Fall for consideration and , hopefully, approval and implementation by the WRTC in November or December. The committee recommends that the WRTC appoints an Election Committee next January for an Election in November 2016.

Rick reiterated a general description of rural Town Councils (“TC”) as envisioned by the County: TC are private entities with no government decision making power or authority.

TC are not subject to the Brown Act (per County counsel opinion) as they are volunteer organizations and not legislative bodies. TC are community organizations with no authority over subject matter controlled by County or State and are not subject to control by the County or State. There are no provisions in local, County or State law that authorize, establish, govern, form or operate TC. There are simply no such laws.

Rick identified 5 specific issues to address.: (1) A WRTC Charter, although there is no requirement for such, to be included for approval on the next election ballot and which should include a formal statement of purposes, powers, boundaries, policies, etc.; (2) Whether the Town Council should form a 501(c)(4) Corporation which may allow the WRTC to solicit donations, etc. but would require all the requirements and formality of a Corporation, etc.; (3) An updated set of Bylaws & Procedures, including Election Bylaws, although one of the Committee members advised that "If it isn't broke, don't fix it"; (4) Election Policies & Procedures that are efficient and fit the WRTC and its characteristics (compared to the 2 other Town Councils in the Valley, which serve communities that are decidedly different than the area served by the WRTC), with an election hopefully scheduled for November 2016 to coincide with the general election and with the assistance of L.A. County (polling places, registry of voters, etc.) and issues including terms, vacancies, funding, etc.; and (5) Recall Procedures.

Dave Bossert added that it was Dr. Richard Rioux who established the Stevenson Ranch Town Council (now the WRTC) about 22 years ago.

b. Elections and Updating Election Guidelines-see a. above

c. Increasing Community Participation-Rick Ryan made a short report and suggested that this item be tabled until the June meeting for discussion and appointing a committee.

G. New Business

a. 501(c)(3) Corporation Formation- Consideration and Discussion-see F.a. above

b. Forming a Communication Committee- Website update, outreach, etc.-Rick reported that he has communicated with Ron Meschner about being the WRTC's webmaster at least long enough to update the current website. Rick will report next month. See F.c. above as well.

H. Public Comment-

There were no public comment. Dave Bossert motioned and Chuck O'Connell seconded that the WRTC consider speaker cards be utilized for possible future meetings. Motion carried unanimously.

I. Adjournment-Next meeting is Wednesday, June 3, at 6:30 PM at the Stevenson Ranch Library. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM. [Tentatively = July meeting DARK]

