

**West Ranch Town Council**

**Minutes of the Meeting Dated:**

**Wednesday, June 3, 2015**

**Stevenson Ranch Library Community Room**

**25950 The Old Road**

**Stevenson Ranch, CA 91381**

**[Rev 8/3/15]**

- A. 6:30 PM Call to Order, Welcome/ Introduction Of Council – Dave Bossert
  - a. Present: Dave Bossert, Rick Ryan, Chuck O’Connell
  - Absent: Don Fleming, James Zimmerman
  
- B. Approval of Prior Month’s Minutes – Chuck O’Connell
  - a. Motion-Rick Ryan, Seconded-Dave Bossert, Approved unanimously
  
- C. Treasurer’s Report and Banking Update-James Zimmerman-
  - a. No report
  
- D. LA County Updates
  - a. LA County Parks and Recreation Department Report-Doug Newell
    - Richard Rioux Park; Doug was absent
    - Dave reminded all of the July 4th Fireworks at Richard Rioux Park – Gates open 5:00 PM , Show starts 9:00 PM
  
  - b. LA County Sheriff’s Report- Deputy Kevin Duxbury
    - 3 vehicle burglaries, all in business area; 9 shop lifting-6 at Wal-Mart [8 suspects- none from Santa Clarita Valley] ; 3 grand theft autos [2 from homes]; the Polar Plunge to raise money for the Special Olympics -\$50 on Saturday June 6<sup>th</sup>. He reminded all that NO fireworks are permitted in the County and such use is a felony. Fireworks shows will be at Stevenson Ranch, Westfield Mall and Magic Mountain.
  
  - c. California Highway Patrol Report-Officer Christopher Proper
    - 9 collisions at intersections were reported, no DUIs reported; CHP has a “Start Smart” program for teens for their driver’s license. Special Olympics activities will run from July 25 to August 6. There will be a golf fund raiser at the TPC on June 22nd.
  
  - d. Newhall Land Report- Alex Durell
    - There will be a public meeting on June 6<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM at Rancho Pico Jr HS in Westridge to present information and receive feedback on the proposed River Village project.
  
  - e. LA County Supervisor Antonovich’s Office Report – Rosalind Wayman
    - Metrolink fares will be reduced by 25% to downtown LA to encourage ridership and reduce congestion.

Orchard Arms Senior Housing in Valencia will be getting construction of new elevators. The Santa Clarita Sanitation District has voted to no pursue Deep Well injection in Westridge and will pursue other options including trucking brine out of the SC Valley. The LA County Sheriff's Department has received a new Command Center Vehicle to handle emergencies [\$318,000].

LA County Board of Supervisors has requested a study by the Economic Development Corporation on the potential impacts of raising the minimum wage in unincorporated areas.

E. Guest Speakers- Cara Meyer from the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) and Jane Beesley from the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District

Cara Meyer reported that the MRCA has a \$250,000 grant from the County and plans a project in Mentryville area for overnight camping. It would be utilized by "At-risk youth" [14-24 years old] to get them involved and trained in nature. They could also possibly be candidates to become part of the MRCA staff. project planned. They must come from a family that makes 80% or less of County medium income.

Jaime Cabral, Chief of Interpretation and Education for "At-risk youth" for MRCA then gave an in depth power-point presentation about how the program works. The Youth Leadership program starts as young as 11 years old on up to Jr. HS and HS and older. It includes job training in Parks related areas. Potential future employers include US Forest Service, National Parks, California Parks, MRCA, etc.

Jane Beesley then gave a short summary of LA County Regional Park and Open Space District supported the concept.. It would include upgrading some of the restrooms, eating area and creation of a campground area at Johnson Park area in the general Mentryville area.

Dave Bossert then opened the meeting up to questions and or comments by those in the audience. There were about 40 people in the audience, including local media and elected officials. Approximately 12 people, including former docents, Historical Society members, Southern Oaks residents and others, made comments. **There was unanimity among those who commented, that while the program for At-risk youth was a commendable program, the placement of an overnight campground in the Mentryville area was the wrong place for such activity. Mentryville is an historic location. Alternate locations such as Towsley Canyon, Rice or East Canyon or Placerita Canyon would probably be more appropriate, as well as other park and forest locations in the greater Los Angeles area .**

**Dave Bossert requested and Rosalind Wayman agreed to ask Supervisor Antonovich to delay any Board action for 60-90 days, to permit time to review options.**

F. Old Business –

a. Elections and updating Election Guidelines-Committee-Rick

Rick reported that the Committee has met with Ron Mechsner, Chuck O'Connell and James Zimmerman. And that the Committee still needs to meet with Dave Bossert and Don Fleming from the WRTC, as well as others from the community including Don and Kay Whaley, Paul Ash and others. Rick was scheduled to meet with Rosalind of the Supervisors office (COLA) that coming Friday for her comments.

Rick reported the following in terms of the Committee's fact finding: (1) According to Newton Chow of the COLA's Registrar's Office, for the November 2014 elections there were 6 polling places in the area of representation of the WRTC and 11,111 registered voters as well. (2) The website for the Castaic Area Town Council reported roughly 281 votes cast in the November 2014 elections which also mentioned that 2 poll workers were hired at a cost of \$100 each. (3) The Aqua Dulce Town Council reported roughly 226 votes cast in the 2014 elections and 159 votes cast in the 2013 elections.

Based on the forgoing and as a result of committee meetings and consultations, Rick said that the WRTC Bylaws and Election Committee may recommend that all future elections be held by mail ballot only. Rick said that a system would need to be devised to assure some reasonable level of assurance that the ballots received were valid and cast by registered voters within the area of representation of the WRTC. Ballots could be categorized as valid, provisional and rejected, etc. according to the Election Bylaws and Procedures. Further, an Election Committee Chairperson could be appointed each January and that person would be responsible to nominate a handful of volunteers to, in essence, publicize the election and count ballots. Other options would be entertained as well.

In order to facilitate communication, **the Committee recommends that the WRTC Website be updated and simplified to provide all information and forms (application for membership, ballots, etc.) necessary – that are all downloadable.**

Rick reported the following. The Committee met with Ron Mechsner recently. Ron reported that the WRTC Website received between 1200 and 3000 hits per month – although Ron stated that he only reviewed the website for these numbers sporadically. According to Ron, the cost for the website is \$25.00 per domain name per year (we have 2- “.com” and “.org” but only need the “.com”), and \$16 per month for a total of \$217 per year (when we get rid of the “.org”). Ron also said that he would donate 10 hours of website construction (“html coding”) services to the WRTC to do a functional redesign and simplification fo the WRTC Website. Ron will charge only \$60 per hour thereafter. Ron thought he could get it done in 10 hours or less.

**The Committee recommends that an Application Fee (\$200 to \$300 for example) be charged to those who wish to be on the WRTC and then a yearly Membership Fee (\$100 to \$200) to remain on the WRTC to fund the website and other expenses.**

Rick then circulated a rough draft of a WRTC Website redesign to submit to Ron. The design anticipates minimal website monthly maintenance, basically updating the monthly

Agendas/Minutes following approval and bi-yearly updating for elections. The Website design was reviewed and provisionally approved without a formal vote, which is to be made at a later date.

**Rick Ryan then moved and Chuck O'Connell seconded the following Motion: That the WRTC Bylaws and Elections Committee be charged with the task of redesigning and simplifying the WRTC Website to, in part, facilitate membership. The motion passed (x2) with no No Vote.**

**The Committee is recommending that the Council consider elections every even year in the Fall, four (4) year terms, no term limits (in view of the fact that there are few volunteers) and that the terms remain staggered.**

Rick stated that the WRTC must decide which seats are up for membership in the Fall of 2016 – 3 or 4 and who. Rick did state that he would not be running for election so his seat will be open and that there are already 2 open seats.

And communication remains a key issue. HOAs, news outlets, etc. must be included to help spread the word, so to speak.

**And to facilitate regularity, Rick Ryan moved and Chuck O'Connell seconded the following motions: (1) That the WRTC meet at the Stevenson Ranch Library – at 6:30 PM the first Wednesday of each month – as its regular location from now on; and (2) That the WRTC meet 11 months per year – every month except July – from now on. Both motions were passed (x3).**

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

Two key issues were addressed: (1) Approving a WRTC Charter ( a draft of which was circulated); and (2) Defining the Area of Representation for the WRTC (maps were circulated). Both issues to be addressed at the August meeting. A final version of the Charter will be made available prior to that meeting. The Area of Representation should be decided and approved at some time as well.

**Rick stated that he could find no requirement that a Charter be drafted and approved but the Committee recommends that the WRTC do so** for obvious reasons.

Draft updated Bylaws would be provided in the Fall.

c. 501(c) (4) corporation Formation- further discussion

Rick reported that there has been no substantial support (none really) for the idea of incorporating, but that discussions would continue.

- d. Communications Committee Update – Website Maintenance; Outreach to HOAs to leverage broader communication.

See items above.

- e. Future Guest Speakers-none scheduled at this time.

G. New Business:

- a. West Ranch Town Council Charter-Rick to discuss

See items above.

- H. Public Comment-( 3 min max per resident)- Speaker Cards for Questions  
There were no additional comments from the audience

- I. Adjournment- NO July Meeting; Next Meeting is Wednesday, August 5, 2015 to be held at Stevenson Ranch Library.  
The Council agreed unanimously to hold all future meetings at the Stevenson Ranch Library.  
The Council also agreed unanimously that all future meetings would continue to be held on the first Wednesday of every month, except there will be no meetings in July, this year, or in the future years.  
The Council adjourned at 8:30 PM