



WINNETKA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

	Chair		Vice Chair	
	JJ Popowich		Marilyn Robinson	
Committee Members				
Dwight Burgess	Herbie Schwartz	Rick Montaine	Raquel Diaz	Mark Haberman

To: Council Members, Public

From: JJ Popowich, Secretary

Date: April 17, 2006

Subject: Public Safety Meeting Minutes for April 17, 2006

1. Call to Order and Committee Members Roll Call.

<i>PS Committee Member</i>	<i>Present</i>	<i>Absent</i>	<i>Excused</i>
JJ Popowich	X		
Marilyn Robinson	X		
Dwight Burgess	X		
Rick Montaine		X	
Raquel Diaz			Excused
Herbie Schwartz	X		
Mark Haberman	X		
Totals	5	0	1

2. Approval of minutes.

2.1. Approved.

3. Public Comments

3.1. N/A

4. State and local government representatives' updates: LAPD, Fire, and any other local, state, or federal officials that wish to attend to discuss items of importance to the Public Safety Committee.

4.1. N/A

5. Discussion and possible action regarding the proposed elementary school on the grounds of Sutter Middle School. We will have a representative of the LAUSD attend the meeting to present the proposal and answer questions.

5.1. Mr. Popowich introduced Joseph Pina from the LAUSD Facility Division.

5.2. Mr. Pina introduced himself. He said this is Valley Region Elementary School #10. He said this is a proposed school and this means that it's under consideration and not definite. He said there are pros and cons. The property is 60,000 sq feet. The proposal would not take any homes. It would be X students for a two semester (traditional track).

He said this has been done before Fulton School in Van Nuys has a span of ages on one campus. He said his job is to gather information and share it with Genetha Eddins and share it with her and she can work with the Winnetka NC to form a larger discussion.

5.3. Ms. Ellen Eckert introduced herself as the Parent Center Director. She is here to share with the Committee some of the concerns she has regarding the school. She said that they first heard of it when the principal mentioned it. She said that this didn't follow procedures where sites are proposed. She said the staff is unhappy with having an elementary school. She addressed the Fulton School and it hasn't been built yet and it doesn't have any real studies to see if it works. There is at least one K-8 school in Sherman Oaks.

Ms. Eckert said that she had visited the five other elementary schools in the general area and all of the schools are low on enrollment. She said that she has spoken to the staff at these schools and they are concerned about losing even more students.

- 5.4. Mr. Schwartz commented that he was one of the people that got the letter and fought the LAUSD that they would take houses in Winnetka, near Woodland Hills.
- 5.5. A stakeholder pointed out that the school attendance is down in this area. He asked if there was anyone being bussed to these schools.
- 5.6. Mr. Pina said that he was not aware of busing at this location.
- 5.7. Ms. Eckert said that the goal is to be on traditional calendar. She pointed out that we are all already on a traditional calendar. She said her concern is that they will build it and then bus students in.
- 5.8. Mr. Pina said there are no plans to bus schools.
- 5.9. Mr. Haberman asked why the schools that are vacant in the Valley are not filled. He referenced a few of the sites.
- 5.10. Ms. Eckert said that she feels it's the communities don't want to see a school in the area.
- 5.11. Mr. Haberman wanted to know why they should take homes or use other facilities.
- 5.12. Mr. Pina said the goal is to build schools where the kids are. They don't want to bus them to this area or out of this area. He said this school is planned for the next 25 years and the population is expected to increase. He pointed out areas in South Gate where areas are open and there are no children in that area.
- 5.13. Mr. Popowich pointed out that this was his concern with the schools. We have schools that exist that are falling down and in disrepair. He pointed out that Winnetka has given out \$2200 for books and another \$3000 is scheduled to be given because these schools can't stock books. He also pointed out that families can't afford to live here anymore as it is.
- 5.14. Mr. Pina expressed that those are valid concerns but he's not from existing schools he's from new schools. This is an issue that we should bring out at a larger community meeting.
- 5.15. Mr. Haberman asked about the safety of the elementary school.
- 5.16. Ms. Eckert explained that she is concerned for that as well. She pointed out that these are young adults and they are experimenting with different things and that's not an environment.
- 5.17. Mr. Popowich pointed out that we have the beginnings of gang problems...taggers
- 5.18. Ms. Eckert also pointed out that there is another safety problem with the traffic around the school. She said they already have 1650 students at the school. There are problems with Winnetka and Valerio and Winnetka St is a main artery that serves Sutter, Winnetka, access to the freeway and Pierce and the West Valley.
- 5.19. Mr. Pina said there would be a traffic study as part of the Environmental Study. He said they would do traffic studies and try mitigation.
- 5.20. Mr. Haberman pointed out that Winnetka & Sherman Way is one of the 10 major problem areas in the Valley.
- 5.21. Mr. Popowich pointed out that we already have problems with the traffic in the area. He referenced the problems we've had with the current admin who has refused to address the issue. Spoke about the response to the last SLO.
- 5.22. Ms. Eckert said that she had set up a community meeting with Genetha. It will be May 17th, at 6:30 PM. She will have several people there to address the community concerns. She also addressed concerns about the cafeteria service in the school as the proposed elementary school so that the current staff would have to serve the additional students.
- 5.23. She said that she was also concerned about the ground in the area which she has been advised would not support the two story building they want to have. She said this will need to be a single story

building and will take up to 3 acres, leaving them with less than the 6 acres required by state law (Rodriquez Law) for the Middle School.

- 5.24. Mr. Pina provided the web site address for the stakeholders to look at the school as it's proposed.
- 5.25. Mr. Haberman asked about high schools and the over crowded conditions.
- 5.26. Mr. Pina said that the closest one here that is currently being built is in Granada Hills. He said that Taft is currently accepting bussed students so that will be relieved as they build the new schools.
- 5.27.

6. Discussion and possible action regarding a stakeholder letter we received about speeding along Mason Ave. The Committee will decide whether this is an issue we want to address as a safety concern or present to Public Works & Transportation.

- 6.1. Mr. Popowich read the letter to the committee. He asked if this is an issue that we want to take on ourselves or if this was an issue that we feel would be better served for Public Works & Transportation.
- 6.2. The committee discussed the idea and concluded that we should have a joint meeting of the two committees and invite the LAPD, DOT, and hold a mini town hall on this issue.

7. Discussion and possible action regarding a flyer that was passed around parts of Winnetka alleging a sex offender half way house. We will be discussing the flyer and asking the LAPD for any updates on what they may be aware of.

- 7.1. Mr. Popowich introduced the discussion.
- 7.2. Mr. Schwartz said that he has spoken to SLO Raigoza and the LAPD is aware of it. He said the building is currently up for sale as an organization. He said that he has driven through the area and viewed the area and has not witnessed any problems in the area. He pointed out that according to SLO Raigoza the organization has been there for seven years.
- 7.3. Mr. Mike Pegosten, Tarzana Treatment Center which oversees this particular house and he is responsible for managing that house. All of the residents are carefully screened. There are no sex offenders or any one with a violent past is in that area. He said that he is available 24 hours to address any concerns. He said that his organization is very concerned about the community.
- 7.4. Mr. Popowich asked if these were people who suffered from alcohol and substance abuse.
- 7.5. Mr. Pegosten yes.
- 7.6. Mr. Aronek said he is an intake coordinator and a former resident. He said that he managed that location as well. He pointed out that the residents are clean when they enter and are constantly tested to ensure they stay clear of problems. There are is no more then half a dozen people there with a two bathroom house. He said they encourage people to work during the day. In the several years they have lived there have been no problems.
- 7.7. Mr. P' Agostin said they are a member of the Sober Living organization in the valley. He pointed out this is an outside organization that watches over these types of houses so that they can self monitor and correct.
- 7.8. 818-426-6953 cell, 818-654-3845 office.
- 7.9. Mr. Popowich asked what the typical stay is.
- 7.10. Mr. Aronek said the normal stay is 90 days.
- 7.11. Mr. P' Agostin said that they generally move into the area in normal housing situations.
- 7.12. Mr. Haberman asked about the police calls in the area.
- 7.13. Mr. Aronek said that he is not aware of any drug overdoses. The most serious incident has been noise complaints.
- 7.14. Mr. Burgess asked if there was an on site manager.

- 7.15. Mr. P'Agostin said there is an on site manager.
- 7.16. Mr. Burgess said that the problem is once they see a bunch of people in a house then people tend to place a label on the house.
- 7.17. Mr. Haberman pointed out that the flyer doesn't seem to be true based on what we are hearing.
- 7.18. Mr. Popowich said that he even received a copy of the flyer from Julie Montgomery at Tarzana Treatment Center.
- 7.19. Mr. Haberman asked about abandoned cars.
- 7.20. Mr. P'Agostin commented they did have one abandon car recently that they had towed. He went on to say that they have a very strict criminal check to ensure that nothing goes on.
- 7.21. Mr. Aronek commented that they instruct residents not to congregate in the front yard, visitors are limited, and there is a strict curfew. They even go so far as to dim the lights and keep radios low.
- 7.22. David Aronek 818-470-8825 cell. 818-654-3807 office.

8. Continued discussion and possible action on creating an Emergency Preparedness Plan for Winnetka. This will include a discussion on storage depots for emergency items, arranging and promoting CERT training courses in Winnetka, promoting Red Cross training and CPR certification. May include a discussion on the appropriation of funds from the WNC general fund for outreach and materials.

- 8.1. Ms. Robinson said that she is working with Lucy Mally from Reseda to put the CERT program together.

9. Discussion and possible action on purchasing emergency first aid kits for distribution through local schools. This may involve determining size of kit, distribution method/timing, and appropriation of funds from the WNC General fund.

- 9.1. Mr. Popowich introduced.
- 9.2. A representative from Alamar Products was in attendance to show his products. He said that most people have kits that are dated from 94'. He pointed out that the food only has a shelf life of 3 years and the water has a life of 5 years. He said they do provide to various organizations. He said their products contain food, water, light sticks, duct tape, medical supplies (first aid kits), and whatever else is requested. He said that Mr. Burgess spoke about schools. He said they do put together kits for students that include water, food, and blankets

He pointed out that he has done similar kits for Reseda and other area NCs.

- 9.3. Mr. Burgess asked about the costs for the student's kit.
- 9.4. Ms. Litt commented that the student kit would be about \$2.00.
- 9.5. Mr. Burgess outlined the student emergency preparedness fair idea.
- 9.6. Mr. Popowich agreed and said that one other idea is to provide them to graduates of the CERT training program that they are putting together.
- 9.7. Mr. Burgess asked if they would work with us on the prices, and they would work with the NC on the prices.
- 9.8. Mr. Litt also said that they have a pet kit.
- 9.9. Mr. Haberman asked about the pet kit and suggested they include a leash in the kit as well.
- 9.10. Mr. Popowich said the next step would be to make the contact with Sunnybrae if that is the target school to start to see what the limitations they would place on us.
- 9.11. Ms. Litt asked about the age group.

- 9.12. Mr. Popowich said it would be for the elementary kids. The idea is have an emergency preparedness day where we can educate the kids and give them the item to take home. He said that this way they can tell their parents what they learned and spread the idea of emergency preparedness to their parents who are not going to come to meetings to learn.
- 9.13. Mr. Haberman asked about the shelf of the smaller bars.
- 9.14. Mr. Litt pointed out that they vacuum packed ones are 5 years.
- 9.15. Ms. Robinson asked about the cost of the fanny pack.
- 9.16. Mr. Litt said he would provide a price for the fanny pack.
- 9.17.

10. Discussion and possible action to take a position or comment on Mayor Villaraigosa’s proposed LAPD Build up plan.

- 10.1. Mr. Popowich introduced the item and said that he would have to send the plan to everyone for review so we can take a position at the next meeting. He outlined the plan

11. Discussion and possible action on updates to the Runnymede Park issues.

- 11.1. Mr. Popowich said that we only have one or two stakeholders complain about the area. I discussed this with Octaviano at Councilman Zine’s office and he is holding a meeting with Laura Bauraenfiend from Recreation & Parks.

12. Committee Business –

- A. Comments on Committee Member’s own activities/ brief announcements.
- B. Brief response to statements made or questions posed by persons exercising their general public comment rights.
- C. Introduction of any new issues for consideration by the Committee at its next meeting/request that the item be placed on the next meeting’s agenda.
- D. Requests for Committee Members to research issues and report back to the Committee at a future time.

13. Adjournment

<i>Committee Member</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Abstain</i>	<i>Notes</i>
JJ Popowich	X			
Marilyn Robinson	X			
Dwight Burgess	X			
Rick Montaine	X			
Raquel Diaz	X			
Herbie Schwartz	X			
Mark Haberman	X			
Totals	7	0	0	