



MINUTES – GENERAL MEETING

Crescenta Valley Town Council

CRESCENTA VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY

2900 Community Avenue, La Crescenta, CA 91214

Council Mailing Address: Post Office Box 8676, La Crescenta, CA 91224-0676

www.crescentavalleytowncouncil.org

January 15, 2009

1. Call to Order 7:00 p.m. & Welcome President Pierce
2. Invocation Rev. Paige Eaves, CV Methodist Church
3. Flag Salute CVHS Jr. ROTC
4. Roll Call Council Recording Secretary Davis
 - Present: Council members Andrus, Arnold, Beyt, Davis, Erickson, Goldsworthy, van Bremen, Battles, Lauterback, and President Pierce. Councilmember Beatty arrived 7:05 p.m. and Councilmember Thomas arrived 7:15 p.m.
5. Comments from President & Introduction of Council Members
 - Welcome and introduction of Council members
6. Comments from the Community & Introductions
 - a. CV Chamber of Commerce – President Jean Maluccio and former President Howard Hakes
 - January 21st mixer at 321 Talent, 3131 Foothill Blvd. and the dual chamber mixer will be February 11th at CV Insurance’s Foothill Blvd. office. CVI is celebrating its 40th anniversary.
 - The Sheriff Support Group and the Chamber - March 15th day at the races at Santa Anita
 - Introduction of Sharon Hales, former Town Council President, current Director of the Arts Council
 - Saturday, February 7th “Brass Bass” at La Crescenta Presbyterian Church
 - Saturday, May 2nd CV Film Festival for filmmakers in the area at the Center for Spiritual Living
 - This summer – free Shakespeare in the Park
 - Introduction of Council members Thomas and Beatty
 - b. Montrose-Verdugo City Chamber of Commerce – Jane Kane
 - Installation of officers delayed until February

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- They are working with other Chambers and the Shopping Park to keep our businesses busy
 - The Chamber's office is open Monday – Thursday. Their phone number is (818) 249-7171 and you can also leave a message on the answering machine.
- c. CV Water District – Board President Vasken Yardemian
- Former President of the Crescenta Valley Town Council
 - Their financial situation is healthy. They are self-sufficient and most revenue is from water sales and waste collection fees. The Water District buys water from the MWD (wholesaler) who is raising rates every year and the sewer is the Los Angeles Sanitation Department. Proposition 50 allocation to Los Angeles City is on hold now. It will give us an emergency water supply.
 - There is a Capital improvement project to replace a water main – The first phase is nearly complete and the second phase starts next month
 - Water Awareness Day is Saturday, May 16th, from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
 - The CVWD is daring to free itself from the electric company by installing electric panels on wells
- d. Los Angeles County Parks – Al Evans was unable to attend
- e. CV High School – Principal Linda Evans
- In December, they were notified that they were a U.S. News and World Report World Report Silver Medal High Achiever. This means they are in the top 2-3% of schools in the country.
7. First Responder's Reports
- a. CV Sheriff Station – Sgt. Jorge Valdivia
- December 2008 crime statistics and a comparison of 2008 to 2007
 - 1 robbery was a Citibank robbery
 - 40% drop robberies; No rapes versus three in 2007; Aggravated Assaults 13 in 2008 and 31 in 2007; Burglaries 82 in 2008 and 113 in 2007 ; Larceny theft 2.4% drop; Narcotics 81 2008 and 74 in 2007; Vandalism 198 2008 versus 371 2007.
 - Auto theft – Three so far in January
 - The volunteer program delivered 173 gift baskets of food, toys and Ralphs gift cards to families. Thank you for all your support and contributions!
 - Two new explorers graduated to the academy
8. Report on Walgreens site development - Introduction by Council Vice President Beyt
- a. Jim Schumaker, a consultant on the property and Tab Johnson of Rich Development
- They are shoring up and the grading is done. They will be finishing the basic store in July and Walgreens will accept the space and open in late August or early September.
 - There are no changes in the design from the plans previously approved
 - They are ready to possibly start digging Monday

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- They would like to give credit to Rich Toyon and the former Foothill Design Committee as the elevation design originated with Rich Toyon. They would also like to recognize Sharon Raghavachary.

- b. CHP – Officer Andre Primeaux
 - December 2008 statistics
 - 9 non-injury collisions; 6 minor injury collisions; no major injury or fatality collisions
 - Only 3 DUI arrests
 - Still compiling statistics for all of 2008
 - More than likely, speed was a factor in these traffic collisions in the rain
 - He will check on the implementation of signals on the freeway onramps

- c. Los Angeles County Fire – Stephanie English
 - There was a prescribed burn in Descanso Gardens, 8 acres for mitigation for future fires
 - The Crescenta Valley is working on a Fire Safe Council, an effort supported by our Fire Chief. Encouragement to be a part of that effort and there is funding available.
 - This week there was an article in the LA Times – Southern California Fire Chiefs debate the Stay-and-Defend program. The Fire Department’s position is to please immediately comply with evacuation orders. This is training and information if you are trapped or left behind.
 - Discussion about fire behavior
 - Request to notify the Council so it put prescribed burns on the Council’s Web site
 - Call the CVWD and speak with Dennis Erdman regarding last weekend’s gel demo

- Jorge Valdivia – For Neighborhood Watch programs or safety questions, his direct line is (818) 236-4021. Mike Lawler discussed 3900 Park Place. He was approached by friends about concerns about the vacant property. President Pierce connected with the Sheriff and Councilmember Goldsworthy and Deputy Valdivia contacted with the property owner. The tenants left in September and the Sheriffs requested a trespassing letter. The Property Management Company is getting the property ready for rental again and is taking applications now. Mr. Lawler expressed thanks on behalf of the neighbors.

- 9. Report on La Crescenta Library project
 - a. Rita Hadjimanoukian – Supervisor Antonovich staff representative
 - Recognized Councilmember Grace Andrus for all her hard work over the past few years and presented a Commendation
 - Congratulations to President Pierce
 - “Proposition 8 Decline in Value Assessment Application” to lower your property taxes. If you purchased your home June 2004 to now, the County is doing this automatically doing it for you.
 - If you were a homeowner prior to June 2004, you can go to www.assessor.lacounty.gov to get the Proposition 8 Form to give to the assessor to re-assess your property
 - Business property owners must do this application themselves

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- If you receive official looking documents saying people will re-assess your property, be wary, as LA County will do it for you for free if you purchased your home from June 2004 to now.
 - Will arrange a site visit for the Council and the Library Committee in the next few months
 - Discussion that the 2007 Council was in opposition to the 710 tunnel. It is a Caltrans project to drill and test soil. To oppose the tunnel, write to Caltrans.
- b. Mr. Jason Kim – Los Angeles County Public Works – Project Management Development
- Construction is ongoing and 80% complete
 - Within a few months, the construction company will be done
 - Hope that the grand opening will be later this year, so the project is on target
 - The sidewalk is being replaced. It has been poured on Sanborn and will also be done on La Crescenta and Foothill.
 - New street lights will be installed
 - Don and Esther Norbut expressed serious concerns regarding pedestrians and drivers. The fencing cuts into the traffic lane 4 feet and there is no sidewalk on either side of La Crescenta. They watched as a young lady jumped into the bushes on the west side of La Crescenta to avoid being hit by a passing car. The County hopes to get the sidewalk done fast to give us more room to walk and drive.
 - Sgt. Armena will beef up motorcycle patrols to slow traffic.
 - Request to have the radar trailer on La Crescenta, just below Franklin, before Sanborn
 - Suggestion to cut the bushes back. The PWD will check on ownership of the property, check the construction schedule and try to finish sidewalks as soon as possible
 - Question regarding building a pedestrian passageway. There is not enough space.
 - Question regarding the possibility of 3 traffic lanes coming down La Crescenta
 - Question about one entrance and one exit to the upper lot from La Crescenta Ave. The possibility of an entrance or exit on Sanborn is not feasible due to the grade difference. It is Right Turn Only out of the parking lot and no left turn allowed from northbound La Crescenta into the parking lot. Sharon Raghavachary mentioned reasons why the entrance is not on Sanborn as she thinks the upper lot parking is mainly for employees or meetings if the Community Room is used at night.
 - Anna Su expressed concern about the driveway traffic blocking La Crescenta traffic.
 - Esther Norbut asked about the lower parking off Dyer. If handicapped, do you have to walk the length of the property to get to the ramp that goes up into the library? Mr. Kim said there is a main entrance ramp on Foothill and another from the lower parking lot into the library. There are at least 2 “Handicap Only” parking spaces in the upper parking lot.
- Steve Johnson – District Director for State Assembly member Anthony Adams
 - The State Assembly talked about the state budget again today. Next year’s proposed budget is already out. This is a very unique, different year. In the fall, the State issues revenue notes estimating the revenue for the following January to April. The State counts on payroll taxes, but as the unemployment rate goes up, that revenue goes down.

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- Question regarding how the State can afford the study for the 710 Freeway. That money has been put aside. On December 17th, the Governor stopped all projects that use bond money.
10. Report on Planting of London Plane Trees along Foothill Blvd.
- a. Richard Toyon & Sharon Raghavachary
- 18 new London Plane 24” box trees to be planted on Foothill Blvd. as a result of these two people. 3 years ago, working with Daniel Gillis with the Streets Department and the Foothill Design Committee formed and looking for ways to immediately upgrade the boulevard, including a spot park and street trees. The first phase identified 80-90 tree wells. Crate Myrtles grow out to exactly sign height and the most common street tree is the London Plane, which is drought tolerant and matures out above sign height. Stuart Byles created a survey and map for Daniel Gillis. Of the 53 trees planted during Phase 1, 40-45 have survived. For the second phase the money was not there, but a Daniel Gillis knew of a grant through the AQMD. Three years later, we have 18 more street trees!
 - Discussion about trying to get businesses to value the trees.
 - PWD maintains new trees 1-2 years. The Council has an adopt-a-tree program to take care of and occasionally water the trees. Please see us if you’d like to help.
 - Suggestion for the Web site to have an Adopt-a-tree section. Webmaster Danny Andrus and Councilmember Battles are already working on this.
 - The Library will have 3 new trees and Walgreens will plant 3 more
- CV Town Council Neighbor of the Month Recognition. Rich Toyon was awarded a Certificate for Neighbor of the Month.
11. Public Comments - None
12. Council Business
- a. 2008 Final Treasurer’s Report & Audit Council Vice President Beyt and Councilmember Davis
- By-Laws allow the Council president to choose between an outside auditor or an internal committee of 3 Council members. President Pierce requested the 2008 audit committee consist of Council members Davis, Erickson and Thomas. The committee members met to review the accounting records to reconcile the 2007 audit to the December 31, 2008 ending bank balance. Commendation to former Treasurer Beyt for an excellent job and for computerizing the records. The Committee prepared and signed the Annual Audit Report and it was presented to President Pierce.
 - Future reports will be run through the last day of the month to avoid confusion during future audits
- c. Presentation and approval of 2009 Council Budget Council Treasurer van Bremen
- Discussion about the Election budget. In 2007, the mailer was \$2,500 and the increase in voter turnout was 82 votes. Suggestion that a continual flyer, not any one flyer, will increase voter turnout.

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- Motion to approve the budget made by Councilmember Erickson and seconded by Councilmember Arnold. Motion approved, 9-0.

- d. Correspondence Council Corresponding Secretary Arnold
 - Alex Stupakis emailed regarding lights being installed at CV High football field and Two Strike Park. AYSO offered to pay for the lights. This is to be addressed with Principal Evans.
 - A fax was received from Mrs. Neilson asking to please support Walgreens being built on Foothill Blvd.

- Public Comment by Rich Toyon
 - Walgreens – They start with a paradigm for design. Back in 2003, they agreed to certain stipulations regarding the setback and easement in the back. The FDC got the County to relax the setback to 10’ and abandonment of the old easement at the rear property line. In exchange, the FDC asked for better architecture. One required naturally occurring river rock and the current design has manufactured rock.
 - Mr. Schumacher said it is in the works, but is just not on the plans.
 - Suggestion that Mr. Toyon come to the February Executive Committee meeting

- b. Announcement and approval of 2009 Council Committees & Chair Assignments
New Committees include CV Clean and Green chaired by President Pierce assisted by Paul Rabinov; Legislative Committee chaired by Councilmember Andrus; and an Emergency Preparedness Committee chaired by Councilmember Lauterback assisted by Paul Dutton and Roger Young.
 - The Scholarship Committee has been broken into its own and is chaired by Councilmember Beyt
 - Motion for approval by Councilmember Beatty and seconded by Councilmember Beyt. No discussion. Motion approved, 9-0

- e. Committee Reports from Council (new committee chair reports)
 - Executive Committee - President Pierce
 - The Public Meeting will be moved to the CV Water District Boardroom

 - Land Use Committee - President Pierce
 - The entire Council is on the Committee. Research will be provided by Council members Beyt, Andrus and Thomas
 - The County Board of Supervisors Meeting on February 24 will include approval of the Foothill CSD
 - That same February 24 BOS meeting will include a discussion on the Glenada property
 - There is an April 28 Board hearing on the CUP for subdivision on Rockpine and a cell tower case where the applicant, Sprint was required to post a notice 30 days prior to the hearing, but the information posted was incorrect

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- Art Commission - Councilmember Thomas
 - We will be getting our County stage used for various events
 - Will work with Parks to use the stage and we want to hold events at a specific site at CV Park
- Banner Committee - Councilmember Erickson
 - Removed half of Aren Knighton's banner in order to repair it
 - Sergeant James C. Hohenstein's banner is up between Rosemont & Briggs
- Community Events Committee - Councilmember Erickson
 - The annual Arbor Day ceremony is being planned. There will be a meeting at Councilmember Erickson's home on Tuesday January 20th at 7:00 p.m.
- Election and Nominating Committee - Councilmember Davis
 - Encouragement for new candidates to run for the Town Council and we will be working with Committees to publicize and get the word out to the Public about the 2009 elections.
 - Would like to address some comments regarding absentee ballots for the election
- Finance and Fundraising Committee - Councilmember van Bremen
 - The most successful fundraiser last year was the pancake breakfast done in cooperation with CV High. Spoke with Principal Evans about holding it in October.
 - The CV Chamber's Hometown Country Fair will be in April (a 2 day event).
- Flag Committee - Councilmember Thomas
 - Finding locations to fly the flag and will order the flags
- Outreach Committee - Councilmember Beatty
 - Will be attending a tri-chamber meeting at the Sheriff's Station regarding National Night out, to be held Tuesday, August 4th
 - March 12th is the Mayor's prayer breakfast – speaker to be announced later
 - The Smart-a-thon will be March 25th
- Reminder that the Council's Web site is www.crescentavalleytowncouncil.org
 - Encouragement to post events on the Community calendar on the Council's Web site
- Parks – Cheryl Davis
 - Looking to working with the Youths and Seniors Committee for events at CV, Two Strike, and Pickens Canyon Spot Park, as well as with the Community Events Committee on Arbor Day and the Art Commission to use the County's portable stage for events.
 - Regarding the dog park, we anticipate approval of the dog park Policy and Guidelines in January. The County of Los Angeles Planning Department has

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completed the feasibility study regarding sites that were proposed for a dog park, although the results are not yet available. Proposed County Code changes have been drafted and will hopefully be approved in late March. The next meeting with County of LA officials is scheduled for February 18th.

- Developing a movie in the park summer season and music in the park in both parks and using the stage
- Will continue to work with Friends of CV Parks

- Public Relations Committee - Councilmember Arnold
 - Working on a newsletter for the Web site, while continuing to publicize in the newspapers
 - When you call the Council at (818) 248-9387, you get an answering machine. Councilmember Arnold will call you back.

- Scholarship Committee - Councilmember Beyt
 - Council members Davis, Councilmember van Bremen and President Pierce Steve to meet next week.
 - We will continue with the Silent Auctions
 - We hope to have an aggressive program due to the increased difficulty of raising funds in the current economic times

- Streets, Roadways, and Public Safety Committee - Councilmember Goldsworthy
 - 9-10 things are already in the works, some waiting for PWD studies
 - Waiting for pedestrian lighting in front of Rosemont middle school
 - Discussion about strictly ticketing for parking issues - President Pierce addressed this with Captain Silversparre and parking enforcement. They will run tags and if they match up with the resident, they will not ticket.
 - Will work with the County to ensure the curb is painted red where ever a fire hydrant is located, even if it 10 feet back from the curb
 - La Crescenta and Prospect turn lights – Reviewed by PWD and recommends a designated left turn lane northbound on La Crescenta

- Youths and Seniors Committee - Councilmember Battles
 - Attended a CV Cares meeting yesterday – Principal Evans started a speaker series for the parents, and the first is February 5th at 7:00 p.m. on substance abuse. The General public is invited, but please don't bring the kids.
 - Saturday, January 24th 9:00-11:30 a.m. at Windsor Manor – A panel of experts for questions regarding banking, long term care, wills and trusts
 - Compiling list of all Senior activities and events

- CV Clean and Green Committee - President Pierce
 - Paul Rabinov is working on the landscaping on the reservoir area with California natural planting, approved by the CVWD
 - Cleanup of the La Crescenta off ramp will be Saturday, January 31, 8:00a-8:30a

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- Legislation Committee - Councilmember Andrus
 - The Presidential inauguration will be Tuesday, January 20th at 8:30 a.m. our time
 - U.S. Congressman David Dreier's office is working on border control security, the economy, and counterfeit-proof SS cards
 - Governor Schwarzenegger's office emailed the State of the State address, which discussed the economic crisis
 - State Senator Bob Huff applauds the Governor's efforts on the State budget
 - Emergency Preparedness Committee - Councilmember Lauterback
 - Committee members consist of Paul Dutton (CV CERT), Roger Young (Fire Safe Council), Council members Goldsworthy and Davis. We will bring all the teams, including the Fire and Sheriff Departments together to educate the community, get school involvement, and volunteers from the community.
13. Items from Council
- a. Announcements from each Council member
- DVDs for Montrose Christmas Parade available for \$15 montroseparade@charter.net or call President Pierce.
 - February 26th Senator Carol Lu will hold an open house 4:30-6:30 p.m.
 - CV Historical Society – Monday, January 19th Remembering flood of 1934. 7:00 p.m. at the Church of Religious Science
 - December 2008 Minutes – Motion for approval made by Councilmember Erickson and seconded by Councilmember Beyt with changes requested by Councilmember Beatty via email today. Councilmember Lauterback requested checking the spelling of her last name. Approved with changes as noted, 9-0.
 - In November 2008, the Council asked Glendale Planning to adopt the Foothill CSD. There is a discussion regarding the Foothill Lumber site by the Glendale DRB on February 12. President Pierce would like a motion to draft a letter to request the DRB to keep the CVTC informed of findings made on Feb 12. Motion made by Councilmember Erickson and seconded by Councilmember Beatty. Reminder that the CSD is available on the Council's Web site. A request was made that the Council re-read the Bylaws regarding signing correspondence (Article V, Section A, Subsection 10). Motion approved, 8-1.
14. Executive Meeting location change to CVWD Boardroom 7 pm Thursday, February 5th
15. Next Council Meeting . . . 7 pm Thursday, February 19th at CVHS Library
16. Adjournment at 10:06p in memory of Laura Thornbury