

Minutes

July 15, 2010

La Crescenta Library Community Room

www.crescentavalleytowncouncil.org

1. President Davis called the meeting to order shortly after 7 p.m.
2. Councilmember Goldsworthy led the flag salute
3. Pastor Paige Eaves of the Methodist church led the invocation
4. Councilmember Beatty recognized Betty Fitzgerald with a tribute, followed by a moment of silence
5. President Davis took the roll call. In attendance were Councilmembers Beyt, Goldsworthy, Thomas, van Bremen (came late), Battles, Beatty, Kroeker and Davis. Absent were Councilmembers Erickson, Thornbury, Mattersteig, and Casalegno
6. The minutes for June 17, 2010 were approved following a motion and a second (Beyt/Beatty).
7. Public Comments:
 1. Roger Young from CV Fire Safe Council noted that there have been no bear issues in the last 30 days, after the Fire Safe Council held a meeting to educate people about bears. Mr. Young noted that August 28 is the first anniversary of the Station Fire. The Fire Safe Council will be holding an event to acknowledge the day at Upper Canyonside, Briggs Terrace. There will be a demonstration of removal of hazardous fuel and safe home gardening.
 2. Steve Pierce from the Crescenta Valley Chamber of Commerce announced Summer Nights on the Plaza, Thursday July 29 at 6 p.m. at the City Hall Plaza and, secondly, July 31, 8:30 a.m. clean-up of La Crescenta offramp; Mr. Pierce made a personal public comment regarding the proliferation of signage promoting businesses and candidacies. He asked that the Council raise the issue of a possible ordinance with the County Board of Supervisors.
 3. Dennis Erdman from the Water District announced that the District will continue its budget discussion at the July 20 regular meeting. He noted that water conservation has continued to be good and he commended the community for its efforts.
 4. Mike Lawler from CVCA announced CVCA's next meeting July 28 at 7 p.m. at Dunsmore Community Room. The development at the former Plumb Crazy property will be discussed.
 5. Anne McNeill commented that she has been noticing what appears to be drug dealing on her street (Alabama) and requested direction on where to report it.

8. First Responder's Reports:

Deputy Jorge Valdivia, Community Relations Director, provided the La Crescenta Crime Statistics for the month of June, 2010. He announced a Blood Drive at the Sheriff's Station from 9 - 9:30 a.m. July 20 to assist Huntington Memorial Hospital. He also announced National Night Out, August 3, with local events held at the Ralph's Market parking lot from 6 to 8 p.m., to include fingerprinting.

President Davis thanked officer Valdivia and Councilmember Goldsworthy for their assistance at the Fourth of July events.

9. Community Reports

Public Comments:

Craig Wilson expressed his concern regarding the former Plumb Crazy property, indicating that the proposed development came as a surprise. President Davis announced that she and Councilmember Beyt met with the developer on July 13 to express the community's concern about the Moreton fig tree on the property. President Davis and Councilmember Beyt retained an arborist and learned that the tree is already distressed. The owner of the property, George Voskanian, told Ms. Davis and Mr. Beyt that he does not want to harm the tree and promised to retain an arborist in connection with any construction activity in the vicinity of the tree. President Davis indicated that the plans for the property were approved in April, 2009, prior to the adoption of new standards in October, 2009. The plans are in compliance with County Codes. The owner said he is happy to discuss the color of the planned building and is willing to change to La Crescenta rock. The plans approved a building of 35 feet in height. President Davis noted that the fig tree is not a protected tree under county ordinances.

Mike Lawler expressed his concerns about recent developments and his concern that developments be monitored more closely.

Ines Chessum suggested that the vacant lot at the corner of Rosemont and Orange presented an opportunity for a pocket park and volunteered her help to support the project.

Paul Rabinov from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy explained that he is past one year in his two year term on the Conservancy and that the position alternates between La Crescenta and Altadena. He noted that state funding for parks has been frozen, but that bond funds from Prop. 84 are being freed up for catch up on park maintenance and improvements. He noted that Prop. 21 on the November ballot proposes a \$18 increase on vehicle license fees to support state parks. Mr. Rabinov explained that there is a subgroup of the Conservancy that meets monthly to discuss the trails in the Eastern Rim of Valley Corridor. Mr. Rabinov explained that the group has developed a map for an updated trail that will surround the entire San Fernando Valley. Mr. Rabinov noted that La Crescenta is the only community in the region without direct access to the trail.

Marta Wiggins, La Crescenta Library librarian, introduced the Summer Reading Challenge for adults, teens and children. Prizes are available for reading books. Ms. Wiggins explained that the library was closed at the beginning of the month because the air conditioning failed. She explained that the library has had ongoing issues with air conditioning, heating and severe technical difficulties with the computers. Ms. Wiggins said that 90 people attended a children's

program, Last Days of the Dinosaurs, and a smaller group attended a Water Efficiency Landscaping adult program. On Saturday July 17, there is a Magic Show and a program by the LA Jazz Collective. Teen activities have also been well attended.

Councilmember Van Bremen discussed the CVTC pancake breakfast scheduled for October 23, 2010 and explained opportunities to bid on hot air balloons with funds supporting the Council.

10. Community Trail Presentation

Mike Claessent spoke and indicated that he was concerned about the proposed trail. His house is adjacent to the end of the proposed trail. He expressed concerns regarding protection from flooding, safety, ADA compliance, and said he believed this would be a taking of his property that would interfere with his quiet enjoyment.

Frank Moreno and Francis Yee from LA County Department of Parks and Recreation, presented the proposal for the trail that would commence at Orange Avenue and end at Pine Glen Road, traversing through Two Strike Park and flood control areas. The trail gate that leads to the top of the trail would be open from dawn to dusk. Improvements would be made to the existing trail below Two Strike Park and to the area within Two Strike Park. A new entry would be added at the baseball park. Fencing would be improved. Mr. Moreno said that he and Mr. Yee were instructed to develop a trail that would eventually hook up to Mt. Lukens. The funding for the trail would come from Prop. A, Safe Neighborhood Act, and Prop 40. The funds allocated have been approved for use on the overall proposed trail. The trail would be for use by the community and the neighborhood, with no accommodations for parking.

A number of residents of the areas adjacent to the trail expressed concerns regarding safety and interference with privacy and expressed frustration that notice was not provided sooner. Mr. Moreno stated that the funding became available quickly, but that it is still a conceptual design that would need flood control approval. One resident indicated that Supervisor Antonovich's office indicated that they would love for people from outside the community come to access this trail.

President Davis indicated that Parks and Recreation would be asked to come back for a second meeting for further community discussion. She indicated that Chris Stone from Flood Control will be attending the next Council meeting.

11. Council Business

Councilmember Battles addressed email communications received by the Council related to developments, including one who identified arborists to assist in saving the Moreton Fig Tree; emails were also received expressing opposing views on the development of medians on Foothill.

Councilmember Van Bremen presented the treasurer's report which was moved and seconded (Battles/Goldsworthy) and adopted.

12. Committee Reports and Items form Council

Councilmember Thomas indicated that the Council had requested the County to conduct a study on bike racks for Foothill and that the study is underway.

Councilmember Goldsworthy explained that a study was conducted regarding safety at an intersection near Crescenta Valley High School and determined to add red curbs to restrict parking but no stop sign. The County is reviewing safety options for Park Place and Waltonia, which has been the subject of prior discussion at Council meetings.

President Davis congratulated Councilmember Erickson for her new grandson. She announced that she attended an Oak Tree hearing at which Mark Anderson was granted an Oak Tree permit with many conditions attached.

Councilmember Kroeker expressed his support for hiking trails.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:11 p.m. in memory of Betty Fitzgerald.