



MINUTES – GENERAL MEETING

Crescenta Valley Town Council

CRESCENTA VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA

2900 Community Avenue, La Crescenta, CA 91214

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

www.crescentavalleytowncouncil.org

June 18, 2009

1. Call to Order & Welcome at 7:05 p.m. President Steve Pierce
2. Flag Salute CVHS Jr. ROTC
3. Invocation MSgt. Wilson A. Leguizamon, USAF (Ret)
4. Roll Call Council Corresponding Secretary Liz Arnold
 - Present: Council members Arnold, Beyt, Erickson, Goldsworthy, Thomas, Battles, Lauterback, and President Pierce.
 - Absent: Council members Andrus, Davis, van Bremen, and Beatty.
5. Approval of May 21st Council Minutes – Motion by Beyt carried with correction that letter we sent was to “Walgreens,” not “Wal-Mart.”
6. Town Council Beautification Award Recipient – Lloyd and Denise Rucker, 2039 Montrose Ave.
 - Councilmember Battles presented the award to the Ruckers and Barbie accepted and read a letter that her dad wrote stating how sorry he was to have to be absent and the history of the property.
 - Report from Sharon Hales on the latest developments on the Verdugo Hills Golf Course. Draft Environmental Impact Report was just released for the golf course which addresses the esthetic, recreation and traffic impacts at Pennsylvania and Honolulu. Report is paid for by the Developer. Now the community can comment, and then the final report will be issued. The final report must address every issue brought up by the community. Please write letters to councilmember Wendy Gruel. There are 60 days open for comments and we have to ask for an extension. Sharon is asking that the Crescenta Valley Town Council write a letter requesting an extension of the draft EIR. There is a Town Hall meeting on July 7 in Tujunga at North Valley City Hall. The Developer will make a presentation prior to the July 7 community forum.
 - Also in the Crescenta Valley Town Council letter responding to the draft EIR, bring forth concerns that have not been addressed such as the traffic impact on Tujunga Canyon and wildlife.
 - Check the website at www.savethegolfcourse.org.
 - Sharon Hales showed signs advertising the website. She is asking that members of our community display them as well. If displayed, the Committee will come and collect them at the end of the month so that they can be saved and displayed at another time of year.
7. Report from CV Water District – Director Kathy Ross
 - 2 subjects: conservation effort and the budget

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- Conservation effort: increased to a level 5 conservation alert. Brought brochures that explain the levels and what the responsibilities are now. We are currently in the orange level. Blue is voluntary, Green is increased, Yellow is extraordinary, Orange is rationing, and Red is critical. When in orange, residents can only water on Tuesday and Saturday, not between 10:00 am 5:00 p.m., and not on windy or rainy days. Anyone in violation can be reported to the Water District. The first violation results in a letter, the second violation is a stronger letter, and the third time a flow restrictor will be installed with a fine of \$50 to put it on and \$50 to take it off. Instructions in many languages are available at the office.
 - The Metropolitan Water District cannot pump enough water until the smelt are dealt with so they are reducing the amount we get and tripling the cost. By implementing a huge increase this year, the CVWD is trying to not have to pay the next tier. They are working on the budget for next year and it will be presented July 7. They are making many budget cuts. Check the CVWD website, www.cvwd.com for the budget.
8. Report from CV Sheriff Capt. David Silversparre
- Residential burglaries remain low. Vehicle burglaries are up and down. Thursday nights are popular for vehicle burglaries. There was a recent attempted robbery at knife point on the field at Crescenta Valley High School. Keep your doors and windows locked to keep yourself from being victimized.
 - Vandalism at the high school - There are some patterns and they are working with the officers at the school.
 - The reverse 911 system was used this month for a missing person and the system worked very well. The man was found.
9. Report from CHP Officer Andre Primeaux
- Statistics report was given.
 - 12 collisions in La Crescenta, two led to DUI arrests.
 - Looking for seat belt and cell phone violations.
 - Blood drive on Wednesday, July 22.
 - Office of traffic safety is distributing pamphlets with driving tips.
- Councilmember Battles thanked both gentlemen for the part that they are playing and the plans that they have for traffic safety around the schools and a pilot program will be implemented at Monte Vista.
 - Dave Ford from Southern California Edison. Dave asked to defer questions to next council meeting. SCE is starting an investment initiative in Southern California and will be injecting \$5Billion into the infrastructure for independence from foreign oil. The initiative is to be 20% renewable power by 2010. There are many challenges but they are committed to doing this. The ultimate goal is to be 60% renewable power. The recent rate increase averages out system wide to be about 2%.
10. Recognition of CV Valley Sun Editor Robin Goldsworthy and reporters Ruth Longoria and Mary O'Keefe
- President Pierce made the presentation and the recipients received a standing ovation
11. Report from Caltrans – Marco Ruano, Chief, Office of Freeway Operations & Staff
- Questions & comments from public regarding issues of the 210 ramp metering.

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- This project exists because traffic congestion relief across the State of California was initiated by the Governor. Caltrans is trying to use smart meters and this was an opportunity to put meters and communication and data collection systems in place. Congestion is increasing and finances were available. There are 1,000 ramps in the District that are metered. This was needed in our District but it takes time to get used to.
- The project is complete and 39 ramp meters have been turned on, and they will be turning on the meters at five connectors. They hope to be ready to turn them on in the fall of this year.
- Question about not notifying the community that the meters were going to be turned on. Caltrans issued a press release and notified us last year that these would be turned on. This was affected by the budget crisis. The timing was bad when they got the okay to turn them on. Generally, they would give more notification, but it just didn't happen this time.
- Discussion that the traffic problem created on La Crescenta by the meters is now worse. The ramp meter was turned on and the first day was terrible, but it is only a problem for 40 minutes. They didn't observe a problem with the kids. There are people making an illegal turn on to the freeway traveling southbound on La Crescenta Avenue. They will ask for more enforcement. Caltrans request that we give them a chance it has just been turned on. Only one car per green is going, but this ramp allows two cars per green. It takes about a month for people to get used to what they are supposed to do. Please give us a chance because the community will benefit when the lights are working as travel time on the freeway is going to improve, and probably has already.
- Suggestion to paint the street to make the lanes turning onto the freeway clearer. The lights are turned on at 6:00 a.m. and when the traffic on the freeway is traveling under 55 mph, then the lights start to meter the traffic.
- Discussion that the light appears to be turned on and red where the light is angled toward traffic. The signal is on the left, not the right side. Caltrans responded that if they put it on the other side, it gets hit and knocked down all the time. They need to install a lens to focus the light correctly.
- Discussion that the issue is we are worried about the kids and the school traffic. Suggestion to just leave the light green as it creates more problems than it is worth in the big scheme of things.
- Comment that last year, we expressed to Caltrans that the congestion is not being metered in the correct location. Caltrans says drivers will begin to use under-utilized ramps and change their driving habits. Please give it a chance to show you that it will get better. This is too new to show how it is going to improve things in the community.
- Caltrans feels this has improved the traffic situation on the freeways and it is better for the kids.
- Question about how we work together to make the safety of the kids the first priority. Request to not do studies when the kids are out of school. Caltrans suggests we work with our local jurisdiction to get new lights and they will study it in the fall.
- Caltrans read a letter from the Department of Transportation in Minnesota that indicated when the metering was turned off, the freeway was greatly affected.

12. Public Comments

- Kerry Erickson requested that regarding the onramp at La Crescenta, please consider a left turn signal northbound at La Crescenta turning left on Foothill.
 - County has denied once and we have resubmitted

13. CV Fire Safe Council report – Roger Young

- Distributed a sign up sheet for the reverse 911 notification system.
- The board of directors was present.

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- Roger shared the history and purpose of the organization.
- Read a letter from Steve Bohlin regarding the Briggs Terrace area and fire safety and what can be done to make the area more fire safe.
- A fire drill will occur sometime in August and neighborhood watch committees will be formed.
- The reverse 911 system will be used to notify of imminent danger and as an advisory system and informational tool
- To contact the Crescenta Valley Fire Safe Council, email rogerlyoung@earthlink.net or call (818) 249-8446.

14. Council Committee Reports

- Councilmember Lauterback - Emergency Preparedness - There was a June 6 ham radio class, incident command review and Red Cross supply inspection. A ham repeater station is dedicated to CERT and reports can be listened to. There is a new CERT class starting July 11 to 18, including back to back Saturdays. 75 people are signed up to attend and training is coordinated with La Canada.
 - Paul Dutton invited any certified members to come on the 18th for a refresher
 - In October there will be a Level 3 CERT class
- Councilmember Battles – Youths and Seniors – The GUSD traffic advisory has ended and will set the standard that all schools will implement for safety.
 - There was a meeting with Dr. Hoge at Monte Vista. Public Works came out and walked Orange Ave. and advised speed bumps in front of the school will monitor the speed, but not the traffic.
 - Met with CHP Captain Dance and Officer Primeaux and they will make a flyer for the fall mailing and Thursday folder. They will be at back to school night and will be talking to parents and will translate literature into other languages. The CHP has promised four motorcycle officers on the first day of school. We are also looking into “No U Turn” signs for Orange Ave. and working on a walk to school plan where parents can park and walk from Two Strike Park.
- Councilmember Erickson – Banner Committee - Working with the Steinbachers on the banner for Nick Steinbacher.
- Discussion to form a committee to write a letter about the saving the golf course
- Councilmember Goldsworthy – Traffic, Roads and Safety – Discussion about the 8 or 9 action items regarding Monte Vista and support from the various agencies.
 - Prospect and La Crescenta will be striped with left turn pockets
- Councilmember Beyt – Fundraising – The helicopter ride can be bid on online. It is now at \$200 and will be open until midnight, June 30. The pancake breakfast will be October 10 and ticket sales will begin on August 25. The high school is enthusiastic and working on getting more involvement.
- President Pierce
 - Saturday July 18 at Two Strike Park. “My Wild Irish Rose,” a Dennis Morgan historic film. Prior to the file, The Maestros will play at 6:30 p.m. The movie begins at 8:30 ends by 10:00 p.m. This is all free and is a partnership event with the Historical Society.

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- Saturday August 29 at Two Strike Park- Back to school outdoor BBQ starting at 6:30 p.m. with music followed by a movie
 - Saturday September 26 at Two Strike Park - Cartoon festival
 - Clean and Green – The Crescenta Valley Town Council and The Chamber clean the La Crescenta off ramp every month. It takes about 45 minutes, but you feel really good when you are done.
- Councilmember Arnold
 - Publicizing the community flag fundraiser
 - The next Newsletter will be published soon
 - Thank you to Councilmember Battles for handling the website
 - Councilmember Thomas – Community Flags
 - We have sold about 28 flags, but the goal is 100. The orders are coming in slowly so it will take time. \$25 goes to the organization of your choice for each flag purchased.
 - Murals at Two Strike Park by Brianne Johnson – The County has ordered protection for the murals and they will be up all the time once they get there.
15. Council Correspondence – Council Corresponding Secretary Liz Arnold
- 710 Tunnel - There are letters available to anyone who would like to read them. One is in support of the Council position and 2 are against.
 - There are a number of thank you notes from our scholarship recipients
16. Approval of CV Town Council Treasurer’s Report
17. Items For and From Council
- a. Donation to CV Fireworks Association – Motion for \$250 made by Councilmember Beyt and seconded by Councilmember Goldsworthy. Suggestion that we would like to see us listed in the paper but that costs \$500. Motion carried.
 - b. Councilmember Arnold - Harvest Market booth on the 28th
 - c. Discussion about a Crescenta Valley Town Council booth at the fireworks. Please let President Pierce know if you are able to work the booth
 - d. Councilmember Erickson motion to write a letter for Save the Golf Course addressing the EIR and requesting an extension. Motion seconded by Councilmember Beyt. Motion carries and Councilmember Erickson will draft the letter.
18. Approval of CV Town Council Treasurer’s Report –Motion by Councilmember Erickson, seconded by Councilmember Beyt. Motion carries.
19. Executive Meeting scheduled July 2nd 7:00 pm at CVWD Boardroom
20. Adjournment at 10:05 p.m.

Approved July 16, 2009