

# Culver Crest Neighborhood Association

## Minutes of General Meeting September 17, 2009

Board Members Present: Suzanne De Benedittis, Brynn Horrocks, Steve Reitzfeld, Mike Bauer, Antoine Durr, Rich Kissel

Board Advisors Present: John Kuechle, Ken Kutcher

1. Call to order 6:38pm
2. Secretary's Report: No minutes from prior general meeting due to illness
3. Treasurer's Report: \$6100 in account right now.
  - Expenditures: We supported getting people out to the County Board of Supervisor meeting last Aug. 4<sup>th</sup>, so we spent some money on that
  - Newsletter, some costs on signs, etc. were the only expenses last quarter
4. Neighborhood Watch Report: CCPD Lt. Dean Williams
  - How many of you went out and bought a 55 gallon drum for water since our last meeting ;-) Reminder how important that is? Earthquakes are on the horizon!
  - Monday is day of recognition for Alzheimer's disease, wear purple!
  - Sign-up for home-inspections; these reserve officers come to look at your property to look at security defenses; Mike Bauer was guinea pig, 98% was stuff they knew, but 2% were great things to be improved upon.
  - Recycling theft (dumpster diving), 20 minute response time, can be precursor to bigger thefts; need feedback, e.g. call back to find out what happened with dispatch
  - Crime: One disturbing crime since June: a break-in on a Sunday morning, residents were home, but in back yard. Burglar knocked, no answer, entered via open window, ransacked the house, ran back out.
  - Burglar typically not willing to get involved with residents, don't want confrontation; this robber was willing to have confrontation with owner, rather scary!
  - 310/253-6244 goes directly to dispatch 310/837-1221 is historical number (but it does work). So if you find yourself with a robber in your house, get the heck outta there! Retreat to neighbor's house is best option, call from landline
  - Non sequitur!: for blight abatement purposes, call 310/253-5555 (like two 55 gallon drums!, for grafitti, abandoned couches, etc).
  - New issue growing in neighborhood: soliciting
  - First thing to ask a solicitor is: "*do you have a Culver City Business License?*" (specifically Culver City, not just any business license. FYI, they're free for non-profits, but scammers probably won't have them).
  - Public apology: Lt. Dean Williams apologized for his department not having informed Marlene Rose that they caught the burglars, yet they told the next door neighbors! Oops! For police department quality of service feedback: call 310/253-6104

- ID theft: is of course growing problem, and is related to the growing issue of “dumpster diving” or recycling theft.
- For example, people dropping off flyers might be swiping the outgoing mail (since they’re already at your doorfront), so drop outgoing mail directly into blue postal boxes.
- Mike Bauer: Ron Ostrin broke his leg in a bicycle accident, we wish him a speedy recovery
- Mike Bauer: Kudos to Rich and his wife Fran, and 20 block captains, to distribute The Crest View.

5. Westfield Culver City

- Chuck Martinez, general manager, Kim Brewer, development director
- Very near completion, have photos of where the construction is being completed,
- received approvals in 2005, did demolition in 2008;
- New restaurants: BJ’s, a crepe place, a sushi place, some national and some boutique restaurants to open next year
- A Coach store
- A \$1.2M art installation, *punctuation station* a children’s play area; no community room meeting space slated;
- storefronts are going much higher, glass railings;
- food court was closed in January, and recreated as a dining terrace;
- movie theaters not in the cards; theaters need specific large buildings, which were not in the original plans
- October 8, 2009 at 4pm is the grand opening;
- Donated \$10,000 for Culver City Unified
- Mall name is changing from Fox Hills Mall to Westfield Fox Hills to ultimately Westfield Culver City
- Into Circuit City location is going a “Sprouts” grocery store, produce driven grocery store. March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010, woohoo!

6. City Election for School Board, measure EE

- We couldn’t find anyone against measure EE!
- Steve Gourley, school board member, presented in favor of Measure EE
  - a. Measure EE is a parcel tax put on the ballot by the Culver City School Board because the schools need the money.
  - b. Steve noted that Culver Crest elected him via absentee ballot! The Crest has the highest percentage of voters in the city! 4 of 5 CC folks do not vote in the school board elections!
  - c. The EE money can’t be taken by Sacramento; however, if your house happens to be on more than one parcel, you will end up paying the parcel tax for **each** parcel your house sits on.
  - d. While the money goes directly for teachers (and cannot go for administrative services, and to avoid prop 13 conflicts, tax is per parcel, not per parcel value).

7. Nominations for CCNA Board Members

- The following existing board members were nominated and seconded:  
Howard Lichtman, Suzanne DeBenedittis, Steve Reitzfeld, Mark Salkin, Rich Kissel, Ron Ostrin, Mike Bauer, Antoine Durr
- Other nominations: Dr. Gyi, Craig Jabore, Jill McKeon

8. West LA College

- Basically they ignored the MOU for the last 2-3 years, people complain, they say it's cheaper to start earlier; they create parking problems, they are supposed to do parking surveys every 2 weeks, abandoned biweekly effort; due to this, CCNA will appear at board of trustees of the community college district, at 770 Wilshire at 3:30pm to speak about concerns, please come to show your support on 7<sup>th</sup> of October, to tell college to abide by what they agreed to do.
- Mark Salkin thinks the only way is to file a lawsuit.
- In a legal and strategic sense, you want to give the public agency the opportunity the opportunity to solve their own problems; so go there and tell them what the problem is.

9. PXP Oil

- Litigation pending against county, motion by oil company to dismiss, judge denied on Aug 5<sup>th</sup>, Nov 13<sup>th</sup> trial moved to Feb 5<sup>th</sup>
- MRT (Mark Ridley-Thomas) put in a motion to amend the CSD based on public outcry; he would like to have members of the public to chime in
- This is now at WLAC, on Oct 15<sup>th</sup> at 6pm, we should get everyone there, so that he knows that this matters; so that he doesn't have the impression that we don't care
- They will stay as long as it takes
- Q: Is PXP allowed to bus in their "residents" again? Maybe. We want to make sure that if so, we outnumber them!
- It is really clear that he (MRT) is opening the door that this really matters, so we should walk through that door!
- Outreach will be done by GBHA as well for residents on the back side of the hill, e.g. Ladera, Baldwin Hills, etc.
- Dr. Gyi, UCLA epidemiologist, r.e. what issues are important to cover in their telephonic surveys; first meeting on Oct 6 at CHC; a lot of odd allergies and seizures that shouldn't be there, that show up when looked at systemically.

10. New Business:

- There is a wine-tasting, fund raising event on Sept 26 at the Kuechle's to support the education foundation.

11. Meeting adjourned: 8:41pm