

# Culver Crest Neighborhood Association

## Minutes of General Meeting February 15, 2011

Board Members Present: Antoine Durr, Howard Lichtman, Wena Dows, Mike Bauer, Khin Khin Gyi, Ed Baughn, Jill McKeon, Rosie LaBriola

Board members not present: Lisa Skelley

Board Advisors/Subcommittee Heads Present: John Kuechle, Ken Kutcher, Rich Kissel

1. Meeting called to order: 6:47, Welcome to the first meeting of 2011!
2. New Officers
  - a. Mike Bauer introduces new officers (officers are voted on by the board)
  - b. President: Khin Khin Gyi
  - c. Vice President: Mike Bauer
  - d. Treasurer: Howard Lichtman
  - e. Secretary: Antoine Durr
3. Skunks
  - a. Corolla Fleeger, Culver City's Animal Control Officer, presented
  - b. Material handout
  - c. Lots of concern around the exploding skunk population
  - d. Regulated by Fish and Game department
  - e. Law says that healthy animals can be trapped, but have to be released back on site or euthanized
  - f. However, transport of animals is illegal w/out a permit
  - g. If there is food, shelter, and water, wild animals will quickly move in
  - h. There may be need for more aggressive removal
  - i. First line of defense is to make homes and yards less hospitable – remove food sources, bring cat food in at night
  - j. Inadvertent feeding of wildlife is against the law (Fish and Wildlife)
  - k. Make sure you're feeding your target animals, not the skunks!
  - l. Animal control officer can work with you to optimize feeding your and only your pets
  - m. Demo: motion sensor sprinkler device; this can be oriented away from domestic animals (and to boot has thwarted at least one known burglary attempt!), cost is around \$45-50 online (Contech CR0101 "Scarecrow" motion activated sprinkler)
  - n. El Nino has thrown off all wildlife and flora patterns; the skunks are making dens right now, which is why smells have reduced this last week
  - o. Remove food, shelter, close the crawl spaces, and they should try to find homes elsewhere
  - p. They are omnivores, eat anything from grubs to cat food, and are very opportunistic.
  - q. If you trap them, Culver City can't euthanize, and L.A. County will no longer handle healthy wildlife
  - r. Q: Have any skunks been trapped?

- i. They do not need to report on trappings, as long as it is done humanely
- s. Q: Are fruit trees an issue
  - i. Can be, though skunks don't climb; metal bands or cones are very effective against critters that climb
- t. Q: Where are dens
  - i. Crawls spaces, tree root nooks
- u. Q: Do the ultrasonic deterrents work?
  - i. Only initially, as animals get used to the sounds
- v. Q: Are storm drains hiding places?
  - i. Possibly, will talk to Parks and Recs Department
- w. Rich Kissel continued presentation
- x. Last two years skunks have been a problem – different, conflicting laws – it's illegal to transport or euthanize
- y. Remedy is to hire a private contractor as counties can no longer take them, and no place to dispose of or relocate them.
- z. County will come and remove them at \$57 per hour including travel time
- aa. Ratbusters, a Culver City company, it seems we have a rat problem that we didn't know about
- bb. Setup of \$250, \$25 per animal removal fee; or, monthly fee option
- cc. PXP started drilling, WLAC started expanding, all driving them towards us
- dd. Motion: for board to investigate contractor-based animal removal: seconded, passes, 21:6

#### 4. PXP Oil

- a. Brief summary of CAP meeting by John Kuechle
- b. Mark Ridley-Thomas admitted shelving the effort to redo the CSD
- c. We need to push him on county level to amend ordinance
- d. No consensus on when to take down signs
- e. Ken Kutcher: trial at end of March, MRT may or may not be engaged to settle issue
- f. Lawn signs show public support, send him emails, needs public pressure
- g. Q: Didn't PXP say they would not settle?
- h. Q: Does CC have an extraction tax
  - i. No, but levies a \$1/\$1000 producer fee, L.A. County will mimic
- i. MRT is presenting at Veterans Auditorium February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 7-8:30pm

#### 5. WLAC

- a. Mon 28 Feb CCNA will host college district candidates forum
- b. Some of the candidates want more transparency in process
- c. Mona Fields is an incumbent, though does not disclose this, CCNA recommends to **not** voting for Mona Fields

6. Meeting adjourned 7:58, followed by presentation of entire documentary "Gasland", by Gary Gless and Paul Ferazzi. of CCSC [Citizens' Coalition for a Safe Community]

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