

WRIGHTWOOD REPORT

Newsletter of the Wrightwood Property Owners Association Vol XXX No 7, July 2017

WWPOA Inc., PO Box 487, Wrightwood, California 92397-487

“Open the way before the new government to prove that it is for serving the people. ” *Muqtada al Sadr*

“Uncertainty is normal in the first few days of a new government.” - *Victor Ponta*

“Concede that the new government of [Wrightwood] is only to what it should be, as the egg is to the fowl; we shall sooner have the fowl by hatching the egg than by smashing it.” - *Abraham Lincoln*

Years in the making, Wrightwood’s very own government was finally ‘hatched’ on July 1st. Wrightwood has opened the way for our new CSD to serve all Wrightwoodians and although things may be a little uncertain in the coming months, we look forward to the WW CSD being a very positive thing for Wrightwood in the long run.

The following article is not meeting minutes but more a summary of what transpired at this 1st CSD meeting presented for the benefit of our members. Please be advised that there may be some ‘warts’ in the report and if found, may be corrected in a future newsletter.

Summary of Agenda of Wrightwood Community Service District (CSD) Meeting July 1, 1PM at the Community Building

I. Introductions: The very first Wrightwood(WW) CSD meeting was called to order by Kathleen Rollings McDonald from LAFCO. Kathleen first introduced Steve Kennedy, an attorney who has been advising the CSD on a pro bono basis on public agency related processes and procedures. Then she introduced our new CSD Board of Directors, Stephanie Carroll, Natalie Lopiccolo, Les Zuber, Leo Hordyk and Michelle Schneider.

II. Swear in newly-elected Board of Directors(Board): Immediately after introductions, the new Directors were officially sworn in as WW CSD Directors by Kathleen. Each Director was given a certificate by the County recognizing their achievement and a pin recognizing the March special election from the Registrar of Voters.

The WWPOA congratulates the new Directors on their achievement and looks forward to working with the Directors on topics of mutual interest in the coming years.

III. Appointment of Officers: Wes Zuber was nominated to be President of the CSD. No other persons were nominated so Wes was elected President by a unanimous vote of the Directors. Stephanie Carroll was nominated for Vice President. No other persons were nominated so Stephanie was elected Vice President by a unanimous vote of the Directors.

IV. Public Comments: Steve Kennedy, Consulting Attorney, said that the Brown Act requires public comments at CSD meetings. The Board decided to have public comments before the rest of the meeting and comments before any motion was to be made.

Kathleen Smith requested that the Board consider that as plants die in the parks, they be replaced with native plants. Al Morrisette offered congrats and condolences to the new Board, and as a Phelan CSD board member, he is willing to help our new Director in any way needed. Chuck Franklin offered congrats to the new Board.

V. Establish the Term of Office for each Member of the Board of Directors pursuant to Government Code Section 61042 et seq.: The Board decided after some discussion to follow the convention of allocating terms of service based on number of votes received in the March election. Therefore Stephanie, Leo and Michelle will be serving 4 year terms and Natalie and Wes will be serving 2 year terms.

VI. Appoint temporary Secretary for the meetings of the Board of Directors: Secretarial services for CSD meetings can be provided by the county on a short term basis as well as other short term services (see item 8 below) while our CSD is coming up to speed. Kathleen took official notes for this first meeting which will be publicized after approval by the Board. Going forward, Alexander Peterson volunteered to be interim meeting secretary until a permanent secretary is appointed.

VII. Adopt all existing Rules, Regulations, Ordinances, Fee Schedules, Policies and Procedures, and Existing budgets of County Area 56: The Directors decided to approve this motion as described in this agenda item topic. This allows for a clean transition of these items from CSA-56 to the WW CSD by one action. Then at some future date, any of these items can be addressed as required.

VIII. Discussion and possible action regarding the transition of services from County Service Area 56: This agenda topic addresses how day to day business issues of the CSD are to be addressed while the Board is interviewing for a General Manager.

Jeff Rigney of SBC Special Community Districts, first congratulated the community for forming a CSD and thanked the CSD for letting the County SCD serve the WW CSD. Tim Millington, also from the County, said that the WW CSD was the easiest transition in the history of Special Districts.

Jeff then explained that while our WW CSD is ramping up to provide for required services on its own, SBC SCD is able to backfill a variety of support services in the interim, from items such as staff to mow lawns and clean restrooms to meeting recording secretaries and all the way up to providing interim General Management services. The costs for these services are only at the productive hourly rate of staff to be provided.

The Board passed a motion to expand the ad hoc committee of Leo and Stephanie to meet with the county Monday morning to explore these services and produce a transition analysis.

IX. Budget Review: Wes received two checks from the County totaling \$14,344. The CSD is still owed money from the County but they are waiting for final year-end bills before they turn over the balance of funds to the CSD. Leo and Stephanie voted to expand the ad hoc committee to review reserve funds.

X. Appoint a Search Committee for the position of General Manager: Hiring a General Manager(GM) is one of the Board's most important decisions. Once a General Manager is hired, he takes over day-to-day operations from the interim GM. The GM is a statutory position, required by law. The WW CSD GM is a part time position that pays \$31K and is an outside hire; it cannot be a board member. 3 candidates are typically interviewed in open meetings. The Board approved a motion to create an ad hoc committee of Wes and Natalie to search for a GM.

XI. Contract for interim insurance for the District: CSA-56 general liability insurance expired 6/30 but the CSD was not authorized to purchase insurance until they were sworn in at this meeting. Accordingly, the Board approved Wes to contact the Special District Management Agency to obtain a 1 year general liability policy first thing Monday morning. The CSD does have immunities that would apply as a public entity, but they are not iron clad so general liability insurance is strongly recommended.

XII. Legal Counsel: Steve Kennedy has been retained as the WW CSD attorney. All services Steve has provided to help guide Wrightwood through the process of becoming a CSD to date has been pro bono. Going forward his rate for services will be billed at \$125 hour on as needed as basis. He will do phone conferences with the Board as needed. 95% of Steve's practice is representing public agencies.

XIII. Accounting Firm: Selection of an accounting firm for the CSD was tabled until a future meeting.

XIV. Discussion and possible action to establish an alternative depository of District funds in place of the County Treasury: This items concerns where the CSD should open bank accounts for receipt of property tax funds from the county. In a nutshell, the CSD must use the County Treasury until the CSD has appointed a treasurer, who then can establish an alternate depository. In addition, to deal with petty cash issues, the CSD will open an account at our local bank. The President and Vice President are both required to sign any checks written by the CSD. Once a General Manager is hired, the co-signers will be the GM and the President.

XV. Retaining current support staff: Jeff Rigney said that CSA-56 staff were given termination letters last week, which means that there are no employees to cover restroom duty this July 4th weekend. Accordingly, the Board passed a motion to expand the ad hoc committee Stephanie and Leo, meeting with Jeff on Monday at 10AM to address emergency continuation of services. Results will be posted at the special meeting scheduled for Monday night.

In the meantime, **Alex Peterson and Lynn Crawford** volunteered to clean bathrooms this weekend. *THANK YOU, Alex and Lynn!*

XVI. Solid Waste Contract - expires June 30th CSA-56 contract with CR&R expired 6/30 but automatically renewed. Natalie and Wes will contact CR&R to put the solid waste franchise agreement in the CSD's name and to update the contract to cover properties within the CSD service area.

XVII. LA County Dump Card Fee process - Aug 10th is deadline for communication: and **XVIII. Voucher Program for Dump Cards:** These two agenda topics are urgent as well as tricky items. The CSD needs to provide dump cards for the entire CSD especially the LAC side of the CSD. On August 8, the charge of \$84 a year for the dump cards goes on LAC property tax bills for properties located in the CSD. The details for how to make this happen were not available at this first meeting, but both Steve and Kathleen know the process and templates from Phelan and Helendale are available to the CSD to implement this program in the time frame required. Natalie and Stephanie were assigned to an ad hoc committee to make this happen and will report back to the Board in a special meeting to be scheduled sometime mid-July.

XIX. Discussion and possible action regarding transfer and acceptance of real property interest from County Service Area 56: This item addresses transferring SBC Parks and Rec property to the CSD. In order for this real property interest to transfer, deeds are required, but as of the date of this meeting, the status of the deeds are undefined. The Directors plan to follow up with the County on Monday.

XX. Waste water - LAMP: The State of California requires entities such as the CSD to have a Local Area Management Plan(LAMP) for dealing with water and waste water issues. The Sewer Committee is meeting July 13 in Bishop.

Two requirements surfaced for our CSD. First, monitoring well water for nitrates. CSA-56 had a monitoring well in the flood plane below WW elevation, and while not compelled to do this, doing so would be an advantage to residents.

Secondly, the State wants to require soil percolation tests for all new buildings in WW, not just

the 'Blue Area'. At this time, the CSD has no further action to take on LAMP issues.

XXI. Website: Until a more permanent solution is approved, wrightwoodcsd.org can continue to be used as the official CSD website. There are regulation 1090s issues to be addressed as to who can publish info on the Internet, conflict of interest issues, etc.

XXII. Community Sign: The CSD has no involvement with the Community sign other than the possibility that CSD public meetings might be posted on the sign in the future.

XXIII. Sunshine ordinance: Addresses CSD regular meeting schedules and locations and where official CSD meeting agendas will be posted.

The official mailing address is Wrightwood CSD, PO Box 218, Wrightwood, CA 92397 and the phone number is (760)249-3205.

Official CSD meeting agendas will be posted on the Community Building Bulletin Board as well as on bulletin boards located at the WW Museum, Fire Station, Mt Hardware and the CSD website.

CSD regular public meetings will be the first Tuesday of the month at 7PM at the Community Building. Until then, and given the urgency of decisions that need to be made on key items, special meetings will be called throughout July and August on various agenda items with 24 hour notice to the public.

XXIV. Discussion and possible action regarding exercise of option to extend term of License Agreement with Snowline Joint Unified School District: CSA-56 had two lease agreements with Snowline School District for the use of Hollis Park and for the upper field of WW Elementary School. They were for two 5 year periods. The option to renew these leases expired 6/30 but Snowline offered to extend the option deadline until the CSD was formed. The Board approved a motion to extend the lease on these properties including the basketball and baseball fields for one 5 year period for \$1 per year.

XXV. Discussion and possible action to approve Wrightwood Chamber of Commerce Mountaineer Days at the Wrightwood Community Center on July 8 and 9, 2017: The WW Chamber of Commerce contracted with CSA-56 to sell alcohol on the Community Building premises during Mountaineer Days. However, as of July 1, the Community Building is CSD property. The Board voted to honor the agreement the Chamber had with CSA-56 to allow alcohol to be sold on Community Building property at Mountaineer Days.

Future Board Meetings and Agenda Items: The Political Reform Act regulations require that all CSD Directors are required to file Form 700 within 30 days. There is also a requirement for the CSD to publish a CSD Conflict of Interest policy.

The next special meeting of the CSD is Monday 7/3 at 7PM at the Community Building. The agenda for this meeting will be posted at the approved locations by 7PM Sunday 7/2, but is expected to address reports from the ad hoc committees regarding transition contracts, general liability insurance and an explanation of reserve funds withheld from the CSD by the County. MAC issues will be addressed at a future meeting.

Director's Comments: "Whew.. ;-)" The inaugural CSD meeting was adjourned by Wes. This meeting ran almost 4 hours. Overall, a spirited meeting and very interested and polite audience, asking questions and providing comments, a very healthy first 'flight' for WW's new government.

Randy Marbach, President WWPOA email: randy@wwpoa.org

The Wrightwood Historical Society, Friday, July 7, 2017 at 1:00PM at the Wrightwood Museum: Wrightwood Historical Society hosts Marilyn Mills, president of the Heritage

Trails Association. She will discuss the early pioneer history of the San Bernardino Valley including aspects of True Community which were displayed in the colony between the Mormon, Black, and Jewish pioneers and their neighbors, the Native Americans and Spanish Rancho families.

She will also include a slide presentation on the modern-day Heritage Trails Wagon Train that in 2001, retraced the trek of the early pioneers to California.

WWPOA Adopt-a-Highway: A good turn out for June 1st highway clean up with eleven bags filled by 9 volunteers. The one thing of interest found was a five spot. No need to claim it. It's gone. Our crew members were Nancy Estes, Jean Kerry, John Lenau, Arnie & Maria Michels, Devon & Gary Marawski, Ernie Mogg and Pat Bittenbender. And a special thanks to the village business owners at Mile High Pizza, the Village Grind & Wine Cellar, and the Wrightwood Brew Company.

The next pick up will be Thursday, August 3rd. If you'd like to join in keeping your highway looking good, please call Pat at 249-0034 for your gear and location. New faces are always welcome.

Calendar of Events

Date Day-Time Place -> Event Notes

7-Jul Fri-1:00 PM WW Museum -> Wrightwood Historical Society Marilyn Mills, president of the Heritage Trails Association will discuss the early pioneer history of the San Bernardino Valley (see article on page 2)

7-Jul Fri-4:00 PM WW Community Building -> WW Certified Farmer's Market

8-Jul Sat-5:30 PM WW Community Building -> Lions Club Bingo

8-Jul Sat-2:00 PM Top of Park -> Pine Needles Quilting Guild Mini-Quilt Auction -
At the top of Park Drive - Preview: 10am-2pm - Auction begins at 2pm

July 8-9 Sat-Sun-11AM-5PM WW Village -> WW Chamber of Commerce WW Mountaineer

Days Schedule of Events: <http://www.wrightwoodcalif.com/forum/index.php/topic,24179.0.html>

10-Jul Mon-6:00 PM WW Museum -> WWPOA Election of Officers

11-Jul Tue-6:30 PM WW Community Building -> Pine Needles Quilting Guild General Meeting and Potluck Picnic

12-Jul Wed-3:30 PM WW Library -> Friends of the Library Meeting (verify with library before attending)

14-Jul Fri-4:00 PM WW Community Building -> WW Certified Farmer's Market

14-Jul Fri-9AM-10:30 WW Community Building -> Tri-Community Co-Op Produce Distribution for Co-Op Members

17-Jul Mon-7:00 PM WW Community Building -> MAC Meeting Cancelled Permanently

18-Jul Tue-7:00 PM WW Community Building -> Fire Safe Council Meeting Meeting

19-Jul Wed-11:00 AM WW Methodist Church -> Senior Lunch

20-Jul Thur-6:50 PM WW Community Building -> CERT Business Meeting

21-Jul Fri-4:00 PM WW Community Building -> WW Certified Farmer's Market

25-Jul Tue-7:00 PM WW Methodist Church -> VANF Meeting

28-Jul Fri-4:00 PM WW Community Building -> WW Certified Farmer's Market

28-Jul Fri-9AM-10:30 WW Community Building -> Tri-Community Co-Op Produce Distribution for Co-Op Members

3-Aug Thur-8:00 AM WW Village -> WWPOA Adopt a Highway Clean Up See article on Page 2. Contact Pat Bittenbender 760 249 0034 for an assigned location.

Wrightwood Property Owners' Association, Inc
 A Non-Profit Corporation
 PO Box 487
 Wrightwood, California 92397
 (Dated Material)
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NEXT WWPOA MEETINGS
Monday July 10, 6PM
Monday August 14, 6PM
At the Museum, 6000 Cedar St.
PROGRAM: July-Election of Officers

BOARD MEMBERS

President Randy Marbach	760-249-1104
VP Dee Potter	760-249-4351
Recording Secretary, Karin Bacon	760-221-9797
Treasurer Darrell Sikes	760-680-9732
Board Member Hank Hallmark	760-249-3069

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Adopt-a-Hwy Pat Bittenbender	760-249-0034
Adopt-a-Hydrant Hank Hallmark	760-249-3069
WeTip Program Sandy Gibson	760-249-4171

WRIGHTWOOD PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC, PO BOX 487, WRIGHTWOOD, CA 92397

Renters are welcome to join!

Enclosed are my annual dues of \$20 per household
 Off-the-hill members, please add \$3 for 1st class mail.
 Please add my donation for WWPOA Scholarship Fund.

Dues: \$ _____
 Mail: \$ _____
 Donation: \$ _____
 Total: \$ _____

Name(s): _____ Phone: _____

Mailing & Street Address: _____

The issue of most importance to me is: _____

Please send the newsletter to my email address: _____