

Linda Pruett

Vice President's Report

July 27, 2005

Congress of Neighborhood Councils

Several members of our Board, -- Rosemary Campbell, Clay Gallardo, Jonezy Melroy, Steve Leffert and I -- attended the Congress and participated in various workshops on a number of subjects. The two that I attended on Planning were very informative, though I'm always amazed when I come away from these things realizing that while I got a lot of questions answered, I have more questions now than when I went in! There's so much to learn! But the presenters are always patient with those of us new to the workings of City Government and I consider the time spent to be a most worthwhile investment. Steve continued his winning ways with the door prizes, and came away with two really good ones!

Sepulveda Basin Sports Complex Volunteer Neighborhood Oversight Committee

On June 29th, the Committee met to discuss the proposed Soccer Fields and Softball Diamonds to be built on Balboa Boulevard where the sod fields are now, across from Lake Balboa. The two prior meetings of this committee had been relatively quiet, with almost no input from the community. This one proved to be far more exciting, with lots of public comment, and we went waaay over our time limit. What had appeared to be pretty much a "done deal" is proving to be of high interest to a number of community organizations and individuals, all of whom seem to have a slightly different idea of how this new addition to the Sports Complex should look and will operate. Glenn Bailey, Board Member from the Encino Neighborhood Council, joined the Committee and offered food for thought as to how the project might be made more acceptable to the Community. The next meeting of the group will take place in late August. I'll have the date, time and location at our next Neighborhood Council meeting, and I encourage all of you who can to take a couple hours out of your busy schedule to attend.

Mayoral Inauguration

Several WVN/LB NC Board members, along with other members of the community, were invited by Councilman Tony Cardenas's office to attend the Inauguration of our new Mayor. We were picked up in a school bus at the Councilman's Office and whisked

off to City Hall for the festivities. Seated under the large shade trees, we got to see all the dignitaries and enjoy the entertainment that was provided. It was all very exciting and uplifting, except, perhaps the booing of our Governor. After the swearing in, we were approached by a reporter from the Daily News and asked our opinion of the ceremony and our thoughts on the new Mayor himself, and we actually managed to get two (very short) paragraphs in the next day's edition of the paper. Lunch was provided, though some of us chose to eat downstairs in the food court rather than wait out the long lines. Afterward, we got a nice tour of Councilman Cardenas's office, (courtesy of Jim Dantona, the Councilman's Legislative Deputy), and tried for one of Councilman Greig Smith's office, but by the time we got there it seems that everyone was either at lunch or in a meeting so we missed out on that one. It was, however, a lovely outing, and I think it made us all feel good to be part of the day's history-making activities.

Service Cabinet Meeting

On July 11th, President Bill Haller and I attended the Neighborhood Council Service Cabinet Meeting with Councilman Greig Smith and other Officers from the Neighborhood Councils within his district and various department heads from Los Angeles City Government. The purpose of the meeting was to further review the Service Request Form that had been put together at a prior meeting and to discuss its usage by Neighborhood Councils. (I have attached a copy to this report.) These Request Forms can be filled out and faxed to the Councilman's Office and will then be referred to the proper City Department for action. Someone in the Councilman's office will then track these Request Forms to make sure they are properly addressed and that the public/Neighborhood Council gets answers to the problems with which we are dealing – i.e., things like street and sidewalk repair, specific traffic problems, etc. It will be left to the individual Councils to decide if the public will need to submit their requests through their Neighborhood Council, or if blank forms can just be distributed to the Community. After the meeting, I spoke to Councilman Smith and told him how disappointed we had been when not able to tour his office after the Mayoral Inauguration. He expressed regret that we had not been able to see the new office as well, and said that he would send a bus for the Board to come and tour. He also invited us to tour the Dept. of Transportation's Automated Traffic Surveillance and Control Center as well! I told him I thought that was a great idea – that I'd bring it up to the Board. I think this would be a great "outing" for us, but I'd like to suggest that we wait 'til the weather is a little cooler!