



# General Meeting Minutes September 15, 2016

*La Crescenta Library Community Room 7:00 pm*  
[www.theCVcouncil.com](http://www.theCVcouncil.com) or [contact@thevcouncil.com](mailto:contact@thevcouncil.com)

*Welcome to the monthly meeting of the Crescenta Valley Town Council.*

*Please turn off, or set to manner mode, cellular phones while inside the Council meeting*

1. Call to Order & Welcome 7:03 pm
2. Flag Salute, AF JROTC and President Leslie Dickson
3. Invocation, Pastor Bill Flanders, First Baptist Church at La Crescenta
4. Roll Call, Cheryl Davis - Present: Dickson, Leon, Davis, Rabinov, Griffin, Barnes, Ear, Suh, Ordubegian, Stupakis, Beatty. Not Present: Claessens
5. Public Statement by President Dickson – Thank you to the Council for help over the last several months during summer and vacation. Apology to the community for last month’s meeting. We will be moving forward in a positive manner and we are ready to take on new business.
6. Public Statement by Council member(s) -
  - Jo Ann Stupakis apology to Harry Leon
  - Harry – Expressed disappointment in the Council’s behavior last month. It is our community that is owed an apology, not just him. Expressed the Council be committed to transparency, respect and outreach to our community and respect to each other. Our community should always come first.
7. Motion by President Dickson to revise July Minutes regarding Superintendent Roberson’s statement concerning lights at Rosemont fields – he “confirmed GUSD is not pursuing lights.” Approved unanimously.
8. Approval of August Minutes – Approved unanimously.
9. Approval of September Agenda – Approved unanimously.
10. Community Announcements
  - a. Pancake Breakfast Committee, Harry Leon – Sat is 9<sup>th</sup> annual pancake breakfast, 7:00-11:00 am at the CVHS quad. Tickets are \$5 in advance or \$6 in advance.
  - b. Library, Marta Wiggins – Rescheduled Your Voice Your Library to Oct 22

- c. American Legion, Mike Baldwin – This Veteran’s Day, they are focusing on female veterans. If anyone knows a female veteran, please contact Post288ca@gmail.com. Also looking for names of veterans to send Amazon gift cards for Christmas.
- d. ~~Prom Plus/Firehouse~~
- e. Historical Society of CV, Fred Hoepfner – Meetings 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday each month, 7:00 p.m. Oct 17 Road to Rocky Pass made with photos & maps regarding the development of Montrose.
- f. CVCA, Sharon Weissman – Invitation to CVCA next Thursday, 6:00 pm for presentation from Sharon Raghavachary about proposed 47 condo development at 3037/3047 Foothill Blvd. 7:00 regular meeting is League of Woman Voters (Burbank) pro/cons regarding 10 of the 17 ballot measures. Special meeting 9/29 Chat with Anthony Portantino at 6:00 pm and Darryl Park 8 pm.
- g. Rockhaven, Jo Ann Stupakis – Friends of Rockhaven Soiree next Sat 9/24 at La Crescenta Woman’s Club. Dinner 5:30 (\$50 donation) and silent auction and raffle.
- h. 501 Gold Line Survey, Desiree Rabinov – Survey is available online. It’s an express pilot service to the Gold Line. There is a sign-in sheet in the back table to be added to the CVTC email blast.
- i. CVTC Election and Candidate Applications, Cheryl Davis – Similar to last year, this year’s election will at St. Luke’s of the Mountains (Sadler Hall) and the polls will be open Friday November 18, 5:00-8:00 PM and Saturday, November 19, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM. Please consider running or encouraging others to run, for Town Council as there are 6 openings each year. Candidate applications are available on our Facebook page, Crescenta Valley Town Council; our website, [www.theCVcouncil.com](http://www.theCVcouncil.com), or on the back table. Candidates must be registered voters living in the unincorporated area of La Crescenta or Montrose for at least a year. Mike Claessens is this year’s Election Committee Chair and he can be reached by email at mike@theCVcouncil.com.

11. Community Reports (3 min and questions)

- a. CHP, Officer Cooper – 9 traffic collisions (7 property only, 2 injury, 0 DUI) 1 on Rosemont, 3 on Ocean View, 3 on Foothill, 1 on Montrose and one on residential side street. Helped escort the 9/11 Remembrance Parade.  
 Q: (On enforcement) Stopped on corner of Los Olivos & La Crescenta and 22 cars blew through the stop sign going both directions. Officer Cooper does patrol that intersection.  
 Q: Who is responsible for activities at CV Park, specifically the skate park?  
 Inside the Park, it’s the Parks Bureau of the LA Sheriff because it’s an LA County Park. Contact Abel at Parks. Someone believes it’s GPD – VP Leon will check and get back to on that.

b. ~~Sheriff, Deputy Alex Covian~~

c. LA County Fire, Stephanie English – Station 63 is done with its repairs so they are back in their regular station now. This month we had 48 calls (7 service, 40 medical, good intent & false alarms). Sept is suicide prevention month – CDC reports more teens die from suicide than other diseases. “Send Silence Packing.” Reach out to your students and watch for unusual activity. October is home fire safety month. Great shakeout is October 20, 10:20 am.

d. ~~CV Ready~~

e. GUSD, Superintendent Roberson – It’s week 6 of the school year. A student from Clark, Arvin Sebosian appointed to GUSD board as this year’s Student Board Member. Oct 26, 5:30-8:30 College Fair (110 universities). Priorities include working on local control accountability plan, fiscal responsibility and ongoing monitoring of Measure S. 9/9 State Board of Appeal Granted extension. 9/7 attended LACOE committee on school reorganization. Thanked CVTC for its support. Negotiating date of LACOE hearing at CVHS. Enrollment is up to just under 26,000 students.

Q: (about Rosemont lights) – Made a statement people are still concerned about the Rosemont lights.

f. ~~CVWD~~

g. SCE, Haig Kartounian, Govt Affairs Representative  
[haig.kartounian@sce.com](mailto:haig.kartounian@sce.com) (818) 513-2013 Cell

Apologies for outages and inconvenience. 4kV to 12kV cutover, the Mayfield Project for higher voltage. Positive is greater reliability and should a circuit go down, you can borrow/import power from a neighboring 12kV circuit. Outages have been 2-12 hours to bring down the old kVs and put up new poles, wires, etc. 3.7M investment, replacing 212 poles, 74 transformers from the end of May and they hope to be done by mid-October. Next few days we’ll see outages in areas and neighbors have been specifically notified if their area is affected (door hangers, knocks on doors).

Q: Had a new pole installed in her backyard and workers were outstanding. A few plants got munched and they advised resident notify SCE. Claim was filed on the Internet and a check was received in less than a week. A: The Process has been streamlined.

Q: Notice of 11-1/2 hour outage received for 9/27-9/28. SCE tries to minimize time. As time approaches, estimated time will be sent to him. A: (from audience) Plan ahead and don’t open your refrigerator/freezer, it will be fine. A: Not all neighborhoods will be upgraded as some are already on 12kV.

Introduction of Dave Ford – This upgrade may eventually result in a two-way grid for those of you have solar power.

12. Public Comments

*Public Comments and Community Announcements: This is for non-agenda items only. Please submit a speaker card to the President or Vice President. Speakers are allowed 2 minutes. Council may ask questions or respond to the speaker but there will be no debate or decision. The President may refer the matter to the appropriate committee for investigation and report.*

13. Two Strike Park Presentation, Jim Smith and Mike Ralston

- Plan for pathway from flood control panel on west side of TSP through to Rosemont developed in 2014. During the development of the plan, sloping and pathways must be ADA compliant. Trail was cutting through the open space and the contractor had it staked out and was ready to begin work when residents expressed concern. Parks met with community members to develop this plan where the path runs along the hill (baseball field). There are switchbacks near the Henrietta bridge for ADA compliance. Looking for feedback, input and comment.
- Nello Iacono lives in Briggs Terrace and walks through TSP – does not believe people will walk along the slope and will continue to walk along the south side of the park.  
A: There are constraints on 5% slope due to ADA compliance. There was discussion about the south path, but the trees would need to be lost. Will they be lost so they'll get information and a sketch to us regarding the trees.  
Q: Henrietta side – enormous erosion which is a safety issue. There are sandbags along residences and drainage to neighbors along the south side
- Kyle Studebaker heard it had been staked out, people panicked, and it was stopped. Why was there no outreach to the residents or community? A: Outreach was done in 2014 at a community meeting and feedback came from the neighbors adjacent to the park.
- There are kids sitting on the hill digging out the rocks which will come down on the trail. Please consider stabilizing the hill.
- Why is this being done when people are already walking? A: It's an unofficial path and trying to open it up to more users. It will be ADA compliant.
- Jim Smith - Walkways around the parking will be upgraded to be ADA compliant. This will allow access from the Henrietta bridge and addressing the rocky area. They will do an analysis of where the beaten path is. Get it distributed and get feedback. Once people feel more comfortable, they would like a recommendation, concerns and issues from Council.

14. Briggs Speed Limit Presentation – David Oboza (and Nayiri Vartanian)

- Briggs between Foothill & Montrose Ave. based on Engineering and Traffic Study (“E&TS”). E&T is good for 7 years and then they expire. DMV requires valid E&T to use radar for speeding enforcement. Feb2016 E&T indicated 35

mph speed limit. DPW doesn't have to change the speed limit, but without a valid E&T, law enforcement can't use their radar equipment to enforce speeding. At CVTC's request, the speed trailer was placed on Briggs and then another E&T was done.

- 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed is the speed at or below which 85% of the vehicles are travelling. At the Feb 2016 CVTC meeting, the presentation had the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile as 42 mph, rounding to nearest 5 mile increment brings it to 40 mph. Allowed to round down additional 5 mph for conditions, bringing it to 35 mph. The first survey was done in November 2015 during Thanksgiving when traffic patterns were not normal.
- April 2016 – 85<sup>th</sup> percentile was 38 mph, rounded to 40 and using 5 mile reduction brings it to 35 mph. Prior to the E&T survey, CHP was enforcing the speed limit.
- Does community want DPW to increase the speed limit to 35 mph?
- Are there signs on Briggs for school zone? Will look into those signs but the front of the school is not on that street.
- Can't use radar to ticket so CHP can issue speed citations, but since it's not a max speed zone
- Is there an option for a max of 35 mph? A local road must be done using a speed survey.
- Realistically, it's a curve, downhill slope, roots have brought up the street, etc. Are we going to have enforcement? Do people slow down or observe the speed limit? David has read it won't result in people driving faster. Speed law is that 85% of the people know how to drive safely.
- Can a new E&T result in lowering the speed limit back from 35 to 30 in 7 years? Yes.
- This is a CA vehicle code. Do we need to back and have these laws changed? This is not the San Fernando Valley where it's flat and the streets narrow and get wider.
- Have the residents in the area been approached? Residents were notified a few months ago he'd be here. There was an email blast and it was in the CV Weekly.
- Are we changing the speed limit to match the speed at which people are driving?
- David suggests a petition from residents along Briggs Ave.
- La Canada is an example of lowering the speed limit works.

- That road (Briggs) is considered a major collector, not a local street.
- Discussion about a “road diet” and that road already narrows and not much more can be done.
- What about putting up additional signs to use second gear or low to keep you right around 30? We have laws that people still don’t follow, such as being on the phone or texting. Interesting suggestion, but this sign is not an approved sign so County would not use it. What about “Watch downhill speed?”
- We’d like information on additional approved signs and what it would look like on Briggs. What about a digital driver feedback sign? David to send information on County approved signs.
- Suggestion to also look at upper Briggs (Briggs Terrace)

15. CV Fire Safe Presentation, Judy Turner

- Work done by LA County Fire and LA Conservation Corps.
- Grants received by the LACC to mitigate danger by reducing the fuel for fire
- Drought has dried out the vegetation and animals are coming down for water.
- LACC spent almost 7,020 hours from Jan-May 2016
- LA County finished the project when the LACC was called away to help with various fires
- Jay Lopez, Assistant Chief LA County assisted with the project
- “Do One Thing” calendar given to Council has a list of things to do in the back
- Going to revitalize the One Call Now system for a \$20 annual fee

16. Correspondence

17. Council Business

- a. Treasurer Report, Treasurer Desiree Rabinov – Bank refund from 2013 deposit not recorded properly. Election expenses from last year. Bank fees from temp checks. Pancake expenses from prior year. \$16,412.74 balance. Motion to approve by Sophal Ear, seconded by Harry Leon. Approved.
- b. Medians Report, Desiree Rabinov – County DPW just finished traffic study. There will be a meeting Sept 21 with committee, Supervisor Antonovich’s office and DPW staff and will have more info to share at the October CVTC meeting.

Committee is Lisa Griffin, Kathy Duarte, Fred Zoberman, Aram Ordubegian, Michelle Sullivan, Ines Chessum, Leslie Dickson, Desiree Rabinov, Kaipon Chock.

- c. Land Use Committee, Paul Rabinov
  - i) 2222 Montrose Ave. re condo conversion – recommendation to approve was approved by Council.
  - ii) 2037/2045 Foothill Blvd – additional unit over what’s allowable on lot 1; reduce # of parking spaces required by 3 in front lot, oak tree encroachment. Many people from local community expressed concerns and asked questions. Architect was asked to take the considerations into reworking the project and come back to Land Use in Oct. One item was it was not in conformity with CSD for pitched roof.
    - a. Sherry Mudd stated concerns regarding obstruction of view, water, aesthetics, more empty retail space and public safety. Parking waiver, access for residents and emergency vehicles. Talked about a petition with almost 200 signatures. There are still a lot of petitions out for signature so petition was not submitted to the CVTC. Public outreach – was gone for 2 months and felt change was dramatic.
    - b. Where is it? A: Old Social Security building north side of Foothill, west of Walgreens.
    - c. Outreach – huge digital divide. The Land Use Committee flyer, walked, it was in the CV Weekly, FB, and CVTC website. One suggestion is different languages or we’ll be perceived as a group that only does outreach in one language. Asked for suggestions from the community on how to improve outreach considering cost & funding challenges.
  - iii) CSD – Getting fairly close to being able to present a final project to the community
- d. Proposed Sagebrush Territory Transfer Committee
  - i) Committee – Chair Harry Leon, Kyle Studebaker, Steve Goldsworthy, Aram Ordubegian, Melinda Forster, Lisa Griffin and James Bodnar. Purpose is to show the CVTC’s position and to attend various meetings and submit letters. Committee letter was read and presented to LACOE. Requested a copy of the petition but it was not clear so we requested a clear copy. Ad hoc committee needs to be approved. Motion to approve by Cheryl Davis, seconded by Charlie Beatty. Approved unanimously.
- e. Street Lights Report – Motion by Cheryl Davis that “the issue of Street Lighting be referred to the Land Use Committee for possible inclusion in the La Crescenta-

Montrose Community Standards District (“CSD”) and that the Crescenta Valley Town Council write a letter to Supervisor Antonovich’s office to request a moratorium on the creation of new lighting districts while we hear from the County’s staff and conduct all of the public outreach necessary.” [end of motion] Desiree Rabinov suggested a friendly amendment of time limit for moratorium (3 months) and look at a community forum to see if we need to establish a moratorium. Cheryl Davis accepted friendly amendment, but with a moratorium of six months.

**“The issue of Street Lighting be referred to the Land Use Committee for possible inclusion in the La Crescenta-Montrose Community Standards District (“CSD”) and that the Crescenta Valley Town Council write a letter to Supervisor Antonovich’s office to request a (6 month) moratorium on the creation of new lighting districts while we hear from the County’s staff and conduct all of the public outreach necessary, including looking at a community forum.”** [end of motion] Motion seconded by Harry Leon.

Paul Rabinov – open to LUC taking on the issue, but has concerns about incorporating it in the CSD. CSD discusses only private property, but this is public property. We are close to CSD being proposed and there are properties getting ready to be developed. A: Signage (sandwich boards) are on public property).

Concerns about looking for community to be divided and concern about stretching out timeline. Motion approved unanimously.

18. Announcements - none
19. Adjourn 9:06p