



General Council Meeting Minutes

March 18, 2021

Via Zoom Call

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1. Call to Order & Welcome: President Leon, 7:00 p.m.
2. Flag Salute: Led by Mr. Mike Baldwin
3. Invocation: Led by Mr. Mike Baldwin
4. Roll Call: Recording Secretary Jeffrey Rodriguez - Present: Leon, Lewin, Ear, Rodriguez, Ordubegian, Kilpatrick, Brookbank, Rabinov, and Yu Not Present: Libra, Stupakis and Hoffman
5. Approval of March Meeting Minutes, **Motion** to approve by Councilmember Ordubegian. Seconded by Councilmember Kilpatrick. Approved unanimously.
6. Approval of March Meeting Agenda, **Motion** to approve by Councilmember Ordubegian . Seconded by Councilmember Ear. Approved unanimously.
7. Councilmember Yu gave the following update – Reads the CVTC proclamation – “Having adopted a proclamation on March 16, 2017 and standing together as a community to promote equality for all its citizens, residents, and visitors. The CVTC stands firmly against the recent rise in violence against the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. Throughout the coronavirus pandemic racist inflammatory and xenophobia rhetoric, and hate instances against the API community have intensified across the nation and La County. Racist and xenophobic rhetoric is harmful to everyone, no matter what race, language you speak at home, or country from which you come from. Hate has no place in the Crescenta Valley. La Crescenta and Montrose have always taken pride in putting families and public safety first. No one should have to live in fear or be victimized by hate incidents. As a town, and as a community, we must stand united in our efforts against bigotry and hatred.” Ted also notes: This letter has been signed by all council members. President Leon – I would like to thank the entire council for their steadfast dedication to do our job and protect our community. We’re a diverse

community, and we're here to protect it by all means necessary. Again, thank you Council Members

8. Community Reports (3 min and questions)

- a. Youth Council – Selena gave the following updates –
- b. Sheriff - No update given
- c. Fire Department – President Leon - Fire stats were distributed to Councilmembers
- d. CHP – President Leon - Officer Cooper is being transferred to another district. We will probably meet him the new CIO from the CHP designated to our community at next month's meeting. I'll pass along any other further updates I'm given by the CHP.
- e. CV Chamber – Mr. Baldwin gave the following updates. Planning several events. At Oceanview Bar and Grill, on April 8th (11 a.m. to 8 p.m.) and it's a Scholarship fundraising event. It will be Outdoor, indoor, and takeout. On May 5th, between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m., the Chamber will be hosting a live auction via zoom. Chamber members will donate different items. Minimum will 100 dollars. It's possible we're going to have a Country fair, and possibly bingo in July. Not sure how to run it yet till we get guidance on protocols. Chamber website has the tentative dates on their calendar. Thanks the La County Parks department for giving the green light for a few events. American Legion will be doing a Veterans Day ceremony Memorial Day. We will be raising and lowering of the flag on Memorial Day. Not encouraging people to come yet as we aren't sure what protocols will be in place then.
- f. CV Water – Mr. Ochoa gave the following updates. Rainfall is shaping up to be a dry year. We've had 5.66 inches of rainfall since last October (which is the start of the water year.) This is about 35% of average, and so that is going to definitely impact our groundwater supply this year and maybe next year. We continue to use about 40% groundwater and around 60% in imported. Three pipeline projects currently in the works. One on Janet Lee, the 2400 to the 2500 blocks. One on Encinal Ave., the 3300 to the 3400 blocks. Another on El Cammino and Dyer that will start in April. Cleaned 16,700 feet of sewer pipe, and also did 8 water service replacements. Board meeting on March 23 at 7 p.m. via zoom, and everybody is welcome to attend. We'll be talking about the Capital Improvement Programs - Talking about the type of assets and facilities that we are recommending for replacement. Also talking about the Pipeline Replacement Schedule – That will address a lot of the aging pipes that we have in our streets that provide water to our customers. So it will be an important discussion. There is information on our website about how to join the meeting. President Leon – Thanks CV Water Director Sharon for always being there for the community, and providing her input.

- g. CV Cert – No updates given
- h. CV Ready - Fire Council - No update given
- i. CVCA – Mr. Michaels gave the following updates. Coming up this Tuesday is the appeal before GCC about the Honolulu project. Currently, the revised plans are available on the Glendale City webpage. Quick Summary – The height of the building has been lowered to 38 feet from 43 feet. This does bring it in line with the current density bonus for height. The design of the building has been changed cosmetically, but the mass and monument style have not changed. Mr. Michaels will speak about that, and see if further mitigation measures can be approved for the project to make it more compatible with our Community. CVCA meeting in this coming Thursday via zoom, which can be found on our media pages. We will be discussing the housing elements for the unincorporated Crescenta Valley, Glendale, and La Canada. We are expected to have two planners from La County discussing the housing element. We’re looking to see if Glendale will have their housing elements available and ready for public review. Hopefully someone from Glendale can discuss their housing element as well. We want to discuss how these housing elements affect the valley as a whole.
- j. GUSD – Superintendent Vivian Ekchian provided the following updates. Board of Education passed a resolution that we are very strongly against and won’t tolerate discrimination. Unfortunately we’ve seen recent events of discrimination towards our Asian American community. We’ve introduced curriculum that will be available to our teachers and students. Zero tolerance for discrimination. We will be sending out a letter before the students return from spring break affirming this position. GUSD Board member Jennifer Freeman gave the following updates - Looking at the lights and bleachers project, which has been community driven. We’re trying to turn CV High School into a full fledged high school. It was originally built as a middle school. Mr. Kassabian and Eldred can talk a little more about the project and the history and specifics of it – Project started in 2018 with the SEQA process, we’ve gone through the draft SEQA process, in March 2020, right before Covid, we had our first town hall meeting. Since then, we’ve moved to prepare our draft EIR which was recently completed. We already had our 2nd virtual meeting on February 17th with the community. Around 20 community members joined the meeting. Many people have reached out and commented via email and letters. We have our consultant Addie Farrell at the meeting to answer any questions as well. This project is at the final stages of the SEQA process. We are ready to take our EIR for final review at the April board meeting. John Eldred – Assistant principal at CV for 7 years now - This process has been going on for 9 years now. Started out as a middle school. When converted, it was supposed to receive a stadium and lighting, but that never happened. Excited about the idea providing our community and facility to host events with stands and lights, not just for sports. Superintendent Vivian Ekchian speaks – Excited that we aren’t in the red anymore. Hoping to be Orange sometime

in April. We first plan on bringing back the elementary school the week of the 29th tk – 2nd. Third grade through 6th on April 5th. The information is changing constantly, but our main focus is on safety, and social emotional support of our students. We hope to have plans for 7-8 shortly, and we're working very closely with the Teachers Union and the Classified Union (CSC CA). We always follow the science and all facility has been offered the vaccine. We offer free tour of the school, and the Council is invited. We are about doing what's right for our families, and giving them choices. I did call the community members who wanted to speak with me at the last general meeting, and remember, please reach out to me and you can always call. Thank you for letting us be here and inform the community at these meetings. Board Member Jennifer Freeman - Thank you for the time you grant us, and we appreciate that we have the ability to speak at these meetings. President Leon - The pleasure is all ours, and thanks you for being here. Sharon Raghavachary asks a question – Has the MOU been signed yet? Miss Ekchian responds - We are hoping to receive a counter from teachers union. A commitment was made to send us a counter at the last board meeting. The only thing that couldn't wait was the start date because 61% (74% responded) of the response from parents wanted to see some activity on campus. We want to give parents differently scheduling options, not just the normal start and end times of a school day. Make sure the virtual and in person experience is the same in quality. We're moving recesses around to promote different activities and space use. We are working with the teachers union very closely to provide the best environment for teachers and students. Councilmember Ear asks a question – With Governor Newsom's recent allocation of money to schools, are there any plans in place on how that money will be used? Miss Ekchian responds - We are hoping to do a Needs Assessment and not all school needs are the same. Some have mentioned wanting elementary counselors, some academic counselors, some want more nurses/LVNs. We are thinking of Saturday school and summer school for everyone. My belief is this shouldn't be a top down decision. We think the allocation should be provided, so the school as a community can decide how to use it onsite. For example, some schools would like a psychiatric social worker, so again, not all school needs are the same. While this is one time funding, this could last for many years. We've always wanted to improve our summer school enrichment, and after school activities, which parents shouldn't have to pay for. Met with the YMCA to talk about partnering with them to come to school and do workout instead of having to the YMCA directly. Lisa Morris asks a question – What are they doing about after school care. Are you partnering with the YMCA and what stage is that planning at? Miss Ekchian responds - All the students currently in childcare programs and not just after school programs, but also when they aren't in hybrid programs will still be offered childcare services. We will continue to do so, and we haven't charged anyone. I'm Pleased to share that two dozen of our teachers indicated they would like to benefit

from child care, so we have facilitated those requests. We can help them with that. Not sure about next year, but the Y plan and MOU are being prepared, and this hopefully will be done by the summer. All of our elementary school parents are offered childcare. Lisa Morris responds – But only if they are in those tech labs right? Miss Ekchian responds - Yes, but we've also added space for childcare wherever it is possible, and hoping to continue to expand childcare as well. Staffing is the main issue, and why we can only do so much childcare. Once we can hire more staff, then we'll look to expand the program further. We've hired 300 additional staff since the pandemic, and are partnering with teacher outsourcing agency to hire more to help during this time. So space is an issue because our class size is now 14 per student. Child care is real, and I will continue to support our community's childcare needs. Councilmember Ordubegian asks a question – Lights and grandstands – When is this expected to be completed? I know it's going to the board, but any rough estimate? Miss Ekchian responds - For example, the Glendale Aquatic center did it in 1 year during the pandemic. Once we've gathered all the input from the community, and all the support needed to serve the students, it won't take long. Mr. Kassabian responds – Let's say it goes to the board in April, and we're given the greenlight to move forward. There is no design yet, and we're only in the conceptual phase. Once environment approval, we'll move into our schematic design, design our construction documents, which could take a year to a year and a half. Then we'll start looking at getting different bids for the construction, which is another 3 months. Then the work could take about a year or so, so we could be looking at around 3 years or so total. President Leon makes a statement and asks a question - If you have questions please reach out. They are always there and respond quickly. Board Member Jennifer Freeman is part of the community and always there. Question – In Re: bleachers and lights, was there community outreach done recently? Mr. Kassabian responds – Outreach was done. We had 2 town hall meetings, and one was in March 2020. We posted information about these meetings on our website, and sent letters within a 500 foot radius. Second meeting was on February 17, 2021, with more letters sent out within the 500 foot radius. We also posted this information in the local papers, as well as gave a phone no. to call with concerns. The community also could come to our Board meetings to express concerns there. Addie Farrell responds – The virtual meeting was also recorded and available on the GUSD website. President Leon comments - The CVTC can help with the Outreach and do what can to assist the community. Councilmember Brookbank – We have passionate community members. There are some who are against the project, and we can all sympathize with their reasons I'm sure. Can their voice still be heard, and is there any hope for them? We tell them to come to meetings, but can that actually help or is it too late to put on the brakes on the project? Board Member Jennifer Freeman – yes come out, it's never too late. I wouldn't support putting the brakes on the project as you said, but we can still have these

conversations, and what we can do to make it less harmful to those against it. We can have those mitigation conversations, and I believe Mr. Kassabian has had conversations about this directly with members of the community. Councilmember Brookbank – Not speaking for or against it, but want to give people who we speak to some feedback on whether it would be useful to still speak up. One more question about the parking situation. Is it an every person for themselves situation? Addie Farrell responds – The environmental impact report doesn't include the development any new parking structure(s). It does include a mitigation measure that the district implements a traffic management plan prior to any events that takes an assessment and inventory of available parking in the vicinity of the campus. This is on an event by event basis. President Leon makes a statement – Thank you everybody, and we appreciate you being here. If we hear feedback we'll be reaching out, and send them your way. We want everything to work out. We appreciate you being here to inform our community. Superintendent Ekchian responds – All voices matter, everything will be heard. We want to hear about your concerns. CV is the flagship of the area. It's a great school. People love being on campus. It's the desire of the students and youth community who want this project to go forward. Councilmember Rabinov makes a statement and asks a question – I want to thank all of you for being here, and putting in all this time and effort into the project. We appreciate your dedication and commitment to the community, and being open to having conversations with our community members. In Re: SEQA reports, I've hired Placeworks for some of my projects throughout my career, and they are very good and reputable. Question – Are there any other assessments looking at public transportation around the campus? Possibly expanding our Bee Line and Metro services, as well as the La Canada shuttle; to encourage people to find alternative ways to CV high school, so has this been addressed or considered at all? Miss Addie Farrell responds – Placeworks didn't look at alternate transportation as a means to get to the site, and we assumed most people were driving, but it's a great comment and suggestion. In the mitigation plan, we can look at that then. So besides looking at event traffic and parking, we can expand the parameters to include alternate transportation to events. Councilmember Rabinov makes a statement – That would be great if they could look at other rideshare options that could be provided. Mr. Kassabian responds - Thank you for the question, and a great suggestion. I know Hollywood Bowl does shuttling from the Zoo parking lot for example, and something similar is a great idea. Councilmember Yu asks a question – Can you share the website link where the community can make comments? Miss Farrell and Mr. Kassabian respond– I can put a link in the chat right now. Unfortunately the comment period has ended, but there is still a lot of info still on the website about the project. President Leon makes a statement – Again thank you for coming, we appreciate you, and let us know how we can help.

- k. Land Use Committee – (President Leon thanks Cheryl Davis for being here, who is a former president of the CV Town Council, and has done a lot for the community. She's very instrumental in our community and So it's very nice to have her here today) Miss Cheryl Davis gave the following updates – At the LUC meeting on March 4th, we have planners from regional planning come to make a presentation on the housing element for the unincorporated areas of La County. Basically, they are looking a building 90,000 homes in the next 8 years. They are looking at rezoning to accomplish this. They identified 33 parcels they are looking at rezoning in La Crescenta Montrose, and they are all in Montrose. There is a link on the Town Council website, under the LUC section, which has a link to the County's presentation. The County is asking that people participant in survey, which should be coming soon. This link to the survey will be on the Town Council website. Please fill this out and let your voice be heard. They want you thoughts on housing, development, and housing density. Rotating terms, 3 members were up. Two candidates applied, both are experienced and longtime respected members of the community. We're proposing Steve Goldsworthy, join returning members Nicole England and James Bodner. So those are the perspective members I'm putting before the Council, with their terms running from December 2020 to December 2023. As a reminder, our next meeting on April 1st. There will be a presentation on renewal of the Liquor license for Walgreens. The development at 2432 foothill at sunset. He doesn't have to present, it's a by right project, but since it's a proposed project of 31 residential units, he will come anyways. Victoria from Laura Friedman office will be there, because this concerns housing, and building more housing. Since Miss Friedman is heavily involved in that, her representative will be there. Recommendation from the LUC for the new LUC members. **Motion** to accept nominations for the new LUC Members – Councilmember Ordubegian moves, Councilmember Kilpatrick seconds the motion. Approved unanimously. President Leon – Thank you for being part of the process and we appreciate all you're doing in the LUC and in general. Mr. Baldwin asks a question - How many units are they saying we need in La Crescenta? Miss Cheryl Davis responds - Not sure on the exact number, but the County wants to accomplish this by rezoning. For example, if a property is zoned as an h30 (20-30 units), they would change it to an h50, which is 20 to 50 units per acre. They aren't yet, and have years to plan, but they do have to do community meetings at some point. So we need to attend such meetings and have our voices heard. We have to tell them what we want, don't want, and don't agree with. Councilmember Ordubegian makes a statement – I also don't know the exact number of houses they are planning, but it's a big number. So we do need to participate, it's important, and we need our voices heard. Miss Sharon Raghavachary responds – I reached out to the two planners and got more info. The plan is due by October. So the timeline to Supervisors is by the end of the year. If things are rezoned, they will be looking add 638 units to what's already allowed.

Keep in mind most of the parcels aren't even fully developed yet. Most of these are on Oceanview and Verdugo. Right now there are a lot single and two story buildings, many of them commercial buildings. Some already allow for 50 units per acre. So the 638 on top of what is already allowed. President Leon makes a statement – I know Mr. Ochoa is concerned about infrastructure in regards to sewer and water and reached out to the planners for more info. Mr. Ochoa responds – I've left a message, and we'll hopefully be able to talk soon. President Leon – Thank you for reaching out, as it's very important. Miss Sharon Raghavachary – Also, those same planners will be at the next CVCA meeting, and we hope to have more info then. President Leon – Thank you Cheryl and Sharon for being here, and we appreciate all the work you're doing for the community.

9. Community Announcements (2 minute)

- a. Library: Miss Martha Wiggins gave the following updates. President Leon makes a statement – Our favorite librarian received the librarian of the year award. Well deserved, and thank you for all you do in the community. Miss Martha Wiggins – The community and staff have allowed me to shine. Thank you to the community for the support, because through that support have we been allowed to innovate and do interesting things. Closed today for staff development day. La Crescenta library is the second busiest library in our system. This community has outpaced bigger communities, and only Culver City has had more circulation. I learned today, we are approaching orange. Tentatively, in mid to late April we may offer limited contact services. This will be limited on what you could do, and it will be mostly browsing. Chrome book lending program. This includes the Wifi, and it's a three week checkout. You can renew checkout if nobody else wants it.
- b. Park & Rec - No update given
- c. American Legion – Mr. Baldwin gave the following updates. Moose lodge, this Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., we're having a food drive. We've already delivered one full truck to bailey's center in Sunland/Tujunga, and to Sue's garden. Thank you for your time.
- d. Prom Plus – No update given
- e. Fire House/ Mary O'Keefe - No update given

10. 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.

11. Council Business

- a. Treasurer's Report: No update given

- b. Correspondence: Councilmember Ear provided the following update – In the mail, there was nothing essential or needed.
- c. Streets and Transportation: Councilmember Rabinov gave the following updates – Committee meeting is March 30th at 6 pm, via the same zoom link as the general meeting. We'll be talking about additional street improvements that we have on our list in terms of surveys and audits. We have an update on the intersection of Briggs and Los Olivos, where they did a bulb-out. This is fantastic, and we've been working on this for around 3 years now, and it was finally implemented. We've already noticed a difference, and prevented cars from bypassing other stopped cars. So it has already been a success. We'll go over more updates on other bulb-outs in our community, potholes, and speeding concerns. Our County contact says, the best way to get potholes fixed is The Works App(iphone or droid), and take a picture of the pothole, and it will usually be fixed within 24 hours. You can also call 1-800 675-4357. Again, the application is quick and easy, and the County will take care of it within 24 hours. We'll be talking about pedestrian sidewalk at Orange and La Crescenta Ave. The outreach meeting for that will be at the end of April or early May. County staff needs to prepare an Outreach public release, and identify other public documents to get out to the community. I spoke with the Chamber and there are NO conflicts within that timeframe, so they'll identify a date at our next meeting, and when they'll do a full public outreach forum. We'll be discussing the Sound Wall additional funding agreement, which is hopefully completed soon so we can get a construction timeline. We'll also be discussing Foothill Blvd Complete Street Master Plan. They propose to have the existing conditions analysis report completed by August 2021. We'll also be talking about Vision Zero Slow Street programs. I have incorporated slow street signs within our community to encourage people to slow down and not speed on residential streets. We'll be discussing the Bus Stop Improvement Plans survey that was started in 2016, completed in 2018, and finally approved in 2019 to install new contemporary bus shelters in the La Crescenta and Montrose area. This will be rolled out over 4 years. It starts at the end of 2021 to 2025, but we don't know where we stand in that process yet. So we'll hopefully get more information on when that will roll out for us. Miss Cheryl Davis asks a question – Any news on the La Crescenta sign that was knocked over. President Leon responds – They need to replace the entire sign. We got a Ross Report and it's going to take 3 to 4 months to get it done

12. Adjourn: the meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.