



## General Council Meeting Minutes

March 17, 2022

Via Zoom Call

[www.theCVcouncil.com](http://www.theCVcouncil.com) or [contact@thecvcouncil.com](mailto:contact@thecvcouncil.com)

Please turn off or silence cell phones while inside the Council meeting

1. Call to Order & Welcome: President Leon, 7:00 p.m.
2. Flag Salute: Led by Mr. Mike Baldwin
3. Invocation: Led by Mr. Randy Foster (Christian Life Church)
4. Roll Call: Recording Secretary Jeffrey Rodriguez - Present: Leon, Lewin, Rodriguez, Ordubegian, Kilpatrick, Ahlers, Libra, Mueller, Baghdassarian, Madsen, Yu, and Barnes Not Present: N/A
5. Approval of February Meeting Minutes, **Motion** to approve by Councilmember Lewin, Seconded by Councilmember Kilpatrick. Approved unanimously.
6. Approval of March Meeting Agenda (**Revised – Roll Call moves to item 4 of the Agenda plus other minor edits**), **Motion** to approve by Councilmember Lewin. Seconded by Councilmember Libra. Approved Unanimously.
7. Community Reports (3 min and questions)
  - a. Youth Council – Councilmember Lewin gave the following updates – Y.C. finished their poll for the T-Shirt design contest. A winner has been selected. I’m going to be working with Eric Eubanks to get the shirts printed. The public should be able to order/buy the sweatshirts in a couple of weeks. Youth Council Liaison Erik - Community events – Book Drive at the library on March 26<sup>th</sup>. Movie night with a date TBD. We are trying to do more outreach in the community. The T-Shirt contest had 262 responses, and we’ll continue our work with Councilmember Lewin on that project.
  - b. Sheriff – Lt. Rob Hahnlein gave the following updates – Part One Crimes (no murder, rape, burglary, robbery etc. etc.) Two aggravated assaults, one in which multiple people were assaulted. Part Two crimes - No vandalism or narcotic incidents, but there were 6 identity fraud incidents. 4 warrants. Most Part 1 crimes are up year to date from this point last year, but we are down when compared to last month. 95 Traffic citations were issued and 40 warnings given. That is a 9% increase in traffic citations year to date. Our C.O.P.S. program is underway and we had 6 extra patrol cars out in our communities. Question by Councilmember Ahlers – At the Sherriff’s conference last week there was talk about the

possible consequences of defunding. Are you feeling any extra pressure from this and how could this impact our local station. Lt. Hahnlein responds - We get personnel right away once someone gets a promotion or retires. We don't have any vacant spots right now and are fully staffed.

- c. Fire Department – Miss Maria Grycan gave the following updates – 59 responses, 3 fires - One was a trash fire. Another was a structure fire on Alabama where a water heater malfunctioned. The last one was a structure fire on Prospect Ave. in a detached garage. where there was an electrical malfunction. 40 medical calls, 29 patients were transported to the hospital. 6 instances of power lines down. 9 Good intent calls and 1 service calls. Fire reports were distributed via email.
- d. CHP – Officer Bay gave the following updates – For February we had 13 T.C.'s, 4 of those had injuries, and 3 of those were investigated as a possible DUI. We gave a seat belt and child safety restraints presentation at our office last month. Remember that as the temperature fluctuates be sure to check your tire pressure. Next month is our Distracted Drivers Awareness Month – texting, eating, makeup. We are looking for any businesses or schools that would like us to give one of our presentations and get out in the community more. We are currently collaborating with Glendale PD on a Smart Start Program. We also had a commercial enforcement day last month where we targeted trucks driving in the second lane or going too fast. This took place all down the 210 freeway. President Leon asks a question – When you have a box truck, what considerations go into what the maximum load you can carry. Officer Bay responds - Every vehicle has a G.V.W.R. (Gross Vehicular Weight Rating) – This includes the cab and the load, and if the weight exceeds the GVWR for that vehicle, than that means it's overweight. I'll follow up with others to make sure that is correct.
- e. CV Chamber – Mr. Mike Baldwin gave the following updates – Having a chamber mixer at El Charro on March 31<sup>st</sup> at 6 p.m. Please call the chamber for a reservation. There will be a max capacity of 50, and for \$15 you get food and drinks. We have the Hometown Country Fair coming up April 30<sup>th</sup> – We have a flyer to pass out. If want a booth at the fair please go on our website. We have forms and flyers and everything you'll need- there. Our Silent Auction starts on May 13th (for two weeks) – A lot of gift baskets and items from the community. More info on the website. American Legion VFW – Operation Gratitude - We'll distribute 640 first responder kits to Police, Fire, and Paramedics in our area. Armed Forces Day on May 21<sup>st</sup> - There will be a car show there from 10 to 3 p.m. and everybody is welcome. We'll have an event at Two-Strike Park on May 30<sup>th</sup> (Memorial Day) starting at 8 a.m. President Leon – Thank you for making your hall available and hosting this event. We really appreciate it and all you do in our community.
- f. CV Water – Mr. James Lee gave the following updates - We are in a holding pattern to see if The Department of Drinking Water will change their allocation. Mid last year the allocation went to zero and then it went to 15% late last year. We just had the driest rain months in history for Jan. and Feb. We'll see what allocation we'll be getting from the State. We appreciate all the communities help throughout the years, and that has put us in a good position to navigate these times.
- g. CV Cert – No update given
- h. CV Ready - Fire Council - No update given

- i. CVCA – Mr. Justin Hager gave the following updates for Grant Michaels – CVCA meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of every month to talk about a variety of issues that impact the CV area. The agenda will be posted on their Facebook page.
- j. GUSD – Superintendent Ekchian gave the following updates – We are on spring break right now, but as our staff and students return, they will now have the option to wear a mask if they choose. It’s a personal choice. We respect everybody’s choice. We had our Scholarastic Bowl – Very close competition, and it was very exciting. We also had our Student Voice Panel recently. I’m so proud of our youth and how they are addressing the issues they face and issues within the community in a respectful, thoughtful, empathetic and inclusive way. I’m so proud of them all, and we’ll be in good hands in the future. Councilmember Ahlers comments – We appreciate all that you’ve done for our students and community during this whole pandemic. You did an amazing job.
- k. Land Use Committee – Miss Chessum gave the following updates – At our last meeting we looked again at the proposal we want to go to regional planning addressing the R1 issue within our CSD. A letter was sent to Regional Planning. We wanted the R1 zone structure height reduce to 28ft. This is standard. We also want to put in a F.A.R. into our CSD (Floor area ratio) which defines the allowed area for a structure within a lot. We are going to follow the F.A.R. parameters that most surrounding cities currently have (garage isn’t included in this). SB9 became law in Jan. I was able to speak with someone in the Advancement Planning Department and they informed me that they are looking at ways to have a more standardized approach to development. Right now they are working on San Gabriel East, we are part of San Gabriel West, so we’re next. This will likely be sometime in the middle of next year. The County is trying to pass an ordinance that would eliminate parking requirements for multi-family housing of 5 units or more. All communities are concerned about this because what happens to the cars for those units. They will all be on the street and aggravate parking/traffic. There is a survey that you can fill out about the parking ordinance that asks a variety of questions. So far they have received 800 responses. This survey can be found on the CVTC website and at [planning.lacounty.gov/parkingstudy](http://planning.lacounty.gov/parkingstudy). Councilmember Lewin asks a question – Can we pass along the concern about the Fire Department not being able to drive down the streets safely because of this ordinance. Miss Chessum answers – I’ll bring this up and pass that concern along to regional planning. Community question – Can we put a comment area on the website about this parking ordinance. The more community feedback we have on this issue we can turn in the better. President Leon and Miss Chessum answer – Yes, we’ll put this on the website to gather some feedback from the community. President Leon – We need to address this parking issue right now before it comes to our area. It is a big concern on mine, and it could really impact our community. Miss Chessum comments – One concern that we keep hearing which we think should happen, is that more public transportation needs to be in place before parking is taken away. President Leon comments – the CVTC will coordinate with our Outreach Committee to come up with a way to get a survey on our website and use outreach to have people come to the site to fill out the survey. Also, if the LUC can put together a recommendation for a letter In Re: SB9, we’ll review it and send it out to the Supervisor office. Councilmember Kilpatrick – This parking issue is an important ones so please have your voice heard. The time you can have the biggest impact is in the early stages of a project. That time is now.

I. Streets and Transportation – Dede Mueller – We decided that a meeting every month wasn't needed, and we'll now be meeting quarterly. Councilmember Mueller reads the letter sent to the Supervisor Office In Re: La Crescenta Street repaving and Improvements Project. Soundwall – County is working on the funding arrangement for the project, so no movement on that front. Nothing new on Vision Zero. Next meeting will be via zoom on Tuesday April 26th. President Leon asks a question – Has there ever been any letter talking about \$9,000,000 in extra funding available for the soundwall. Do we have any evidence of that or do we know if we'll get that money. Councilmember Mueller responds – I've never seen any letter but I'll follow up about that potential money.

8. Community Announcements (2 minutes)

- a. Library: Miss Martha Wiggins gave the following updates - Library is currently open 60 hours a week. This week will be the first Sunday we've been opened in recent memory. We'll also be starting our extended hours from Mon – Thurs. (10 a.m. – 8 p.m.) Fri. and Sat. (10 a.m. – 6 p.m.) and Sun. (1 p.m. – 5 p.m.) We ranked no. 2 out of 85 libraries in our district.
- b. Park & Rec – No update given -
- c. American Legion – Updates above (CV Chamber section)
- d. Promplus/firehouse – Miss Studebaker gave the following updates - We continue to meet on a regular basis. We will be hosting a Promplus event this year, and I'll have more updates as we move forward. We are starting to do some fundraising again, and we'll be bringing back our 15<sup>th</sup> annual Taste of La Crescenta on June 4<sup>th</sup> . Volunteers are welcomed and always needed. Taste of Montrose will be coming up on May 1<sup>st</sup> in conjunction with the Montrose Shopping Association. Tickets will go on sale mid-April. It will be \$20 or \$25 and you get a wrist band to walk the area. There will be a map available of the route and restaurants participating.
- e. Firehouse – Miss Studebaker gave the following updates – Firehouse is providing a wonderful service on Wed. morning for Rosemont students. Volunteers are always needed. They are open from 7a.m. to 9p.m. You could always make a financial or food in kind donation if you so choose. They could have 10 or 25 kids, it just depends. It's every Wed. while school is in session

9. **Todd Schmit, From Los Angeles County Park & Rec / Landscape Architect from Planning and Development**, will be presenting a brief overview of findings after reviewing the southeast corner of Crescenta Valley Park for required ADA upgrades. Areas reviewed include the existing parking lot, restrooms, picnic tables, grills, play areas, ballfield area, and Outdoor gym. **Issues include:** No existing ADA access between the sidewalk on New York Ave and the existing play areas; Sidewalk between the two play areas do not comply with ADA; Portions of the parking lot remain unpaved and not ADA compliant; Truncated domes are not provided at existing ADA parking spaces; No existing ADA access between the sidewalk on New York Ave. and the existing parking lot and park; Restrooms – Walkways surrounding the restrooms are not in compliance with ADA; There is no ADA walkway between the restroom and parking lot; Men's – Baby changing station location does not comply with ADA; Other minor improvements such as

mounting heights of fixtures and waste wrapping at sinks; Amenities and Features – Picnic tables and grills are not ADA compliant and do not have an accessible path of travel to the area; Bleachers and viewing areas around the ballfield are not ADA compliant and do not have an accessible path of travel to the area; Drinking fountain does not have an accessible path of travel; **Possible solutions** – Provide access to ballfield and viewing area as well as accessible path around the ballfield; Replace the ramp between the two play areas on the southside of the site as it is non-compliant; Add access from the sidewalk along New York Ave. into the site; Upgrade parking lot with required ADA improvements; Create an accessible path from the parking lot to the restrooms; Replace the non-existent paving area around the bathroom; Make minor changes to the interior of the bathrooms to make them ADA compliant; Add accessible BBQ's and picnic tables and provide access to existing historical BBQ's; and Providing an accessible route of travel to the drinking fountains. **Recommendations** - Identify and secure funding for the project evaluation, scope and budget work; PND to determine final scope and budget – Request a cost proposal from a consultant, include a certified access specialist, a surveyor, cost estimator to evaluate the park, and provide a ADA compliance report; PND to work with the CAS to determine final scope to bring the park into compliance with ADA, cost estimator will determine the estimate for the capital project, Identify and secure capital funding for the project, and finally execute the Capital Project. Presentation concludes. Questions from Council/Public – Councilmember Rodriguez – With all these moving parts to this project and steps to go through, do you have a rough estimate on the time frame we could expect work to begin. Mr. Schmit answers – It really depends on how quickly we can get funding for the first phase. If we have funding the first phase should only take 3 to 4 months. Once we find the capital funding the design and construction should take 12 to 18 months. In total, the project will likely take around 2 years from start to finish. Councilmember Ahlers – What are the funding source for an ADA project like this one. Mr. Schmit answer – Essentially most funding is open for ADA projects. For measure A funds, you would the Supervisors office to go to Glendale for help accessing those funds. There are also grants for ADA's that we can look into. From our end, we'll explore all options and many will work for this type of project. We can make a lot of funding work from a variety of sources. Councilmember Kilpatrick – Am I correct in saying that someone with a disability or stroller would have a hard time accessing the locations mentioned in your presentation because the connection to and between them aren't good. Mr Schmit answers – That is correct, there are some key ADA components missing at the park. Some of the amenities are in compliance, but there's no pathways to the those areas. Equity is important. Allowing more folks to enjoy and use the facility is important. This is also not an overly complicated project with steep grades for example. Most of the fixes are easy. Chat comment/question – Great presentation and the visuals were good. Thank you for working on this and thanks to Chris's mom/council for putting this on the table. I put a link in the chat for a possible source for additional funding. Has an assessment like this been done at some of our other local parks and what are the conditions of the other parks. Mr. Schmit Answers – Our last ADA assessments are a few years old, but I can take a look when I get back into the office and see what notes I have for the other parks. Miss Sue Kilpatrick – I've been looking at this for a long time now. I would love to be able to take the dog and go on a stroll through CV park and enjoy all the areas of it. **Outdoor Fitness Gym presentation by Mr. Schmit** – This is an Important priority for the community and was listed on the 2016 Park Needs Assessment. The

costs can be between 500,000 to 1 million. It could be less. The costs depend on the equipment, whether shade is provided, surfacing. making an ADA path of travel, ADA drinking fountain etc. etc. Measure A funds can be used for this. Currently there's a total of \$262,490 in Measure A funding for this, which goes up by 69,000 annually. If this is marked as a priority by the Council and the community, then we can start work on getting the application in for Measure A funding, and then to start the process. Question by Councilmember Mueller - In other parks the equipment is spread out. Is that possible at this park as well. Mr. Schmit answer - We can certainly spread out equipment to make it more of a circuit, but then it costs more to provide shade and a pathway to multiple areas. Different surface areas costs more than others. It's really up to the community how it's laid out and the funding available. Question by Councilmember Madsen - Who handles the maintenance of this equipment. Is there a warranty on the equipment. Mr. Schmit answers – There's a warranty on the equipment for a certain amount of time. A couple of years. Our north agency would be taking care of this on a daily basis. Our field agencies are familiar with these types of repairs and are well equipped to handle them. The maintenance costs comes out of the Parks budget. Councilmember Ahlers asks a question – Is there any extra insurance costs needed or associated with a project like this. Mr. Schmit answers - There are no extra insurance costs when a facility like this is put into place. Councilmember Yu asks a question - Is there a table that can show what the costs would be if we did this method compared to that method. Something to see in black and white that would show the different options available and how much each would add to the total cost of the project. Mr. Schmit answers – There are a lot of costs associated with the ADA compliance features, the type of flooring, shade etc. etc. We can certainly put something together. Community comment – It might be a good idea if there's an Ad Hoc Committee on the Council that can tackle this. Funding is low and need is high. The committee could gather past and present studies as well as input from the community.

10. **Mr. Hagop Kassabian GUSD Projects Manager** will present a review of the CVHS field project and other projects in the CV area. Several project in La Crescenta. 1. CV field Improvements Project - 1700 extra seats for the field and 4 new light post to illuminate the field. We will start construction in the beginning of 2023 and this should take about 1 year to complete. 2. Pool Renovation Project - CV pool needs to be large enough for CIF swimming events and water polo. We will be making the pool bigger, and we'll add some bleachers to the facility as well. All the locker rooms and restrooms will still be used but they need to be upgraded to be ADA compliant. We are still in the design phase and we will go into DSA in about 2 weeks and be in that process for 6 to 8 months. 3. Monte Vista Elementary School Project – This has been going on since last year and we are currently in the Building Delivery Phase. There is currently foundation work going on where the building(s) will be placed. We are waiting for final approval on the foundation and then we can start building the modular units. All 24 pieces of the unit(s) have already been delivered. 4. Clark Magnet HS Project CTE Building- This is under construction and will be completed around the summer of this year. There already is a CTE Building, but we are adding another. Questions: Councilmember Madsen asks a question – How will the new lighting impact the neighbors in the area. You just mentioned that there was an environmental impact study done... What were the findings. Mr. Kassabian responds - The lights will be pointing down on the field and that will hopefully reduce the impact. Keep in mind,

this field never had existing lighting, so the study showed that there would be an impact but it shouldn't be much. Also, the lights will turn off at 10 p.m., and newer lights do a better job of lessening the impacts on the surrounding areas. The environmental study is on the GUSD website, and you can find the lighting parameter there. Councilmember Libra asks a question – How many days are these lights on for. Every day till 10 p.m. Mr. Kassabian answers - That will depend on the school schedule. It is only supposed to be used for a sports events. There will be safety lights as well that will be added. We can post the schedule on the school website if that is helpful to the community. Councilmember Yu asks a question - The building height at Monte Vista and Clark Magnet school - Is that an issue for neighbors in the area and their view. Mr. Kassabian answers - No, it's actually lower than some of the structures there now at Monte Vista. At Clark, it does go slightly above the building next to it, but it's not significant, and shouldn't impact the view of the neighbors. Mr. Justin Hager – Is the lighting available only for CVHS athletics or is it available to everyone. It seems that there are non-CVHS events that happen there from time to time, so will the lights be available to those parties Mr. Kassabian There will be a costs associated with private parties using the field. The application to use the field will now be changed because of the lights. We will know more on how often they will be used once the school schedule comes out, and then we see how many application we get to use the field. Superintendent Ekchian comments – Please keep in mind, our students have to travel to play sports and now we won't have to. Our priority will always be our students using the field and not outside parties. President Leon Comments – thank you for the presentation and coming to our meeting to inform the community on the various project going on. To the public, please send any questions you have to Miss Freeman or Ekchian, and they will always answer. Again, thank you for all you are doing to keep our kids safe during this the whole pandemic.

## 11. 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.

- a. There was an accident recently where a deer was killed by a speeding car on Shields Ave. We care about the wildlife and people walking in the area. We have a speeding issue on Shields that I've been vocal about for some time. This wasn't the first deer to be hit. The speed limit is 20 but cars go 30 or 50 mph. There are cameras that caught the deer incident and were installed to show speeding in the area. It would be nice if we had slow down signs or stop signs installed to get people to slow down. President Leon – We will contact CHP and they'll get in touch with you to see what can be done.

## 12. Council Business

- a. Treasurer's Report: Councilmember Libra reads the February Treasury report (distributed to the Council). **Motion** to approve February's treasury report and Budget by Councilmember Ordubegian. Seconded by Councilmember Baghdassarian. Approved Unanimously. Councilmember Libra reads the Audit Report. **Motion** to approve 2021 Audit report by Councilmember Ahlers. Seconded by Councilmember Mueller. Approved Unanimously. President Leon and Vice President Kilpatrick Comment – We appreciate all the committee

members who put this together and all your hard work. A big thanks to Aram, Donna and Grant for your efforts on the Audit committee. Thank you.

- b. Correspondence: Nothing of note in the mail. We sent out our Officer update which included the names of our Officers and how long their terms are for.
- c. Outdoor fitness center at Two Strike Park – Update given above.
- d. Scholarship Committee – Councilmember Yu gave the following updates - We sent out an agreed upon scholarship application to CVHS and Clark Magnet School. The deadline to turn this in will be at the end of April. Councilmember Libra posted this on Facebook as well. Councilmember Lewin – Who can apply for the scholarship. Can other schools apply as well. President Leon answers – Yes, as long as they are in the area, they can apply.
- e. Outreach Committee – Councilmember Lewin gave the following updates - Coffee with the Council will be on May 7<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 a.m. till 11:30 a.m. at the Ralph’s parking lot. We’ll have a booth at the Hometown Country Fair on April 30<sup>th</sup>. Stop by and say hello. We recently sent a letter to the Supervisor Office for a grant to offset some of our outreach costs.
- f. Prayer Breakfast – Councilmember Ahlers gave the following updates – it has been two years since we’ve had the Prayer Breakfast. It will be on May 14<sup>th</sup> here at the American Legion. We are working on all the logistics, but we are excited to have it again.
- g. President Leon gave the following closing comments – I want to thank and acknowledge members of the La Crescenta community (Mike Leum) who are over in Ukraine helping children of that country in any way they can. We are so proud of them, and they are real life heroes. Also, I’d like to thank the VFW for hosting us tonight, and doing a wonderful job getting everything set up. Thank you.

13. Adjourn: the meeting was adjourned at 9:28 p.m.