

# **Rolando Park Community Council General Meeting**

October 10, 2016 Rolando Park Elementary School,  
Room 25

**7:00** The meeting was called to order by President Sonia Lang.  
**Dues and Membership:** Lynn Edwards informed us that we now have 99 members, the highest number in three years! The treasury stands at \$1195 in dues, and \$953 in donations.

**Updates:** The **petitions** we've been working on gathering signatures for a 4-way stop at Vista Grande and Marlowe will be presented at 8:30 tomorrow night, Tuesday, October 11, at the East Area Community Planning Council (EACPC). The meeting starts at 7:00, and we have representatives presenting information about our need for the stop signs.

**Nominating committee** Gerrie Flaven and Kathryn Kern reminded us that the **2017 board** will be voted on at the next general meeting, November 14. The positions are:

President: Sonia Lang and Lynn Edwards to share, with one vote.

VP: Kathryn Kern and Gerrie Flaven to share, with one vote.

Secretary: Judy Fleischman

Treasurer: Audrey Ledesma and Debbi Blake to share, with one vote.

Members at Large: Laura Sechrist Molenda

## **PRESENTERS**

**San Diego Fire Rescue Department:** Grace Yamane reminded us that we're still in the wildfire season, and shared the importance of safety in the kitchen, as that's often where house fires start. She also brought up the need for safety at Halloween.

She gave out the phone number to call for questions about property that might be a fire hazard: 619-533-4300, and talked about the fact that our firefighters go to other locations to fight fires.

**Officer Terry Hoskins-SDPD:** Terry has heard that there is lots of concern about speeding in our city, but is unfamiliar with stop signs in the street division and hopes we get what we want on Vista Grande and Marlowe. At this time, he said that Rolando Park is doing well keeping a low crime rate. He reminded us that neighbors are our best help, and that we should continue watching unusual people parked on our streets, take pictures of people and license plates when possible: it is *not* illegal to take pictures of a person in a public place. (Who knew?) License plate info can be sent to him, and he will make sure it gets passed on to someone who can check it out. An audience member told him there is a site, the “Ice Black Box,” that can be used to report information.

He posts the weekly crime mapping, if anyone wants further details. His last words were, “Keep fighting for your community.”

**Katie Sadd- Council Member Cole’s Office:** Katie was very excited to tell us about the new Skyline Hill Library that will be opening, on Paradise Valley Road. There has been lots of information about it on line. There will also be a new project at Euclid and Hilltop, with housing and restaurants. She was asked about the joint use project at Rolando Park Elementary School, and assured us that San Diego City will have a much more comprehensive one than the one that was at the school recently, and was a bit of a disappointment for those of us who went. She will make certain we are aware of the next meeting. She had no news about the “goat trail” sidewalk and how soon it should be completed, but said that there has been a commitment by the city to improve sidewalks, Myrtle Cole in particular.

**Neighborhood Empowerment Alliance**, sponsored by Neighborhoods for Campaign Finance Reform, passed out and collected a survey about our first, second, and third concerns.

**Max Ellorin** spoke in behalf of **LaShae Collins**, who is running for SD Unified School Board. She believes in parent-community engagement, and equity and equal education for all, he stated. LaShae has worked for Shirley Weber, and is an adjunct professor at SDSU.

### **8:00 Guest Presentation - Bill Tall from City Farmers Nursery on Home Avenue - Summary:**

Our very popular and educational speaker Bill began by giving us a brief history of his 44 year-old nursery. At present, he has started up the first 4-H Club in the city of San Diego, and wants to open a charter school based on farming techniques. He gave us a great example of all the history and science a child can learn from studying a potato.

Bill encourages everyone to plant a garden, not simply for the more healthy and better tasting food, but for the stress release value of it. He spoke at length about the poor soil in San Diego, and offered information about how to improve your soil for best growing. One needs to know what levels of nitrogen (green growth), phosphorus (fruit and flowers), and potassium (root production) are needed. Now, he said, is the time for prepping the soil for fall planting. Ph levels are important, too. He showed us a tool for checking that level. He told us to stay off the internet to learn how to garden, as the advice might not be appropriate for our area. Soil should have 1/3 sand and rock, 1/3 silt, clay, and loam, and 1/3 organic material, which has to be added once it gets broken down.

Our speaker advised not to mix fertilizer IN the soil, but to scratch it in. You want it to be released slowly. For that reason, don't use

fertilizer spikes; granular is best. Organic should be used as the living things have not been killed, as they have been in chemical fertilizer.

Other interesting facts: There are 900 beekeepers in the San Diego area. New varieties are often wonderful. GMO's aren't 100% bad, unless something has been stuck in the plant that never should have been there in the beginning. Only eat organic strawberries and apples, as they are the most highly sprayed in the world. Run water through houseplants to get rid of salt. Butter squash, "winter squash" can last for months on your table! Crack eggs into plastic bags to freeze! There are edible succulents!

Bill passed out a Planting Guide. City Farmers has a great variety of classes, about a way of life we all can enjoy. His fiancée in the back gave him the sign, he spoke for 5 more minutes. A few people stayed after to visit or ask questions. (If you haven't made it to City Farmers yet, you owe yourself a visit. It's an amazing place, and great for children. Nate's Deli next door is worth a visit too, and has craft beer and live music.)

**8:45** Meeting adjourned.