

Topanga Community Club General Meeting 10-13-11

Mark Nygard opened the meeting reminding everyone why the club is here and the people who stepped up to build it. Anastasia Fite played a movie she and Tom Mitchell had produced with input from the historical society regarding the origins of the house.

Gabrielle spoke about the Board positions open and welcomed sign-ups.

Jeannie Mitchell discussed the Topanga Symphony group and the concert November 20th. Looking for an April 1 concert for 2012 (to be arranged).

Paul Parzik spoke about the children's sports program. Emphasis is on fun, fair play, fundamentals, not high pressure or stress. High demand for soccer, low turnout for football and baseball currently. Program has about 250 participants, includes some from surrounding communities. Details available on topangacommunityclub.com website under "sports program". Coaches welcome, whether you have children or not, all volunteers are encouraged.

Hugo Montes spoke about the gymnastics program. Teaches three levels of courses for different ages and skills, also teaches kids with special needs. Hugo provides needed equipment for the program as well, and recently has taken on organization of the adult soccer games. His website is montesgymnastics.com.

Karen Cooke, director of Topanga Youth Services spoke about the group and upcoming events. The next is the Talent Show November 12; auditions this Saturday (October 15). Considering "cirque"-style show next, as well as animation workshop.

Claudia Udy has stepped up to take over as director of the Co-op Pre-school. Invites the community to bring special classes and programs: already looking at drum circle and yoga.

Michelle Johnson spoke representing the Canyon Sages. Started a few years ago as committee of Town Council, has grown to 135 members. Has brought an influx of "younger" seniors. Programs include senior dinners with 50 or so attendees, meditation and exercise classes at low cost for seniors, and clubs including photo club and book club. Growing the service side: goal of finding isolated seniors, reaching out to provide social service or help in times of need.

Gabrielle is activities director for the Sages, and programs include exercise Saturday mornings 10-11AM, Thursday mornings is "bounce" class, Tai Chi on Thursday afternoons; estate planning meeting coming up. Upcoming programs on real estate, memory loss, aging, medicare, etc. Sign up or refer a friend!

Karen Dannenbaum spoke about the Senior Dinners, a long-standing program of the Community Club. She has taken the helm of the program, and described how rewarding she feels the events are for both the attendees and the organizers and volunteers.

Dorothy Reik spoke about membership and getting more people involved. She also spoke on behalf of the Topanga Peace Alliance, allied for peace and justice. Every Friday is film night at Yoga Desa.

Jayni Shuman spoke about carwash fundraisers. The first was to support the Topanga Days parade, and each has been a great success. Reminds everyone that preparations for the Fair have already begun and invites people to volunteer now.

Neil Shaw has taken responsibility for "Steak Night", originated at Froggy's restaurant. A community food event, coming October 16 at 4PM. Bring your own main dish to be cooked, a plate of side dishes will be \$5, beer and wine available.

Amit Gilad is handling this year's swap meet and chili cook-off November 5th. This year will have bands and dancing after dark when the swap meet ends. Amit spoke about how much he enjoys creating community events. He invited everyone to reserve space to sell their junk, stuff, and fine goods, and to sign up for the chili and pie contests. Sign up at tccswapmeet2011@gmail.com

Mark Nygard spoke about how Amit and Brooks Ellis have gone above and beyond to bring the youth element back into the community house.

There was a short break for questions, socialization and pot-luck desserts.

Anastasia Fite spoke about the Planet Topanga program she developed to give incentive to local producers to create events that benefit the Community House with a shared profit scheme. Events have been quite successful, and she invites the community to step up with ideas for future events. Also, along with Tom Mitchell, Stas has been coordinating the Easter Egg hunt, with help from volunteers like Peter Alsop. She described how her participation in such events as a child influenced her to join and work on them as an adult.

Ben Alanoff, chair of the Watershed Committee, spoke representing the Native Garden project. Demonstrates local environment without the need for water or special arrangements. Beneficial to local animals and insect species. All volunteer labor. Described idea for steps through the garden. Purpose of Watershed Committee is to protect all native life; works to fight erosion, stop use of herbicides and various poisons that can "trickle down" to the watershed.

Jayni spoke on behalf of Ken Widen about the Community Garden project. All are invited to come plant this year, plots are available. Fully enclosed, with underground wire to keep out gophers. Come be part of the garden!

Gabrielle and Andrea Makshonoff discussed the various AA, NA and similar meetings held at the Community House, as well as the drug-abuse prevention meetings organized by Tina and Alan Boivin and started at the Community House but currently held at their house.

Bob and Sherry Jason discussed the Nutcracker performance, going on 31 years. Described how the event began.

Andrea Makshonoff described her work leading the Children's Holiday Party. Truly a rewarding event. She has created an outline for future leaders to use, and invites volunteers to help.

Mark Nygard spoke about Topanga Days, following input from community members to direct the flavor of the event. Also described Topanga Earth Day, which has traditionally been run by an outside producer. Membership has taken a vote that if the producer does not wish to take on the event next year, the club will produce the event – decision to be made by 27th of October. Some portion of the proceeds will benefit local charity. Supporters requested the event be directed towards being educational - more than just a fun party. Mark mentioned that there is a balance between making the events smaller and more local, versus the need for 2000 or more people to attend for the event to be profitable.

Ami Kirby, archivist and member of the Topanga Historical Society, spoke about the group. Started in 1974, continuing to present day. Described minutes of first year of Women's Club that began the Community House and became the Community Club of today. Next meeting is Sunday night (same day as steak night.) Picnic will be on October 16, noon to 3PM at Bonnell park. Call for info at 310-455-1969

Brooks Ellis spoke about his efforts to bring young people into the club.

Elections for the 2012 TCC Board will be coming in November. Attend two club meetings and have your membership dues current to qualify to vote. Interested in running the club? Sign up for a Board position!

Andrea announced that special membership rates will be available for those joining for the election. The rate are pro-rated for 2011, as long as you pay your 2012 membership at the same time.

Meeting adjourned.