

CITY OF HIDDEN HILLS
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

City Hall

Monday, May 14, 2007

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Hidden Hills was duly held in the Council Chambers at the City Hall, 6165 Spring Valley Road, Hidden Hills, California 91302 on Monday, May 14, 2007 at the hour of 7:32 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Monty Fisher called the meeting to order and presided thereover after asking Council Member Freedland to lead the Council and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Council:	Mayor Pro Tem Monty E. Fisher Council Member Jim Cohen (7:35 p.m.) Council Member Steve Freedland Council Member Larry G. Weber
Staff:	City Engineer Dirk Lovett City Manager Cherie L. Paglia
Absent:	Mayor Stuart E. Siegel

Upon MOTION of Council Member Weber, seconded by Council Member Freedland and unanimously carried, it was resolved to excuse the absence of Mayor Siegel.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Upon MOTION of Council Member Freedland, seconded by Council Member Weber and unanimously carried, it was resolved that the agenda for the May 14, 2007 regular meeting be approved as submitted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Fisher announced that the Association's Adult Welcome Party would be held this Saturday, May 19th, at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Center, and that residents should call the Association office for details. Then at the request of Mayor Pro Tem Fisher, Council Member Freedland provided the following report on Hidden Hills Boy Scout Troop #642:

He is an Assistant Leader of Hidden Hills Boy Scout Troop #642, which is open to all boys living in and outside of Hidden Hills who are between the ages of 12 - 17; two weeks ago, the Troop, which is only two years old, attended the second Camporee, which is like a Boy Scout Olympics; there were approximately 50 different troops in attendance; for the second consecutive year, Troop #642 won the award for Overall Best Troop and Overall Best Patrol.

AUDIENCE

There were no questions or comments at this time.

PRESENTATION

Consideration of Issuance of *June is Stop Runoff Month* Proclamation to the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District

Mayor Pro Tem Fisher read the proclamation, and then presented it to Jeff Reinhardt, Customer and Public Affairs Manager (Resource Conservation/Public Outreach Department) for the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District, who addressed the Council as follows:

The Water District appreciates the City's support; urban runoff is an issue that poses potential contamination; the District likes to say that the beach begins at your front door;

by protecting the beaches from runoff that makes its way to the storm drains and into the creek system, everyone is taking a very important step; if anyone sees runoff coursing down the street or curbs, that means something is wrong and it should raise an alarm bell; the District is asking for voluntary compliance, from which all of our communities will benefit; he would like to thank the City and staff for their assistance and support.

PUBLIC SAFETY

A. Discussion Regarding Coyotes and Consideration of Approval of a Coyote Trapping Program

Mayor Pro Tem Fisher stated that the Council would welcome any comments from the audience, and asked anyone wishing to speak to come to the podium and to limit comments to three minutes if possible.

Adam Wasserman was the first to address the Council:

He wished to thank the Council for this forum, as many residents in Hidden Hills are concerned; they have done a lot of reading and research which they will share; they have also heard from residents outside of Hidden Hills; there have been a number of horrific occurrences in here and the surrounding communities that show them that the coyote problem is out of control and is more serious than most people in the room probably believe; they and the experts feel that small children and pets up to 60 pounds are in great danger; people will resort to self-help, which means using traps that are dangerous for children and cruel to coyotes and other animals; people are talking about using guns to shoot coyotes, and have been advised to do so; some are talking about using poison, which is a reckless threat to children and family pets; other residents will speak, and they all want the City to adopt a long term coyote mitigation program to allow people to feel safe and confident that the coyotes will be treated fairly and humanely.

Next to address the Council was Paul Bryson:

He has some information to share (he passed out papers to the Council); over the last several years coyotes have been colonizing formerly coyote free suburbs including Hidden Hills; in so doing coyotes become accustomed to human presence, and with no hunting or trapping, they lose their fear of humans; wildlife biologists call this habituation, which creates dangerous situations in which humans eventually get attacked; the papers show that some attacks occurred in Woodland Hills, Agoura Hills, and near this City; one child was attacked in Simi Valley three years ago; there is a pattern of habituation, which starts with increasing coyote observations at night and moves to early

morning and daylight; it is a seven step progression, all of which has already happened, except direct attacks on humans; it is possible we may never get back to zero coyotes, which we had in the past; but an ongoing mitigation program should push the numbers back to give a greater margin of safety and keep the animals more fearful; he is asking the Council to consider this.

Connie Hudson spoke next:

On April 3rd, her 65 pound male dog was fatally attacked in her yard right off the back porch around 5:00 a.m.; they found him alive, but it was a very violent attack leaving the yard looking like a murder scene; it was very frightening, as they thought he was big enough to prevent such an attack, and although he put up a good fight, they were unable to save him; the emergency vet thought the attack was probably done by a pack of coyotes, although they heard nothing from inside the house; it made them think that, with the food sources being limited, and due to the drought and development, if this could happen to a large dog, could it be a natural progression to an attack on a small child; they realize this does not often happen, but nor do attacks on large dogs; all her family members are big animal people, but after seeing the damage to such a large animal, thought there could be a potential threat to children walking to school in the morning or playing in the back yard; she is fearful now of leaving children or pets unattended; she hopes the Council will consider a longer term plan to keep the coyote population more in check.

The following comments were made by Tracy Cassidy:

After talking to Ms. Hudson and calling the City Manager, four days later they suffered the first coyote attack on their property at 10:30 a.m. during which they lost a number of chickens; for two years these chickens were okay living in the back yard; she has two young children that play in that same spot every day; she called the Mayor and was very disheartened with the way he treated her and her concerns; he told her the government was not here to protect them, and that she should get on the roof with a gun and take care of the coyotes herself; if this is what you want the residents to do, it is very irresponsible and terrible advice which she found very offensive; they moved here so they could live a lifestyle which included growing food and having animals in their yard, and allowing the children to play in the yard; the response was an email telling residents to keep their pets and children locked inside and to pick up fruit from the yard; she is a huge animal rights person, and she does not want to see people resorting to their own means of eliminating the coyotes; it is not in the coyotes' best interest to be in our back yards hunting; coyote pups are being raised to eat from her back yard, and they are not wild; she does not believe that all the coyotes can be eradicated all the time, but she thought this board was looking out for her best interests, and she found out that was not the case; she would like to see a long term approach so every time this happens they do not have to get babysitters

and pull everyone together to come and have their voices heard; she would like Troy Spillman to speak, as he is an expert very respected by numerous of the residents.

Roberta Koehl offered her comments:

She also would like to share some information with the Council (it was handed out); she has lived in Hidden Hills for seven years; she moved here because she has horses, and this was a horse community and a rural area; she has a child, and her main concern is of course protection of her child as well as others; she has had run-ins with coyotes; she had a non-neutered dog that the coyotes would call; she would take the flashlight and yell at the coyotes to leave, which they would do; she has ridden horses with the coyotes around; she is not fear-based, but very confident around animals; she has had no negative experiences with the coyotes; she does understand that if there is an aggressive coyote that something should be done; but the question is what is considered aggressive, and that should not be just seeing them on the street; she does not know how it was a long time ago, but people have moved into coyote territory; she has a report from the City of Los Angeles (Ed Bok) which shows that during the same time period that there were 300 coyote attacks with injuries, there were 3 million people injured by pet dog bites; her research shows only one child ever killed by a coyote; she has lost lots of cats and chickens, but this is where she chooses to live, so she does not want to see the coyotes killed; we should learn to work and live with them.

Next to speak was coyote trapper Troy Spillman of Wildlife Management Professionals:

He has addressed the Council in the past and has been dealing with coyotes in Hidden Hills for ten years; it was about 1½ years ago when the Council last discussed whether or not to do a trapping program; there is a severe drought now, and the coyotes have fallen on hard times and do not have enough to eat, causing them to do desperate things; there are more coyotes this year from last year's rains, and he feels the Council should consider a program at this time; there are rabbits in the City, but they are very fast, and the coyotes will take anything slower that they can get; he submitted a proposal for a program, as did another trapping company; he feels instead of going backwards, the Council should be more proactive and conduct a program on an annual basis, which could be reevaluated each year; in the past when a program has been conducted, the number of coyote complaint calls dropped dramatically; coyotes are supposed to fear man, and to keep their distance and run away; it is aggressive behavior and abnormal if the coyotes are not running away, and come towards someone and/or their pet; he is not here, nor is the other trapper, to catch and kill every coyote; it is just common sense to keep the population down; this City is almost a sanctuary, as there is a lot of agriculture, and the coyotes will eat fruit, vegetables, and almost anything to survive; this is a severe drought year, with everything ahead of schedule, as this type of coyote behavior does not usually occur until

August, September, and October; he does hope the Council will go forward with a trapping program.

Katie Aviv then addressed the Council:

They live up against the Ahmanson property, and have been happily living in the City just under two years; she is from New York and did not grow up with any of these animals, but quickly realized they had a responsibility to maintain their property and keep it as pest free as possible; she does not feel as threatened now, but their Beagle dogs have been attacked by coyotes twice; she stopped them mid-attack and the dogs survived; after the last attack she contracted with Mr. Spillman, has installed sensor lights, has installed property lighting where appropriate, and keeps the dogs in after 7:00 p.m.; so they are responsible; if a child was attacked in the City, which seems inconceivable, it would be dealt with right away, so why this is not being taken care of confounds her; she understands the coyotes have a right to live and exist, but they do not want to share the swing set with them; it is a fact that there are more coyotes today and more attacks on pets today than five years ago; she does not know if children or infants are next, and does not know why the City would not act responsibly now; obviously she is not suggesting that all the coyotes be killed, but if there was a rabid dog, it would be taken care of; after the two attacks, she called everyone, including the gates, her neighbors, and the Community Association; she did not think to call City Hall, but knows to do that now; they did hire the trapper and caught three coyotes in one week; she wants a responsible program put in place so individuals do not act on their own, which could put residents in danger.

Lilian Holt commented as follows:

She has lived here many years, and she knows how it feels to lose your pets; she does a lot of photography and has watched these animals for a number of years; when she built her house, she was told to put the fencing deep into the ground to prevent digging under it; children should not eat outside, and food and water should not be left outside; she is not saying do not protect your children (she had young children), but the coyotes do not want your child, they want the food; she obtained some of the same information that Ms. Koehl referred to; since the early 1900s, only one person has been killed by a coyote; last year alone, 13,000 were injured by their own dogs; coyotes catch rats and gophers; if you remove some of the coyotes, you leave more food for the others, and they will propagate three times more; they are wild animals and should be treated as such; people should keep their distance and let the coyotes know they are not welcome, which can be done by banging pots and pans or blowing a whistle; she does feel bad for any loss of pets, and did save a golden retriever from coyotes on Burbank Boulevard by blowing on her horn and then grabbing the dog to be returned to its owner.

Animal Pest Management owner Dan Fox stated the following:

It is his company that has done the trapping for the City the last ten years, and the programs have been very successful; there is a danger to children if the coyotes get habituated to eating cats and dogs; they have been trapping for San Bernardino the last five years, and in that time period, one attack occurred on a child; there has been only one child killed by a coyote, and that was a three-year old attacked on her front porch; there have been other injury attacks when the parent was right there, and forced the coyote away after the coyote "locked on" to the child; the last program was done about 1½ years ago, at which time seven coyotes were removed; he would recommend that the Council approve a program at this time, but he wished to make it clear that only the aggressive coyotes are targeted; to do that, traps are placed where the coyotes come in and out of the neighborhoods; predators always go for the easiest meal, and dogs are much easier than rabbits; predators are approximately 5% - 10% effective in reducing the natural prey population (gophers, ground squirrels, rats, etc.); there will always be coyotes in the City.

Questions were asked by Ms. Aviv, Ms. Koehl, Mr. Bryson, and Miles Gibbons, which were answered by Mr. Fox as follows:

He would typically recommend an annual program; sometimes the program lasts two years and sometimes six months; his trapper analyzes the complaint logs provided by the City (from calls that staff receives); coyotes repeat the same patterns every two to three days; traps are located to catch only the aggressive coyotes where they are leaving and entering properties; they only respond to problem coyotes in problem areas; all the coyotes will not be eliminated, as they will probably remove somewhere between four and six; the number caught will be reported to the City; the number removed will not affect the population overall; since they are only concentrating on the aggressive coyotes, probably less than 5% of the population is being removed in the immediate area, which would be more around 1% in a five square mile area; in rural areas, there is usually about one coyote per square mile; in urban areas they do much better, as they are very opportunistic and humans provide food for them (fruit, dog and cat food, pets); in his 25 years of experience, even removing that small percentage can instill fear in the remaining coyotes and does affect their attitude, as they know some are now missing.

Kathy Kaehler-Koch added her comments:

She has been here seven years, and never before noticed coyotes in the daytime until the last six months; she and her children walk and ride their bikes to school, and they have been passed by coyotes right in front and right behind them; she wonders if her children will be safe riding home alone from school during the day, or if a child might be attacked;

she sees coyotes at night, but that does not concern her; however, seeing them so close in the day is concerning.

Mr. Bryson had the following additional comments:

He has lived here all his life (43 years); for many decades the City had zero coyotes or they were so afraid they did not touch the livestock or poultry, so the coyote problem is quite new; we did not move into the coyotes' territory – he was here first and they moved into our territory; a 6' fence does not stop them, as they can jump over that, which is how they killed his sheep; back then there were free-ranging cats that took care of the rodent population, so the City does not need coyotes for that purpose.

Mr. Wasserman wished to speak again:

Some of us have rallied together, but are not trying to tell the Council what to do; we are all here because we care; this is a big problem, and even though no one wants all of the animal life killed, many residents with small children are scared; he was the one who was holding his dog and had the coyote come within 2'; everyone just wants to feel safe, and they do not want this City to be known as a dangerous place to live; he does not want anyone shooting guns within the City, putting out poison, or doing their own trapping, which could hurt or maim people; this is a special place to live; the problem cannot be solved privately; most people do not know what to do, and one property owner cannot give permission for the trapper to go on other private property, unless the program is endorsed by the City; a one year program will not solve this; they are just asking the Council to help make this problem go away.

Mr. Spillman wished to point out that the County of San Bernardino and the City of Riverside do the program on a monthly basis rather than being reactive; he believes the City needs to get the problem in check and keep it in check. Since those are large areas, Council Member Weber asked if the program covered the entire area, or was concentrated in smaller areas. Mr. Spillman suggested Mr. Fox would have a better answer to that question, but one program does cover an area in Riverside smaller than Hidden Hills.

The following comments were made by Mayor Pro Tem Fisher:

When the last program was started 1½ years ago, he was for the trapping as he felt the coyotes were dangerous; he has lost a lot of pets; without his five cats, the rodent population on his property has grown and is hard to control; he has seen the coyotes walk through his corrals, and look at his horses and at him and his wife, but they are not aggressive; he believes his property is a path to one of their dens; as the trapper said, a

trapping program will not eliminate all of the coyotes, only the aggressive ones; they will come back; not everybody's property will have traps, and the trapper may not get every coyote that residents want; residents have to understand that, and know that they may still see coyotes on their property; he is not telling anyone to shoot the coyotes, which is dangerous and could just make the situation worse, especially if a coyote were to be wounded.

Council Member Freedland offered his thoughts:

He reminded everyone that improperly discharging a firearm could get someone arrested, so he would not recommend that; he offered his condolences to Ms. Hudson for the loss of her dog; he has dogs and is very sympathetic to that; he believes all the Council Members understand that their highest responsibility is to public safety; he does not think there is a need for an ongoing program, since everything changes year to year depending on the rainfall, the weather, the population, etc.; but he has no problem at all and believes it would be a good idea to revisit the issue on a regular basis, and to take feedback and information from the residents on a constant basis, which should be provided to the City staff; the last trapping program with Mr. Fox was very successful; the Council Members at that time recognized there was a problem with several aggressive coyotes; they were removed and the calls from residents stopped; he felt the City could keep closer tabs and solicit feedback more often from the residents, who should let staff know right away of any problems or issues with the coyotes; he does have a problem with Mr. Spillman suggesting a monthly program, as in the past he has told the Council that was not a good idea due to all the changes and fluctuations in conditions.

Mr. Spillman responded by saying it depends on what the Council is trying to do – if it is to keep the population down, the trapping should be ongoing, rather than waiting a year or more, which allows the problem to get out of control. That is why he would propose a one year program that can then be reevaluated.

Council Member Freedland still did not see a need for a long term agreement, but would not be opposed to a one-year agreement, as long as the program was evaluated at the end of the term to see if the aggressive problem was cleared up or not, and go from there. Mr. Wasserman agreed with Council Member Freedland that there was no need for a long term program, if there was a continuous effort to stay on top of the matter; however, everyone knows that things fall through the cracks, which is what happened this time.

Council Member Freedland responded as follows:

This City has a phenomenal City Manager, and if the Council asks for this to be calendared in one year, that will happen; nothing fell through the cracks; he does believe there is a need at this time to do another trapping program, but residents need to understand that this is not an eradication program, and the City cannot eliminate all the coyotes, which both trappers will tell you (Council Member Freedland asked both Mr. Fox and Mr. Spillman and they agreed); the goal of a program is to eliminate only the aggressive coyotes; he has received emails from residents saying “kill them all”, which is impossible; the City is right next to a 3000 acre preserve where coyotes live and breed and are not trapped; in fact, it would be irresponsible to try to eradicate the coyotes who were here first; those who run away and show a fear of man are okay – that is what they are supposed to do; the City will only be looking at removing those that have lost their fear of man.

Mr. Wasserman stated that all of the concerned residents know that the Council Members care, but they just want to make sure that the message is getting to the right people and that follow-up is being done. Mayor Pro Tem Fisher invited anyone to call him or any of the other Council Members at any time, but pointed out that the Council could only respond or react to the information that is provided to the City.

Council Member Weber then expressed his views:

Ms. Hudson’s complaint was the first serious complaint the City received in the last year; all of the other calls were of sightings and other non-aggressive behavior; he believes the Council has been very responsive and that nothing has fallen through the cracks; Ms. Hudson’s complaint was received on 4/3/07, and here less than 1½ months later, the Council is discussing the approval of a trapping program that normally would not come up until late summer; we have heard tonight that weather makes a big difference in when the coyotes start populating and getting more aggressive; since we put out the word and asked residents to call City Hall regarding coyote problems, the staff did receive other calls regarding aggressive behavior; the staff also received a lot of calls regarding sightings and non-aggressive behavior; there will always be sightings in the City, but if the coyotes run away and are not aggressive, then that is not a problem.

Council Member Freedland asked both trappers the same question – if a trapping program was completed right now and the aggressive coyotes were eliminated, would they feel safe leaving a

young child unattended in a back yard. Both trappers responded no, as anything could happen.

Council Member Freedland made the following points:

If a trapping program is done, he does not want people to have a false sense of security; both trappers have said it is impossible to eradicate all the coyotes; there will still be coyotes here; we live with them and they are wild animals that are unpredictable; everyone has to take responsibility for watching your children and watching your pets; you need to take safety precautions because this is where we live and that is the reality of it; that is the point he is trying to make.

Mr. Fox pointed out that even though they cannot trap in everyone's yard, those coyotes that are seen in one yard, are the same as those seen in other locations, as they travel in the same pattern every two to three days. Eventually the problem coyotes will get caught somewhere.

Council Member Cohen wished to make it clear that if the City authorizes a trapping program, this does not allow the trapper to set traps anywhere throughout the City – the trapper needs to obtain permission from any owner to go on that private property. The City Manager added that traps cannot be placed on trails or parkways or any common areas, which would present a danger to children, horses, pets, etc. Mayor Pro Tem Fisher explained that the traps used are humane traps (not the old illegal steel jaw traps), but once a coyote is caught, it cannot be relocated and is euthanized.

In response to a question from the audience about how residents get their names on the list for traps on their property, Council Member Freedland explained as follows:

You can call and volunteer your property to be used for the trapping, but just because you volunteer does not mean your property will be used; the trappers are given the complaint list which they then analyze to see where they believe it will be best to set the traps; they may knock on your door to talk to you or see if you will give them permission to place traps on your property; the trappers are very careful and have to consider the safety of trap locations; it is very important for residents to provide information and feedback to the City prior to, during, and after the program.

In response to Ms. Aviv, Council Member Freedland stated that the residents have been notified through messages on channel 3, in the newsletter, and via the City's email/fax notification

system, and that staff can certainly send out another request after this meeting reminding residents to report all coyote issues and problems to City Hall. The City Manager encouraged anyone not already signed up for the City's email/fax notification system to do so, as that system is one of the best and quickest ways for notices to be sent to residents. She pointed out that it is a different and separate system than that used by the Community Association, and that any residents can call the City staff to verify if they are in fact listed in the system – if not, they can be easily added.

Council Member Freedland reminded everyone of the following:

Nothing that the Council may do tonight prevents anyone from contracting directly with either of these two trappers or any other licensed trappers; if you think you have an issue, let the City staff know; but traps will not be placed on all of the properties; the trappers will analyze the information, and if they feel traps should be placed on your property, they will contact you; if not, you can get their phone numbers and contract with them directly.

Ms. Cassidy did not understand, if the program was done for one year, why it would not be possible to put traps on everyone's property, and she wanted to make sure that this was not a "cop out" situation in which residents were just told a program was done and coyotes were caught. Council Member Freedland assured Ms. Cassidy that the Council takes this very seriously, and that is why input is being solicited from all residents. He informed her that a report will be provided, which is public information and can be published in the newsletter – it will list how many coyotes are caught, whether they are male or female, where they were caught, etc.; however, he reminded her that the trappers are not going to knock on everyone's door and are not going to put traps on everyone's property, which would not be productive. Mayor Pro Tem Fisher also reminded her that the trappers are only going after the aggressive coyotes, not all of the coyotes, and that the trappers would make the decision based on their expertise as to which coyotes they would trap.

Mr. Fox asked to address the Council one last time:

He would hate to think that after the last trapping program some people believed they did not take care of the residents' concerns and the aggressive behavior; they did take care of all the aggressive coyotes, and then the City staff did not get any more complaint calls, or those calls would have been shared with him; his price includes a six month guarantee, during which if there is any aggressive behavior noted, they will come out and take care of it, anywhere in the City; he has the best trapper on the west coast; his proposal is for a comprehensive six month program, which can be reevaluated at the end of that time.

Ms. Cassidy still expressed doubt that all the residents' concerns were going to be addressed. Council Member Freedland suggested that Ms. Cassidy review the reports from the previous programs, which are public record, as they list the details of the trapping.

Upon MOTION of Council Member Freedland, seconded by Council Member Cohen and unanimously carried on roll call vote, it was resolved to authorize the expenditure of \$2000 to Animal Pest Management Services, Inc. to provide a two week coyote trapping program within the City, with a six month guarantee to address any additional aggressive behavior, and to schedule with Dan Fox, at a Council meeting in six months, a review and evaluation of the trapping program and the coyote situation at that time within the City to determine any possible further action. The staff was also directed to remind and encourage residents every two months, via the City's email/fax notification system, to report all aggressive coyote behavior to City Hall.

Council Member Weber wished to make a few last comments:

He wished to commend the citizenry for putting together this grass-roots rally, and would ask for their continued help in informing friends and neighbors that even though the aggressive coyotes will be taken out, it is not going to make the City failsafe; when he served on the Public Safety Commission, the monthly report from Animal Control often showed dogs impounded because they were running loose; those of you who let your dogs run free run the risk of losing those dogs.

Mayor Pro Tem Fisher agreed, stating that coyotes often run in packs and are very smart, and residents have to take steps to protect themselves; no matter what the City does, it cannot protect residents 100%.

Mayor Pro Tem Fisher called for a short recess at this time, and reconvened the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

B. Consideration of Approval of Amendment to Agreement with All City Management Services for Crossing Guards at Round Meadow School for the 2007-2008 School Year

Upon MOTION of Council Member Freedland, seconded by Council Member Weber and unanimously carried on roll call vote, it was resolved to approve the “Amendment to Agreement Between All City Management Services, Inc. and the City of Hidden Hills for Providing School Crossing Guard Services” for the 2007-2008 school year beginning July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008, at a cost of \$14.98 per hour (the same as last year) per crossing guard, not to exceed \$25,347 and 1,692 hours. The total cost is based on three guards for nine hours a day for each of the 180 school days, with some extra hours built in for any unforeseen circumstances.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. City Council Minutes – April 23, 2007**
- B. Demand List**

Upon MOTION of Council Member Freedland, seconded by Council Member Cohen and unanimously carried on roll call vote, it was resolved to approve items A and B of the consent calendar as submitted.

MATTERS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS

- A. Consideration of Request from the Las Virgenes Unified School District for a Community Assistance Grant for Technology**

Deputy Superintendent Don Zimring provided the following information:

He wished to thank Council Members Cohen and Freedland who have attended numerous meetings on this subject; the City and staff have been great in continuing to partner with the District to support Round Meadow Elementary School and other schools in the District; however, two years ago the District embarked on something different and unique, with this being the first step, which may be a little out of some people’s comfort

zone; it is a matter of changing the perception of how we do business together as a community and public agency; they looked at other schools and cities that forged a model relationship (Beverly Hills, Santa Monica, Palo Alto, Burbank, Glendale); those cities looked at quality of life, which involved children, and schools being one of the reasons to move to a community; Hidden Hills has always had a good relationship with the District; with this grant, they are looking at forging a relationship simultaneously with all four cities for the common good; they know that in many of the homes in the region, the youngsters technologically are far ahead of the teachers and schools; the goal is to take all of the technology in the District that serves the children and teachers to a level not before seen; the District has put together an ambitious program for next year; for the collective effort, the costs for each city have been based on the number of students per city; it is believed this is the only such four-city effort attempted in the state; if approved, the funds will go toward a little more than ½ million dollar grant in aid to provide and upgrade technology at the school sites, to upgrade the websites and parent access, and most importantly to capstone a tremendous year for the District in which nearly 400 teachers were trained (using bond money from Measure G) in the use of new systems in the classrooms; if this is approved they will be able to put teachers on special assignments to carry that training further, and to bring it forward to the curriculum and daily instruction; again he would like to thank the two Council Members and staff who have been involved in this process.

In response to Council Member Freedland, Dr. Zimring stated that the city of Calabasas had already approved support of this technology project, the matter has been placed on an upcoming agenda by the city of Agoura Hills, and Westlake Village was expected to calendar the item for consideration in June.

Upon MOTION of Council Member Freedland, seconded by Council Member Cohen and unanimously carried (4-0) on roll call vote, it was resolved to approve the request from the Las Virgenes Unified School District for a community assistance grant in the amount of \$17,875 for support of instructional technology, with the approval contingent upon the cities of Agoura Hills, Calabasas, and Westlake Village also approving monetary support of the proposed program.

B. Consideration of Request from Hidden Hills Resident Kurtis Freedland for a Community Assistance Grant for an Eagle Scout Project to Refurbish and Add Trail Markers for the Upper Las Virgenes Canyon Open Space Preserve (Formerly Ahmanson Ranch)

Council Member Freedland recused himself from this item and left the room, based on a personal conflict of interest, as he is an Assistant Leader of the Hidden Hills Boy Scout Troop #642 and the father of Kurtis Freedland.

Kurtis Freedland addressed the Council as follows:

As his Eagle Scout project for Hidden Hills Boy Scout Troop #642, he plans to furnish, replace, and/or refurbish missing, worn and damaged trail signs in the Upper Las Virgenes Canyon Open Space Preserve (formerly Ahmanson Ranch); for example, he will replace signs that were burnt in the 2005 fire; he will replace missing signs for endangered species, as without them, people tread in areas where they should not be and damage the endangered species, such as the spine flower and the red-legged frog; he will be adding exit signs, as people have complained that they do not always know their location or which direction to take to exit the park; the posts are made of pine; he is asking for \$500 toward the project; this is just the beginning of the funding, but he believes he has the ability to raise the remainder of the necessary funds for the entire project (the total estimated cost for the project is \$1600).

Upon MOTION of Council Member Weber, seconded by Council Member Cohen and unanimously carried (3-0) on roll call vote, it was resolved to approve the request from Hidden Hills Boy Scout Troop #642/Kurtis Freedland Eagle Scout Project for a community assistance grant in the amount of \$500 toward the refurbishing and addition of trail markers/signs in the Upper Las Virgenes Canyon Open Space Preserve.

C. Review of Youth Recognition Program Nominations and Selection of Finalists to Receive Award

Council Member Cohen stated that he reviewed all of the nomination/application papers that were submitted, and was very impressed with all four of the candidates. He wondered if there was any limit to the amount of finalists that could be selected to receive the award. The City

Manager explained that the award could be given to any or all of those nominated. The rest of the Council Members agreed with Council Member Cohen that the applicants were all worthy of being recognized. Upon MOTION of Council Member Cohen, seconded by Council Member Freedland and unanimously carried on roll call vote, it was resolved to approve all four of those nominated for the Annual Youth Recognition Program – Lauren and Daniel Dietch, Jaclyn Gersh, and Katie Loggia – as finalists, to be presented with a City plaque at a future Council meeting.

D. Report from Hidden Hills Community Association Liaison

Community Association Liaison Ron Wolfe stated there was nothing to report at this time.

MATTERS FROM STAFF

A. Tentative Map 63567 (Ashley) - Update

City Engineer Dirk Lovett informed the Council that the first screen draft EIR has been received, and is being reviewed by staff, with comments to be given back to the consultant in the next several weeks.

B. Calabasas 101 Corridor Bike Lane Gap Closure at Mureau Road – Project Update

City Engineer Dirk Lovett provided the following staff report:

In 2004, the Council reviewed a Notice of Intent for the adoption by the city of Calabasas of a Mitigated Negative Declaration for this project, which is a bike lane proposed from Calabasas Road to near the Calabasas City Hall on Mureau Road; the proposed project included some widening, painting, and the erecting of signs; at that time, the Council authorized the Mayor to forward a letter expressing four items of concern – 1) maintaining minimum 12' travel lanes throughout the project, 2) seasonal flooding just west of the Mesivta School entrance, 3) maintaining access to current drop-off and pick-up area just west of Round Meadow Road, and 4) line of sight from the Mesivta School driveway; a response was received from the Calabasas Director of Transportation/Intergovernmental Relations Robert Yalda, who stated that Calabasas would attempt to incorporate and address the expressed concerns; on April 18th, staff discovered that Calabasas had awarded a contract for this project; copies of the plans were obtained and reviewed by staff; the plans do show maintenance of 12' travel lanes,

so the lanes will not be narrowed near Round Meadow Road; but due to the topography, in order to keep these 12' lanes, the 4' bike lane will be dropped from about 150' east of Round Meadow to 200' west of Garrett Court; in this area, the bikes will share the 12' travel lane with all vehicles; the plans show no improvements to address the seasonal flooding, nor do they address any sight distance problems; it is assumed Mesivta will need to address the sight distance problems when the school constructs its required frontage improvements; no curbs will be installed west of Round Meadow, allowing continued access to the road shoulder.

Council Member Cohen expressed disappointment that all of the City's comments were not addressed, and suggested that a meeting be scheduled with Calabasas to discuss the issues. Council Member Freedland and City Engineer Lovett both explained that since this was not in our jurisdiction, there was really not much that could be done, especially since the project had been designed and the contract already awarded. City Engineer Lovett added that the flooding problem was above and beyond the scope of bike path improvements. In response to Council Member Weber, City Engineer Lovett stated that it would be difficult to widen the road due to trees and retaining walls. The report was received and filed.

C. Consideration of Cancellation of May 28, 2007 City Council Meeting

Upon MOTION of Council Member Weber, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Fisher and unanimously carried, it was resolved to cancel the May 28, 2007 City Council meeting in honor of Memorial Day.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, upon MOTION of Council Member Cohen, seconded by Council Member Weber and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adjourn the regular meeting of May 14, 2007 at 9:13 p.m.

ATTEST:

Stuart E. Siegel, Mayor

Cherie L. Paglia, City Manager/City Clerk

