

Legislative Action Committee February 5, 2009

ATTENDANCE:

Doris Blum-GUSD School Board
Dr. Patrick Bushman – Ludwick Fdn.
Mike Conway
Bob Cruz – The Gas Co.
Marilyn Grinsdale – Citrus College
Cliff Hamlow – Azusa Pacific University

Ken Herman – City of Glendora
Steve Johnson – Assemblyman Adams
Donna Lee – So. Calif. Edison
Meghan McLaughlin – Assemblyman Adams

Meeting called to order at 12:10 p.m.

Flag Salute

Welcome and Self- Introductions

Announcements

Chairman's Report – Cliff Hamlow thanked the committee members who met at the Event Center at 11:00 am to finalize the set-up for the Candidates Forum, scheduled for Wednesday, February 11th from 7:30 – 9:30 pm. The agenda from the 2007 Candidate Forum showed that Chamber President D. J. Jafari gave the welcoming introduction. Current Chamber President, Miki Carpenter will be contacted about delivering the opening statements on Feb. 11th. Bob Cruz from The Gas Company was selected to lead the flag salute. Cliff Hamlow was selected to introduce the moderator, Donna Lee, Regional Manager of the Edison Company. A brief discussion ensued regarding the appropriateness of having Doris Blum serve as screener at the forum. Several committee members felt there could be a concern with impartiality since she does serve as an elected official on the School Board, The committee ultimately decided that there would not be a problem if she acted as a screener during the forum. Along with Dr. Bushman, they will have the responsibility of reviewing the written questions from the audience and presenting them to the moderator. Gene Morrill was selected as the collector. He will pick up the written questions from the audience. Only written questions will be accepted. Marilyn Grinsdale was selected as the timer. The Event Center will be set up with 125 chairs and Craig Gill from the City will tape the event. Each candidate will have 2 minutes to present an opening statement, 1 minute to reply to questions and 2 minutes for closing statements. Donna Lee will read the resignation letter from Brian Pagnac from the city council race and seating of the candidates will be done by a drawing prior to the start of the forum.

Bob Cruz suggested that a copy of the agenda be posted near the entrance and that additional copies be available that evening for anyone that may want one.

Cliff Hamlow presented the committee with some of the questions he received for the candidates. They included questions on the financial status of the City, qualifications of the candidates to serve on the City Council, their involvement in the community, feelings on the partnership of the City and Chamber and how the City and schools could more effectively work together. The Committee suggested that a question regarding the Gold Line be submitted.

Ken Herman commented that questions presented to the candidates need to be concise and the screeners need to watch for repeat questions.

Dr. Bushman asked if the candidates should be given the questions to review before the event. The committee said “no.” The candidates should take the time to prepare before the forum.

Cliff Hamlow reported that he is working on getting Congressman David Dreier as a speaker for the next Legislative Luncheon in April. The Luncheon could possibly be a joint event with the Irwindale and Azusa Chambers.

Legislative Updates - Please limit reports to 3 minutes or less and bring handouts for the Committee:

Brian Mejia, Supervisor Antonivich: No report

Steve Johnson, Assemblyman Adams: Steve reported that the Assemblyman wants permanent caps on budget spending and that the only solution to the ongoing budget crisis is compromise. It is unacceptable to close down the state because neither side is willing to give. Meaghan McLaughlin was introduced to the committee as the new representative for Glendora.

Richard Rea, Congressman David Dreier: No report

Ken Herman, City of Glendora: Ken reported that the jobless rate in California and the nation continues to increase. Glendora is not immune. Consumer spending is down and the City is looking at 3 to 4% in budget cuts.

Glendora Unified School District, Catherine Nichols: Doris Blum presented the committee with several handouts regarding the ongoing school budget crisis. The San Gabriel Valley Coalition for Education has suggested that teachers at local level tell their legislators that flexibility is better than draconian cuts. Local school boards know best how to use funds, and increasing class size is better than cutting programs or laying off staff. Kevin R. Gordon, President of School Innovations and Advocacy is scheduled to address the San Gabriel Valley Coalition on Tuesday, February 17th at the Glendora USD Board Room.

Bob Cruz mentioned that the Charter Oak School District is part of the San Valley Education Coalition and all school districts are being affected by the proposed budget cuts.

Charter Oak Unified School District: No report

Marilyn Grinsdale, Citrus College: Marilyn reported that the new semester begins on February 18th. Parking issues are being taken seriously and they are offering bus passes and encouraging students to carpool. Bob Huff will be speaking at an education summit on March 19th. April 24th is the date for Earth Day at Citrus. A Green Job Summit is scheduled for May 22nd.

Metropolitan Water District, Luis Cetina: No report

So. Calif. Edison, Donna Lee : No report

Bob Cruz, So, Calif. Gas: Bob reported that the utilities union which had voted to strike, reached a tentative agreement.

Old Business:

New Business:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:15

Minutes recorded by V. Thompsett