

SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

MINUTES

(To Be Approved by the Board of Directors 2/8/07)

**Board of Directors Meeting
February 8, 2007
Hubbard Street Elementary School (Auditorium)
13325 Hubbard Street
Sylmar, CA 91342**

President Tammy Flores called this meeting to order (time not recorded); announced that Secretary Doris Jacobs was absent due to illness and Chris Castro, Pacoima NC will record Minutes and Roll Call. Ms. Flores led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Tammy Flores; Bonnie Bernard (late arrival); Cheri Blose; Hector Cabrera; Eugene Hernandez; Randall Kelly; Nicholas Krall; Rudolfo Lopez; George Ortega; Louis Perry; Jim Schopper; Quyen Vo-Ramirez; Lynn Zekanis

Quorum was confirmed

Excused Absence: Jeanne Rowe

Board Un-excused Absence: Farooq Ghias; Fabian Garcia; Fidel Ramirez; Jan Sandstrom

Ex-Officio Present: Louis Sanchez (LA Mayor's office); Maria Ventura (CD 7 Office); LAPD Ofcr. Chacon.

Ex-Officio Absent: Supervisor Yaroslavsky Representative, Mayor Villaraigosa Representative; LAFD

Also Present: Leyla Campos (DONE Project Coordinator)

Eugene Hernandez moved, Randall Kelly seconded to adopt the 1/11/07 Minutes – **Yes (9); No (0); Abstained (1) Louis Perry; Votes not recorded: Randall Kelly; Quyen Vo-Ramirez – Minutes adopted.**

President Flores provided Housekeeping stating the explanation on Grievances and Stakeholder Comments is on the Agenda, Speaker Cards are at the table to the left and bathrooms are in the back.

Maria Ventura (CD 7 office) announced Community Cleanup 2/17 at Herrick Elementary School; New Neighborhood Watch – Herrick Elementary School Auditorium meeting 2/13; USC Graduate Student Report of needs assessments for Sylmar in 2004 as a reference; Working on Mayor's Day of Service and Budget for Sylmar. Louis Perry commended Maria Ventura on her assistance to SNC and Sylmar.

President Flores recognized Philip Siordia, founder of the Neighborhood Jr. Tennis Program a 501C3 located at El Caruso Park and been in the community for 12 years dealing with the gang issue. Classes available for age 4 – 18 and Adults. Newsletter is available.

President Flores announced Admiral David L Brewer, LAUSD 2/12 – 6: 00 p.m. meeting at Vista Middle School; 2/9 CD 7 Candidates Forum, Olive View Middle School 6:00-9:00 p.m..

President Flores requested Committee Reports:

Treasurer Ellie Brooks distributed to the Board a Treasurer's Report for 1/31/07 Balance of Funds (through 6/30/07). Still reports are missing and she is working with DONE. Work Meeting 9:00 a.m. 2/10 at the SNC office.

Beautification/Grants Committee Chair Quyen Vo-Ramirez advised meeting scheduled for 1/29/07 – 3:30 p.m. at the Sylmar Library. No actions were taken as she did not see the Agenda posted but discussions were had regarding the campaign Keep America Beautiful via LA Dept. Public Works involving sidewalks, tree planting & lighting; Million trees program – planting trees via Tree People and CD 7; Discussed Grants available – Beautification matching funds Grant & Cultural Arts Grant.

Land Use Committee Chair Nick Krall reported on various on going proposals; Hearing on Maclay development; Barry Car Wash issue "dead" but appeal filed by RHC Communities to review and modify the finding made by the Zoning Administrator denying the carwash which is being opposed by the Committee.

Outreach Chair Ellie Brooks reported on first meeting involving what the Committee wishes to accomplish and the next meeting is 2/21. Need information on community organizations to outreach to the community via the various organizations. President Flores thanked Chris Castro for assisting is passing out flyers for the 2/9 CD 7 Candidates Debate Forum.

Public Safety/Emergency Preparedness Co-Chair Rudy Lopez reported that he and Hector Cabrera have not officially held a Committee meeting. LAPD meetings have been attended regarding crime statistics; Attended an At Risk Task Force meeting targeting at-risk children and gang members to remedy these issues. Leyla Campos advised of the training classes offered by DONE 2/24, 3/3 & 3/10 at LAPD Mission Hills Station.

Leyla Campos announcement: Congress of Neighborhoods meeting 4/21 at the Bone Venture Hotel – free parking; Lisa Sarno letter re allocation of funds. These allocations to be made for 2007-08 Budget and to allow 25% for Outreach & 25% Community Improvement. DONE will assist in selection of projects. V.P. Bonnie Bernard requested the Laura Chick audit letter and documentation regarding the legality from the City Attorney. Bonnie to email Leyla with the requested documentation and Leyla will furnish.

Public Services Chair Louis Perry reported the big project is the Mayor's Big Sunday '07 and will be working with Jim Schopper, Quyen Vo-Ramirez, Tammy Flores, Pastor Bob, Maria Ventura & requested help from Leyla Campos. Louis will sponsor a breakfast meeting at his home 2/9 with several Board Members, to go over the details and formula used last year. Louis will also sponsor a dinner for participants. Flyers are in English & Spanish and available on the display table.

President Flores reminded of the need for a posted Agenda depending on the number of Board Members in attendance. Nick Krall stated that this would be a quorum or six if decisions are to be made.

Election Committee Chair Melanie Shane reported a date has not been set for a Committee meeting.

President Flores requested that Eugene Hernandez begin attending the DWP meetings.

Senior/Multipurpose Center Ad Hoc Committee Chair Cheri Blöse advised there was no report.

LAMC Ad Hoc Committee Chair Lois Fife advised there was no report. Ellie Brooks reported on 2/7/07 Board of Trustee's meeting was to oppose eminent domain on Comstock properties. She and Lois attended meetings in which the environmental impact report was approved and issues contained within the report and various information on the expansion project.

President Flores reported on the Parole Sex Offender issue: Four pieces of legislation, one talked about and announced and three in Committee and it will be determined on Feb. 17, 2007 if these will be introduced. The Committee was instrumental in the submission of these pieces of legislation.

President Flores recognized Louis Sanchez, LA City Mayor's office. Re-announced the LA Mayor's Big Sunday '07 and individuals are needed for the project – Concentration to be on the schools.

President Flores requested Speaker Card **Public Comment:**

Sonia Lopez, American Cancer Society, discussed the Relay For Life event. Volunteers being sought and flyers distributed.

Martin Laufer commented on the need for a Petition for dedicated police patrol car for Sylmar. Requested the SNC Board and attendees sign the Petition.

James Boniface thanked the Board for taking time to be on the Board. Commented on the allocation of funds issue presented by Leyla Campos (DONE). He agreed with the allocation as submitted by DONE.

Mack Hunter, Block Captain for El Cajon Street near Motel 6, announced a 2/22 – 7:30 a.m. LAPD breakfast meeting at the Odyssey to pay recognition to police officers and civilians – Cost \$30.00. El Dorado Neighborhood Watch cleanup 2/10 – 10:00 a.m.. Thanked Louis Perry for helping with an issue.

Angel Paez, Exec. Director Angel Community Development Alliance introduced himself and requested procedure regarding the need of a zone change. Land Use Committee Chair advised it is in Committee.

Belinda Appedondo, Volunteer Coordinator for Tree People, and announced a workshop 3/3 in Sun Valley. Tools and resources can be provided for tree planting in Sylmar.

Lois Fife commented on the Budget and the estimated staffing of \$100 a week, which is not realistic and many of the items on the suggested budget are not realistic.

Chris Castro excused himself from recording Minutes – Cheri Blose assumed the position.

President Flores introduced Chris Castro as a nominee to fill the vacancy in the Youth Category. Chris made a presentation to the Board, his background and desire to be on the SNC Board. Eugene Hernandez nominated Chris Castro, Bonnie Bernard seconded. Following discussion the Board voted: **Unanimously approved**

President Flores introduced Rick Donnelly as a nominee to fill the vacancy in the Senior Category. Nick made a presentation to the Board, his background and desire to be on the SNC Board. Ellie Brooks moved to accept, Louis Perry seconded. Following discussion the Board voted: **Unanimously approved**

Louis Sanchez, LA City Mayor's office, administered the oath of office to Mr. Castro and Mr. Donnelly who then took a seat with the Board of Directors.

Cheri Blose excused herself from recording Minutes - Chris Castro assumed the position

President Flores announced the following items:

#9 – Discussion and possible Board action regarding D.O.N.E.'s relationship with the SNC and encourage D.O.N.E. to set up meetings in the San Fernando Valley with enough notice to clear (our) calendars;

Remove from future agendas

#10 – Discussion and possible Board action regarding City Election Clean Campaign Money ordinance;

Remove from future agendas

#11 – Discussion and possible Board action regarding the Sex Offender Program issue with possible Impact Statement to be submitted;

Remove from future agendas

President Flores announced the item regarding remedies on police, fire & emergency services versus current & future density, population and development was moved to the Public Safety/Emergency Preparedness Committee.

A Five Minute Break was taken – Time not recorded

Board Member Comment:

President Flores announced Mr. Evans, Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall, was ill and unable to attend. Issues relevant to Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall was moved to the Public Safety/Emergency Preparedness Committee.

Discussion was had regarding SNC participating in LANCC and Board to designate point person. Ellie Brooks moved, Eugene Hernandez seconded this item be tabled until thirty days after the DONE General Manager is appointed. Following further discussion, the Board voted: **Yes (11); No (2) Nick Krall; Lynn Zekanis; Abstained (2) Rick Donnelly; Chris Castro – Motion approved**

Quyen Vo-Ramirez explained the process of the Neighborhood Council Partnership Task Force through the City Planning Department and moved that the SNC participate and update the selection of representatives, Randall Kelly seconded. President Flores advised that the SNC was a participant and need only to update the selection of representatives. The motion was withdrawn. Eugene Hernandez nominated Quyen Vo-Ramirez as a representative and Cheri Blose to remain. Following discussion the Board voted: **Unanimously approved**

Rudy Lopez provided information regarding the Neighborhood Council Youth Taskforce created due to gang violence and a brain-storming meeting and requested two representatives from the SNC. President Flores advised that Rudy Lopez, Fidel Ramirez and Fabian Garcia offered to be involved. Rudy Lopez moved, Randall Kelly seconded that the SNC participate in the Neighborhood Council Youth Taskforce. Following discussion the Board voted - **Unanimously approved** - President Flores nominated Rudy Lopez, Fidel Ramirez, Chris Castro and Fabian Garcia to participate in the Neighborhood Council Youth Taskforce – No objections were heard – President Flores instructed these names be provided the Secretary.

President Flores moved to Item 20 – Presentation by LAUSD representative Al Grazioli and Edmundo Delgadillo re status of new school: Valley Region Span K-8 #1. Mr. Delgadillo introduced Mr. Grazioli who provided an update regarding a school in the Sylmar area and are evaluating site recommendations from the community. A decision as to a selected site has not been made but should be made in the next two weeks with the property owners receiving notice of site to be recommended to the LAUSD Board as the preferred site. 3/21 – 6:30 p.m. Olive Vista Middle School Preferred Site meeting to advise of the recommendation to be made to the LAUSD Board in April. Environmental testing and design will begin when the preferred

site is selected. Many questions and comments were presented regarding the potential selections. President Flores requested this presentation be made at the Land Use Committee meeting 3/5 – 6:30 p.m. at the SNC office.

President Flores, due to the late hour, tables Item 17 – Discussion and possible Board action regarding SNC sponsoring the Sylmar Parade through the Outreach Committee and Item 18 – Discussion and possible Board action regarding the selection of Directors of Animals Welfare Board Representatives.

Nick Krall advised the issue regarding formation of a Sylmar Community Patrol is being referred to the Public Safety/Preparedness Committee.

Nick Krall reported that in conjunction with other community groups, have proposed a Letter of Resolution to be submitted to the Planning Commission, which was distributed and read to the Board. Eugene Hernandez moved, Nick Krall seconded that the Board approve the verbiage of the Letter of Resolution. Following discussion, the Board voted – **Yes (9); No (2) George Ortega; Jim Schopper; Abstained (3) Quyen Vo-Ramirez; Lynn Zekanis; Chris Castro – Motion approved**

Board Comment:

President Flores advised that Fidel Ramirez had available the Budget Mayor Survey as he was elected to the Board along with Porter Ranch NC and requested help and attendance for the CD 7 Candidates Debate Forum 2/9.

Eugene Hernandez commented that by attending the 912 Commission meetings the SNC Board makeup is more representative of the community than other Neighborhood Councils and supports the allocation of money from DONE to do more outreach.

Bonnie Bernard commented on being thankful for all the great work done by the SNC, naming Louis Perry, Chris Castro, Nick Krall, Quyen Vo-Ramirez, Cheri Blose and Tammy Flores; Thankful for the Board decision 3-4 years ago to have a paid Secretary and the good job done by Doris Jacobs, her putting in extra hours and she does not get paid what she deserves. – Board applause.

Lynn Zekanis commented that the SNC does not receive everything that it should from DONE. Would like a quicker turn-around of information being distributed and hoped that the Board was not annoyed that she is emailing them information. – President Flores thanked Lynn for distributing the information.

President Flores commented that she had received a congratulation call from DONE that Chatsworth, Pacoima, Sherman Oaks, Studio City and Encino Neighborhood Councils have chosen to use SNC as their model.

Quyen Vo-Ramirez commented that she wanted to thank Graffiti Busters for removing graffiti in her neighborhood and Maria Ventura for attending their Neighborhood Watch meeting; Thanked Stakeholders for staying for the long meeting.

Ellie Brooks commented that outreach is talking to people and organization contacts are needed to increase the SNC database;. Put on March Agenda a Community Impact Statement regarding expenses of Neighborhood Council operations; Put on March Agenda to move the Board Meeting to a different Thursday in the month as it is in conflict with the Valley Alliance meeting; Put on March Agenda consideration of having an Executive Committee of five – a Second Vice President and a Board of Director At Large not elected to spread some of the responsibility.

Chris Castro commented on his appreciation of being a part of the Board. Has someone from another Community Center that will help establish a Community Center for Sylmar and appreciates the Secretary sending him emails of meeting information.

Meeting adjourned "after 9:00 p.m." (exact time not recorded)

Respectfully Submitted by: Doris Jacobs SNC Secretary (2/15/07)