

**SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
MONTHLY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MINUTES**

**Thursday, March 8, 2007
Hubbard Street Elementary School (Auditorium)
13325 Hubbard Street
Sylmar, CA 91342**

Roll Call, members present: Tammy Flores, Bonnie Bernard, Ellie Brooks, Cheri Blose, Fabian Garcia, Farooq Ghias, Eugene Hernandez, Nick Krall, Rudy Lopez, George Ortega, Louis Perry, Fidel Ramirez, Jeanne Rowe, Jan Sandstrom, Jim Schopper, Quyen Vo-Ramirez, Lynn Zekanis, Chris Castro, Rick Donnelly,

OLD BUSINESS

Lynn Zekanis: Referred to minutes on item 17-read transcript from last page on back, second paragraph down; item not referred to committee, tabled without vote, parliamentary procedure says items tabled are to be seconded and a vote taken.

Correction asked to be read.

Lynn proposed that the minutes be changed to reflect that the item was tabled without a vote or consensus. Discussion ensued regarding how to table items-what the best procedure would be.

MOTION

Eleanor Brooks moved that: We have two issues. We need to decide whether we will do a formal every time with a vote and roll call or if we will do it by a sort of consensus that Tammy, the Presiding Officer says: "Hearing no objections this will be tabled until whatever date or referred to whatever committee". Our second issue is do we or do we not have items/issues in limbo or can we just agree as a team to leave them as they were and procedure with better, more clearer issues for the future." Nick Krall seconded motion. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Lynn Zekanis moved: "That on Item 17 the minutes should be changed from "instead of referring the issue of discussion to possible Board action to the Outreach Committee" it should read "Cheri Blose said she would take the item to the Outreach Committee and the President tabled the item". Bonnie Bernard seconded. **Motioned passed unanimously.**

President Flores: "Should Item 18 remained tabled, any objections? Seeing no objections, Item 18 shall remain tabled. Item 19 was also tabled. Any objections on rest of minutes?" No objections stated.

MOTION

President Flores moved: "That the minutes be accepted as amended." Cheri seconded. **Motion passed unanimously.**

ITEM 4

Explanation of stakeholder comments, speaker cards, etc

ITEM 5

Maria Ventura from City Council office was introduced. and announced that March 1, Valley Crest donated over \$200,000 for a pocket park donated the land to the City. Maria continues to work with Nick Krall, both are

co-chairs for the American Cancer Society Relay for Life. Location is Sylmar High on June 30th ; need teams of 10-15 people.

Officer Charles Chicon was introduced. Officer said there is a 0% for crime; still have property crime-15 cars had rocks thrown into them, perhaps gang vandalism; have good leads. But crime is down all over city. Sylmar Block Captain's meeting on April 15; a volunteer surveillance team to recruit volunteers for instance, to help with graffiti task force. Update: overtime detail funding is not available for public safety; working to get motion passed to allow funding for building and safety and department of transportation.

PRESIDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Mayor Villaragosa's "Hire LA Youth" program described. Louie from Mayor's office introduced; looking for young people, 18-24, to work (see flyer).
- Thank you to all those who helped in the office: Ellie for running office; Lynn for helping with copies; Randall and his daughter for cleaning office; Fabian who is starting process for citizenship for a news cast anchor; Jim for bring in sound system; Debbie for taking roll call; Sherry our greeter; Cliff and June who do the posting.
- Clarification regarding Mr. Alarcon, saying I have endorsed him. I did not give permission to use NC, it was a campaign error on their part. Spoke to D.O.N.E. about it. Has not seen flyer.
- Email were sent out (by Tammy) in regards to getting help on Quimby funds; perhaps a Brown Act violation; retracted email. Asks Leyla Campos if email is in violation of Brown act. Leyla responded she has not seen email.

Leyla Campos with DONE and Sylmar NC project coordinator announced:

- The Congress of Neighborhoods is on April 21, Sat, 7:30-3:00 at Bonaventure Hotel; (see handout)
- DONE met with Planning Department and asks that the NC have a generic email account made to get reports and agendas
- Referred to page 10, part 1 of Brown Act handout (see handout); quorum for SNC is 9 and majority is 5.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- Ellie read email she sent to Steve Oh with D.O.N.E. in the finance area. (See Ellie for copy of email). asks for confirmation of status of reports. Says SNC is complete with reports through 6/30/06. 1st Quarter petty cash reconciliation has been submitted, but not credit card reconciliation.. 2nd Quarter reports not submitted.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

No report.

COMMERICAL/BUSINESS INTEREST

No report.

BEAUTIFICATION/GRANTS

No report.

EDUCATION

No report.

LAND USE

Land use had two meetings:

- 1) Span School #8, special joint Matthews Committee Board of Directors meeting held, 2 board members came; LAUSD school site location team showed map of 4 possible locations. Posted agenda items reads as follows: "LAUSD Span School #1 came thru a presentation by LAUSD School Location Team of preferred school sites for discussion including comments/question and board members comments/questions and possible action by our SNC board or in the case of fewer than five board member in attendance, action by Land Use committee. After falsely chiding me for saying that a site had been chosen, they told us a site had indeed been chosen, but they won't tell us which site it is nor would they, during the meeting, discuss the individual sites. They would listen to our comments, but

they don't want to give us the false impression that it would make a difference as they have already chosen the site to recommend to district. After the site is announced at a March 21 meeting, community members may comment, celebrate and or protest, but they made it clear there is no point in acting before that. The LAUSD team absconded with the sign in sheet, so I cannot tell you precisely how many people were present, but on a straw vote of approximately 10 people, 3 voted either for or against 2 sites; 2 sites got no vote at all and most of the stakeholders simply abstained from voting. One perpetually displeased stakeholder commented simultaneously that: 1) NC is not advisory to LAUSD, therefore should not be discussing schools and then same time I personally having attended most school site meetings over last 2 years should have been responsible for bringing this school site issue to Board and again for the record I have brought it to the Board, Land Use Committee and LAUSD has brought meeting notices to SNC. Those truly interested have been attending and those aren't, aren't and weren't. It is my opinion that LAUSD, like other developers and Holy Cross Hospital, is trying to push plan through while there is absence of weakness in our City Council seat. Committee took no note and has no recommendation for Board on school site locations other than to encourage you each as individuals to attend LAUSD meeting at Sylmar Elementary on March 21 at 6:30 pm. If too many show up it could constitute Brown Act violation.

- Second Land Use meeting was a regular meeting. Three of the properties had no one showed. Previous project was presented that was liked and later action will be recommended. New business project to be put on agenda for next Land Use meeting. Another proposed project on Polk to replace horse property with small lot condos and asking for variances for more density and reduce set back from the street for safety landscaping was denied.

Important meeting dates:

- March 12-LAUSD breakfast at Sportsman Lodge for Q&A in general spending of funds
- March 15-Land Use hearings at Marvin Braude Center for developments on Bradly and Telfair
- March 21-Sylmar Elementary School, LAUSD school site announcements
- March 22-hearing at Marvin Braude regarding ordinances to stop the proliferation of medical marijuana shops for a time; Land Use hearing on development on Roxford; hearing on Providence Holy Cross expansion
- June 30-Relay for life

Point of order asked for: To submit what is being read to secretary for the record.

OUTREACH

- No date set as of yet for meeting.
- In packet two forms for Board feedback. Summarized report on candidate form.
- Chris Castro reported CD7 debate forum held February 9 at Olive Vista Middle school, 250 attendees, all candidates.
- Thank you to: League of Women voters and Sylmar Chamber of Commerce for food and staffing food area; Jeanie Rowe, Cheri, Jan for manning sign in tables; Nick, George, Fidel and everyone else for passing out flyers; Tammy, Ellie for staying to help.

PUBLIC SAFETY/EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

First meeting was held; difficulty posting agenda-not well advertised. Involved in youth task force committee working well-good attendance, working on identifying truancy problems. Next meeting late March, early April for next meeting.

PUBLIC SERVICES (See Item 8)

RENTAL/MANUFACTURED HOMES PROTECTION

No report.

ELECTION COMMITTEE

No report

Announcement: First meeting of the committee will be March 19, 7:00 pm at NC Office.

AD HOC

No report

ITEM 8

Mayor's Day Service to take place again this year on April 28-9, 2007. Recognition of:

- Mayor's rep Louie taking phone
- Tammy-handle freeway cleaning coordination with Cal trans; translation of flyer into Spanish
- Jim-handle tools/equipment coordination
- Leyla-for her support
- Lynn-horse bridle trail clean up
- Maria-very supportive during years of working with Louis; doing park set up/volunteer recruitment support flyer
- Manny with Graffiti Busters-pickup equipment and delivery
- Quyen-for volunteering

Need volunteers:

- to delivery flyers;
- for Mayor's Day service on 4/28-9;
- to do projects;
- to drive around community and call 311 in re: to bulky items

Progress has been made in getting all reds zones painted, making freeway cleaner.

ITEM 9

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Speaker Card: Moises Carrillo, St Didacus School, extended an invitation to Casino night (see flyer); Sylmar Youth Task Group/St. Didacus to get 100 youths for two projects: 1. A mural at Sylmar pool. 2. A mural by the school.

Edmundo Delgadillo, LAUSD with Outreach Department, announced community meeting for March 21, at 7:00 pm (See flyer). Has copies of search area that identifies four sites for schools. (See handout)

Speaker Card: Terri Crosswhite, selling tickets for Sylmar Woman's Club (see flyer) Read report concerning an article about SNC (see Terri for copy of report).

ITEM 10

MOTION

Eugene Hernandez, Hope Gardens project moved: "That we understand that Supervisor Antonovich and the his staff has delayed this project. Every day that Hope Gardens is delayed means that the Skid row children and parents have to live in anxiety and hopelessness. We hope that Supervisor Antonovich will use his office to assist the Union Rescue Mission in its goal to establish Hope Gardens." Nick Krall seconded the motion.

Discussion - Speaker Cards

Clifford Kenny urged opening of Hope Gardens; read letter from Supervisor Antonovich (see Clifford for copy of letter)

Scott Chamberlain, Andy Bales-Union Rescue Mission, explained Hope Gardens is a transitional housing for women and children, not a shelter, with supportive services. CUP was submitted in Oct 2005- delayed to May 2007; continued support of SNC needed.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Moises Carrillo- elected to Community Advisory Board thanked SNC for support of Hope Gardens

ITEM 11

Speaker Card: Terri Crosswhite urged support of Lynn's proposal.

MOTION

Lynn Zekanis moved to: "Reduce the secretary's current hours to 10 hours weekly with no paid holidays effective in thirty (30) days and reprove the revised secretary duties as submitted to be reviewed by the Board in 60 days" Rudy Lopez seconded.

(See handout - information packet for Apple One contract/secretary job description/suggested changes to the duties)

Discussion

Bonnie Bernard suggested more time be spent in consideration of this motion, form an Ad Hoc committee to review.

Cheri Blose not prepared to vote; would like motion tabled to have more time to review information packet.

Louis Perry supports motion and would like to vote.

Nick Krall says cut of 50% of hours needs more review.

Jan Sandstrom cut of half hours too drastic; perhaps reduce by 5 hours; detrimental not to have secretary.

Stakeholder Lois Fife called for a poll of members to volunteer and commit to help before cutting hours.

Eleanor Brooks too premature to decide; take time to do depth of research as group; not prepared to vote tonight.

Lynn clarifies that she's not asking for Board members to volunteer to sit in the office, says we do not need office opened every day as there are no stakeholders going there; Board can send own emails and Committee Chairs can do own postings.

Louis says a bulk of money spent on secretary can be spent on community. No one has gone to Mission College for volunteers. Other NC's are doing it, so can we.

Fidel Ramirez says 75% of NC don't employ paid Secretaries; ready to vote today.

Louie from Mayor's Office says when he worked at CD7 office, all year they had volunteer students from Mission College Political Science Department. (did not understand comment)

Chris Castro says Mission Political Science College students required to volunteer, team effort needed.

Bonnie says more than 50% of NCs use Apple One for administrative assistance; this is quiet period of SNC, when hectic a lot of work is done, wants Ad Hoc Committee.

**Vote: 9 in favor; 7 opposed (Bernard, Brooks, Blose, Ghias, Krall, Sandstrom, Castro), 1 abstention (Hernandez).
Motion passed.**

Break---8:12 meeting called back to order.

President Flores recognized Nicole Chase from City Councilman Richard Alarcon's office

ITEM 12

MOTION

Eleanor Brooks moved: "That the Board approve an expanse of \$20.25 an hour to hire someone from Apple One to transcribe March meeting minutes for however many hours it will take for that to be accomplished."

Cheri Blose seconded.

Discussion

Speaker Card: Terri Crosswhite hopes Board does not pay secretary while on disability; if so, adjustments must be made.

Ellie Brooks responds that secretary not being paid.

Lynn Zekanis asks if the rate from Apple One is the only rate for transcription.

Ellie answers yes.

Lynn asked if anyone has checked any other sources that can be used?

Ellie says that any personnel services must go through Apple One

Vote: 8 in favor, 6 opposed (Hernandez, Lopez, Perry, Ramirez, Schopper, Vo-Ramirez, 2 abstentions (Ortega, Castro). Motion passed.**

NOTE: Roll call votes are different than count stated by Secretary during meeting. Secretary stated 8 in favor, 7 No, 1 abstention

ITEM 13

MOTION

Eleanor Brooks moved: "That the regular meeting night be moved from the second Thursday to the fourth Thursday to avoid conflicting with the meeting date of the Valley Alliance and to make it possible for Leyla to attend." Nick Krall seconded.

Discussion

Eugene Hernandez asks could one member be excused who needs to attend the meeting (Valley Alliance)?

Ellie says the difficulty is that the representation is not at SNC; better to change meeting night.

Jan Sandstrom says the benefit is that the members who attend the Valley Alliance will bring back report to the meeting on the 4th Thursday.

Chris Castro asks if motion passes do we need to have another meeting in March?

Ellie answered no.

Nick Krall says may be issue in November and December; we should be aware of possible conflicts.

Vote: 9 in favor, 1 opposed (Hernandez), 7 abstentions (Bernard, Lopez, Ortega, Rowe, Perry, Vo-Ramirez, Castro). Motion passed.

ITEM 14

Eleanor Brooks says we have a Board of 21 and to have an entire community; a lot to do and should do; spread out executive function among 5 and get better representation of input; outside task forces to be involve in need more people.

Discussion:

Speaker Card: Terri Crosswhite bylaw committee is needed; adjust quorum-increased to 11 to avoid violation of Brown Act

Bonnie Bernard suggests adding one - a second vice-president to do nothing but outreach.

Cheri Blose asks if Board can create a new position of Secretary.

Bonnie states bylaws say that secretary cannot be a board member; DONE/City insist secretary is a paid employee

Leyla Campos offers a point of clarification; left to Board to pay secretary or not; must amend bylaws to make Secretary an officer.

Chris Castro suggested having a Director Secretary; amending bylaws.

Tammy asked for bylaws.

Ellie says bylaws call for executive board of 3; perhaps we can discuss increasing board by one, two, or three, what position, or take to Ad Hoc for research.

President Flores suggested tabling motion until more research can be done.

Quyen Vo-Ramirez says there is a standing motion on the table; objections must be asked for in order to table item.

MOTION

Ellie agreed to rescind original motion and moved: "To establish an Ad Hoc committee to report at the next April meeting on the possibility of increasing the executive board." Jan Sandstrom seconded.

Discussion

None.

Vote: 16 in favor, none opposed, 1 abstention (Vo-Ramirez). Motion passed.

Lynn Zekanis and Jan Sandstrom volunteered to Chair Ad Hoc committee.

ITEMS 15 and 16

MOTION

Lynn Zekanis until one week ago, we were delinquent on 6 quarters of reports, website now says we are delinquent on 2 quarters; DONE can revoke check writing privileges with City, but has given Board benefit of doubt. Lynn moved: "To establish a standing Budget Committee to assist with the upcoming '06-07 budget, to review all reconciliations and funding reports within 60 days of end of each quarter". Jan Sandstrom seconds.

Discussion

Eleanor Brooks says not really news that SNC is behind; fact supported by old minutes

Speaker Card: Terri Crosswhite agrees with the need for a budget committee.

Bonnie Bernard read Item 16 and asked for clarification of motion.

Lynn repeated motion

Lois Fife says 60 days after end of quarter, a quarter is only 90 days, how do you see that working?

Lynn explained that Treasurer is required to submit report within 90 days and can take report to the Board before submitting to DONE

Bonnie Bernard says to have a standing committee there must be a bylaw change

(unidentified speaker) asks why does it take months to make a bylaw change?

Leyla Campos explains that bylaw changes must go through department; sometimes through Board of Neighborhood Commissioners; takes time to effect change, not 9 months or 6 months.

Quyen Vo-Ramirez asks if a bylaw change was needed to form this Committee.

Leyla says there is no category for standing committees, so must have bylaw change.

Lynn explained that by saying standing committee she meant a committee that is not disbanded every 3 months; a regular committee.

Tammy Flores clarified point; Board can identify "Standing"

Leyla says she isn't aware of bylaws for standing committees.

Bonnie clarifies that there are standing committees in the bylaws, suggests forming an Ad Hoc or regular Committee.

Fabian Garcia asks if we can form an Ad Hoc Committee while bylaws change is requested for a standing Committee.

President Flores says yes.

MOTION (restated)

Lynn amends motion to strike "standing". Motion reads: "To establish a Budget Committee to assist with the upcoming 2006-2007 budget, to review all reconciliations and funding reports within 60 days of end of each quarter". Jan Sandstrom seconds.

Discussion

None.

Vote: 12 in favor, 1 opposed (Bernard); 4 abstentions (Blöse, Ghias, Krall, Castro). Motion passed.

Tammy asked for Ellie to chair the committee

ITEM 17

MOTION

Bonnie Bernard moved: “To establish an Ad Hoc committee of Directors for the purpose of complying with the PLAN of neighborhood councils based on Article II-Number 4- Desired Characteristics of Neighborhood Councils specifically establishing non-profit, tax-exempt status”. Eleanor Brooks seconded

Discussion

Eugene key danger of non-profit is a need for grant writer to pursue money; SNC will disconnect from City structure; simply ask for increased budget.

Eleanor Brooks says not suggesting SNC become a tax-exempt 501C3 but to explore getting a 501C3; Ad Hoc can do research.

Stakeholder James Boniface say another issue is if this Board cannot get current finances together who will manage more money? Forming an Ad Hoc would be a waste of resources.

President Flores passes the gavel to VP Bernard.

Continued Discussion

Tammy Flores says Mr. Alarcon encourages 501C3 for getting extra budget.

Bonnie Bernard refers to an article in the Plan and read it; Ad Hoc is just for research

George Ortega says the SNC not a service organization; we should not compete with other non-profits for money.

Jim Schopper agreed with George; we are here to represent stakeholders and not compete for money

Stakeholder Lois Fife asked do we have vehicle to accept donations? We need one.

Unidentified Stakeholder asks what happens with secretary payroll taxes if we go tax-exempt.

Leyla Campos says that the City Council, City Attorney not reached decision on the process or how to do this; says partnering with a non-profit has been done, would add to motion “to work in conjunction with City Attorney's office and City Council”.

Bonnie says would work with D.O.N.E., which would bring in City Council.

Fabian Garcia disagrees with 501C3; we cannot accept donations, but we can be vehicle to make events happen where donations are given; we should not hold money.

Tammy Flores suggests sending this item to Ad Hoc.

Terri Crosswhite recommends tabling motion, as item is still before the City and Ad Hoc could be doing work for nothing.

Nick Krall suggests not closing the door on this subject, that there are businesses that will supply outreach services to SNC; we should explore possibilities.

Vote: 6 in favor, 9 opposed (Garcia, Hernandez, Lopez, Ortega, Ramirez, Rowe, Schopper, Vo-Ramirez, Zekanis), 1 abstention (Castro). Motion failed.**

Bonnie Bernard requested re-count of vote. Roll call taken again, same votes given.

NOTE: Roll call votes are different than count stated by Secretary during meeting. Secretary stated 7 in favor, 8 opposed, 1 abstention

ITEM 18

MOTION

Eleanor Brooks moved that item be tabled to April's meeting. Jan Sandstrom seconded.

Discussion

None.

President Flores declares Item 18 is tabled until next meeting.

ITEM 19

MOTION

Nick Krall moved all land use items tabled until next month's meeting." Jan Sandstrom seconded President Flores asked for objections, seeing none she tabled the items to next month's meeting.

Discussion

None. Item 19 tabled until next meeting.

ITEM 20

MOTION

President Flores moved: "To form an Ad Hoc committee to research websites of other neighborhood councils and other non-commercial organizations to collect best practice/ideas for improvement of ours. This committee to bring their research to the April 12 (to be amended) Board Meeting". Unidentified Board member seconded.

President Flores passed the gavel to VP Bernard.

Tammy Flores says maybe it's time for the SNC website to be updated and upgraded, made more user-friendly. Ad Hoc to do research of other NC websites, see what they're doing and bring it to the Board to see what we should be doing to make it better.

Discussion

None.

Vote: 16 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

President Flores asked Fabian Garcia to work with Lynn Zekanis in Chairing the Website Ad Hoc

ITEM 21

President Flores asks for volunteers to be Animal Welfare representatives. No volunteers. Asks for item to be tabled.

Bonnie Bernard motions to removed item from agenda, Jan Sandstrom seconds.

Discussion

None.

Bonnie Bernard calls for objections rather than roll call vote. President Flores asks for objections. Seeing none, item is removed from the agenda.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

- Eugene Hernandez says good suggestion by Ellie in regards to the stakeholder sign in sheet—should incorporate this into agenda; attended meeting of Board of Neighborhood Commissioners— Daniel Gattica, the person representing this area should be invited to our meetings.
- Nick Krall says daylight savings time this weekend; on St Patrick's Day my folk group will be playing at the Brew House, 7:30-9:30.
- Bonnie Bernard reminded Board that secretary's responsibilities were not voted on as recommended; should be on next agenda. Lynn Zekanis clarified that it was part of the motion, repeated motion.
- Ellie Brooks finds it difficult to work under mistrust, distrust; too much time/energy taken from what can be done; please rethink why we are here.
- President Flores will be reporting on what I will do; put in 60+ hours away from regular duties
- Lynn Zekanis would like to have President's Report as a regular thing

Next board meeting on April 26; submit written items for agenda to the Office no later than 5 days before the meeting.

Meeting adjourned 9:25pm