

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

**Thursday, August 23, 2007
DYER STREET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
14500 DYER STREET
SYLMAR, CA 91342**

Meeting called to order by Vice-President Bonnie Bernard at 6:47pm. The Flag Salute was led by Chuck.

Public Official and President Messages

Bonnie Bernard read a message to the Board from Tammy Flores.

Roll call Present: Bonnie Bernard, Cheri Blose, Rick Donnelly, Fabian Garcia, Farooq Ghias, Eugene Hernandez, Fidel Ramirez, Jeanne Rowe, Quyen Vo-Ramirez, Lynn Zekanis

Not Present: Ellie Brooks, Hector Cabrera, Rudolfo Lopez, Jim Schopper

Not present Excused: Tammy Flores, Randall Kelly, Nick Krall, George Ortega, Louis Perry, Jan Sandstrom,

Quorum is established.

Approval of Minutes: Eugene Hernandez moved and Rick Donnelly seconded to approve the minutes of June 28th, 2007. **Approved unanimously.**

Public Official Announcements

Bonnie speaking for Leyla Campos – Neighborhood Council Valley Training Day, this Saturday, August 25, 2007 at the Marvin Braude building in Van Nuys. Treasurer and Brown Act Training.

Officer Charles Chacon, Senior Lead – For the period from July 22 to August 18th we had 112 crimes in Sylmar. The majority of the hot crimes is 29 Grand Theft Auto (GTA), and 24 Burglary From Motor Vehicle (BFMV). Occurring mostly from 6pm – 12 midnight. North Hills Area is getting the Safe Cities Initiative. They are getting 42 brand new officers just for their 1.2 square mile area. He is working to get Sylmar officers to be able to stay here in Sylmar. Crime in Sylmar is down 5% vs. last year. Commission Hearing on Sept 11; Come give your input to the commissioners on Graffiti, tagging, crime etc. There was a homeless encampment cleanup at Post office.

Eugene Hernandez asked about the bank robbery shooting. Officer Chacon described the incident and that the gun the robbery suspect had looked like a real glock gun and had made a large bruise on her hostage. It presented as a life or death situation and the officers acted to protect the public and the hostage. It turns out the suspect was a long time gang member and methamphetamine user since 12 years old. Eugene also asked

about the man shot on Hubbard. The man had grabbed a knife and lunged at the officer. The officer shot the suspect to protect himself and the lady in the room. We have four cars for the Sylmar area. If you would like to ask for more coverage, you can write letters to Captain to ask for more support.

Presentation

Paul O’Conner – Vectorologist for the Vector Control District

There are 4 districts in L.A. County. There 57 employees that cover the County area.

Districting is organized by Administration, operations, educational, and scientific . West Nile Virus appeared in California in 2004. The 2004-2005 season was the probably the worst until this year. We are experiencing a resurgence of a lot of human cases, and a lot of positive mosquitoes. In California, there have been 120 cases of West Nile Virus, 4 cases in the SFV near North Hills, Granada hills, and the West Valley. The virus is transmitted the same as the St. Louis Encephalitis. It is propagated by a Bird/mosquito blood cross transfer. It’s the female mosquitoes that feed on blood. The males feed on plant juices. Sepulveda Basin and the Encino area have a high number of positives. Hanson Dam is low on positives. There are almost no symptoms for the West Nile Virus. Birds get the high viral load in the blood stream, other animals don’t load near as much and are much less likely to infect the mosquito.

Public Official Announcements (cont)

Rubin Zaragoza – Field Deputy for Richard Alarcon’s office. I look forward to working with you. Born and raised in Valley. I also worked for Padilla. The new park at Cobalt and Telfair has been donated to be a pocket park. The city will be assuming the park. The grand opening should be September 15.

Public Comments

Robin Gilbert – She lives in North Hills, and Sylmar is her second home. She asks that the council to put on agenda to discuss “Impeach Bush and Cheney” issue. We need to use the money being spent on the war to help with domestic issues like health care, education, housing public safety, and police and fire. She states they have not honored their oath of office.

Shelly Vickrey – She is upset about the meeting being announced in the paper that it is at the church and it is really at the school. Why is there no street sweeping on Sayre St near Eldridge as all the other streets have sweeping. She would like speed bumps on Sayre St. And tree trimming is needed.

Tabled items

Olive Vista Middle School’s Presentation about the School – Removed from agenda.

Old Business

Discussion and possible board action on the Land Use Committee’s recommendation to no longer discuss the topic on the Providence Holy Cross Hospital Expansion. Cheri Blose speaks to this. Originally when the hospital expansion started, they did not have a

local NC to represent the stakeholders. Now that they have a local council, and it supports the hospital's EMND, and we no longer need to be involved except for the traffic issues that specifically affect Sylmar.

Cheri Blose moves and Farooq Ghias seconds that the Board refrain from support, for or against, of the Providence Holy Cross Hospital Expansion unless the traffic conditions that affect the Sylmar area become an issue. Jeanne Rowe says each issue should be addressed as they come up. Lynn says it has already been voted on. Eugene believes that we will revisit this problem unless we adopt this motion. Cheri is concerned that the bylaws should be changed to allow the Board to change their mind on an issue. **Cheri withdraws the motion. The second withdraws also.**

New business

Bonnie passes gavel to Lynn.

Discussion and possible board action to address renewal of the lease for the SNC office. Bonnie Bernard gives information about rentals in the same complex. The lease has been increased about 4.5% each year. We currently pay about \$1455/mo including utilities. Cheri Blose speaks to the costs of office space in the Los Angeles area and increases at HUD and rent control even.

Eugene Hernandez moves and Cheri Blose seconds that we renew our lease and that the negotiations will not exceed 6%. Fidel asks if there are other alternatives. Lynn says she has researched and there is no other comparable deal. Cheri says that at the time they first looked for office space they found that the current location was the best deal, and the other affordable locations are a place you would not want to park your car. **After discussion the board voted: YES(8), NO(0), STEPPED AWAY(1) Quyen Vo-Ramirez. Motion passes.**

Lynn passes the Gavel back to Bonnie.

Discussion about the Sylmar Neighborhood Council Election date. The original timeline was set for December 8, 2007. Quyen wants to change the date to December 15, 2007 and to use the Library instead of the Church.

Quyen Vo-Ramirez moves and Eugene Hernandez seconds that the Election be held on December 15, 2007 at the Sylmar Library. Lynn is concerned that Dec. 15 is too close to the holidays. Mark asks if an IEA is available for that date. Answer is yes. Other Board members like the Dec 15 date. Stakeholder comments: Martin Laufer stated that having the election one week before Christmas is ludicrous and monumentally insane and that this will be the lowest turnout election ever. Shelley Vickrey agrees. Mark Bower agrees and asked the board to consider the lack of parking at the library and that people would not come. **After discussion the Board Votes: YES(5), NO(4) Fabian Garcia, Farooq Ghias, Jeanne Rowe, Lynn Zekanis. Motion passes.**

Eugene Hernandez moved and Lynn Zekanis seconds to approve a bylaws amendment for the Elections Procedure as follows:

Article VII. B. Election: ~~The end of each annual term shall be the date of the August SNC Board Meeting each year at which the newly elected Board members will be installed.~~ At the end of each annual election, the Installation of newly elected board members will be at the next regularly scheduled SNC Board

meeting. "The Board member elections will be held during the month of June of each year annually. The Sylmar Neighborhood Council will consult with a DONE recommended third party to oversee the practice of the election. DONE ~~may be the third party or~~ will recommend a third party and the third party will be the final arbiter for purposes of resolving your initial election disputes. Stakeholders voting must be at least 14 years old." The chair called for discussion. No one wished to comment.

The Board moved to a vote: YES(9), NO(0). Motion passes.

Discussion and possible board action on the Election Procedures. Quyen detailed the information of the Election Procedures.

Quyen Vo-Ramirez moved and Rick Donnelly seconded that the Board Approve the Election Procedures as submitted to the Board by email. Lynn announced that the Elections Committee approved the Election Procedures last night. A Board member asked if the timeline was accurate, and Quyen responded that it was accurate, and provided more detailed EP information. **After discussion the Board voted: YES(9), NO(0). Motion carries.**

Discussion about letters to KB Homes. Martin Laufer speaks about the traffic signal still not finished and about the open holes in sidewalk. He wants to know why are they not completed yet. KB should have finished this by now. Strongly asks to write a letter to get this and paving done also. Cheri Blose would like a fire station that KB said that they would build. KB now says that it will be done when the 500th home is built.

Eugene Hernandez moves and Jeanne Rowe seconds that the Board sends a letter to KB Homes asking them to expedite the completion of the installation of the traffic signal at Yarnell and Foothill and to CC copies to Richard Alarcon's office and to Felipe Fuentes. **After Board discussion the Board voted: YES(9), NO(0). Motion carries.**

Discussion about shopping carts letter.

Quyen Vo-Ramirez moves and Jeanne Rowe seconds that the Board sends letters to all stores that use shopping carts to pick up carts on a more frequent schedule and that they send the SNC board a copy of their pickup schedule. **After discussion the Board voted: YES(9), NO(0). Motion carries.**

Discussion about freeway on ramp cleanup letter.

Quyen Vo-Ramirez moves and Eugene Hernandez seconds that the Board sends a letter to Felipe Fuentes to request more consistent cleanup of our freeway on-ramps, install sound walls, and improve the maintenance of the post office property. Quyen agreed to write the letters. **After discussion the Board voted: YES(9), No(0). The motion carries.**

Chair announcement that there are two Board seats open: one for Community Based Organization, and one for Youth.

Committee Reports

Land Use - Cheri Blose - applications for development are down. Illegal building and home businesses are still a problem. "Rec" (recreation) rooms are one way residents are circumventing the laws. A landowner can have many of them(with bathrooms, etc). You can rent them out.

Outreach – Rick Donnelly - looking to partner with civic groups, mailings, community forum with Jeanne Rowe and the Board and committee chairs, candidate forum, need more help with the Outreach Committee

Website - Lynn Zekanis – requested the 50% check for the website. Wendy Moore can begin work on the website.

Budget – Lynn Zekanis – Will have a meeting within the coming month. AppleOne just found outstanding invoices from last year. £

Elections – Quyen Vo-Ramirez – election meeting most likely on a Saturday, possible within a month.

Public Services and Beautification/Grant – Quyen Vo-Ramirez - Next meeting is 8/29 at the SNC office. The grant applications are due in October 17th . Cobalt and Foothill vacant ????? would like parking lot. Foothill blvd wood horse rails to concrete rails. (??please finish what this means....)

Boundary Ad-Hoc – Jeanne Rowe – gave a handout of photographic sites for the website Terry Crosswhite has resigned as chair, and Jean Torres will replace her. Martin has passed out a questionnaire that asks about more councils in Sylmar that the committee would like to have the board approve for stakeholder survey.

Jeanne Rowe – Officer Appreciation Breakfast get together on Sept 6, 2007 – 7:00 am

Board member comments –

Cheri Blose agreed to research those with 3 or more unexcused board member absences and report to the board.

Eugene Hernandez – Las Lomas, Palmer is a disaster in the making. As elected officials, we took an oath, Bush and Cheney have violated the law.

Lynn Zekanis– Frustrated with the election process. Quyen has done a lot of work in a short time. Need to look forward. Please volunteer your time and help the elections committee. Poor attendance from board members – if 3 meetings missed it should be grounds for dismissal.

Fidel Ramirez – where shall we meet, move around or meet at one place?

Jeanne Rowe wants more correspondence discussed at the meetings.

Quyen Vo-Ramirez – thank you to Josue Barbosa.

Bonnie Bernard– Tammy has appointed Quyen as chair of the Elections Committee.

Bonnie requested that the Secretary report any correspondence as requested by Jeanne Rowe to the board now. Nothing to report.

Adjourn at 9:04 pm

Next meeting Sept 27, 2007

Draft #5 (BB/MS)