

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

**Thursday, September 27, 2007  
DYER STREET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AUDITORIUM  
14500 DYER STREET  
SYLMAR, CA 91342**

Meeting called to order by Vice-President Bonnie Bernard at 6:36pm.

The Flag Salute was led by veteran Harry Tischler.

Roll call Present: Cheri Blose, Bonnie Bernard, Rick Donnelly, Fabian Garcia, Eugene Hernandez, Randall Kelly, Nick Krall, Rudolfo Lopez, George Ortega, Louis Perry, Fidel Ramirez, Jeanne Rowe, Jan Sandstrom, Jim Schopper, Quyen Vo-Ramirez, Lynn Zekanis

Not Present: Hector Cabrerra, Farooq Ghias

Not present Excused: Tammy Flores

**Quorum is established.**

**Approval of Minutes:** Randall Kelly moved and Jan Sandstrom seconded to approve the minutes of July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2007. **Approved unanimously.** Moved and seconded to approve the minutes of August 22, 2007. **Approved as corrected by consensus.** No dissenting votes.

**Public Official Announcements**

Manny Figueras – Councilman Alarcon’s Office – delivers report for Officer Charles Chacon, Senior Lead crime is lower. However there are problems near Sawyer and Astoria. The new L.A. City Council committee chair assignments effective 10/1/2007. His office is organizing putting up flags along Foothill. Between 300 and 400 flags have been donated by the Chamber of Commerce, and Councilman Alarcon’s office is working it out with the City to have the flags put up at no cost to Sylmar. And this coming Saturday, at Mission College, there will be a primer for kids on how to go to college. Monthly newsletter is coming out, can get it in your email. Channel 11 did a great report on Foreclosure scams.

Amelia Herrera-Robles – DONE NC Advocate – Annual Mayors Budget Day is on Oct 13, at City Hall at 8am; you can register online to attend. Congress of Neighborhoods at the LA Convention Center on October 27, 2007 at 7:30am - 1pm. She has flyers. Reports that Leyla is working on the final approval of the bylaws changes, and they should be approved shortly.

**Public Comments**

Martin Laufer – Stakeholder – The impeachment item should not be on the agenda because it exceeds the scope of influence of our council. It is outside of the “citywide influence” and issues as stated in the bylaws. Not national and state issues.

Erlin Arellano – Community Appreciation Day – This coming Saturday, Oct 6<sup>th</sup>, 8am-1pm. Participants will be getting service hour credit and a free tee-shirt. It will be at Sylmar Park near the Fire Station, and there will also be a bulky item pickup.

Harry Tischler – stakeholder – We as public officials are to protect the Constitution of the United States.

Rick Donnelly - Report on the new website and Moore and Assoc have been taking pictures and designing the website, and they are currently within the budget. They also do other councils websites and they should be good at maintaining updates. Their photographer is here tonight to get your pictures for the board page.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Filling the empty seats on the Board.

The Only Youth Rep application is from Erin Arellano. Erlin speaks about why she wants to run for the Board. She sees this as a good opportunity for the youth to get involved. No other persons came forward to run for the Youth seat.

**Motion:** Louis Perry moves and Jan Sandstrom seconds to approve Erlin Arellano as the Youth category Seat on the SNC Board. Louis Perry stands behind her 120%. **After discussion the Board voted: YES (14), NO (). Passes unanimous.** Manny swears Erlin into office. She takes her seat at the table.

Gillermo “Memo” Reyes - wants to run for Community Bases Organization: Chamber of Commerce. No other candidates step forward to run for this seat. He wants to get involved because he wasted most of his life doing nothing. He has got involved in the committees and wants to get involved and do his share to help improve the community.

**Motion:** Rick Donnelly moves and Lynn Zekanis seconds to accept Guillermo “Memo” Reyes as a Community Based Representative to fill the empty seat. He has walked several days with Perry, knocking on doors and doing Outreach. Nick Krall says that “Memo” is an “awesome guy.” **After discussion the Board voted: YES (16), NO (0).** **Motion passes unanimously.** Manny swears Memo into office. He takes his seat at the table.

SNC Boundary Adjustment Committee Survey – Jeanne Rowe Yields her time to Martin Laufer. He explains that the committee is at the point that they need to survey the committee to be able to go further with their Boundary task. They are planning to survey the Friday morning realtor group, the Neighborhood Watch group, and have them help with outreach to other people and groups. He does not have the suggested survey with him at this meeting, but it is the same one that he passed out to the Board last month. Bonnie polled the Board if they felt that they needed to see the survey again before voting on it. The Board did not indicate that they wanted to see it again before voting.

**Motion:** Jan Sandstrom moves and Quyen Vo-Ramirez seconds to accept the survey submitted by the Boundary Adjustment Committee so that they can proceed and hand it out to the community. **After some additional discussion, the Board voted: YES(13), NO(1) George Ortega. ABSTAIN (2) Randall Kelly, Rudy Lopez, Jim Schopper. Motion Passes.**

Update on letters from Quyen Vo-Ramirez. Regarding the letters about the shopping carts, we left some of the local stores with carts off the list, and need to add some stores. She will follow up on that. Regarding the letter about the signal lights, Quyen contacted the Public Works inspector and he was not aware that the lights were not working. The subcontractor indicated that they needed to have the signal “hooked up” to an adjacent signal to make it work. Quyen will send copies to the Board members and to Richard Alarcon’s Office.

Stephen Box – Independent Election Administrator. Stephen addresses the changes needed in the Election Procedures. Stephen announces that the Election will be December 15, 2007. He describes the elections for the past few years and the assignment/use of each of the seats. He explains that some of the seats are up for a two year term and some for a one year term. In addition, two seats are only for a one year term. The At-Large One seat is an even year seat, and expires in 2006 and 2008 and should be re-filled. The Community E Organization One seat is also up for election.

The full breakdown is as follows:

**(Odd year seats)**

CEO #2 2 years

Homeowner/Condo #1,2,3,4 for 2 years

Renter #2 for 2 years

Retail #3 for 2 years

Senior for 2 years

Youth for 2 years

In addition, in this election the following even year seats will be voted for:

AT-Large #1

CEO #1 for the remaining year

**(Even year seats)**

Lynn asks if the At-Large One seat would actually be a three year term. Stephen clarifies that that seat will be for only one year to correct for the “off year” election of the person currently in that seat. Cheri Blose asks if the following elections will be in December because this next Elections is in December. The clarification is that the bylaws state that elections will be held annually and that it does not mean specifically in December.

**Motion:** Nick Krall moves and Randall Kelly seconds to accept the Elections Procedures corrections as set forth by Stephen Box – the Independent Elections Administrator. **The Board voted: YES(13), NO(1) Rudy Lopez, ABSTAIN (2) Erlin Arellano, Guillermo Reyes. Motion Passes.**

**Motion:** Jeanne Rowe moves and Randall Kelly seconds to postpone the election to allow bylaws changes in regard to the application of “term”. (Motion introduced by Quyen Vo-Ramirez.) Bonnie asks if the Board would like to address changes to the bylaws to reflect that the “term” of office follows the person and not the office. Chair Bonnie Bernard asks for input from the stakeholders and board. Stakeholder Eugene Torres asks if the December 15 election a special election? Answer is no. Stakeholder and former Elections Committee Chair, Cindy Blazer states that this bylaws amendment is not needed. Stakeholder Martin Laufer states that he could fill three different seats for a total of 12 years. He is corrected that per the bylaws there is a total of 5 years. Randall Kelly states that there is no need to postpone the election. Nick Krall says to not postpone the election and that the proposed bylaws change would cause tremendous a loss of continuity. Lynn Zekanis suggests that this be addressed after the election. **The Board voted: YES (1)Eugene Hernandez, NO(16) Cheri Blose, Rick Donnelly, Fabian Garcia, Randall Kelly, Nick Krall, Rudy Lopez, George Ortega, Louis Perry, Fidel Ramirez, Jeanne Rowe, Jan Sandstrom, Jim Schopper, Quyen Vo-Ramirez, Lynn Zekanis, ABSTAIN(0). Motion Fails.**

**5 minute break.**

**Chair Bonnie Bernard called the meeting back to order at 8:10pm.**

Louis Perry announced that American Flags will be going up on Foothill Blvd with the help of Manny Figueras in Councilman Alarcon’s office.

Table #13 Report from Cheri Blose.

Table #14 Assignment of Directors to New Executive Board seats created by Bylaws change.

Discussion of issue brought up by stakeholder Robin Gilbert. She wishes to have the Sylmar NC draft a resolution that they support Impeachment of President Bush and Vice-President Cheney. Bonnie has supplied a response from the City Attorney in regarding matters of this type. Robin Gilbert speaks to the proposed motion. Our country is involved in a war. We were involved in this war through deliberate fraud and lying. We spent 317 million dollars in the year 2000 for the war. The money could be used domestically. Much of our National Guard is overseas and they should be here in the United States to protect the US from Terrorist attacks. Harry Tischler speaks that he took an oath when he joined the US Navy to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies foreign and domestic. George Bush took the same oath to become President of the United States. I’m still defending the Constitution against domestic enemies, namely George Bush and Richard Cheney. They have violated the Constitution, are guilty of starting the war based on lies, using signing statements, widespread wiretapping, getting rid of hapious corpus, torturing 1000’s of people, obstructing honest elections, exposing the identity of a covert CIA agent, and other crimes against man and nature. An impeachment is an investigation, and it is time for an investigation. It is our business. Stakeholder William Bassett has been doing this for a few months now. I was disappointed when G.W. Bush took office under suspicious

circumstances. My dissatisfaction grew as I became more and more aware of the list of outrages in the areas of taxation favoring the rich, environmental cutbacks, deregulation gutting the agencies designed to protect workers, the environment, and the economy. I supported our government supplying arms and advice to the freedom fighters to throw the Russians out of Afghanistan. When I found that the Al Quida had orchestrated the 911 attacks I supported taking them out. I was concerned when Bush pushed invading Iraq. When we went into Iraq, the really impeachable offenses began to pileup: illegal wiretaps, torture, broken treaties, outing of CIA agents, the list goes on. These are real violations of the Constitution. Impeachment is the constitutional process to correct these abuses. Stakeholder Sharona Smith supports this resolution for the most part.

**Motion:** Eugene Hernandez speaks to the request and moves that the Board pass a resolution to request that an impeachment process be started for President Bush and Vice-President Cheney. Chair calls for a second. No second. **Motion dies for lack of a second.**

### **Committee Reports**

Mark Seigel , secretary, gives a report of some correspondence.

Quyên Vo-Ramirez gives the Beautification and Grants Committee report. She talked about the cleanup.

A stakeholder mentioned that Goodwill needs old computer components to train their people how to repair them.

The Chair asks Guillermo if he will help co-chair

Fidel Ramirez gives the Education Committee Report. Promoting the Education event at the college this weekend to prepare our children to go to college is a great way to change our community. Thank you to Manny.

Nick Krall gives the Land Use Committee report. They did not have their meeting last Monday. There will be a meeting on next Monday, October 1<sup>st</sup>. Some items on the agenda include a mixed use project on San Fernando Road next to Sylmar Village, lot split (wants to add a new home) under the power lines, ITT Tech wants to expand their building and reduce their parking, the Las Lomas project, and possible water rationing. Rick Donnelly gives the Election Outreach Committee report. They will have high profile public service people helping, looking at putting out flyers, working with organizations, storefront posters, and lawn signs. They really want to get the message out to the public that there will be an Election.

Rudy Lopez gives the Public Safety Committee report. He and George are attending the Neighborhood Councils Communications Institute on behalf of Sylmar.

Quyên Vo-Ramirez announces that she is planning to have another Elections committee meeting.

Lynn Zekanis gives a Treasurers Report about Council expenditures and some procedures.

Jeanne Rowe gives the Boundary Committee Report. They are contacting various organizations for outreach on this issue.

### **Boardmember Comments**

Rick Donnelly welcomed Erlin and “Memo” to the Board.

Randall Kelly wants to know why there are two sets of minutes to be approved. Chair Bonnie Bernard explains that the minutes were ready and that, in error, the motion to approve them did not get put on the last month's agenda.

Cheri Blose says that she misses getting the faxes and emails of all the committees.

Mark Seigel explains that he is not satisfied with the performance of the GoDaddy mailing system and the Outlook Express.

Nick Krall announces the Relay for Life in Sylmar will be in April this year. The kickoff is October 9<sup>th</sup>. At Shakeys Pizza. The Chamber of Commerce is holding an Honorary Sheriff's Campaign Sunday afternoon, October 21<sup>st</sup> in Nick's backyard.

Lynn Zekanis says that she would like a better computer in the office and she asks if anyone knows a computer consultant that could help with that.

Fabian Garcia is concerned about the changing of venues of the BOD meetings.

Guillermo wants to thank the Board for the warm welcome.

Bonnie and Manny announce that Councilman Alarcon will spend 30 minutes with us at the next BOD meeting to discuss Las Lomas.

Manny announces that he and the Department of Street Maintenance and Dept of Sanitation took down 300-400 filthy dirty newspaper racks in Sylmar.

Manny announced that Wes Tanaka of So. Cal. Edison wants to know what the Neighborhood Council would like to do with their parking lot at Hubbard and the freeway. Manny suggests a fair or farmers market.

Next meeting October 25, 2007

Adjourn at 8:45pm

Draft #1 (BB-MS)