

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

**Thursday, October 25, 2007
HUBBARD STREET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
13350 HUBBARD STREET
SYLMAR, CA 91342**

Meeting called to order by Vice-President Bonnie Bernard at 6:31 pm.

The Flag Salute was led by Commander Partello.

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

Not Present: Hector Cabrerra, Jan Sandstrom

Not present Excused: Farooq Ghias

Quorum is established.

Approval of Minutes: Randall Kelly moved and Jan Sandstrom seconded to approve the minutes of July 27th, 2007. Erlin asked that her name be spelled properly. **Approved as corrected by consensus.**

COUNCILMAN ALARCONS PRESENTATION.

We are now reviewing the Neighborhood Council Review Commission's Report and it's 73 recommendations. We expect a lot of changes in response to the report. We expect to be addressing these recommendations and making our recommendations in December and implementing them by January. In regard to Sylmar, we are moving forward with street sweeping in areas that don't have it now. We only have 199 miles of street sweeping in our district. We will be getting 100 more miles in Sylmar. Now I'll speak in regard to Las Lomas. It is new the 5 and 14 freeways. Jurisdiction: It is in the county of L.A. not in the City of LA. They could annex to Santa Clarita. He would prefer for LA to have jurisdiction because of the impact the project would have on our area and we could enforce control. He wants to see a full EIR before making any decisions. It is impossible to support the existing proposal because it requires decisions to be made by MTA and Metrolink on projects that are not even being considered. Why did Richard Alarcon introduce a motion to allow the developer to pay for the planning department staff to expedite? One, so that the developer would pay for the EIR, and it would save the city about a million dollars; two, to deflect the City getting sued. The bigger issue is "Who will control the project?" City, county, other city? We blocked the Amanson Ranch project by blocking the streets (Roscoe) that would access it. We cannot block the 14 and 5 freeways. If the city of Los Angeles is to be in control of what happens with this project, we have to allow it to be processed through the city of Los Angeles. You can judge if you want Santa Clarita, Mike Antonovitch, or the City of Los Angeles and

Richard Alarcon negotiate this process though. I voted against Sunshine Canyon. My record stands alone when it comes to protecting the environment on huge issues like that, compared to Mike Antonovitch, and the City of Santa Clarita. Did we do something wrong? Did the houses burn because of overdevelopment? On record as opposing this project as it is. The city is in the drivers seat.

Public Comments and Questions.

Stakeholder student Stephen Tabarez. Opposes the Las Lomas project. We should build schools instead. Classes are really overcrowded. Traffic is bad.

Richard Alarcon responds Over the last 10 years the city has built more schools than ever before. Support smaller class sizes. He can't kill the project, because they will sue the city. Richard is opposed to doing a lot of rental projects, promotes home ownership. Paul Novak from Mike Antonovich's office. The project is located in the County unincorporated area of Mikes district. Antonovich opposed to the project as presented. He has strong concerns about its impacts on the environment. It must conform to existing county general plan and zoning designations.

Neighboring community member Alan Cameron from Santa Clarita. We need to reactivate our relationship with our neighbors in Sylmar and the task force.

Novak says slope density allows 180-220 single family homes.

Alan Cameron says that all organizations that he has contacted in Santa Clarita do not want the Las Lomas project. The developer has not contacted any of the adjacent property owners. He would like Councilman Alarcon to take the lead with shutting this project down. Alarcon says that the Santa Clarita council has told him that "would consider some kind of project." He says that the developer is a very prominent player among the republicans in the nation. He is connected with the Republican National Committee. And there is a lot of sway there. He says the City Attorney has stated we could be sued. And there may be merit there. Alan stated that the developer did not sue the City of Santa Clarita when they rejected it.

Nina Royal belonged to a committee to stop Las Lomas two years ago. Because of traffic, environment, Rim of the Valley and more. The City of Santa Clarita has done an incredible job. It would be a terrible place to have this development in light of the horrible damage and loss from the fires this week. They should not be annexed. I do not understand why we would be sued. I don't understand how someone should make us annex them if we don't want them.

Stakeholder Bart Reed from the Transit Coalition and the Stop Las Lomas Project. The developer has stated that he wants bore into a historic train tunnel and put in a train station about 2.5 miles north of Sylmar. The tax payers would have to maintain such a station and would cost about \$15 million to maintain. MetroLink does not maintain its own stations, the City does. The developer also proposes a 30 story elevator through granite. It would cost roughly \$5 million to maintain the elevator. The developer is also proposing a police and a fire station. With 12-15 officers it would cost \$12- \$15 million. The Fire station would cost about \$12-\$15 million also. The developer says that Las Lomas would bring the City about \$22 million in tax revenue. The numbers don't add up. It would cost the City about \$50 million to maintain and the taxes generated would be only less than half of that.

Sandra Cattel from Newhall is glad that Richard Alarcon is against the project. It is the worst project that she has seen. 75% of the project is in their watershed. It is also in the Rim of the Valley Area. County guidelines allow about 220 houses. With the disaster last week we had gridlock. With the project, it would be even worse. Everyone I know in Santa Clarita is against this project. There is forest in the area.

Paul Brotzman City of Santa Clarita Director of Community Development says that their City has a General Plan of Very Low Density Residential and that it is in accordance with the L.A. County Plan. The S.C Council members may consider a project in the area but it would be a project that is consistent with the General Plan that is in place. Santa Clarita was sued by The Las Lomas Project is regard to the "Sphere of Influence". The Cities agreed that the Sphere of influence should be determined by the ridgeline.

Kai Loma senior planer in Santa Clarita. Metrolink 300 feet underground. Not practible or desireable. There will be 72000 vehicle trips a day. Developer plans to widen Foothill Blvd to 4 lanes. The developer wants to widen Sepulveda and connect it through.

Widening means taking out existing hotels, condominiums, the dam, and/or other things. There would be 20 million yards of grading, enough to fill the Rose Bowl 48 times. 70% of the site contain slopes in excess of 50%. The project site is a wildlife corridor. Brad Sherman, Buck McKeown, and Cameron Smyth oppose this project.

Andrew Freed of Safe Action for the Environment, Inc. in Santa Clarita. Has been 3 term president of Agua Dulce town council. He and his council opposes project.

Wade Hunter , president of North Valley Coalition, and President of North Hills NC.. Their NC passed a resolution to oppose this project. Concerned about the 80,000 trips taking the shortcut of Balboa. Opposed to project. No matter whose jusisdiction, it is a bad project, and we are opposed to anything that helps move that project forward.

President Tammy Flores thanks everyone that came, especially the Santa Clarita people for coming here. In the past, we formed a coalition with Sunland-Tujunga to defeat Las Lomas. We shouldn't even be entertaining the idea of this project. In a disaster, there will be even less emergency services for our area. The freeway is already crowded. Freeway needs to be widened for the existing traffic, not for the increase in graffic. More trips will make it even worse. We must not let Mr. Palmer intimidate us by threatening to sue us. We are taxpayers and we deserve to be heard.

Eugene Hernandez . This project is like lipstick on a pig. The project is still a pig, no matter how to dress it up. The cities should preserve this land as a National Forest.

Stakeholder Kathy Ellis wants to say that she bugs the councilman's office often.

Councilman Alarcon states that Santa Clarita's testimony and Antonovich Deputy may agree to some kind of development. Alarcon was committed to the "Rim of the Valley" long before anyone knew what it was. He closed Lopez Canyon, and is opposed to BFI and the Sunshine Canyon landfill, and opposes the Las Lomas project. He has not looked at the details of the project yet because it is not even half baked yet. He is more interested in speed bumps, safety, traffic signs, the fire station, etc. The city is in the drivers seat at this time and that is a good thing. This project is not on track to be developed; it is on track to be reviewed, studied, and analyzed. They will have to do an EIR. This project will have the most impact of any in the North Valley area in history. Would a councilman that supports an EIR for 120,000 sq ft project at holy cross want to sell out on a project like this. I'm an environmentalist at heart.

Recess at 7:33pm

Meeting resumed at 7:48pm

Vice Bonnie Bernard and the Board thanked everyone for coming.

Stakeholder comments

Tom Weisbarth gives an undate on Graffiti Busters. Graffiti Busters have been around since 1985. When I started in the early 90's, we were doing about 20,000 sq ft a month. We hit a peak late last year of 102,000 sq feet. We are currently photographing about 1900 locations a month. Used to do bulky item pickups, the flatbed truck is now used for a sandblaster . No time for cleanups. We have the most crews ever.

Kai Luoma, Senior Planner City of Santa Clarita . The Santa Clarita existing General plan is for about 250 max with no commercial development. That is what we would consider for that project with no other uses. The city of Santa Clarita and the county is redesigning the Santa Clarita Valley general plan and they are reducing the density of that area. A property owner or developer does not have a right to develop more.

Alan Cameron of Santa Clarita says during his research, he has found that there are 476 cities in California, and well over 90% of them have a policy which is called a full cost recovery fee structure. This is where the city charges the administrative, processing, and inspection, and EIR fees incurred back to the developer. He feels this project will cost the City of Los Angeles in perpetuity \$300 million dollars. Perhaps the City could correct the fee structure.

Shelly Vickery has been told that street sweeping on Sayre above Eldridge is being looked at. What can we do about the graffiti of Foothill Blvd? What can we do about the illegal dumping? There are some good things happening: an increase in parking at the college, its great. However, the street patch jobs are awful. We have more traffic and less street repair. I would like to have the Sylmar NC help me with these issues.

Virginia Corbin-Marinovitch from Dept of Parks and Recs. We are having a Halloween Party at Sylmar Park . It is a fun safe atmosphere for the kids . We have trick or treat, face painting, and lots more. Please come help at a booth , and/or bring candy. You can reach her at 818-367-5656.

Quyen Vo-Ramirez speaks for Moises Carillo of the Sylmar Youth Task Force. The Sylmar Community Resource Faire (part of the LAPD Let's Act Now Project Campaign) will be held Sat 11/10 from 10am – 1:30pm on Drone Field between Astoria and Sayre. It is cosponsored my LAPD – Mission Hills Div. and the SFV Coalition on Gangs, SFV Interfaith Council, and the Sylmar Youth Task Force. This is a clean up project from 8 – 11am. Check the Sylmar NC Website for more updates.

Bonnie Bernard announced that everyone can sign up at the website for notices.

President Tammy Flores introduces Antonio Sanchez, the new representative here from the Mayors office. He will be replacing Norma Vega.

Cory Nystrom, a Boy Scout Leader, is working on an emergency preparedness program to have high school students to go out into the community to teach the people in the neighborhoods. We would like to pilot this program in Sylmar, West Hills, and Panorama City. You can reach me at 818-933-0113.

Bill Hadala from the West Hills NC talks about his emergency preparedness project in the Valley. We are partnered with the Boy Scouts, and associated with Red Alert Industries.

Public Officials Comments

None at this time.

Quyen Vo-Ramirez moves and Lynn Zekanis seconds that \$300 be added to the Cleanup/Beautification committee budget to pay for the October 6th cleanup project retroactively. Quyen speaks to the motion. Lynn speaks to the funding. **The Board voted: YES (16), NO (0). Motion passes unanimously.**

Martin Laufer of the Boundary Adjustment committee spoke. 100 questionnaires have been distributed and 15 returned. DONE is stone walling all attempts to draw new boundaries. It would be a waste of time to go further until the City attorney and DONE will be ready to act. Recommended by the Chair and Co-Chair of the committee to disband the committee.

Lynn Zekanis moves and Tammy Flores seconds to accept the recommendation of the Committee to disband the Boundaries Adjustment Committee until the City Attorneys Office begins to address boundary adjustment applications again. **The Board voted YES (15), NO(0), ABSTAIN (1) Randall Kelly. Motion passes.**

Quyen Vo-Ramirez report on the status of the letters. She has been busy and has not sent the second round of letters yet.. She has called and talked to Home Depot about the carts. They have a cart pickup service.

Bonnie Bernard addresses the board regarding the new Executive Board structure and the need to fill the newly created seats.

Tammy Flores reads the new part of the bylaws pertaining to the position of Vice President of Administration.

Nick Krall moves and Cheri Blose seconds to appoint Bonnie Bernard as Vice President of Administration. No other nominations are proposed. **The Board voted: YES (16), NO (0), ABSTAIN (1) George Ortega. Motion passes.**

Tammy Flores reads the part of the Bylaws pertaining to the position of Vice President of Communications. Nick Krall nominates Lynn Zekanis to fill the position of VP of Communications. **Louis Perry nominates Quyen Vo-Ramirez and Fidel Ramirez seconds.** After some discussion Lynn and Quyen decide that Lynn will not accept the nomination and that Quyen will accept the nomination. **YES (17), NO (0), ABSTAIN (0). Motion passes unanimously.**

Tammy Flores reads the part of the Bylaws pertaining to the position of Public Relations Coordinator. **Lynn Zekanis nominates Rick Donnelly to be Public Relations Coordinator and Quyen seconds.** There are no other nominations. **The Board votes: YES (17), NO (0), ABSTAIN (0). Motion passes unanimously.**

Tammy congratulates the new appointees.
Chair is passed to Bonnie Bernard.

President Tammy Flores speaks to the problem of Board member absenteeism. We need to participate and be faithful to the board. Board members need to take their position seriously. It is not up to me to tell you what to do. It's inexcusable to hold a seat that could be held by a stakeholder that wants to do good work for the community.

Tammy moves and Lynn Zekanis seconds to have Bonnie have the City Attorney give her the proper procedure to remove a board member.

Jeanne says that it is a waste of time because the election is in two months. Tammy says that this is for the future.

Nick suggests that Board members sign a paper regarding this issue.

Martin Laufer says that the board will not run into problems with the city attorney as long as the system used is consistent and applied uniformly.

There was discussion about that there should be a notification letter and/or a letter of confirmation to or resignation from the delinquent board member. Some Board members expressed that it should not be a problem to enforce the current bylaws. **After discussion the Board voted: YES (12), NO (3) Randall Kelly, George Ortega, Jeanne Rowe, ABSTAIN (1) Nick Krall. Motion Passes.**

Rick Donnelly moves and Eugene Hernandez seconds to spend \$200 to buy candy and make stuffed bags for outreach to hand out at the Halloween Event at the Park. **The Board voted: YES(14), NO (0), ABSTAIN (0), RECUSED (1) Randall Kelly. Motion Passes.**

Rick Donnelly – The webpage is up and running. She has done a great job. There are a few things that need fixing. Get your bio's and missing info to Rick Donnelly. If you wish to get different pictures on the site, send them to Rick. Send community events to Mark or Rick to get them on the website. Cheri Blose says the site is good.

Committee reports

Treasurer Lynn Zekanis – First budget reconciliation is done. Committees have not asked for any money. AppleOne says there is \$3200 outstanding to be paid to Doris for last year. Need timesheets for Mark's work.

Secretary Mark Seigel – Announces communications received in the mail.

Quyên Vo-Ramirez – registered with the Tree People for 100 fruit trees for the next cleanup project. She applied for a matching grant for the schools in Sylmar. Project for large planted containers to visitors on the campuses.

Fidel Ramirez– Wants to thank the people that attended the college event

Nick Krall – The Planning Dept is sending full packets to the NC including full contact lists. Land Use Committee is copying everything they do to Richard Alarcon's office to improve communications with them.

President Tammy Flores has called Alarcon's office to have him get reps to land use meetings.

Cheri Blose – Developer on Gladstone. 130x300 lot. Wants to develop as a Small Lot Subdivision.

Rick Donnelly – Outreach – The Committee would like to have anyone come out and help. Good to see you Tammy.

Louis Perry – Sylmar Appreciation Day was excellent and we did a lot of clean up. Should have a report for next meeting .

Quyen Vo-Ramirez - Election committee. – A candidate info session at the Sylmar Branch Library. Six candidates have filed. The Election Dec 15. First mass distribution has gone out. Over 11000 flyers have been distributed, Rick and Randall have passed out about 4000 flyers. Flyers will be put in grocery bags on Bag Day at Vons.

Jeanne Rowe – Boundary Adjustment Committee – Cardboard house is ready for refurbishing. Thank you to the committee members for their service.

President Tammy Flores – Re-creating an Ad Hoc Committee – Las Lomas Committee . (To put on minutes) CPR Now.

Board member comments

Quyen Vo-Ramirez – I’m real concerned about Las lomas: Compromised traffic corridor, Threatened condor habitat. Keep forest intact.

Jim Schopper– concurs with Quyen. Need to make sure this project dies.

Jeanne Rowe - write a letter to City Council to oppose Las Lomas project.

Louis Perry – Purchased a home in, and now lives in Stevensons Ranch

Tammy Flores– Thank you for being patient during my absence. Thank you to Bonnie for her help. I couldn’t be prouder of the Board. Need to kill Las Lomas. We cannot let manipulation get in the way. Need services here before supporting new communities.

Lynn Zekanis– thank you Quyen on Elections Committee. Thank you Rick and Randall for your outreach help.

Nick Krall – Tammy we support you with our thoughts and prayers. We want to help you. We have taken a position to oppose Las Lomas. There are two fabulous groups to raise money . Annual Relay for Life - 2nd Monday at Shakeys 6:30pm . any fundraising can be split with your group and the Relay for Life . Honorary Sheriff Campaign kickoff Sunday Nov 4th , \$15 person at Nick’s backyard.

Eugene Hernandez – Welcome back our president and her leadership.

Cheri Blose – good to have Tammy back.

Erlin Arellano – thank you Tammy. Your why I’m here. Many trees have burned down in the fires. Now lets plant a million trees. The Las Lomas Project defeats planting the trees.

Secretary Mark Seigel – next meetings – Dec 6th is available at Dyer St. Elementary.

Board decides to have the next two meetings be November 15th and December 13th at the Bible Baptist Church on Fenton near Polk.

Nina Royal. Publisher and Editor of The North Valley Reporter. Regarding Las Lomas: Councils need to unite. Regarding the calendar, to get stuff on the calendar please send it to Nina. The paper is a great outreach opportunity. It goes to the Neighborhood Council Meetings, banks, markets, the county office, and city officials.

Adjournment at 9:25pm

