

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Quyen Vo-Ramirez
VICE-PRESIDENTS:
Tammy Flores and Rick Donnelly
TREASURER: Randall Kelly
PUBLIC RELATIONS: Nick Krall



SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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Secretary: David Levin

Minutes of the
SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (SNC)
GENERAL BOARD MEETING
Thursday, July 24, 2008

at Sylmar Elementary School, 13291 Phillippi Ave., Sylmar, CA 91342

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

President Quyen Vo-Ramirez called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Stakeholder Charles Partello led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call

Roll Call was taken by the Secretary. Board Members present: Bonnie Bernard, Hiral Bhakta, Cheri Blose, Hector Cabrera (late), Rick Donnelly, Tammy Flores, Fabian Garcia (late), Saul Gonzales, Randall Kelly, Nick Krall, George Ortega, Guillermo Reyes (late), Jeanne Rowe, Esteban Tavares, Quyen Vo-Ramirez, Lynn Zekanis (late).

Board Members absent: Erlin Arellano (excused), Gene Gatmaitan (unexcused), Martin Laufer (excused), Jan Sandstrom (excused), Jim Schopper (excused).

Twelve of the 21 Board Members were present at the beginning of the Meeting, which is a quorum, and the business of the Council could be conducted. There were also 13 Stakeholders and Guests.

3. Adoption of June 19, 2008 Special Board Meeting Minutes and June 26, 2008 BOD [General Board Meeting] Minutes

Ms. Bernard requested Ms. Vo-Ramirez to ask the Secretary whether she voted as recorded in the June 26, 2008 General Board Meeting Minutes, as "opposed" to the Amended Motion in Item #12 on page eight, and to ask the Secretary to initial and date future Minutes.

Mr. Ortega thought that the page five, Item #8 Items a) – e) were incorrectly indicated as to whether they had been amended or not. Ms. Vo-Ramirez clarified that those Items were correctly indicated and will "stand as is."

Stakeholder Sherry Lincoln voiced that it is needed, and Ms. Vo-Ramirez and the Board agreed, to **TABLE** adoption of the June 19, 2008 Special Board Meeting Minutes.

MOTION (by Ms. Flores, seconded by Mr. Kelly): to approve the Minutes of the June 26, 2008 General Board Meeting, as written.

MOTION PASSED without any objections.

4. Housekeeping and explanation of Stakeholder comments and Speaker Cards.
Timekeeper

Ms. Flores explained the above.

5. Public Officials, Community Representatives and Board Member announcements and presentations.

Charles Chacon, LAPD (L.A. Police Dept.) Mission Division Senior Lead Officer, (Cell 818-634-0619, Office 818-838-9847), announced to applause that the two sex offender houses at Wallabi Avenue and Rajah Street will, with the help of State 20th District Senator Alex Padilla (818-901-5588; dist20.casen.govoffice.com), be closed down. Crime is up, especially street robberies and recycling center robberies. Property crime is up 7%. Don't leave your car on and unattended. Officer John Lonergran described that he and Officer Chacon have overlapping watches, using a grid system, for increased coverage. Officer Chacon announced the formation of a juvenile curfew task force, which found many juveniles out after curfew.

Mr. Donnelly announced that BONC (the L.A. Board of Neighborhood Commissioners) recognized the NC for five years of service and issued a Certificate of Recognition, as did L.A. City District Seven Councilman Richard Alarcon (818-756-8409; lacity.org/council/cd7). Mr. Donnelly is creating a Master Calendar for Committee and other meetings for the website and the Office. Mr. Krall announced the April 18-19, 2009 Relay for Life, to be Chaired by Esteban Tavares. August 5th is National Night Out in Sylmar Park, to "take back the night," with the Council District Seven Office vs. the NC in softball. Mr. Bhakta announced a July 26th, 8:00 – 11:00 a.m. Community Cleanup, sponsored by the Neighborhood Watch and other local groups, with a potluck lunch afterward. Ms. Blose announced that 125 Equus horses were seized recently and need adoptors; contact her for information.

[The following Agenda Item was addressed after Item #11.]

Amelia Herrera-Robles, Neighborhood Empowerment Analyst, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) (818-374-9895; amelia.herrera-robles@lacity.org), announced a Board Members Training and Orientation on August 16th at the Braude Center. There will be a Community Meeting soon to set the next Neighborhood Councils Congress Agenda. She distributed a Neighborhood Leadership Institute flyer regarding the NC education curriculum, to be discussed on July 30th. NC funding changes are coming. She recommends revisiting the Standing Procedures and Policies regarding speaking as an individual or on behalf

of the NC. There'll be a Community Cleanup July 26th, 8:00 – 11:00 a.m., meeting at El Dorado Elementary School.

6. Public Comments

There were no public comments at this time.

7. Committee Reports

Secretary

The Secretary reported that approximately seven Stakeholders e-mailed the Board for information or to make comments through the website. Rick Donnelly oversaw the installation of the new Office computer and the copying of all the electronic working files, from the computers that were in the front office and back office, into the new computer. Correspondence, telephone and e-mail messages, event and program flyers postings, and Office supply needs are promptly and rapidly processed. Stakeholders are promptly and professionally assisted. The NC Office is nearby at 13515 ½ Hubbard Street, in the shopping mall at the corner of Hubbard and Gladstone, one block northeast of the 210 freeway, on the second floor next to Councilman Alarcon's office. Call first at 818-833-8737 to make sure someone will be there when you visit, or you can visit the sylmarnc.org website.

Treasurer's Report/Budget Committee

Mr. Kelly reported that the AppleOne agency requested an increase in their pricing. The NC Executive Board decided that the responsibilities being utilized best fit the "Minutes Taker" category, which'll involve a budget increase. The Office lease is up in October and the landlord has proposed a 4% increase. We're already paying almost \$20,000 per year to lease the Office and are using it only around ten to 12 hours per week, so the Executive Board is investigating finding new office space.

Land Use

Mr. Ortega announced that the next Committee Meeting will be August 4th.

Commercial/Business Interests

Ms. Blöse reported that there is no report due to Ms. Sandstrom's absence.

Outreach

Mr. Bhakta reported that the Committee meets the second Tuesday every month. He and Ms. Rowe were at the recent [Youth4Unity Festival], where they networked with Council District Seven staff, Pacoima NC Members and other local groups. The July 4th Hansen Dam Celebration, in which the NC participated, was "quite a success." Ms. Rowe reported that the Committee has had many meetings, with people offering suggestions and enthusiasm. They will have an event in conjunction with the August 5th, 6:00 – 8:30 p.m. National Night Out, in which the National Skateboard Association will sponsor demonstrations and safety instructions using mobile skate units. Local government officials have been invited.

Election Committee – Chair to be appointed

Ms. Vo-Ramirez suggested and it was agreed to skip this Item.

Events

Mr. Tavares reported that they're "working on the same things as the Outreach Committee."

Public Services

Mr. Reyes reported that the Committee will meet August 11th at 6:30 p.m. at the Office.

Beautification/Grants

Ms. Vo-Ramirez announced that there was no report due to Ms. Arellano's absence.

Education

Mr. Gonzales said that there was no report at this time.

Public Safety/Emergency Preparedness

Mr. Garcia reported that he met with Miguel Leon of the City regarding including the Sylmar area in the Mayor's Gang Reduction Zone.

Bylaws Ad Hoc

Ms. Zekanis said that there was no report. The Committee will meet in the first week in August and Board Members are welcome to participate.

Ms. Vo-Ramirez reported that the L.A. City Recreation and Parks Dept. sent the NC a letter thanking us for our participation in the Salute to Recreation Festival, and that Mr. Tavares was nominated as Volunteer of the Year. Also, the LAPD has offered NCs a \$1,000 incentive for referring any recruits to them. Stakeholder Rafael Castillo sent a letter of thanks to the NC. Community Beautification Grant applications are due October 22nd; Ms. Arellano and the Beautification Committee are working to get Requests for Proposal for projects this year.

Old Business

- 8. Appointment of Chair(s) to the Community Vision Ad Hoc Committee approved from the June 26, 2008 General Board Meeting.** The Committee will focus on the possibility of acquiring a Community Master Vision Plan for the community of Sylmar. Ms. Vo-Ramirez appointed Ms. Flores and Mr. Krall to the Committee.

Keith Mosey, of the L.A. Bureau of Street Services, requested to speak to the NC and work with us regarding street services.

New Business

9. Presentation by a Board Director on the Business Improvement District (BID) project The Vista at Sylmar on San Fernando Road.

Al Avila, President of the Sylmar Business Improvement District (BID), spoke. Susan Levi is the BID Director. The BID, formed in 2005 and approved by the City Council in early 2007 for five years, includes the eight-tenths of a mile on San Fernando Road between Hubbard and Polk Streets. They created a self-imposed assessment on business owners for beautification, maintenance, marketing and security, to generate business and improve aesthetics through banners, street furniture and other projects, with the “goal to create a green belt on San Fernando Road without having to change anything else.” They’re not changing traffic patterns, speed limits, or anything like that. He’ll e-mail more information to the Board.

Mr. Krall noted that if the NC Board had known of the BID efforts, we could’ve coordinated with and assisted the BID, for example, with beautification and security. Also, the BID should be extended to Roxford Street, not just Polk. Mr. Avila responded that Councilman Alarcon’s office helped to choose the BID area after determining that that area had the most interest in supporting the BID; the NC needs to contact the Council office regarding why other areas are not included in the BID. The City is investigating building a pedestrian bridge over San Fernando Road to the Metrolink [train] Station. Business owners would have to agree to expand the BID.

Ms. Vo-Ramirez stated that she was the Beautification Committee Chairperson in 2006-2007 and that, if she knew of the BID effort, she would’ve brought it to the Board. She described that the greenery in the BID is not reflective of Sylmar and that the BID materials illustration does not match the description. The Board wants to be a part of the BID effort, but did not know of any BID meetings.

Dan Rosales, Jr., Planning Deputy for Councilman Alarcon (818-756-8409; dan.rosales@lacity.org), voiced that the BID participants are volunteer business owners who have worked hard and reached out to the community, and that the Community Redevelopment Agency and [the L.A. Bureau of] Street Services are helping. Ms. Vo-Ramirez talked with the BID consultant and they’ll meet the third Thursday of the month at 10:00 a.m. at Councilman Alarcon’s Office. Mr. Avila indicated that the BID wants to include the NC. Various Board Members expressed that they were “shocked” to learn of the BID this week and at this Meeting.

10. Discussion and possible action to submit a Community Impact Statement (CIS) to the Los Angeles City Council public hearing regarding the Draft Housing Element (2006-2014) to be held at a joint meeting of the Planning and Land Use Management Committee and the Housing, Community and Economic Development Committee of the City Council.

Mr. Krall distributed a sheet with and recommends that three Community Impact Statements (CIS’s) be submitted to the City regarding important issues. He believes that implementing the City’s goal of 112,000 new housing units would destroy all horse-type property in the City, including the Rim of the Valley; the City has denied

the community's ability to protect communal space. He explained and read the three CIS's.

MOTION (by Mr. Krall, seconded by Ms. Flores): to forward the three CIS's to the L.A. City Council.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Zekanis "feels unprepared to vote on this." Mr. Ortega voiced that Mr. Krall's synopsis are correct. Mr. Krall said that the City is overriding the Community Plan. Ms. Vo-Ramirez added that the 112,000 housing units figure is a projection, not just a possibility, and that the CIS's that Mr. Krall wrote, which are required to be stated in 100 words or less, had to be created from a "huge" City document. There was extensive discussion regarding the Community Plan, the Planning Commission, and community needs and concerns. Mr. Rosales mentioned that he's "not sure that what's been proposed will supersede the Community Plan." Stakeholder Gene Torres stated that the community needs more quality retail business, for example, restaurants.

Ms. Vo-Ramirez recommended and Mr. Krall agreed to **RESCIND** the Motion.

MOTION (by Mr. Krall, seconded by Mr. Kelly): to **REFER** the Motion to the Land Use Committee.

MOTION PASSED without objection.

11. Discussion and possible action to establish a Public Services Task Force.

MOTION (by Ms. Flores, seconded by Mr. Bhakta): to establish a Public Services Task Force, consisting of a CD 7 Deputy, Board Members and community members, to document and report all public service issues to the appropriate City Departments for review and possible resolution. This may include but is not limited to litter, abandoned vehicles, potholes, street resurfacing, and building and safety violations.

DISCUSSION: This would be done by driving around and observing. The Public Services Committee would oversee the work. It was suggested to involve Officer Chacon. There are many violations to be noted for the City to act upon. This is a revival of a past effort.

MOTION to **CALL FOR THE QUESTION** (by Ms. Blose).

There were no objections to the **CALL FOR THE QUESTION**.

MOTION PASSED without any objections.

Recess

There was a brief recess.

12. Discussion and possible action to approve the following recommendations by the Land Use Committee:

a. 14202 Hubbard Street CUP (Conditional Use Permit)

MOTION (by Mr. Ortega, seconded by Mr. Kelly): to approve a 14202 Hubbard Street Conditional Use Permit, to add 4,500 square feet to existing church, Approved Pending: Improving pedestrian ramp, widening sidewalk 2.5', and modifying driveway on Hubbard [Street] to increase parking.

DISCUSSION: The property is at Hubbard and Herrick Avenue. The church half of the property is in the City of San Fernando, the other half is in Los Angeles. The proposed change is in the San Fernando half. The sidewalk would be widened 2 ½ feet more to a total of ten feet in width.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Ms. Flores).

There were no objections to the **CALL FOR THE QUESTION**.

MOTION PASSED without any objections.

b. 13563 Glenoaks Blvd. CUP

MOTION (by Mr. Ortega, seconded by Mr. Kelly): to approve a 13563 Glenoaks Blvd. Conditional Use Permit for sale of beer and wine.

DISCUSSION: This is a strip mall convenience store. Two years ago, there was a neighborhood petition with hundreds of signatures; there's no such input this time. The LAPD Vice Squad is against it.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Mr. Kelly).

There were no objections to the **CALL FOR THE QUESTION**.

MOTION FAILED by hand vote, with Ms. Blose, Mr. Ortega and Ms. Rowe in favor, and Mr. Bhakta and Mr. Tavares abstaining.

c. 15037 & 15043 Polk Street Parcel Map

MOTION (by Mr. Ortega, seconded by Ms. Blose): 15037 & 15043 Polk Street Parcel Map for a four lot subdivision of a 23,478 s.f. lot Approved: with the expectation of the appropriate dedication and street improvements.

DISCUSSION: These are single-family home lots just west of San Fernando Road on the north side of Polk.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Mr. Kelly).

There were no objections to the **CALL FOR THE QUESTION**.

MOTION PASSED without any objections.

- d. 14971 Foothill Blvd. continuance of previously approved use.

MOTION (by Mr. Ortega, seconded by Mr. Kelly): to approve a 14971 Foothill Blvd. continuance of previously approved use to have overnight parking of four commercial vehicles exceeding 5,600 lbs. each and to modify the request to permit shed and overnight open and closed storage of landscaping materials, utility trailer and containers in conjunction with home based landscaping business. Approved pending: storage bins and portable storage sheds shall be made to not be seen from street.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Ms. Flores).

There were no objections to the **CALL FOR THE QUESTION**.

MOTION PASSED without any objections.

- e. 14729 Rinaldi Street, Zone Boundary Adjustment.

MOTION (by Mr. Ortega, seconded by Mr. Bhakta): to approve a 14729 Rinaldi Street, Zone Boundary Adjustment to permit area adjacent to existing Greyhound Bus Terminal to be used for passenger loading and unloading next to building. Approved Pending; Additional "ONE WAY" legend and arrow pavement marking pointing south. "DO NOT ENTER" signs at south end of loading area facing south, and "BUSES ONLY" signs at Rincon Avenue facing the street.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Rosales explained some of the area's history.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Ms. Blose).

There were no objections to the **CALL FOR THE QUESTION**.

MOTION PASSED without any objections, with Ms. Bernard and Ms. Flores abstaining.

13. Discussion and possible action to approve one of two proposed Sylmar Neighborhood Council seals.

Mr. Bhakta demonstrated and the Board reviewed seals examples. There was discussion regarding the seals designs.

MOTION (by Ms. Flores, seconded by Mr. Tavares): to support the square-shaped seal design, with a suggestion to include an olive branch.

DISCUSSION: The seals were designed with a lot of work by Mr. Gonzales. Many Stakeholders support the designs. The Outreach Committee has discussed this for seven months. Stakeholder Cliff Comstock said that many people don't know where Sylmar is; illustration of the freeways confluence here could be used to attract more retail business.

MOTION PASSED with Mr. Krall, Mr. Ortega, Mr. Reyes and Ms. Rowe opposed, and Ms. Blöse abstaining.

14. Discussion and possible action to designate the following committees as Standing/Annual/Ad Hoc.

The Committees are: Budget, Land Use, Outreach, Public Services, Public Safety, Beautification and Grants, Education, Commercial and Business Interests, Events, and Election.

Ms. Zekanis recommends having the Budget and Outreach Committees be "standing" Committees and the others "annual" Committees.

MOTION (by Ms. Zekanis, seconded by Ms. Bernard): to establish the Budget and Outreach Committees as "standing" Committees, and the Land Use, Public Services, Public Safety, Beautification and Grants, Education, Commercial and Business Interests, Events, and Election Committees as "annual" Committees.

MOTION PASSED with Mr. Garcia and Mr. Ortega opposed, and Mr. Bhakta abstaining.

15. Board Member Comments

Mr. Reyes announced that the Public Services Committee will meet August 11th at 6:30 p.m. at the Office. Ms. Rowe will "see you at the Park" August 5th. Mr. Krall announced a summer party at his home. Ms. Blöse said that the Office thermostat needs to be set at 79-82 degrees. Ms. Vo-Ramirez declared that the thermostat will be set at 78 degrees, the Southern California Edison recommendation.

16. Next Meeting date, future Agenda Items

Ms. Vo-Ramirez announced that the next General Board Meeting will be held here on August 28th.

17. Closing Remarks, Announcements; Acknowledgements and Adjournment

Ms. Vo-Ramirez **ADJOURNED** the Meeting without any objections at 9:23 p.m.

Minutes written by DL.