

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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13109 Borden Ave.
Sylmar, CA 91342

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

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



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Minutes of the
SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (SNC)
GENERAL BOARD MEETING
Thursday, March 26, 2009

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

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Vice-President Rick Donnelly called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Manny Figueras.

2. Roll Call

Roll Call was taken by the Secretary. Board Members present: Erlin Arellano, Hiral Bhakta, Cheri Blose (late), Hector Cabrera, Rick Donnelly, Fabian Garcia, Randall Kelly, Nick Krall, Martin Laufer, George Ortega, Guillermo Reyes, Jan Sandstrom, Jim Schopper, and Esteban Tavares.

Board Members absent: Bonnie Bernard (unexcused), Tammy Flores (excused), Saul Gonzales (unexcused), Rudy Lopez (un/excused), Jeanne Rowe (excused), Quyen Vo-Ramirez (excused), and Lynn Zekanis (excused).

Thirteen 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. Also attending were 18 Stakeholders and Guests.

3. Adoption of Minutes [This Item was addressed after Item #4.]

MOTION (by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Laufer): to approve the Minutes of the February 26, 2009 General Board Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED without any objections.

4. Housekeeping, Stakeholder comments, Speaker Cards, and Timekeeper.

Mr. Krall explained the above.

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

Manny Figueras, Constituent Svcs. Rep. for L.A. City District Seven Councilman Richard Alarcon (818-756-8409; manny.figueras@lacity.org), thanked [CONFIRM: ___] Restaurant at Glenoaks Blvd. and Polk St. for [CONFIRM: ___]. Thursday, April 2nd at 6:00 p.m. at Olive View Middle School, there'll be a Fire Assistance Open House, including many agencies. April 3rd at 6:00 p.m., Councilman Alarcon and Virginia Corbin-Marinovich, Director, Sylmar Recreation Center (818-367-5656; Virginia.Corbin-Marinovich@lacity.org), will open the Recreation Center's Mobile Skate Park. Food will be provided.

Angel Barnuevo, Field Deputy for State 20th District Senator Alex Padilla (818-901-5588; angel.barnuevo@sen.ca.gov), reported that a 17-month State budget was passed; the State is still short eight billion dollars. The Senator will "carry more than 20 bills this session." Senate Bill 23, the Mobile Home Park Safety bill, is needed to ensure the parks' emergency preparedness. At MEND's Saturday "Policy con Pan Dolce," officials will update the community.

Charles Chacon, LAPD Mission Division (east of Glenoaks Blvd.) Senior Lead Officer (Cell 818-634-0619, Office 818-838-9847), reported that there's a "lot of property crime . . . the majority is in the daytime," and reminded to close windows and put a stick in the window, especially sliding glass windows.

John Lonergan, LAPD [L.A. Police Dept.] Mission Division (west of Glenoaks Blvd.) Senior Lead Officer (818-634-0610), reported that crime is down 22% from last year, though commercial burglaries have increased. Also, a group of officers visited area sex offender homes to establish a police presence and see what's going on in them, and "will try to do that on a monthly basis."

Greg Bartz, Neighborhood Council Liaison, L.A. Dept. of Water and Power (213-367-2800, greg.bartz@ladwp.com), distributed a "Taking it to the Street" handout that describes Power Reliability and Water Infrastructure Improvement Programs. See their website, www.ladwp.com, for more information.

Rudy Cancinos, L.A. Unified School District Community Outreach Coordinator, New Construction Office (213-893-6820), updated about the K-8 School #1 at Dronfield and Bledsoe Streets; building begins next month. It will relieve crowding at local elementary and middle schools. June 3rd, probably at Olive Vista Middle School, outgoing School Board Member Julie Korenstein will be honored. The NC is invited to send a representative to speak there. Contact (213) 276-7414 or www.laschools.org for School District construction information.

[This presentation was made after Item #9.] Antonio Sanchez, East Valley Area Director of Neighborhood and Community Services for Mayor Villaraigosa (818-778-4990; antonio.sanchez@lacity.org), presented the SNC with a Certificate of

Appreciation for the SNC's participation in the Mayor's November 2008 East Valley Day of Service.

6. Public Comments

There were no public comments at this time.

7. Committee Reports

Secretary's Report

The Secretary reported that **[SEE BULLET VERSION.]**

Communications were conducted and facilitated regarding the Office move, installing the phone lines, website updates, Stakeholder volunteering requests, and more. Free Internet ads were posted about this Meeting, and Meeting Notices are being posted at the Recreation Center. The Minutes of the February 26th General Board Meeting were written and distributed to the ____

Treasurer's Report/Budget

Mr. Kelly said that there was no Treasurer's report.

Land Use

Mr. Ortega said that there was no Land Use report.

Commercial/Business Interests

Ms. Sandstrom said that there was no Commercial/Business Interests report.

Outreach

Mr. Bhakta reported that the Committee is helping to organize Saturday's Community Appreciation Day. He discussed the Sylmar Health Fair, to be held in September at the Sylmar Recreation Center, which would include many local organizations, especially the Girl Scouts. Volunteers are needed; contact Hiral.Bhakta@sylmarnc.org or Jeanne.Rowe@sylmarnc.org.

Election Committee – Chair to be appointed.

Events

Ms. Arellano reported that she made many Community Appreciation Day invitation calls and e-mails. She also organized Registration Table volunteers and a Sign-in List to get NC updates. Set up volunteers are needed. She attended the Telacu Job/Career Fair, met founder and CEO David Lizarraga, and spoke with the Event Organizer and Director about bringing something like that to Sylmar. She also met Diane Medina, ABC 7 Vice-President of Diversity and Community Relations. They'll discuss creating a Sylmar Town Hall.

Public Services

Mr. Reyes reported that the Committee will meet April 6th and that extra barbecues are needed for Community Appreciation Day.

Beautification/Grants – Chair to be appointed.

Education

Mr. Gonzales was not present and there was no report.

Public Safety/Emergency Preparedness

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

Bylaws ad hoc

Mr. Laufer reported that the Committee is waiting for new election language from DONE (the L.A. City Department of Neighborhood Empowerment) to complete a Bylaws revision.

New Business

8. Report and discussion on Sylmar Neighborhood Council Community Appreciation Day planning and duties still to be performed. Update on Board Members who will attend, invited guests and RSVP guests.
The Secretary reported that many people are helping to organize the event, including Ms. Arellano, Ms. Sandstrom and Mr. Reyes making many invitation calls, and Ms. Vo-Ramirez, Ms. Flores and Ms. Zekanis also making a big effort. Elected officials and fire assistance volunteers have been invited. The event is to thank and recognize volunteer individuals, businesses and organizations that helped and donated to the Sylmar Sayre and Marek Fires in October and November. Ms. Corbin-Marinovich and her Sylmar Recreation Center staff have been a tremendous help and “real partners in this community.” Ms. Arellano said she’s handling Registration. Mr. Figueras announced that the City is providing the stage. Ms. Sandstrom related that she’s getting St. Didacus volunteers information. Mr. Schopper announced a final organizing Meeting tomorrow/Friday night at 6:30 at the Recreation Center. Mr. Donnelly asked for Board Member volunteers and many did.

Recess

9. Discussion and possible action to support a letter from stakeholder Jeh Meher of World Gym addressed to Council member Richard Alarcon of CD-7.
Jeh Meher, Owner of Foothill Fitness Center (FFC) (formerly World Gym), presented regarding potential impacts upon the FFC of the proposed Mission College Fitness Center (MCFC). He said that the MCFC will be open to the public and had three grievances: it’s an unpermitted use of the land; it will make neighborhood parking worse; and it’s unfair competition. He claimed that he didn’t receive any notification about the MCFC and that neighbors feel that it will “depreciate their home values and will make it very hard for residents to park there.” The MCFC would “close down” his business and put 20 people out of work.

Ms. Arellano commented that the College “building was mainly built for the students so they can get their credits.” Judith Valles, Mission College President, also responded that the MCFC “is a physical education and training facility . . . Mission

College is the only Junior College in the City that doesn't have such a facility." Facility users would have to enroll at the College first; that costs around \$60 (at \$20 per unit). It's to be determined whether the facility would be open during non-class hours. They're not selling memberships. The number of student use hours would be recorded. An EIR (Environmental Impact Report) was done and the Army Corps of Engineers approved it. There's parking at the site. Many colleges "co-exist with private facilities." A pocket park will "beautify Eldridge [Ave.]." EIR Scoping Meetings will be held April 25th, 10:00-12:00 and April 28th, 7:00-9:00 at the College.

Ms. Sandstrom recommended, and Mr. Donnelly and rest of the Board agreed to Table this Item for future discussion.

10. Discussion and possible action to participate in the Spring Egg Hunt at Sylmar Recreation Center Saturday, April 11, 2009.

Ms. Corbin-Marinovich announced the Annual Spring Egg Hunt Saturday, April 11th for children and the Sylmar community. Last year, 500 people attended and the children "couldn't have enough fun." There'll be comedy, arts and crafts, a Moon Jumper, party favors, music and more.

MOTION (by Ms. Sandstrom, seconded by Mr. Reyes): to participate in the Spring Egg Hunt at Sylmar Recreation Center Saturday, April 11, 2009 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in financial partnership up to \$500.00 towards the purchase of materials for the egg hunt.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Corbin-Marinovich indicated that the SNC will be recognized and should bring its own banner.

MOTION PASSED by a unanimous hand vote, with Ms. Arellano (due to being under age 18) abstaining

11. Discussion and possible action to participate in Salute to Recreation in May, 2009 and take nominations for Volunteer of the year.

Mr. Kelly announced that this Item was withdrawn because the event was "cancelled due to budget reasons."

12. Presentation by Max Podemski of Pacoima Beautiful on current projects and possible extension of the Pacoima Wash Green Belt Project into Sylmar.

Mr. Podemski, Placement Issue Coordinator of Pacoima Beautiful, presented and narrated a slide presentation. They're working with other local organizations to convert Pacoima Wash right-of-way unused land to greenway/recreational use and have been conducting focus groups for public feedback. They'd like to have the project included in the Community Plan, though it's not yet planned to be built. Public funding is available; it wouldn't take right-of-way property. The project would connect existing recreational space. "Mission College included a trail within their property." See www.pacoimabeautiful.org [or 818-899-2454] for more information.

They're seeking NC feedback and guidance about the project. Mr. Donnelly would like to have an ad hoc Committee established about this.

MOTION (by Ms. Blöse, seconded by Ms. Arellano): to form an ad hoc Committee to investigate and bring back to the full Board information regarding Pacoima Beautiful's Pacoima Wash Green Belt Project.

MOTION PASSED by a unanimous hand vote.

13. Discussion and possible action to participate in the Valley Regional Congress of Neighborhood Councils on May 30, 2009 in financial partnership up to \$1,500 towards the venue.
Mr. Donnelly explained this, and suggested and it was agreed without objections to Table this Item.

14. Board Member Comments

Ms. Sandstrom encouraged supporting and keeping local businesses in Sylmar. Mr. Krall announced the third annual Relay for Life 24-hour event April 18-19, and that he's "no longer working with [Council District] 7 as of Saturday." Mr. Donnelly encouraged volunteering for tomorrow's Community Appreciation Day. Mr. Kelly announced the Sylmar Recreation Center Teen Extreme Program on **[CONFIRM:]** ____, 6:00 p.m. Mr. Laufer announced Sylmar Neighborhood Watch Meetings every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at the Sylmar Library on Polk Ave. and encouraged reporting suspicious activities and getting involved in the Neighborhood Watch.

Mr. Bhakta announced that Polk Ave. is "finally being fixed." Mr. Cabrera announced that the Buckeye Neighborhood Watch Meetings at Osceola Elementary School are "packed with people." Ms. Arellano announced Corral 12's Trail Trials at Stetson Ranch and that "live oaks are coming back" from the recent fires. She wants to agendize about LAUSD [L.A. Unified School District] construction while they're doing staff cuts. The Secretary added that Mr. Cabrera stepped up to make the copies of this Meeting's Minutes and Agenda.

15. Next Meeting date, Future Agenda Items

[The next General Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 23rd at 6:30 p.m. at **[CONFIRM: __]** Palacio Torres Banquet Hall, 12341 San Fernando Road, Sylmar
OR
Herrick Elementary School, 13350 Herrick Ave.

16. Closing Remarks, Announcements, Acknowledgements and Adjournment

Mr. Donnelly **ADJOURNED** the Meeting without objection at 8:45 p.m.

Minutes written by DL.