

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, July 23, 2009

at Palacio Torres, 12341 San Fernando Road, Sylmar, CA 91342

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Vice-President of Administration Tammy Flores called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

2. Roll Call

Roll Call was taken by the Secretary. Board Members present: Ricardo Benitez, Hiral Bhakta, Cheri Blose, Hector Cabrera, Rick Donnelly, Tammy Flores, Saul Gonzales, Randall Kelly, Martin Laufer, Rudy Lopez, Liz Meher, George Ortega, Guillermo Reyes, Jeanne Rowe, and Jim Schopper.

Board Members absent: Erlin Arellano (excused), Fabian Garcia (excused), Nick Krall (excused), Jan Sandstrom (excused), and Quyen Vo-Ramirez (excused).

Fifteen of the 20 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 approximately 14 Stakeholders and Guests.

3. Adoption of Minutes

MOTION (by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Cabrera): to approve the Minutes of the June 25, 2009 General Board Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED without any objections.

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

Mr. Donnelly explained the above and that snack foods are available.

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

Angel Barnuevo, Field Deputy for State 20th District Senator Alex Padilla (818-901-5588; angel.barnuevo@sen.ca.gov), reported that a State budget agreement is in

caucus. State Bill 23 (the Mobile Home Safety Bill) is in the Assembly Appropriations Committee and will probably pass to the Governor on August 19th. Also, off-shore oil drilling details are still being worked out.

Antonio Sanchez, East Valley Area Director of Neighborhood and Community Services for Mayor Villaraigosa (818-778-4990; antonio.sanchez@lacity.org), reported that the City will lose \$260 million in the new State budget. Also, the Federal Consent Decree was lifted; the LAPD (L.A. Police Dept.) has changed a lot.

Joseph Pina, L.A. Unified School District (LAUSD) New Construction Community Outreach Liaison (213-276-7404), gave updates. Valley Region High School #5, on Arroyo in San Fernando, is 50% done. Let him know if there's construction during off-hours. Valley Region Elementary School #8: there'll be construction on Bromont Ave. in August or September. Properties are being purchased and eminent domained by September to start building Valley Region Span K-8 #1, at Dronfield and Bledsoe Sts., by February 2010.

Charles Chacon, LAPD Mission Division (east of Glenoaks Blvd.) Senior Lead Officer (Cell 818-634-0619, Office 818-838-9847), reported that crime is down in Sylmar; property crime is minimal. There'll be a National Night Out event Tuesday, August 4th, 6:00 – 8:30 p.m. at the Sylmar Recreation Center, including a clean-up, softball and hot dogs. John Lonergan, LAPD Mission Division (west of Glenoaks Blvd.) Senior Lead Officer (818-634-0610), reported that burglaries are down and there'll also be a National Night Out event on August 4th, 6:00 – 8:30 p.m. at Carey Ranch Park.

6. Public Comments

Stakeholder Doris Costas was concerned about streets being patched instead of fixed, especially the intersection of Roxford St. and Encinitas Ave.

Stakeholder Mark Reed, Republican 27th Congressional District candidate, distributed a biography of and introduced himself. He's lived and done business in the area for many years. He's concerned that the Sepulveda VA property is "being given away." He'd like the SNC to agendize a discussion about it; eight NCs support keeping the property for veteran's medical uses. Ms. Flores said that this would be agendized for the [August 27, 2009 General Board Meeting].

7. Committee Reports

Ms. Flores requested and the Board agreed to postpone all Committee reports until later in this Meeting.

Secretary

The Secretary reported that all Board Members' [SNC] e-mail accounts are working. The Office has been busy with phone calls and e-mails about land use projects and other issues. Our website address is www.SylmarNC.org. The Office can be e-mailed at Secretary@SylmarNC.org; the phone number is (818) 833-8737.

[The following reports were made after Item #12.]

Treasurer/Budget

Mr. Kelly had no report.

Land Use

Ms. Blöse reported for the Chair, Mr. Ortega, that the Committee met; an item will go on the next [General Board Meeting] Agenda.

Commercial/Business Interests

Ms. Sandstrom was not present and there was no report.

Outreach

Mr. Bhakta reported that . A Community Dental Fair will be held August 1st at Dyer Elementary School, 14500 Dyer St. The Sylmar and San Fernando Optimists Club Auction will be held at the JC Penney store in San Fernando, July 26th, 1:00, 1140 San Fernando Rd. The Committee met July 4th and had much discussion regarding improving SNC communication.

Election Committee

Mr. Laufer reported that the Committee is “already going” regarding the March 2010 SNC election.

Events

Ms. Arellano was not present and there was no report.

Public Services

Mr. Schopper reported that the Committee will meet Monday, August 3rd at 6:30 at the Sylmar Recreation Center, and will discuss alternative trash disposal technologies and not allowing the community to be used to dispose of other people's trash.

Beautification/Grants – Chair to be appointed.

Education

Mr. Gonzales reported that there was no Meeting.

Public Safety/Emergency Preparedness

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

Sex Offenders Population Reduction ad hoc Committee

Ms. Flores reported that the Committee has not yet met, but that public officials' Offices have been contacted.

New Business

8. **Presentation** of Sylmar Neighborhood Council Certificates of Appreciation, Spirit Awards and Certificates of Acknowledgement for work performed on the Sylmar Neighborhood Council.

Ms. Flores requested and the Board agreed to **TABLE** this Item.

9. **Presentation** by Rebecca Woods from Harris N. Co on alternative technology. Possible closure of Sunshine Canyon Landfill.

Ms. Flores requested and the Board agreed to **POSTPONE** this Item until later in this Meeting. [This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #11.] Ms. Woods, of the LA Bureau of Sanitation, distributed a handout and presented. Waste is 65% diverted, the best in the country, from the Landfill. They're continuing to put recycling bins in schools and develop other programs, "striving to get to zero waste." Ms. Woods' colleague Miguel Zermeno said that the City is considering and he reviewed various biological and thermal waste processing technologies. They're considering locating near freeways to minimize neighborhood and industrial impacts. They can advise when a draft report will be available. Details of possible facility locations, operations and job creation were discussed. "Closure" of the Sunshine Canyon Landfill means that no trash would be brought there and it would be monitored for 30 years to see if there are any methane gas emissions.

Recess

10. **Presentation** by Rosemary Jenkins from Golden State Jobs Coalition.

Coalition Executive Director Ms. Jenkins and Founder/Chair Carole Lutness distributed information brochures and presented about the Coalition [818-360-4583; wrfjenkins@aol.com], a 501(c)3 non-profit. They work with unions and other organizations to provide jobs, and on pedestrian and other safety features. They "want to commit . . . to using environmentally sustainable" ways of living, and want to work with the SNC "to advocate for . . . jobs, not jails, rails, not roads . . . and bring money to this region." They're hoping that the SNC "will appoint someone to their Board."

Mr. Laufer expressed that the presentation should've been first brought to the Land Use or Public Services Committee, so that the Board could act. Mr. Schopper invited the presenters to attend the next Public Services Committee Meeting on August 3rd.

11. **Discussion and possible action** to approve the following polling places recommended by the Election Committee: Sylmar Recreation Center; Sylmar Branch Library; and Olive Vista Middle School during the hours of 1-7 p.m. on Saturday March 27, 2010.

Ms. Flores introduced the Item. Mr. Laufer announced that the Committee met at the Office, but there was no quorum, so they couldn't vote on anything. The NC needs to submit three possible election polling places, from which the City will confirm one. The SNC will insert one page into the City-provided election materials.

MOTION (by Mr. Laufer, seconded by Mr. Donnelly): to approve the proposed locations and time for next year's NC election as presented.

MOTION PASSED without any objections.

Mr. Donnelly volunteered to sign the document to submit to the City.

Ms. Flores reminded Stakeholders to sign in and that Speaker Cards are available.

12. Discussion and possible action to host the following events: Charity MB2 Race; Street Vendors and Business Town Hall; and Farmers Market with an Annual Harvest Festival.

[This Agenda Item was addressed after the recess.] Ms. Flores explained that she requested this Agenda Item, so she is temporarily turning the Meeting Chairmanship over to Mr. Donnelly. She explained that the Charity MB2 Race would be an LAPD fundraiser. MB2 is a go-cart racer facility. The money raised would go to the LAPD's Explorer Program, which Bill Scott, LAPD Mission Division Captain, supports. Many law enforcement agencies would participate. The Farmers Market would be held by around March 2010 and have a Sylmar theme, such as "Olive Festival." This would help bring street vendor tax money to the community.

MOTION (by Ms. Flores, seconded by Ms. Blose): for the SNC to support a Charity MB2 Race; Street Vendors and Business Town Hall; and Farmers Market with an Annual Harvest Festival.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Laufer believes that committees need to be assigned to work on these events. It was clarified that the go-cart race will be organized by the LAPD; the SNC would just support it. Also, the SNC would work to have local vendors for the Farmers Market. Mr. Bhakta recommended assigning different events to different Committees. Ms. Flores was concerned that Committees may not draw enough people and believes that the full Board needs to support these events.

AMENDMENT to the **MOTION** (by Ms. Flores, seconded by Ms. Blose): to refer the following events to these Committees, as noted: Charity MB2 Race, to the Outreach Committee; Farmers Market with an Annual Harvest Festival, to the Public Services Committee; and Street Vendors and Business Town Hall, to the Commercial and Business Interests Committee.

MOTION (by Mr. Donnelly) to **CALL FOR THE QUESTION PASSED** without any objections.

Stakeholder Bonnie Bernard believes that the Farmers Market could be held under the Edison power lines off Hubbard St. between Glenoaks Blvd. and the 210 Freeway.

Mr. Schopper is opposed to assigning the Farmers Market to the Public Services Committee, as the Committee is already busy with other issues.

AMENDED MOTION failed unanimously.

AMENDMENT to the **MOTION** (by Ms. Flores, seconded by Mr. Laufer): to assign the Farmers Market with an Annual Harvest Festival to the Outreach Committee.

AMENDMENT to the **MOTION PASSED** without any objections.

MAIN MOTION PASSED with one abstention.

Ms. Flores assumed the Meeting Chairmanship back from Mr. Donnelly.

13. Board Member Comments

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #7.] There were no comments.

14. Next Meeting date, Future Agenda Items

Ms. Flores reported that she's awaiting a reply from Dyer Elementary School about having the next General Board Meeting there. She reminded Board Members to submit Agenda Items to the President or the Executive Board so that the Items can be agendized.

15. Closing Remarks, Announcements, Acknowledgements and Adjournment

Ms. Flores declared the Meeting adjourned at 8:27.

[A Special Board Meeting was held immediately following this General Board Meeting.]

Minutes written by DL.