

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



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Minutes of the
SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (SNC)
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
Thursday, September 24, 2009

Sylmar Recreation Center, 13109 Borden Ave., Large Gym, Sylmar, CA 91342

[This Special Board Meeting was held immediately after the General Board Meeting.]

1. Call to Order

President Quyen Vo-Ramirez called the meeting to order at 8:58 p.m.

Roll Call

Roll Call was taken by the Secretary. Board Members present: Erlin Arellano, Ricardo Benitez, Cheri Blose, Hector Cabrera, Rick Donnelly, Fabian Garcia, Saul Gonzales, Randall Kelly, Nick Krall, Martin Laufer, Liz Meher, George Ortega, Guillermo Reyes, Jeanne Rowe, Jan Sandstrom, Jim Schopper, and Quyen Vo-Ramirez.

Board Members absent: Hiral Bhakta (excused), Tammy Flores (excused), Rudy Lopez (excused).

Seventeen of the 20 Board Members were present at the beginning of the Meeting, which is a quorum, so the Board could make Motions and take votes. Also attending were 12 Stakeholders and Guests.

2. Discussion and possible action on disbanding the current composition of the Land Use Committee.

MOTION (by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Laufer): to disband the current composition of the SNC Land Use Committee and appoint an Interim Chair or Co-Chairs until Committee operational issues are clarified.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Sandstrom pointed out that previous Committee Members are needed to help guide the Committee. Ms. Vo-Ramirez described some of the issue's history, including that the Executive Board had discussed making itself the Land Use Committee until the Committee is re-appointed. Mr. Kelly recommended appointing Mr. Krall as the Interim Committee Chair, as he is a past Land Use Committee Chair. Mr. Ortega observed that Committee Members have had different expectations and he's tried to do the best he could. Mr. Kelly encouraged the Board

to “let the Grievance [filed by Stakeholder Barry Sylvan against Mr. Ortega] play out . . . [and] let the Committee function until the Grievance is settled.” He relayed that the Executive Board recommends disbanding the current composition of the Land Use Committee while letting it function.

Mr. Laufer was concerned that developers may control the Committee while they have a financial interest in projects; he believed that the NC “is being asked to make a decision without fully knowing what’s going on and why . . . It’s incumbent upon [the NC] to protect the integrity of the [Committee].” Ms. Herrera-Robles counseled that all Board Members received a copy of the Grievance. Mr. Krall suggested that the NC “could review the commitments of the Committee.” Mr. Kelly reminded that the “purpose [of this Meeting] is not to review the Grievance . . . [It’s] to decide to let the Land Use Committee continue to function” while the Grievance process is playing out. Ms. Blose “would like [the Committee] to sit as it is . . . with [Mr. Krall] as the Chair.” Mr. Benitez commented that “everybody deserves a second chance.” Mr. Reyes expressed that “we should help each other . . . instead of saving up things to say about one another . . . We should work together.” Ms. Sandstrom believed that the Committee “should continue . . . with [Mr. Krall] as the Chair” while recognizing the hard work that’s been done. Mr. Kelly noted that it “would’ve been better . . . if concerns had been brought to the Board a year ago . . . This is why the Executive Board chose to word the Motion as it did.”

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Mr. Donnelly); there were no objections.

Mr. Sylvan stated that “[He hasn’t] developed anything in Sylmar . . . [and he] only wants to see developments that are the best for Sylmar.” Ms. Blose was concerned about Agenda posting for the Saturday, September 19th Executive Board Meeting and believed that not enough public notice was given. Mr. Kelly pointed out that “the [Executive Board] Meeting was posted according to the Brown Act . . . Website posting is [good, but] not required . . . [Due to scheduling challenges,] the Executive Board decided on the [Executive Board] Meeting time on late Thursday night.” Ms. Herrera-Robles reminded that this Item is “not to single out any Board Member . . . It’s about the entire operational process” and reminded Board Members of their commitments, made at last year’s Retreat, to work together. Mr. Kelly read from the Bylaws regarding posting requirements and confirmed that the Brown Act and Bylaws had not been violated.

MOTION PASSED with eleven in favor and four abstaining.

Ms. Vo-Ramirez appointed Mr. Krall and Mr. Kelly as Interim Co-Chairs of the Land Use Committee and explained that it’s a temporary situation. Mr. Krall and Mr. Kelly accepted their appointments, with Mr. Kelly accepting “on an interim basis.” Ms. Vo-Ramirez added that Mr. Krall and Mr. Kelly will populate the Land Use Committee.

3. **Discussion and possible action** on suspending committees which have been inactive and asking board members to join current functioning committees. Ms. Vo-Ramirez explained this Item.

Ms. Blose had to leave the Meeting at this time.

Ms. Vo-Ramirez recommended that every Board Member serve on a Committee and thanked Board Members for their service.

MOTION (by Mr. Laufer, seconded by Mr. Kelly): to defer this Item to the Executive Board to report to the next General Board Meeting [October 22nd] which Committees to eliminate.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Krall encouraged the Executive Board to give more guidance to Committees. Mr. Gonzalez would like the Education Committee to be suspended because most meetings with parents are during the day; he would be able to serve better as a liaison rather than having to convene Committee Meetings. Ms. Sandstrom remarked that the City isn't supporting business, so "the [Commercial/Business Interests] Committee . . . should be disbanded." Ms. Vo-Ramirez said that "the Executive Board will come up with a recommendation to reduce the Committees." Mr. Krall suggested that the Executive Board meet with Committee Chairs.

MOTION (by Ms. Vo-Ramirez): to **ADJOURN** the Meeting.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote.

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 9:42 p.m.

Minutes written by DL.