

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, November 19, 2009

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

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

President Quyen Vo-Ramirez called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ms. Vo-Ramirez.

2. Roll Call

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

Board Members absent: Cheri Blose (excused), Rudy Lopez (excused), and Jim Schopper (excused).

Fourteen 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 19 Stakeholders and Guests.

3. Adoption of Minutes

The following correction to the September 24, 2009 General Board Meeting Minutes was requested:

Page seven, Item #15, Discussion: "Roy Smith, of SCE" should read "Roy Smith".

MOTION (by Mr. Donnelly, seconded by Mr. Kelly): to approve the Minutes of the September 24, 2009 General Board Meeting as corrected.

MOTION PASSED without any objections; Mr. Bhakta and Ms. Flores abstained.

MOTION (by Mr. Donnelly, seconded by Mr. Kelly): to approve the Minutes of the September 24, 2009 Special Board Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED without any objections; Mr. Bhakta and Ms. Flores abstained.

Mr. Krall arrived at this time.

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

Ms. Flores 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), reported that the LAPD representatives could not be here because they're at a Town Hall Meeting. A new Foothill Division Captain will be hired. He distributed flyers regarding and announced a Town Hall Meeting November 23rd at 6:30 p.m. at Olive Vista Middle School regarding "debris flow and flood response."

Ms. Vo-Ramirez reported that Amelia Herrera-Robles, Project Coordinator, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) (213-473-6451; Amelia.Herrera-Robles@lacity.org; www.EmpowerLA.org), had to attend another NC Meeting.

Ms. Sandstrom relayed that coyotes have been seen on Gladstone Ave. between Bledsoe and Tyler Sts. Mr. Figueras added that an empty lot in that area, where coyotes are believed to be hiding, will be "monitored" and attempts made to talk with the owners.

Mr. Krall announced the Relay for Life at Olive Vista Middle School on April 24-25, to increase awareness of and raise funds for cancer research. See the www.SylmarNC.org website. Also, the Sylmar Rodeo may return in 2010. Contact him if you're interested in advertising, participating or doing business at the event.

Ms. Vo-Ramirez thanked Councilman Alarcon for recognizing the SNC at the first anniversary of the Sayre Fire. Also, the SNC is co-hosting the November 23rd Town Hall. Also, Mr. Donnelly paid his own money to participate and represent the SNC at the December 3rd MB2 Race for Youth charity event.

[This report was given after Item #10.] Angel Barnuevo, Field Deputy for State 20th District Senator Alex Padilla (818-901-5588; Angel.Barnuevo@sen.ca.gov), distributed flyers and reported regarding the H1N1 virus and vaccination clinics, including November 21-22 at Richie Valens Recreation Center. He also distributed flyers regarding and described several Senate Bills signed into law that were sponsored by Senator Padilla, including Senate Bill 23, the Mobile Home Fire Safety Bill, so that "every mobile home park in the State will have a safety plan"; Senate Bill 17, the Smart Grid Bill, to improve power distribution through smart grid technology; and Senate Bill 407, the Water Use Efficiency Bill, for buildings to meet high efficiency water use standards.

6. Public Comments

There were no public comments at this time.

7. Committee Reports

Secretary

The Secretary reported that copies of the SNC Bylaws, Board Rules, Code of Conduct and Neighborhood Council Pledge are available. All Board Members' e-mail accounts are working with no problems. E-mails, phone calls and snail mail received from many sources was forwarded and/or acted upon. Electronic copies of the DONE Ethics Training Certificate have been received at the SNC Office and downloaded into the computer.

Treasurer/Budget

Mr. Kelly reported that the most recent Budget Reconciliations were submitted to DONE and the NC is "well within Budget." He reminded Board Members to submit all paperwork to ensure payment.

Land Use

No report was given at this time.

Commercial/Business Interests – Chair to be appointed.

Outreach

Ms. Rowe reported that Mr. Donnelly and Mr. Schopper rode in the SNC truck in the Veteran's Day Parade. She thanked Dan Rosales, Jr., Planning Deputy for L.A. City District Seven Councilman Richard Alarcon (818-756-8409; Dan.Rosales@lacity.org; www.CityPlanning.lacity.org), for organizing the event and David Cooper for providing the truck. Mr. Bhakta reported that a successful Joint Outreach – Public Services Committee Meeting was held November 10th; they'll meet again on December 8th, 6:30 p.m. at the Recreation Center's Susan B. Anthony Building. Also, Mr. Benitez was named as an Outreach Committee Vice-Chair.

Election Committee

No report was given at this time.

Events

No report was given at this time.

Public Services

Mr. Reyes agreed that it was "much better having [the Joint Meeting] together" [with the Outreach Committee].

Beautification/Grants – Chair to be appointed.

Education

No report was given at this time.

Public Safety/Emergency Preparedness

Ms. Vo-Ramirez reported that Mr. Garcia was attending the Neighborhood Watch Meeting next door.

Sex Offenders Population Reduction ad hoc Committee

No report was given at this time.

Additional Reports, requested by the President

There were no additional reports.

Tabled

8. **Discussion and action** in supporting an end of the year Town Hall in December with possible topics: Update on San Fer Gang Injunction, Oakridge Mobil Home Park, Fire Recovery, Impacts and Threats of Mudslides, and SNC Election.

MOTION (by Ms. Sandstrom, seconded by Mr. Kelly): for the SNC to support a Town Hall Meeting in conjunction with the LAPD Mission Division on November 23rd at 6:30 p.m. at Olive Vista Middle School.

MOTION PASSED without any objections.

9. **Discussion and possible action** to renew Moore Business Results contract. [This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #11.] Mr. Donnelly described that Webmaster Wendy Moore “has watched over [and] . . . done a really good job [with] the website . . . [He] recommends that [the SNC] renew the Moore Business Results contract.”

MOTION (by Mr. Laufer, seconded by Ms. Sandstrom): to renew the Moore Business Results contract for SNC Web Services.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Bhakta “appreciates Wendy Moore’s quality of work.” Mr. Laufer expressed that “it’s wonderful to go on [the SNC] website . . . and have up to the minute news.”

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Ms. Sandstrom); there were no objections.

MOTION PASSED; Mr. Ortega abstained.

New Business

10. **Report and update** on “Race for Youth” budget, sponsors, drivers, logistics, etc. Mr. Reyes reported that there’ll be food and prizes and he encouraged more participation. Ms. Flores distributed “Race for Youth” posters and reported that

\$12,650 was donated so far, which “goes to the Explorers Program, PALS, and the Boot Camp . . . [They] “need help” for the December 3rd event in the greeters, auction and food areas. Sixty racers, including some public officials, have entered. Admission is a toy or \$25.

Recess [after Item #11]

11. Discussion and possible action to support the joint 67-acre project located off the 5 Freeway proposed open space between the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and the Department of Recreation and Parks. Requesting possible funds of up to 5 million dollars from Proposition 84.

Mr. Rosales explained that “65 to 70 acres, the old Lakeside Basin . . . [which] was a nine-hole golf course . . . near Carey Ranch and the IT&T school” could become a park. Mr. Ortega described the land as being between the Park and Bledsoe St., and Telfair Ave. and the 5 Freeway.

Ms. Arellano arrived at this time.

Craig Raines and Tom Gibson, Landscape Architects of the L.A. Dept. of Recreation and Parks’ Advanced Planning Division, distributed the handouts: “Proposition 84 Fact Sheet for Residents”; “Lakeside Basin: Community Meeting Schedule and Locations”; “Community Project Suggestion Form”; and a “Lakeside Debris Basin Property – Conversion to a City Park” fact sheet. They narrated a slide presentation and described the Park as “one of the largest parks in the last 20-30 years in the valley . . . The land is owned by the DWP.” There’s “residential around three sides of the site . . . an LAPD training site is on the other side . . . Power lines run right through the site.” There’ll be “a buffer field between the sports fields and the residential area.” Funding will also “pay for the entry road . . . Proposition 84 is a State-wide program for park development . . . The community will help with the design.”

Ms. Vo-Ramirez stated that the Granada Hills North NC should be involved since the facility was originally in their area. Ms. Sandstrom believed that the “community needs . . . a senior center . . . a Boys and Girls Club Youth Center.” Mr. Laufer was concerned regarding traffic in the surrounding residential areas. Ramon Barajas, of the Recreation and Parks Dept., said that “the Office of Public Services . . . and some LAPD will police the park . . . When there’s families, the bad guys seem to stay away . . . [There’ll also be] walking trails . . . picnic areas . . . [and] maybe a skate park.” Mr. Bhakta encouraged the presenters to “provide the . . . presentation . . . for [the SNC] website . . . This park can be a long-term asset for [the] community . . . [It could have a] public amphitheater . . . [and] youth and senior programming.” Mr. Gibson clarified that the fields will have a full irrigation system and that they’re doing water conservation.

Mr. Ortega said “there’s going to be some need for a retaining wall . . . [which could provide] a supervised program for . . . artists.” Mr. Gibson added that they “can

make this almost wholly ADA [Americans with Disabilities Act]-accessible.” Ms. Arellano would like the park to include “a performing arts center . . . [and] a community garden.” Mr. Reyes suggested that the Park include “a dog park . . . [and] a veteran’s wall.” Mr. Kelly encouraged submitting the “Community Project Suggestion Form” and elaborated that “a ball field can be installed really quickly . . . Prop 84 is where the funds will come from for the other amenities.”

Sue DeVandry, Granada Hills North NC Board Member, “met with the DWP yesterday . . . It’s 30 acres of useable land” and she was concerned that GHNNC Stakeholder needs wouldn’t be transferred. Ms. Vo-Ramirez explained that “usable land” can have “many definitions” and that the SNC “requested that the GHNNC be considered . . . but the land is in the SNC jurisdiction.”

12. Discussion and possible action to support the following recommendations from the SNC Land Use Committee:

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #9.]

Mr. Krall reported that “the Committee met October 19th . . . [and] re-formed and selected an Interim Co-Chair, Roy Smith . . . and Members Guillermo Reyes, Reba Eichorn and Sherry Lincoln.”

a. Zone Change request for 13640-13648 Foothill Blvd.

Mr. Krall described the project as having “a combination of Zoning and uses.”

b. General Plan Application and Zone Change request for 15455 Roxford St.

Mr. Krall described the project and concerns about it. “The property owner didn’t approach [the SNC] . . . The Community Plan allows two homes, not four.”

Mr. Krall added that the next Committee Meeting will be December 14th. Ms. Vo-Ramirez clarified that only the President can appoint Committee Chairs; Mr. Krall and Mr. Kelly are the Committee Co-Chairs; therefore, Mr. Smith is not a Co-Chair. Also, Committee recommendations need to be presented to the full Board for “support or rejection . . . and all [Committee] Minutes should be sent to the V.P. of Administration.”

MOTION (by Mr. Krall, seconded by Mr. Kelly): for the SNC to support the Land Use Committee recommendation to support a Zone Change request and property line move for 13640-13648 Foothill Blvd.

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

MOTION PASSED with eight in favor; seven (Arellano, Cabrera, Gonzalez, Meher, Ortega, Reyes, and Sandstrom) abstained.

Mr. Krall will draft a letter of support to the developer.

No recommendation was made regarding Item b.

13. Discussion and possible action to draft a letter requesting that the original terms and conditions of AppleOne services be restored.

Mr. Bhakta explained that this was “discussed heavily” in the Outreach Committee. The AppleOne Agency is requiring the Secretary “not to communicate with Board Members outside the [NC] Office . . . [and is] primarily requiring the Secretary to only work at the [NC] Office . . . This is a concern for the overall NC system . . . [He’d] like to see a simple Waiver of Liability . . . many companies use.”

MOTION (by Mr. Bhakta, seconded by Mr. Arellano): for the SNC to draft a letter to the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment requesting the original terms and conditions of AppleOne services provided by David Levine be restored and the new terms and conditions be nullified.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Herrera-Robles stated that “the letter should be directed to the Agency . . . [DONE] doesn’t make this decision . . . The agency that [the Secretary] works for made these changes.” Mr. Benitez believed that “[the NC has] to protect the Secretary.”

Ms. Sandstrom suggested and it was agreed to **AMEND the MOTION** to read, “. . . to draft a letter to AppleOne requesting . . .”

Mr. Krall suggested to **AMEND the MOTION** to read, “for the SNC to request that the AppleOne Agency establish that the existing known practice of providing emergency communications from other locations, such as home, be allowed with the addition of whatever support that might be required.” No acceptance of this Amendment was mentioned.

Mr. Bhakta suggested and it was agreed to **AMEND the MOTION** to read, “. . . and the new terms and conditions include a Waiver of Liability to have and maintain emergency communications from off-site locations such as home.”

Mr. Bhakta **MOVED to WITHDRAW the MOTION**; there were no objections.

MOTION (by Mr. Krall, seconded by Ms. Arellano): for the SNC to draft a letter to AppleOne, with a copy to DONE, requesting AppleOne to allow service providers to Neighborhood Councils to provide necessary services at locations outside of an Office with the release of a required Waiver of Liability to protect AppleOne.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION; there were no objections.

MOTION PASSED; Mr. Laufer abstained.

14. Discussion and possible action to cancel the general BOD meeting for December. Opt for a Holiday Social with the community, location, date and time to be determined.

MOTION (by Ms. Sandstrom, seconded by Ms. Arellano): to cancel the SNC General Board Meeting for December and, instead, have a Holiday Social with the community, location, date and time to be determined.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Laufer was concerned that there isn't enough time to plan such an event. Ms. Rowe invited everyone to her house for a Christmas Party.

MOTION PASSED without any objections.

15. Board Member Comments

Mr. Bhakta reminded about the December 8th Committee Meeting and encouraged Stakeholders to submit Committee Agenda items. Mr. Garcia reported that crime is down 14% in Sylmar and most of it is burglaries through unlocked doors. Ms. Rowe would like the SNC and Ms. Vo-Ramirez agreed to write a thank you letter to David Cooper for providing the Veteran's Day Parade truck. Ms. Sandstrom announced the Holiday Toy Express Train, December 4th at 8:30 at the Metrolink Station; "bring toys . . . the Fire Department will distribute toys to kids in [the NC's] area." Ms. Herrera-Robles announced the next DONE Training Day December 5th at the Braude Center in Van Nuys; there'll be presentations about the 2010 NC elections; candidate open filing begins December 28th and the election is March 27th.

16. Next Meeting date, Future Agenda Items

Ms. Vo-Ramirez announced that the next General Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, January 28, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. at the Sylmar Recreation Center or another location to be determined.

17. Closing Remarks, Announcements, Acknowledgements and Adjournment

Ms. Vo-Ramirez **ADJOURNED** the Meeting without objection at 8:58 p.m.

Minutes written by DL.