

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  
13109 Borden Ave.  
Sylmar, CA 91342

Telephone: (818) 833-8737  
Fax: (818) 833-8707  
E-mail: Board@SylmarNC.org  
Website: www.SylmarNC.org  
Office Administrator: David Levin

Minutes of the  
**SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (SNC)**  
**SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**  
**Thursday, January 28, 2010**  
MB2 Raceway, 13943 Balboa Blvd., Sylmar CA 91342

**1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**

President Quyen Vo-Ramirez called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

Board Members present: Erlin Arellano, Ricardo Benitez, Hiral Bhakta, Cheri Blose (late), Rick Donnelly, Tammy Flores, Fabian Garcia (late), Saul Gonzalez, Randall Kelly, Nick Krall, Martin Laufer, Rudy Lopez, Liz Meher, George Ortega, Guillermo Reyes, Jeanne Rowe, Jan Sandstrom, and Quyen Vo-Ramirez.

Board Members absent: Hector Cabrera (excused) and Jim Schopper (excused).

Sixteen 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 18 Stakeholders and Guests.

**3. Adoption of Minutes: 10/22 and 11/19/09 General Board Meetings**

The following corrections to the October 22, 2009 General Board Meeting Minutes were requested:

Page one, Item #3: "to approve the Minutes of the September 24" should read "to approve the Minutes of the August 27."

Page seven, Item #11: "[A] golf course uses up" should read "[A] golf course and a Little League baseball field uses up".

**MOTION** (by Ms. Sandstrom, seconded by Mr. Laufer): to approve the Minutes of the October 22, 2010 General Board Meeting as corrected.

**MOTION PASSED** without any objections.

[The November 19, 2009 Board Meeting was a "Special" Meeting.] The following correction to the November 19, 2009 Special Board Meeting Minutes was requested:

Page five, Item #11: "between the Park and Bledsoe St." should read "between Polk St. and Bledsoe St."

**MOTION** (by Ms. Rowe, seconded by Mr. Laufer): to approve the Minutes of the November 19, 2009 Special Board Meeting as corrected.

**MOTION PASSED** without any objections.

**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), announced that the bid process for the median at San Fernando Rd. and Bleeker St. closed as of December; one of three bids will be selected. The median will be landscaped and have a fountain. He distributed a flyer for and announced a "Shopping Day for CD 7 Schools & Nonprofits Only . . . February 4, 2010" at L.A. Shares; RSVP for a confirmation number. He also distributed a "Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Sites" flyer and announced that the Sylmar Library will, on February 1<sup>st</sup>, start a volunteer tax assistance program.

John Lonergan, LAPD Mission Division (west of Glenoaks Blvd.) Senior Lead Officer (818-634-0610), reported that crime is down 31% so far this year. There're still residential burglaries and auto thefts on both sides of Sylmar, usually from midnight to 6:00 a.m. Another watch (two cars) has been added.

Ms. Sandstrom reported that Stakeholder April Washington's ranch has had problems with people using the vacant lot next door. Mr. Figueras explained that the paintball business there is for sale and that the realtor, Mr. Montez, said he'll talk with the owner. Mr. Lonergan said he'll let Officer Charles Chacon [L.A. Police Dept. Mission Division (east of Glenoaks Blvd.) Senior Lead Officer (Cell 818-634-0619, Office 818-838-9847)] know about this.

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), reported that there've been six Meetings for the Lakeside Basin Park Community Grant Application; he'll soon report on progress. Some Granada Hills residents were concerned about this. Also, the High-Speed Rail Project is looking for alternate station sites; Sylmar, San Fernando and Pacoima are being proposed. It'll be a 230-miles-per-hour train from Anaheim to San Francisco. A 6,000-space parking lot may be needed and a presentation is scheduled to be made by March 4<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Vo-

Ramirez added that the first Meeting will be February 8<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Buena Vista Library, Burbank; for information call 213-438-1755.

Amelia Herrera-Robles, Project Coordinator, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) (213-473-6451; Amelia.Herrera-Robles@lacity.org; www.EmpowerLA.org), announced that the SNC is now in the write-in candidate period until February 25<sup>th</sup>; write-in candidates' names will not appear on the ballot. She distributed a flyer regarding a February 25<sup>th</sup> Candidate Preparation Session at San Jose Elementary School which will discuss candidate information, the Brown Act and Bylaws. Due to the City budget crisis, she encouraged compiling a list of the NC's accomplishments and reminded that the NC will need to do its own election outreach.

Ms. Flores thanked Race For Youth volunteers, especially Ms. Rowe. She'll soon meet with the Farmer's Market consultant; Mission College will be the site and she'll report again at the next General Board Meeting.

Ms. Vo-Ramirez thanked Mr. Figueras for assistance to Oakridge Mobile Home Park Fire survivors and noted that DWP work trucks need to be covered between 7:00 p.m. – 7:00 a.m. She recognized Ms. Rowe for donating a copier to the SNC Office.

## **6. Public Comments**

Jenny Besse, Manager, American Cancer Society, Relay For Life (818-841-3099 x154; Jennifer.Besse@Cancer.org), introduced herself and described the "Relay For Life, a 24-hour, team-based event" April 24-25 at Olive Vista Middle School to raise funds for cancer research and advocacy, that needs teams and volunteers. There'll be an organizing meeting in February. Mr. Garcia and Angeline Acedo are the Chairs; Councilman Alarcon is a Co-Chair. There're already 15 teams and you can register [at [http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR?pg=entry&fr\\_id=20578](http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR?pg=entry&fr_id=20578)].

## **7. Committee Reports**

### Secretary

The Secretary reported that Board Members and a Stakeholder were assisted in getting information about and filing their Candidate Filing Form for the March 27<sup>th</sup> SNC Election. All known electronic and hardcopy documents regarding SNC Elections back through 2004 are now organized and filed in the SNC computer and file cabinet. Also, an SNC election banner was badly graffitied and had to be removed; Mr. Figueras said he'll have an LAPD Officer call the SNC Office about it.

### Treasurer/Budget

Mr. Kelly reported that the SNC is "on schedule for the budget" and that rollover funds are on hold.

### Land Use

Mr. Krall reported that the Committee will meet regarding three proposed cell towers.

Commercial/Business Interests – Chair to be appointed.

Outreach

Mr. Bhakta reported that the Committee will meet the second Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m. at Sylmar Park, Susan B. Anthony Building, Children’s Room. The Committee’s November and December Meeting Minutes were distributed to Board Members and they’ve had “really positive Meetings.”

Election Committee

Mr. Laufer reported that the Committee has been Meeting in combination with the Outreach Committee. He described potential election outreach advertising.

Events

Ms. Arellano said she’ll report later in this Meeting.

Public Services

Mr. Reyes reported that the Committee has been Meeting in combination with the Outreach Committee, and that more Board Members and other Stakeholders have been participating.

Beautification/Grants – Chair to be appointed.

Education – Chair to be appointed.

Public Safety/Emergency Preparedness

Mr. Garcia said that there was no report.

Sex Offenders Population Reduction ad hoc Committee

Ms. Flores said that there was no report.

Additional Reports, requested by the President

There were no additional reports.

**New Business**

8. **Report** on the “MB2 Race for Youth” event. Presented by Jeanne Rowe, Chair. Ms. Rowe described the successful event and that they “tried to keep expenses to a minimum.” There’re “still some outstanding funds to be received.” So far, \$12,145 has been collected, including \$10,600 from Sponsors and \$341 from a raffle; \$110.38 was spent over budget. There’re \$2,856 in outstanding pledges. She described expenses and donors. They’re working out whether the DJ is owed \$350 or not. Ms. Flores added that toys were also collected and that Councilman Alarcon is “supposed to take care of” the DJ payment. She’ll put event pictures on the SNC website [www.SylmarNC.org]. Mr. Bhakta thanked Committee Members and the Optimist Club of San Fernando/Sylmar, including John Herman, Robert Razo, and Jaime Arellano.

9. **Report** on “Better know a Community Based Organization”, by the Robert Razo, president of the San Fernando/Sylmar Optimist Club. Mr. Razo introduced Club President Mr. Herman, who distributed the “History of Optimism” and described the Club, a worldwide organization “helping each kid be the best they can be.” More information is available through Mr. Herman, Mr. Razo, and [www.Optimist.org](http://www.Optimist.org). Mr. Razo described projects of the local Club, including partnering with the Special Olympics. They’ve tested around 150 Sylmar High School students’ reading and math skills. Jamie Arellano described the Club’s positive effects on him and his family, and encouraged participating.

10. **Discussion and possible action** to create a pilot project on Bledsoe between Foothill Blvd and Olive View Dr., to create a complete street concept. Project will entail dedicated bike lanes, pedestrian paths and beautifying the landscape with drought tolerant plant materials.

Ms. Vo-Ramirez noted that the Item’s requester, Rosemary Jenkins, was not in attendance; she recommended and it was agreed to TABLE this Item.

11. **Discussion and possible action** to support the 3rd Annual Policy con Pan Dulce event on March 13, 2010 with financial support not to exceed \$1,000 for flyer expenses. Presented by Hessam Fassihi, Initiating Change in Our Neighborhoods Community Development Corporation (ICON CDC).

Mr. Fassihi, ICON CDC’s Deputy Director [818.899.3636; [afassihi@icon-cdc.org](mailto:afassihi@icon-cdc.org); [http://www.icon-cdc.org/index\\_files/Page571.htm](http://www.icon-cdc.org/index_files/Page571.htm)], said they operate community centers for after-school programs, tutoring, and financial and literacy programs for adults and youth. He described the event, an “opportunity to hear from [elected] representatives,” who’ll speak briefly and answer some questions. If the SNC supports the event, it’ll receive mentions in event advertising, can have an event booth, and can have a banner at the entrance gate. They’re expecting 300-500 people. The event budget is around \$6,000, including around \$4,000 for rent, food and audio equipment. A number of Valley individuals and business have been approached for funding. Elected officials haven’t been asked to support the event, since they’ve been invited to speak. “A free and full breakfast will be served” at the event at Palacio Torres [12341 San Fernando Road, Sylmar]. They have a \$1,500-\$2,000 budget for around 5,000 flyers, postcards and door-hangers.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Reyes, seconded by Mr. Lopez): to support the 3rd Annual Policy con Pan Dulce event on March 13, 2010 with financial support not to exceed \$500 for flyer expenses.

**DISCUSSION:** There was discussion regarding what NC budget is available and what amount could be allocated. Ms. Vo-Ramirez was concerned whether the event would reach the Sylmar community. Mr. Laufer was concerned that the event may be “basically a political forum.” Mr. Lopez noted that the organization also provides services in Sylmar. Mr. Bhakta believed that “this is a potential golden outreach opportunity for . . . NC elections . . . right in our neighborhood.” Mr. Kelly was concerned whether this is a good use of public funds.

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

**MOTION PASSED** by a hand vote with eight in favor, seven opposed and one abstention.

Ms. Vo-Ramirez asked Mr. Fassihi to contact Mr. Kelly.

**Recess** – There was a brief recess.

**12. Discussion and possible action** to support the purchase of a space on the Sylmar High School Sports Poster for SNC Outreach. Presented by the Outreach Committee.

Mr. Bhakta requested and it was agreed to TABLE this Item.

**13. Discussion and possible action** to [see below Motion].

Ms. Vo-Ramirez explained that the Executive Board discussed and put forth this Agenda Item. Mr. Kelly added that several Committee Chairs requested this.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Laufer, seconded by Ms. Blose): to disband the following SNC Committees based on lack of community interest and participation: Commercial/Business Interest, Beautification/Grants, Education and Sex Offenders Reduction Ad Hoc Committee. Recommended by the Executive Board.

**MOTION PASSED** without any objections.

**14. Removal and appointments of Committee Chairs.**

Ms. Vo-Ramirez explained that the Executive Board discussed this. Regarding the Land Use Committee, the City Attorney recommended that the Grievance filed against Mr. Ortega “not be considered a Grievance’ . . . [and] we didn’t feel it was fair to remove Mr. Ortega.” Therefore, after consulting with the Executive Board, and at the requests of Mr. Kelly, Mr. Krall and Mr. Ortega, she is removing Mr. Kelly as a Land Use Committee Co-Chair and re-appointing Mr. Ortega as a Co-Chair with Mr. Krall.

**14. [Really #15.] Board Member Comments**

Mr. Krall requested agendizing a Relay For Life presentation for the next General Board Meeting. Ms. Flores appreciates the Board’s understanding while she recuperated. Mr. Donnelly thanked Ms. Rowe for having her Christmas party. Ms. Meher thanked Board Members for attending the World Gym Holiday Party. Mr. Laufer encouraged and reminded that Committees only make recommendations to the full Board of Directors. Ms. Blose noted that, due to the [late 2008] Fires, some trails are useable for the first time in years; Rim of the Valley Trail Trials will be in April. Mr. Bhakta encouraged support for and optimism for speakers and the Board at this Meeting, and pride in the Board’s accomplishments. Mr. Benitez is looking

forward to the new Board after the [March 27<sup>th</sup>] election. Ms. Arellano recommended reading "The Optimist Creed."

Moises Carillo, Volunteer Chair, Sylmar Youth Task Force (SYTF) (818-548-3715), announced a fundraiser for various youth programs on Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup>; it's a Walk-a-Thon three-mile loop beginning and ending at Sylmar Park.

**15. [Really #16.] Next Meeting date, Future Agenda Items**

Due to the February 25th Candidate Preparation Session, there was discussion and it was agreed that the next General Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 24th at 6:30 p.m. at a place to be determined, possibly again at the MB2 Raceway.

**16. [Really #17.] Closing Remarks, Announcements, Acknowledgements and Adjournment**

Ms. Vo-Ramirez described that Stetson Ranch old building foundations are now visible due to the [late 2008] Fires. She encouraged recruiting new Board Members. Ms. Vo-Ramirez declared and it was agreed to **ADJOURN** the Meeting at 8:53 p.m.

Minutes written by DL.