

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)**  
**SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**  
**Wednesday, February 24, 2010**  
MB2 Raceway, 13943 Balboa Blvd., Sylmar CA 91342

[Note: This Meeting was held on a Wednesday, instead of the usual fourth Thursday, due to the DONE (L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment) Candidate Preparation Session held the next night.]

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

Vice-President of Communications Rick Donnelly called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Hiral Bhakta.

**2. Roll Call**

Roll Call was taken by the Secretary. Board Members present: Ricardo Benitez, Hiral Bhakta, Cheri Blose (late), Rick Donnelly, Randall Kelly (late), Nick Krall, Martin Laufer, Liz Meher, George Ortega, Guillermo Reyes, Jeanne Rowe, Jim Schopper.

Board Members absent: Erlin Arellano (excused), Hector Cabrera (unexcused), Tammy Flores (excused), Fabian Garcia (unexcused), Saul Gonzalez (excused), Rudy Lopez (unexcused), Jan Sandstrom (excused), and Quyen Vo-Ramirez (excused).

Ten of the 20 Board Members were present at the beginning of the Meeting, which is not a quorum, so the Board could not make Motions or take votes until an eleventh Board Member later attended. Also attending were 11 Stakeholders and Guests.

**3. Adoption of Minutes**

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #7.] The following correction to the January 28, 2010 General Board Meeting Minutes was requested:

Page six, Item #14: "World Gym" should read "USA Fitness Center."

**MOTION** (by Mr. Bhakta, seconded by Mr. Laufer): to approve the Minutes of the January 28, 2010 General Board Meeting as corrected.

**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.**

Mr. Krall encouraged voting in the NC Election Saturday the 27<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 – 7:00 p.m. at the Sylmar Recreation Center. Contact a Board Member or see the [www.SylmarNC.org](http://www.SylmarNC.org) website if you're interested in being a Board or Committee Member.

Mr. Donnelly relayed that Manny Figueras [Constituent Svcs. Rep. for L.A. City District Seven Councilman Richard Alarcon (818-756-8409; [Manny.Figueras@lacity.org](mailto:Manny.Figueras@lacity.org))] was unable to attend, but announced that 1) The Mayor eliminated two departments Environmental Affairs and Human Services with 56 positions eliminated and a saving of 3 million dollars annually; 2) The Mayor consolidated two departments Community Development and Neighborhood Empowerment with 27 positions eliminated and a saving of 2 million dollars annually; and 3) Don't forget to go to the City web page and do the budget challenge.

## **6. Public Comments**

A Stakeholder was concerned that Sylmar is “a dumping ground for La Canada dirt . . . People living next to the truck routes are really suffering . . . 330 trucks per day.” Mr. Reyes responded that he spoke with the City Council District Seven Office and the Public Works Department. They said that “four other sites were too small to handle all the dirt . . . They're not going to be finished until the middle of March.” Mr. Donnelly added that the NC will talk with Manny Figueras.

At this time, Ms. Blose arrived and, as the eleventh Board Member present, created a quorum, so the Board could make Motions and take votes.

[The following Comment was made after Item #12.] Stakeholder Jose Manzano was concerned that “almost 75% of the homes in Sylmar have septics . . . not sewer [connections]” and about potential problems. Board Members encouraged him to help the NC.

## **7. Committee Reports**

### Secretary

The Secretary reported that the March 27th election banner was cleaned by Rick Donnelly and re-installed on the Recreation Center fence. Information was distributed regarding the City budget crisis and the March 27th NC Election, land use documents, and phone line costs, and it was arranged for the SNC name and wording to be on the March 13th Policy con Pan Dulce event flyer.

### Treasurer/Budget

[See Item #10.]

### Land Use

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #5's Mr. Figueras announcements.] Mr. Krall reported that the Committee will meet, from now on, the fourth Monday every month. The Committee met February 22<sup>nd</sup> [Minutes available].

### Outreach

Mr. Bhakta reported that the Committee met and he distributed the Minutes of the February 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting and it's available on the website. He announced that, today, the L.A.

City Council voted to allow NC elections to go forward with the City Clerk's Office running them.

#### Election Committee

Mr. Laufer reported that the NC Election will be March 27<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 – 7:00 p.m.

#### Events

Ms. Arellano was unable to attend and there was no report.

#### Public Services

Mr. Schopper announced that he's resigning from the Board after four years of service and has been distributing "311" flyers.

#### Public Safety/Emergency Preparedness

Mr. Garcia was unable to attend and there was no report.

#### Additional Reports, requested by the President

Mr. Donnelly announced the SNC Election Candidates Forum, Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m., at the Sylmar Library.

### **Tabled**

- 8. 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.

Rosemary Jenkins, Executive Director of the Golden State Jobs Coalition (818-360-4583; wrfjenkins@aol.com), wants a "coalition of organizations to meet with [City] Council District Seven . . . for funding the project." She met with Mr. Ortega, "who did a lot of measuring." Mr. Ortega described that "this . . . location was suggested by a transportation advocate, Bart Reed." He believed that "75-80% of the site would require dedications . . . A big bottleneck . . . would be the Freeway crossing . . . [It could cost] perhaps millions of dollars . . . for perhaps a quarter of a mile." Ms. Jenkins suggested that the project "could obtain [Federal] Stimulus money . . . It's less about the intersection than about establishing a pilot concept like this." Mr. Laufer didn't think it's a good location; he reminded that Anita Cerna [Planning Assistant, L.A. Department of City Planning (818-374-5042; www.planning@lacity.org)] "has been holding Meetings for three years about this kind of thing . . . It'd be nice to . . . stick with . . . a community plan."

Mr. Donnelly suggested Tabling this Item. Mr. Krall suggested that the Land Use Committee invite Ms. Cerna to meet with it in around two months after the new Board is seated. Ms. Jenkins "likes the idea." Mr. Krall volunteered to talk with Ms. Cerna. Mr. Bhakta reminded that he e-mailed the Board regarding the CRA [L.A. Community Redevelopment Agency] Meeting March 5<sup>th</sup> at the Sylmar Library and that Board Members have previously submitted comments to the CRA. Mr. Donnelly declared without objection that this Item is TABLED.

- 9. Discussion and possible action** to support the purchase of a space on the Sylmar High School Sports Poster for SNC Outreach.

Mr. Bhakta explained that the advertising company deadline date passed due to a miscommunication, so that this Item will not be pursued at this time.

## **New Business**

**10. Report and update** regarding status of SNC Funding and Budget as it pertains to the City of Los Angeles Budget Crisis.

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #14.] Mr. Kelly reported that the NC is “well within our Budget” and that it’s a challenge matching vendor paperwork because “DONE is around four months behind” in processing the paperwork. It was reported that the City has not yet determined NCs’ future annual funding level. There was discussion regarding previous SNC allocations and whether to make or incur additional expenses or allocations. Mr. Kelly noted “we don’t have any additional large expenditures coming up . . . [except the] horse rails” [“to support a Community Beautification matching grant project, between Glenoaks and Excelsior on Foothill Blvd., to remove existing burnt and old wooden horse rails and replace with pre-cast wood textured concrete fencing for Horse Rails to match existing ones south of Glenoaks, in the amount of \$5,000 towards labor and material,” approved September 24, 2009.]

**11. Discussion and possible action** to fill the vacant seat on the SNC Board of Directors in the category of Retail/ Business services.

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #10.] Stakeholder and former Board Member Esteban Tabarez introduced himself and described his qualities and desire to continue serving the community as an SNC Board Member. He’s a sales representative with his father for local fire protection systems. Mr. Donnelly relayed that Ms. Vo-Ramirez agrees with appointing Mr. Tabarez to the Board as a Retail Business category representative. The board congratulated Mr. Tabarez.

## **Recess**

At this time, Mr. Schopper left and Mr. Kelly arrived.

**12. Discussion and possible action** [see below Motion].

Virginia Corbin-Marinovich, [then] Director, Sylmar Recreation Center, distributed a flyer, introduced herself, and announced and requested support for a free “Spring Egg Hunt” at the Park [13109 Borden Ave., Sylmar; 818-367-5656] Saturday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. for one- to 12-year-olds in Sylmar. She announced that she’s retiring March 13<sup>th</sup> and noted that “Recreation and Parks is being hit hard by the [City] budget crisis . . . Paul Landavazo will be the Acting Director.”

**MOTION** (by Mr. Krall, seconded by Mr. Benitez): to support the Sylmar Recreation Center with Financial support in the amount of \$500 for supplies towards the annual Spring Egg Hunt event.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Donnelly noted that the SNC budget has funding available; the SNC has “spent about \$19,000 of the \$45,000 available this year.”

**MOTION PASSED** without any objections.

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

Mr. Krall described the Relay for Life, “an American Cancer Society fundraiser . . . 24-hour event . . . April 24-25, 9:00 a.m. Saturday to 9:00 a.m. Sunday . . . with public officials . . . a family and kids event . . . The goal is to have 30 teams and raise \$30,000.”

**MOTION** (by Mr. Krall, seconded by Ms. Meher): to support the Annual Sylmar Relay for Life fight against cancer with financial support in the amount of \$500 toward T-shirts and creating a relay team representing the SNC.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Krall noted that the SNC name will be on event materials.

**MOTION PASSED** without any objections; there was one abstention.

**14. Discussion and possible action** to support the following recommendations from the Land Use Committee regarding requests to permit:

- a) a wireless communications facility and tower behind church at 13425 Glenoaks Blvd.  
Mr. Krall said that this Item has been postponed to get more public comment.
- b) a wireless communications facility and tower behind church at 13261 Glenoaks Blvd.  
Mr. Krall said that this Item has been postponed to get more public comment.
- c) a wireless communications facility and tower behind business at 14110 Polk St.  
Mr. Krall said that this Item has been postponed to get more public comment.
- d) a wireless communications facility and tower at machine shop at 12725 Encinitas Ave.  
Mr. Ortega distributed documents regarding and Mr. Krall described the project. The Committee recommends conditional support; there's opposition from Stakeholders.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Krall, seconded by Mr. Reyes): for the SNC to support the wireless communications facility and tower at the machine shop at 12725 Encinitas Ave., with the condition that the owner make improvements on the north side of the building.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Krall added that a telecommunications company representative attended the Committee Meeting. There'd be a 12-foot antenna on top of a 60-foot building.

**CALL for the QUESTION** by Rick Donnelly.

**MOTION PASSED** with nine in favor; two abstained.

- e) the addition of 3 antennas to existing wireless-comm tower at 12689 Glenoaks Blvd.  
Mr. Krall described the project; a previous project at this location was approved.
- f) the co-location of additional panels and m-wave dishes on existing tower with additional cabinet at the base at 13040 Glenoaks Blvd.  
Mr. Krall said that this project has been postponed.
- g) the addition of 3 antennas to existing tower at business at 13903 Foothill Blvd.  
Mr. Krall said that this application was withdrawn.
- h) [See below Motion.]  
Mr. Ortega distributed documents regarding and Mr. Krall described the project of Stakeholder Jose Manzano. He described the Committee discussion and that Mr. Manzano assured he "wouldn't" and "doesn't want" illegal uses of structures in his neighborhood, and had neighbors' approval signatures.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Krall, seconded by Mr. Bhakta): The SNC supports a Zone Variance to continue use of Accessory Building larger than the main house, used as a 7-car garage and storage at 14815 W. Bledsoe St.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Krall described that it's an existing garage. Ms. Blose added that "this is not one of" the nearby houses that've had illegal uses; "he's not adding . . . facilities . . . so they won't be used for Accessory Dwelling Units."

**MOTION PASSED** with ten in favor; one abstained.

i) Conversion of an existing garage into a recreation room with side yard of 20 in. in lieu of 5 ft required; and to permit construction of carport for two cars attached to main residence with side yard of 1-foot in lieu of the 5 feet required, at 12706 Glenoaks Blvd.

Mr. Krall clarified that this Item was already addressed on a previous Agenda.

j) a proposed new drug store with pharmacy at 13769 Sayre St.

Mr. Krall said that this Item has been postponed.

Mr. Krall added that the next Land Use Committee Meeting will be March 22<sup>nd</sup> and that future Committee Meetings will be just before the monthly General Board Meetings.

#### **15. Board Member Comments**

Ms. Blose announced that most equestrian competition events have been cancelled due to the rains; there'll be Trail Trials April 18<sup>th</sup> at Stetson Ranch. Mr. Bhakta announced the next Outreach/Public Services Joint Committees Meeting March 9<sup>th</sup> at Sylmar Park. Mr. Laufer invited everyone to the February 25<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-8:30 p.m. NC Candidate Preparation Session at San Jose Elementary School. Ms. Meher thanked Mr. Donnelly for Chairing a good Meeting; she'll be out of the country during the next Meeting. Mr. Kelly announced a "going away party for Ms. Corbin-Marinovich March 10<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 at El Torito in the Sherman Oaks Galleria. Mr. Krall encouraged Chamber of Commerce participation. Mr. Reyes encouraged attending the next Public Services/Outreach Meeting, especially to "say goodbye to Jim" [Schopper].

#### **16. Next Meeting date, Future Agenda Items**

Mr. Donnelly announced that the next General Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, March 25th at 6:30 p.m. at a location to be determined.

#### **17. Closing Remarks, Announcements, Acknowledgements and Adjournment**

Mr. Donnelly declared and it was agreed with applause to **ADJOURN** the Meeting at 8:33 p.m.

Minutes written by DL.