

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Quyen Vo-Ramirez
VICE-PRESIDENTS: Hiral Bhakta and
Tammy Flores
TREASURER: Randall Kelly
PUBLIC RELATIONS: Nick Krall



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Minutes of the
SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (SNC)
GENERAL BOARD MEETING
Thursday, April 22, 2010

at Los Angeles Mission College, 13356 Eldridge Avenue, Sylmar, CA

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

President Quyen Vo-Ramirez called the meeting to order at 6:39 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

2. Roll Call

Roll Call was taken by the Secretary. Board Members present: Erlin Arellano, Ricardo Benitez, Hiral Bhakta, Cheri Blose, Hector Cabrera, Rick Donnelly, Tammy Flores, Randall Kelly, Nick Krall, Martin Laufer, Don Neal, George Ortega, Guillermo Reyes, Jeanne Rowe, Jan Sandstrom, Jim Schopper, Esteban Tabarez and Quyen Vo-Ramirez.

Board Members absent: Fabian Garcia (unexcused), Saul Gonzalez (unexcused), and Rudy Lopez (unexcused).

Eighteen of the 21 Board Members were present at this time. A quorum is 11 or more, so the Board could make Motions and take votes. Also attending were 35 Stakeholders and Guests.

3. Adoption of Minutes

MOTION (by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Donnelly): to approve the Minutes of the March 25, 2010 General Board Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED without any objections; Ms. Flores abstained.

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

Ms. Flores explained the above.

5. Welcome: L.A. Mission College President Judith Valles. Public Officials, Community Reps. and Board Member announcements and presentations.

Judith Valles, President, Los Angeles Mission College (818-364-7600; www.LAMission.edu), welcomed the NC and guests and made introductory remarks. She described successes of the College and students. Enrollment and the college are growing. There'll be a May 8th culinary arts Spring Festival. Ms. Vo-Ramirez explained that the Agenda shifted to accommodate the City's policy regarding seating the new Board.

Manny Figueras, Constituent Services Rep. for L.A. City District Seven Councilman Richard Alarcon (818-756-8409; Manny.Figueras@lacity.org), introduced Angelica Ayala, City of L.A. East Valley Director/Labor Liaison of Neighborhood & Community Services (213.618.6222; Angelica.Ayala@LACity.org). He announced that Councilman Alarcon allocated up to \$150,000 for LAPD Overtime at the Mission and Foothill Divisions. Melissa Zak is a new Mission Division Captain (818-838-9800; http://www.lapdonline.org/mission_community_police_station); Captain Hayakawa was transferred. The new Valley Chief is Kirk Albanese; Commander Villegas was transferred downtown. Also, there'll be a May 1st Sanitation Dept. Open House.

Angel Barnuevo, Field Deputy for State 20th District Senator Alex Padilla (818-901-5588; Angel.Barnuevo@sen.ca.gov), reported that the Senator is working on several bills for which he'll advise and request support, and he's working with the AQMD to do a lawnmower exchange program July 24th 9:00-3:00 at Pacoima Middle School; you can sign up online at www.AQMD.CA.gov.

Duran Villegas, Project Manager, East Valley Region, CRA (Community Redevelopment Agency) (818.753.1918; DVillegas@CRA.LACity.org), announced a Meeting May 4th, 5:00-7:30 p.m. at the LAPD Mission Station about an "update on . . . the Plan Amendment" through 2015.

[This report was given after the Item #8 election.] John Lonergan, LAPD Mission Division (west of Glenoaks Blvd.) Senior Lead Officer (Office 818-838-9848, Cell 818-634-0610; 31304@LAPD.LACity.org), reported that, over last year, "property crime is up 50% . . . violent crime [is] down. There'll be a Party Car starting next week" specifically dealing with parties; we need to stop them before they get violent.

6. Public Comments

Stakeholders Vivienne and Bruce Hartman, owners of Buffalo Bruce's Mercantile coffee and karaoke shop, a Sylmar landmark at 13661 Hubbard St. by Foothill Blvd. in Sylmar (818-362-8677; BuffaloBrucesMocha@yahoo.com), introduced themselves and described their business. For 20 years they've served smoked ribs, chicken and other food. The Pumpkin Man visits them in October, and they and Santa sell Christmas trees in December. They invited everyone to join them for a cup of coffee and also for their regular Friday night karaoke singing.

Ed Novy, Sunland-Tujunga NC Board Member and one of two North Valley NC Budget Advocates to the Mayor, introduced himself. The Advocates “meet with the Mayor two times per month . . . to work out the budget . . . funding for [NCs] for this [fiscal year July 1st, 2010 – June 30, 2011 will still be] \$45,000 . . . The Budget Advocates need your input to know what services you need.” He can be contacted at Ed.Novy@yahoo.com or Region4Rep2@stnc.org.

Stakeholder Mack Hunter, El Cajon St. Block Captain by the 5 Freeway, wanted “a better communication system [with neighborhood groups regarding] requests for permits or zoning changes.”

Stakeholder Sherry Lincoln announced the April 24-25 Relay for Life at Olive Vista Middle School and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory Open House May 15-16.

Stakeholder Eugene Hernandez was concerned about a proposed 50-unit development across from Mission College and he believed that Charter Schools don't accept handicapped and certain other students.

Stakeholder Paul Martinez, Owner, TrashbustersUSA (818.306.0105; TrashbustersUSA@yahoo.com), described the private non-profit organization's mission. He'll work with the NC's Public Services Committee. “Services will be offered free of charge” including for toxic and other recycling.

Stakeholder Sean Rivas, Granada Hills South NC Secretary and Outreach Committee Chair, introduced himself and relayed that an NCs “Mentoring Program . . . [is] looking for people in the NC system to mentor” incoming Board Members. He can be contacted at SRivas@ghsnc.org and “can forward information” to Program organizers. He invited everyone to the GHSNC [www.GHSNC.org] June 10th General Board Meeting, at which City Controller Wendy Greuel will speak.

Diana Shaw, 38th State Assembly District Candidate [www.ElectDianaShaw.com], introduced herself. She's an attorney and has done “a lot of grass-roots activism.”

Stakeholder Enrique Segura, a Sylmar High School student, introduced himself and offered to assist with community outreach.

7. Committee Reports

[This Item was addressed after Item #12.]

Secretary

The Secretary reported that flyers were distributed and other outreach was facilitated, and information was provided about voting in the March 27th Election.

Land Use

Mr. Krall reported that the Committee will meet each month on the Monday before the General Board Meeting, next on Monday May 24th. Also, the SNC has no official position on the Lopez Canyon Landfill Truck Drivers School project. The \$150,000

that Councilman Alarcon is allocating for LAPD Overtime at the Mission and Foothill Divisions is from the Landfill Fund to use before summer to “put more [police] cars and officers on the street . . . They have zero tolerance on loud and out of control parties . . . If the [partiers] have [a loudspeaker] . . . that’s something to call [the police] about.”

Outreach

Mr. Bhakta reported that the Committee will next meet on the usual second Tuesday May 11th at 6:30 at the Sylmar Recreation Center’s Susan B. Anthony Building Children’s Room along with the Public Services Committee. Seeing eye dog organization representatives will present at the next General Board Meeting.

Election Committee

Mr. Laufer read the City Clerk’s Election Certification letter and reported that seven Board positions are vacant; he described the categories available and requested agendizing appointments for the next General Board Meeting.

Events

Ms. Arellano was not present at this time and there was no report.

Public Services

Mr. Reyes announced the Committee’s joint Meeting Tuesday May 11th at 6:30 with the Outreach Committee.

Treasurer/Budget

Mr. Kelly distributed “[SNC] Budget 2009-2010” and “[SNC] Budget Reconciliation [2009-2010 Second Quarter]” handouts and reported that projected expenses for the second quarter [October-December 2009] were \$21,341.00; \$15,063.30 was spent, leaving a balance of \$6,277.70. The City will remove roll over funds. There’s \$23,491 available through June 30th.

Public Safety/Emergency Preparedness

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

Additional Reports, requested by the President

There were no additional reports.

New Business

8. Acknowledgements and recognition of 2008-2010 Board of Directors accomplishments.

Ms. Vo-Ramirez announced that State Assemblyman Fuentes’ Office issued Certificates of Appreciation for Board Members. The Certificates were presented and it was noted that the SNC was voted the NC of the year. There was a fundraiser to which \$14,000 was pledged and other community projects, including beautification and cleanup. The NC organized 80-170 youths to assist. “Around 80% of the budget goes to community improvement and outreach . . . [with] no pay to [Board

Members] . . . We don't pay a fee to have an office [that] we have in partnership with L.A. Recreation and Parks . . . After the Sylmar Fires . . . we took care of" the community . . . had a "Community Appreciation Day" . . . that was hosted and partnered with elected officials . . . [and] served over 700 people."

She introduced Granada Hills South NC President Dave Beauvais and thanked outgoing Board Members. Ms. Sandstrom described that the "speed hump program" has been discontinued by the L.A. Dept. of Transportation; she read a letter from them that is highly complimentary of the SNC. There'll be a May 7th event at First United Methodist Church with "best practices for leading . . . [and] phenomenal speakers." She added that "it's been a pleasure serving on this Board." Ms. Meher said she "plans on still being involved in the [NC] and the community." Mr. Donnelly "appreciated working with" [the Board] and encouraged youth involvement.

Mr. Krall described the April 24-25 Relay for Life as having "30 teams . . . raising a lot of money . . . a ton of fun" and encouraged community and local business involvement. He announced a Chamber of Commerce lunch April 27th at Caruso's Restaurant at 11:30 and that the Sylmar Neighborhood Partnership for Education meets on second Thursdays at Sylmar High School. Also, there're two local Farmer's Markets and the Buffalo Bruce's "Friday night karaoke is `a hoot'." There'll be a service Wednesday for Ms. Blose's husband. He encouraged everyone to "take care of each other . . . enjoy Sylmar . . . There're horse riders . . . the Sylmar Hanggliders Association . . . [and] baseball and softball leagues."

Mr. Cabrera thanked Board Members, especially Ms. Arellano, for support and assistance. Ms. Blose thanked "everyone for the outpouring of support." Ms. Arellano said "it's been a wonderful experience serving this community." Mr. Benitez expressed appreciation to Board Members, encouraged Stakeholder participation and described the NC's purpose. Ms. Flores thanked outgoing Board Members.

9. Recognition of Newly Elected Board of Directors. Election of 2010-2011 Executive Board Members. Passing of the gavel.

Ms. Vo-Ramirez re-introduced Mr. Beauvais, who described the Executive Board election procedure and thanked Ms. Arellano and other youth participants. Mr. Rivas called the names of newly elected Board Members, who gathered for photos. Mr. Beauvais administered the NC Oath of Office and turned over Executive Board nominations oversight to Ms. Valles.

For President:

Mr. Cabrera nominated Ms. Flores.

Mr. Ortega nominated Ms. Vo-Ramirez.

Mr. Bhakta nominated Mr. Kelly, who declined the nomination.

Ms. Flores received four votes; Ms. Vo-Ramirez received seven votes. Ms. Valles congratulated Ms. Vo-Ramirez.

For Vice-President of Administration:

Mr. Ortega nominated Mr. Bhakta.

Mr. Krall nominated Ms. Flores.

Mr. Laufer nominated Mr. Krall.

Mr. Bhakta received six votes; Ms. Flores received five votes; Mr. Krall received two votes. Ms. Valles congratulated Mr. Bhakta.

For Vice-President of Communications:

Mr. Reyes nominated Ms. Flores.

Mr. Ortega nominated Mr. Tabarez.

Mr. Tabarez received four votes; Ms. Flores received seven votes. Ms. Valles congratulated Ms. Flores.

For Treasurer:

Ms. Flores nominated Mr. Kelly. There were no other nominations. Ms. Valles congratulated Mr. Kelly.

For Public Relations Coordinator:

Mr. Bhakta nominated Mr. Benitez.

Ms. Flores nominated Mr. Krall.

Mr. Kelly nominated Mr. Tabarez.

Mr. Benitez received three votes; Mr. Krall received four votes; Mr. Tabarez received three votes. Ms. Valles congratulated Mr. Krall.

Ms. Vo-Ramirez thanked Mr. Beauvais for assistance and welcomed Don Neal, the newest Board Member [elected at the March 27th Election].

10. Farmer's Market Presentation by Los Angeles Mission College, Sylmar Business Improvement District, Sylmar Chamber of Commerce and Sylmar Neighborhood Council.

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Officer Lonergan's Item #5 report.] Ms. Flores introduced Al Avila, President, Sylmar Business Improvement District (BID) (818-807-9651) and described the process of the Market coming to Mission College. Mr. Avila distributed a "Sylmar Certified Farmer's Market at Mission College" handout, described the Manager interview process and introduced Mark Rochin, owner of Coastal Pacific, who described his background as a farmer and that the Market will start June 26th. He described other Farmer's Markets his company runs: "a place for the community to come to . . . Certified by the State Agriculture Commissioner that each farmer" grew their own food [which will be] "as diverse as possible . . . Local artisans will bring their art . . . [There'll be] children's activities . . . [and] informational booths . . . Musicians will change . . . It's a stepping stone for small businesses." Booth costs vary by category and they're "very open to non-profits." Ms. Flores described that "some of the moneys going to the Farmer's

Market will go toward college scholarships . . . at Mission College.” Mr. Avila added that the Mission College “Culinary Arts Program” and other local programs and businesses “will have booths.”

11. Appointment of Committee Chairs by the President.

Ms. Vo-Ramirez asked and the Board agreed to keep Mr. Krall and Mr. Ortega as Land Use Committee Co-Chairs at least for now. They accepted their appointments. She’d “like to hear from” Board Members about their interests.

- 12. Discussion and possible action** to support a Land Use Committee recommendation regarding a Permit request for a zone change from RA-1 to RD-1.5-1 to build up to 30 units at 13211 W. Hubbard St.
Mr. Krall requested and it was agreed to TABLE this Item.

13. Board Member Comments

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #7.] Mr. Laufer was “happy to be working on the Board again . . . [and is] looking forward to the next two years.” Ms. Blose announced that the Trail Trials went well and invited the public. Mr. Cabrera “has a lot of ideas . . . for working with the youth.” Mr. Krall encouraged participating with the Board. Mr. Bhakta thanked people for their support during his recent illness. Mr. Reyes “looks forward to working with everybody . . . We are a team . . . We need to be involved in some committee.” Ms. Rowe encouraged attending the Outreach Committee Meetings on second Tuesdays at 6:30 at the Recreation Center. Mr. Ortega was “encouraged by . . . Board Members’ . . . commitment to the coming year.” Mr. Neal announced a “Sylmar High School Community event” in June and said “it’s really an honor and a privilege to be here.”

14. Next Meeting date, future Agenda Items

Ms. Vo-Ramirez announced that the next General Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 27th, possibly again at Mission College. She encouraged Board Members to e-mail Agenda requests to her.

15. Closing Remarks, Announcements, Acknowledgements and Adjournment

Ms. Vo-Ramirez declared and the Board agreed to **ADJOURN** the Meeting at 9:18 p.m.

Minutes written by DL.