

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



SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
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Minutes of the
SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (SNC)
GENERAL BOARD MEETING
Thursday, May 27, 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 6:42 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

2. Roll Call

Roll Call was taken by the Secretary. Board Members present: Ricardo Benitez, Hiral Bhakta, Cheri Blose, Hector Cabrera, Don Neal, Tammy Flores, Randall Kelly (late), Nick Krall, Martin Laufer, George Ortega and Quyen Vo-Ramirez.

Board Members absent: Guillermo Reyes, Jeanne Rowe and Esteban Tabarez (all excused).

Ten of the 14 Board Members were present at the beginning of the Meeting, which is not a quorum. A quorum is 11, so the business of the Council was limited to discussions without any Motions being introduced, votes taken or decisions made, until after an 11th Board Member, Randall Kelly, arrived to make a quorum and the business of the Council could be conducted. Also attending were approximately 40 Stakeholders and Guests.

3. Adoption of Minutes

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

MOTION (by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Ms. Flores): to approve the Minutes of the April 22, 2010 General Board Meeting as written.

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), distributed "Discover Recycling," "LADWP News" Press Release," "Compstat: Mission Area Profile" and "Memorial Day Observance" Pioneer Cemetery" flyers and announced that Officer Chacon would be away until early July. The LAPD Senior Lead Officers Summit discussed graffiti, and illegal dumping and vendors. There'll be a Memorial Day service May 31st at 11:00 at Pioneer Cemetery. The DWP changed the mandatory water conservation schedule to have watering by even- and odd-numbered addresses, and they fired two employees for drinking and driving; four others are being investigated.

Duran Villegas, Project Manager, East Valley Region, CRA (Community Redevelopment Agency) (818-753-1918; DVillegas@CRA.LACity.org), announced a lighting project and distributed a "CRA/LA Activity Report 05/27/2010."

Veronica Aguirre, Latino Jobs Coalition (323-573-2357; Aguirre.V.R@gmail.com; www.LatinoJobsCoalition.com), distributed "Latino Jobs Coalition: What People Are Saying About the Ratepayer Revolt!" flyers and described the "Coalition . . . [of] ratepayers . . . [They] have a petition . . . increases over the next four years would be around 37% . . . [they] want the City Council to oppose the increases."

Richelle Goldilla, Supervisor, VIC Seniors Nutrition Program (310-968-4022; RGoldilla@vic-la.org) at the Sylmar Recreation Center, distributed "VIC Senior Nutrition Program Hot Lunch" flyers and described the Program "for seniors 60 years and over . . . The suggested donation is \$2.50 . . . [The Program is] certified . . . [and] budgeted by the [City] Department of Aging . . . [They] need help [with] community outreach . . . The Program can be ended soon because of the lack of participation." Lunches are served Mondays-Fridays at 11:30 a.m. To sign up contact Mary Wilson at (818) 362-9175. Ms. Vo-Ramirez requested Ms. Goldilla to "forward a flyer to put on [the SNC] website."

Ms. Flores described the new Farmers Market coming to L.A. Mission College and co-sponsored by the SNC. It starts June 26th and will be there every Saturday from 9:00 – 1:00. Posters are available.

Mr. Krall announced that "May is New Membership Month for the Chamber of Commerce . . . Check the www.SylmarChamber.com website or contact" Nick.Krall@SylmarNC.org or Cheri.Blose@SylmarNC.org. Also, Friday, June 18th at Tia Chuchas guest band Continuum, with Mr. Krall, will play.

Mr. Laufer announced that at a recent Neighborhood Watch Meeting "the major topic of discussion was the landfill" behind the hospital. There's "concern about the mountains of dirt . . . We're putting a Town Hall Meeting together." He encouraged letting the SNC know of your interest.

6. Public Comments

Nancy Woodruff, of the Foothill Trails District NC, distributed an “Open Space Variance Appeal of the Lopez Canyon Truck Driver Training School Variance” handout, noting that regarding the “septic Ordinance . . . in [Council District] Seven there’re . . . over 1,200 septic systems . . . [Homeowners] will have to pay . . . fees and be certified . . . [It’s] an ongoing issue” that could cost homeowners \$35,000 - \$150,000.” Her area has had five “standing room only” Meetings at which the “general consensus of the public is that this is a way for the City to get money.” Ms. Vo-Ramirez said the SNC “will put [Ms. Woodruff] in touch with Hiral Bhakta.”

Diana Shaw, 38th State Assembly District Candidate (661-367-2434; Info@ElectDianaShaw.com; www.ElectDianaShaw.com), introduced herself.

Stakeholder John Holmes reported that debris basin dirt is being tracked to above Sylmar behind the hospital. There’re “pictures available . . . The project is going to be ongoing . . . They’re proposing to . . . sit down with the community agencies involved . . . [regarding the drainage] plan . . . [After a recent] tenth of an inch of rain . . . the east side of the pile was sliding down.” Mr. Bhakta commented that the NC is “quite aware of the situation” and described SNC efforts dealing with it. Mr. Holmes said “the Neighborhood Watch would appreciate the opportunity to join forces” with the SNC.

Mark Reed, 27th Congressional District Candidate (818.353.8777; www.MarkReedForCongress.com), introduced himself and described his background and local concerns such as unemployment.

7. Committee Reports

Secretary

The Secretary reported that many communications were forwarded and/or acted upon, including requests to be agendaized for this Meeting, Candidates for open Board seats, land use applications, communications from elected officials’ staff, a Sayre Fire film documentarian, website revisions, this Meeting location, and more.

Land Use

Mr. Krall reported that the Committee met and 12 Stakeholders attended. Project applications were discussed, including for the Arco gas station/car wash at 15000 Olive View Drive; the Committee will agendaize this to support the expansion. They also discussed the Lopez Canyon landfill Truck Driving School proposal; the Committee voted to support an appeal of such use. Septic tanks issues were also discussed. At its June 21st 6:30 p.m. Meeting at the Sylmar Recreation Center’s Susan B. Anthony Building the Committee will discuss the Charter High School project. Mr. Neal had distributed an “SNC Education Report – The Charter School Movement in Los Angeles.”

Outreach

Mr. Bhakta said that there was no report.

Election Committee

Mr. Laufer reported that the SNC is “compliant” with current rules.

Events

There was no report.

Public Services

Ms. Vo-Ramirez reported that Mr. Reyes was unable to attend this Meeting and there was no report.

Public Safety/Emergency Preparedness

Mr. Laufer reported that the LAPD Senior Lead Officers summit was “well-attended” and discussed “how the community can be involved . . . A reward program” exists for reporting crime, including a \$1,000 reward for information leading to an arrest and conviction for graffiti or illegal dumping.

Mr. Kelly arrived at this time, which made a quorum, so that Motions could be introduced, votes taken and decisions made.

Additional Reports, requested by the President

There were no additional reports.

Treasurer/Budget

See below Item #11.

New Business

8. Discussion and possible action [See below Motion].

Javier Lujan, Teacher, Student Council Advisor and sports Coach, Options for Youth Charter School, introduced himself. Youth 4 Unity is “a community event for students to exhibit their talents . . . The past two events were festivals. This year . . . [it’ll be] an expo.” He’s also “collaborating to bring a Youth Conference to” L.A. Mission College. Students described components of the expo, invited the SNC to have a booth and requested \$500 funding. Former SNC Board Member Erlin Arellano expressed support for them and described that she started her community involvement with Youth 4 Unity, “a life-changing experience.”

MOTION (by Mr. Cabrera, seconded by Mr. Bhakta): to support the 3rd Annual Youth 4 Unity Expo on June 12, 2010 at Los Angeles Mission College, with financial partnership up to \$500.00 towards food.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Kelly said that the NC is okay regarding the budget.

MOTION PASSED with nine in favor and Mr. Ortega opposed.

9. Discussion and possible action [See below Motion].

Shane Coleman, of Heroes for Life, described the Program that teaches youth audio/video skills. They’ve “supported a number of events” and other organizations in the community. The event will be held August 20-22, not June 25-27 as originally

planned. There'll be a "classic car show . . . circus . . . job fair . . . [and] youth marketplace." They "offer to the [NC] a 60-second public announcement . . . booth space . . . [and] two five-minute spots to make announcements from the stage." It'll cost "\$12,000 for the lights and sound . . . the \$500 would go toward the sound stage and lighting."

MOTION (by Ms. Flores, seconded by Mr. Bhakta): to support the Heal My Neighborhood annual event August 20-22, 2010 at El Cariso Park, with financial partnership up to \$500.00.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Flores and Mr. Krall expressed support for the organization and the cause.

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

MOTION PASSED with nine in favor and Mr. Ortega opposed.

Mr. Coleman offered entertainment for the Farmers Market. Ms. Vo-Ramirez asked him to contact Ms. Flores.

10. Discussion and possible action [See below Motion].

Kim Galvan, Sylmar Heights Neighborhood Watch Block Captain (818-367-3487; tuckherinn@ca.rr.com), described previous cleanups and this one, and that they're doing more advertising for this year's event. They're asking for support for food and banners. Ms. Vo-Ramirez noted that the "SNC holds quarterly cleanups around the community" at which 75-150 youth participate, described previous cleanup logistical challenges and expressed support for the event.

MOTION (by Mr. Bhakta, seconded by Mr. Kelly): to support the Sylmar Heights Neighborhood Watch annual Spring Cleanup July 10, 2010 with financial partnership up to \$500.00 towards meals for volunteers and two banners.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Laufer expressed concern regarding supporting different Neighborhood Watches and the need for a plan. Ms. Vo-Ramirez noted that "it's a first-come, first-serve" situation for organizations seeking support, and that last year's SNC beautification budget was unused.

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

MOTION PASSED with seven in favor; Mr. Laufer and Mr. Ortega opposed, and Mr. Neal abstained.

11. Discussion and possible action [See below Motion].

Mr. Kelly distributed an "[SNC] Proposed Budget 2010-2011" and announced that the City is "still proposing to give [NCs] \$45,000 [funding] per year." He described potential budget allocations and that "the City took the [NC's] rollover funds." He's "working on a June 9th reconciliation" and the SNC "will be close to spending [its]

\$45,000 [allocation from the City] from last year.” He described possible encumbered funds.

MOTION (by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Laufer): to support the 2010-2011 SNC Budget as proposed by Randall Kelly, Treasurer.

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

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote.

Recess

12. Presentation and discussion on www.SylmarNC.org website proposed changes and update on Stakeholder database.

Ms. Flores announced that “Spanish translation” is available on the website and described working with the Outreach Committee and the SNC Webmaster to increase website traffic, user-friendliness and the Stakeholder database. She’ll be reporting on this and encouraged suggestions for improvements.

13. Discussion and possible action to support the following recommendations from the Land Use Committee regarding requests to permit:
Mr. Ortega distributed documentation regarding below Items and Mr. Krall described that some organizations are allowing wireless telecommunication facilities [WTFs] on properties to earn around \$1,000-\$3,000 per month; concerns were expressed regarding electromagnetic radiation, though studies so far indicate they’re safe.

a) 13261 Glenoaks Blvd. CUP [See below Motion].

MOTION (by Mr. Krall, seconded by Ms. Blose): to support installation of a WTF housed in a 15’ 15’ structure with a 45’ high monopole at rear of church on a 60,236 s.f. lot. on the condition applicant shall construct a 20’ radius curb return at intersection of Glenoaks Blvd. and El Casco St.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Krall noted that a “public vote at the [Committee Meeting] was in support.” Mr. Ortega and Mr. Krall described traffic mitigations.

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

MOTION PASSED with eight in favor; Mr. Bhakta and Mr. Neal abstained.

b) 13425 Glenoaks Blvd. CUP [See below Motion.]
Mr. Krall described the project.

MOTION (by Mr. Krall, seconded by Mr. Laufer): to support installation of a WTF with a 45’ monopole at rear of church on a 120,742 s.f. lot.

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

MOTION PASSED with seven in favor; Mr. Bhakta and Mr. Neal abstained.

c) 14110 Polk St. CUP [See below Motion.]

Mr. Krall described the project and traffic concerns; the Committee requested the applicant to “give up . . . their easement . . . [and have] that street widened.”

MOTION (by Mr. Krall, seconded by Mr. Laufer): to support installation of a WTF with a 50’ monopole at rear of commercial property on a 5,204 s.f. lot. on the condition applicant shall dedicate right of way and construct improvements on Polk St. and Foothill Blvd.

DISCUSSION: Concern was expressed regarding artificial palm fronds falling. Mr. Laufer would like the applicant to clean graffiti on the property.

AMENDMENT to the MOTION (by Mr. Krall): to also request that the applicant clean graffiti on the property.

AMENDED MOTION PASSED with six in favor and Mr. Bhakta opposed; Mr. Kelly and Mr. Neal abstained.

14. Discussion and possible action to fill the vacant seats of the Sylmar Neighborhood Council Board of Directors.

Ms. Vo-Ramirez asked Candidates to each speak for up to two minutes. Candidates Rosemary Jenkins, Liz Meher, Enrique Segura and Roy Smith described their background, qualifications and desire to work for the community.

Ms. Flores nominated Ms. Jenkins to the Board representing the Senior category.

The Board **ACCEPTED** the nomination by a unanimous hand vote.

Mr. Cabrera nominated Mr. Segura to the Board representing the Youth category.

The Board **ACCEPTED** the nomination by a unanimous hand vote.

Mr. Kelly nominated Mr. Smith to the Board representing the Homeowner category.

The Board **ACCEPTED** the nomination by a unanimous hand vote.

Mr. Laufer nominated Ms. Meher to the Board representing the Community-Based Organizations category.

The Board **ACCEPTED** the nomination by a unanimous hand vote.

Ms. Vo-Ramirez encouraged the new Board Members to sit with the Board at the next General Board Meeting and asked them to contact Mr. Krall for name badges and nameplates.

15. Appointment of Committee Chairs by the President.

[This Agenda Item was addressed after the Item #7 Public Safety/Emergency Preparedness report.] Ms. Vo-Ramirez asked each Board Member on which Committee they're serving. They stated the following: Ms. Blose, Land Use; Mr. Cabrera, not on a Committee; Mr. Benitez, Outreach; Mr. Laufer, Election, and Public Service; Mr. Krall, Land Use; Ms. Flores, Public Safety/Emergency Preparedness; Mr. Bhakta, Budget; Mr. Kelly, Budget; Mr. Ortega, Land Use; and Mr. Neal, Ms. Vo-Ramirez said he'll be joining a Committee shortly.

[This Agenda Item was finished being addressed after Item #14.] Ms. Vo-Ramirez relayed that Mr. Reyes asked that Mr. Neal Co-Chair the Public Services Committee with him. Mr. Neal accepted.

Ms. Vo-Ramirez asked Mr. Laufer and he accepted to Chair the Election Committee.

Mr. Cabrera expressed interest in working on an Education Committee. Ms. Vo-Ramirez indicated she'll agendize this for the next General Board Meeting.

16. Board Member Comments

Mr. Bhakta reported that the unapproved Minutes of the Outreach/Public Services Joint Committee Meeting will be submitted to the Secretary and encouraged submitting Agenda items to the full Executive Board. Ms. Flores thanked the College and sound equipment Manager, and reminded about the June 26th Farmers Market Grand Opening. Mr. Krall is working to increase connections between the Chamber of Commerce, the SNC and other organizations. Mr. Benitez thanked Mr. Kelly for his budget work.

Mr. Cabrera announced that the Buckeye Neighborhood Watch has "seen a decline in crime and graffiti . . . Manny Figueras" [of City Council District Seven] has helped. Ms. Vo-Ramirez described a June 3rd Adopt-a-Block sponsored by LAPD Senior Lead Officers and Neighborhood Watches, and announced the June 3rd Sylmar Community Showcase at Sylmar High School and the August 3rd National Night Out; contact the Board to participate. Ms. Blose announced that ETI is closing its local office "for economic reasons"; the organization and newsletters will continue.

17. Next Meeting date, Future Agenda Items

Ms. Vo-Ramirez encouraged submitting Agenda items. The next General Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, June 24th at 6:30 p.m. at a place to be determined.

18. Closing Remarks, Announcements, Acknowledgements and Adjournment

Ms. Vo-Ramirez **ADJOURNED** the Meeting without objection at 8:51 p.m.

Minutes written by DL.