

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, June 24, 2010

at L.A. Lutheran Middle/High School (Main Auditorium), 13570 Eldridge Ave., Sylmar

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

President Quyen Vo-Ramirez called the meeting to order at 6:37 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: Ricardo Benitez, Hiral Bhakta, Cheri Blose (late), Hector Cabrera, Don Neal, Tammy Flores, Rosemary Jenkins, Randall Kelly, Nick Krall, Martin Laufer, George Ortega, Guillermo Reyes, Jeanne Rowe, Enrique Segura, Roy Smith, Esteban Tabarez and Quyen Vo-Ramirez. Board Members absent: Liz Meher (excused).

Sixteen of the 18 Board Members were present at this time. A quorum is 11, so the Board could make Motions and take votes. Also attending were 35 Stakeholders and Guests.

3. Adoption of Minutes

Approval of the Minutes was Tabled until the next [July 22nd] General Board Meeting.

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 June 27th, 10:00 – 5:00 at the Sylmar Independent Baseball Field on Harding there'll be a Classic Car Show. Also, July 4th starting at 3:00 at Hansen Dam there'll be an Independence Day event with fireworks. New Sylmar Library (818-367-6102; <http://www.lapl.org/branches/Branch.php?bID=54>) hours starting July 6th at Polk St. and Glenoaks Blvd. will be Tuesdays-Saturdays, closed Mondays and Sundays.

John Lonergan, LAPD Mission Division (west of Glenoaks Blvd.) Senior Lead Officer (Office 818-838-9848, Cell 818-634-0610; 31304@LAPD.LACity.org; http://www.lapdonline.org/mission_community_police_station), distributed an “[LAPD] News Release” and noted that fellow Senior Lead Officer Charles Chacon’s territory is east of Glenoaks. Violent crime is down; property crime is up, mostly burglary and theft. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays are the busiest, mostly from 12:00 midnight – 6:00 a.m. and increasingly during the day. The Police are doing increasing truancy checks.

Yolanda Anguiano, District Representative for State 39th District Assemblyman Felipe Fuentes (818-504-3911; Yolanda.Anguiano@asm.ca.gov), announced that Lakeside Park may get Prop 84 future project funding. She reminded about the June 26th 9:00-1:00 Farmers Market opening at L.A. Mission College.

Angel Barnuevo, Field Deputy for State 20th District Senator Alex Padilla (818-901-5588; Angel.Barnuevo@sen.ca.gov), reported that the Senator is also working on Lakeside Park getting Prop 84 future project funding. He distributed a State “Budget Guide” and flyer for a lawnmower exchange program July 24th 9:00-3:00 at Pacoima Middle School; you can sign up online at www.AQMD.CA.gov. The Governor signed the Senator’s Body Armor Bill for law enforcement. Senate Bill 1440 would be to increase student transfer rates.

Officer Lonergan continued that Sylmar High School has its own police officers. LAPD resources are stretched to cover the Mission Division’s 13 square miles. The two groups have connected for enforcement regarding the most common drugs “ecstasy and marijuana.” This area generally experiences less violent crime than some other nearby communities and Neighborhood Watches help reduce property crime, include identity theft.

Mr. Laufer reminded that Board Members can’t nominate or support Board or Committee candidates outside of a publically Noticed Meeting. Ms. Jenkins alerted that she received an unsolicited call asking for credit card information. Ms. Flores thanked Mr. Cabrera for his translating help, Stakeholder Jan Sandstrom, who provided excellent outreach materials, and Sylmar Business Improvement District President Al Avila (818-807-9651) for supporting the Farmers Market. She explained that El Cariso Park has “a Business Fair, not a Farmers Market” as at L.A. Mission College. Mr. Neal announced that Sylmar High School has a 92% attendance rate and clarified that students there do not have lockers.

Ms. Vo-Ramirez thanked Councilman Alarcon for seeking funding for locking mailboxes to help prevent identity theft. She announced a July 10th Cleanup in Sylmar Heights sponsored by the SNC, City Council District Seven and the LAPD Mission Division, and described cleanup equipment and effort.

6. Public Comments

Melanie McShane, Mission Area Community Police Advisory Board (CPAB) Civilian Co-Chair (818-599-1589; Melanie.McShane@olsonmax.com), announced a Community Appreciation Day tentatively scheduled for October 28th. She asked the SNC for “participation [and] support” and they’re “working with other NCs.”

Bob Arnold, of the Foothill Trails District NC, announced FTDNC General Board Meetings every third monthly Thursdays and encouraged also attending Hansen Dam Advisory Board Meetings on every month’s last Tuesday.

7. Committee Reports

Secretary

The Secretary reported on communications including requests to be agendized for this Meeting, land use applications, about the septic tanks Ordinance, the Farmers Market starting Saturday at L.A. Mission College, website revisions, this Meeting location, and more. SNC Election records were brought from the City Clerk’s Office to the SNC Office. E-mail accounts were set up and are working for new Board Members. More e-mail addresses are being added to the Stakeholder database.

Land Use

Mr. Ortega distributed documentation regarding below #12 Items.

Outreach

Ms. Rowe invited everyone to “bring their ideas and suggestions” to the Committee’s second Tuesdays [6:30] Meetings at Sylmar Recreation Center.

Election Committee

Mr. Laufer reported that the City Clerk’s Office will hold “follow up Meetings . . . to get feedback on how the elections went.”

Events

The Chairperson will be announced.

Public Services

Mr. Reyes reported that the Committee didn’t meet last month but will meet July 13th at 6:30 with the Outreach Committee.

Public Safety/Emergency Preparedness

The Chairperson will be announced.

Additional Reports, requested by the President

There were no additional reports.

Tabled

8. **Discussion, planning and possible action** to support a Town Hall re: dumping behind Olive View Hospital, impact and effects to Olive View Dr. and local residents. Mr. Reyes reported that a letter hasn't yet been written by the SNC regarding the dumping. Mr. Krall toured the dumping area and reported that the County "has built their own roads . . . It's no longer about the noise and pollution of trucks; it's about the plan for our hills and canyons . . . They're building new mountains . . . Canyons have been filled in" and the number of culverts has been reduced. Mr. Laufer relayed that a County representative indicated that they're willing to have a Town Hall Meeting at Olive View Hospital. Ms. Vo-Ramirez said "there needs to be an Environmental Impact Report" and urged the Land Use, Public Services and Outreach Committees to work together on a Town Hall Meeting as soon as possible.

New Business

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

Paul Darrigo, L.A. Animal Services Dept. volunteer (323-244-8020; fedguy2@pacbell.net), introduced himself and described that, currently, there're two Reserve Animal Control Officers to cover from Sylmar to San Pedro. They want to train 10 new volunteer Officers at a total cost of \$15,000 (\$1,500 each). The Officers would be available for the entire area, not based in Sylmar. So far, three NCs are supportive.

MOTION (by Ms. Blose, seconded by Mr. Krall): to support the \$1,500 cost to train 10 new volunteer Officers for the Reserve Animal Control to assist with rescue, abuse and lost animals, etc.

DISCUSSION: Stakeholder Johanna Vickrey noted that Post Office letter carriers are already turning in dog owners for not getting dog tags.

AMENDED MOTION (by Ms. Blose, seconded by Mr. Krall): to allocate \$750 to help train one new volunteer Reserve Animal Control Officer to assist with rescue, abuse and lost animals, etc.

AMENDED MOTION PASSED with nine in favor, three opposed and three abstained.

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

Mr. Tabarez described that the SNC would get a booth and parking passes.

MOTION (by Mr. Tabarez, seconded by Ms. Jenkins): to support the 4th of July event at Hansen Dam with financial partnership in the amount of \$1,000 toward the sound system expense.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Tabarez believed this "could help our community . . . Several Stakeholders have attended" the event and SNC Meetings. Mr. Laufer and Ms. Flores were concerned regarding Sylmar benefits of supporting the event. Mr.

Bhakta was concerned about the late request for support. Mr. Benitez suggested that the event can be used to invite people to Sylmar.

AMENDED MOTION (by Mr. Tabarez, seconded by Ms. Jenkins): to support the 4th of July event at Hansen Dam with financial partnership in the amount of \$500 toward the sound system expense.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Tabarez will have an SNC flyer ready for approval at next month's General Board Meeting. Mr. Kelly emphasized creating something reusable for Outreach, not event flyers. Mr. Tabarez, Ms. Rowe, Mr. Benitez, Mr. Krall and Mr. Cabrera volunteered to plan next year's SNC participation in the event.

AMENDED MOTION PASSED with seven in favor, six opposed and two abstained.

Ms. Vo-Ramirez asked Mr. Tabarez to coordinate with City Council District Seven for next year's event.

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

Stakeholder Jacky Walker, of the San Fernando Valley Historical Society (818-365-7810; <http://www.sfvhs.com>), distributed a "Buy a Tribute or Memorial Brick" flyer and asked for support to use "ground-penetrating radar to find lost graves at the Cemetery . . . [which was] established in 1874 . . . We have a lot of history there." Engraved bricks are for sale at \$50 each to help fund the project. A Memorial Day Observance there was attended by 300 people.

MOTION (by Ms. Jenkins, seconded by Mr. Reyes): to support the Pioneer Cemetery in Sylmar with financial partnership of \$50 towards a brick for the purpose of Outreach and encourage Stakeholders to support the Cemetery.

DISCUSSION: An application is at their <http://www.sfvhs.com> website to purchase a brick by cash or check.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote.

Recess.

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

- a) CAFOS appeal of approved industrial use of Lopez Canyon Landfill for Truck Driving Academy.
[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #12) b).]

MOTION (by Mr. Krall, seconded by Mr. Ortega): to support an appeal by the Community Alliance for Open Space (CAFOS) of an approved industrial use of the Lopez Canyon Landfill for a Truck Driving Academy.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Krall reported that the Committee and attending Stakeholders voted 11 in favor with two abstentions to support the appeal. Ms. Jenkins described a need for such training and environmental mitigation measures to be used at the site. Robert Lamishaw, JPL Zoning Services (818-781-0016; <http://www.JPLZoning.com>), showed maps and described the project, saying that Lopez Canyon has 660 acres, including “440 acres of” buffer zone. “Two-thirds is planned to start being opened up as recreational open space . . . The Truck Driving Academy . . . takes up a miniscule amount of space . . . The one-and-a-half acres where [the Academy] would be can’t be used for [open space] . . . It’s already being used for similar activities.”

Marlene Radar and Linda Hornick of CAFOS (www.SunlandTujungaAlliance.com) introduced themselves; Ms. Radar stated that the Academy “violates . . . the General Plan . . . by changing open space zoning to industrial use.” Ms. Hornick added that a number of other NCs support the appeal. Mr. Krall believed that this is about not allowing the City to violate the Plan and set a precedent. Mr. Bhakta added that Sylmar Stakeholders “have suffered” because of such actions and precedents.

MOTION PASSED with seven in favor, one opposed and seven abstained.

- b) 15000 Olive [View] Dr. for a two-story addition and extension on existing [Arco, not Chevron] carwash.
[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #12) c).] Mr. Krall explained that it was not necessary for the owners to appear or request support; they did it “to be good neighbors of the community.” He described structure changes; the Committee and attending Stakeholders unanimously supported it.

MOTION (by Mr. Krall, seconded by Ms. Flores): to support a two-story addition and extension on an existing Arco carwash at 15000 Olive View Dr.

MOTION PASSED with 17 in favor; one abstained.

- c) Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation septic tanks implementation of AB 885 potentially costing homeowners “Big Bucks.”
[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #12) f).] Mr. Krall explained that “it’s a fluid situation . . . The Bureau of Sanitation will be recommending” to the community.” Doug Walters, Assistant Division Manager, L.A. Bureau of Sanitation, Wastewater Engineering Services Division (213-485-0577; Doug.Walters@LACity.org), distributed a “Proposed Ordinance for Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS)” handout; a “Fact Sheet: Proposed OWTS Ordinance Summary” and charts, and a “City of [L.A.] On-Site Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS)” map. He described that the OWTS issue “dates back to 1952.” They began working on the issue in 2004; “10-20% of septic tanks leak . . . Testing sessions are scheduled for late July and

August.” Hyginus Mmeje, Sanitation Wastewater Manager, L.A. Bureau of Sanitation, Water Quality & Systemwide Issues (323-342-6241; Hyginus.Mmeje@LACity.org), described that, under the proposed legislation, people would “self-certify; it would be more or less an honor” system. The Bureau “is not adding anything new” to the “existing City requirement.” It was agreed that Bureau staff will also speak at next month’s General Board Meeting.

- d) Proposed construction of a charter school at 13245 Hubbard St.
[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #12) a).] Ms. Vo-Ramirez suggested and it was agreed to TABLE this Item to be agendized for the next General Board Meeting. She reminded that information can be distributed to and among Board Members, but an Agenda Item cannot be discussed or decided outside of a public Meeting.

Stakeholder Eugene Hernandez stated that “practically none” of the people living in the area know there’s an effort to build a school there. Rick Brindel, the school’s developer, described having held a Town Hall Meeting after sending letters to 500 residents about the proposed school site. Stakeholder Johanna Vickrey stated that “we’re in desperate need” of a school. “It won’t impose any more traffic than there already is . . . It’ll bring jobs into our community” and they “have signatures of 50 people that’ve signed in favor of the school.” Mr. Brindel added that it’d be a “public Charter School, Chartered by the LAUSD.”

Ms. Vo-Ramirez again suggested and it was again agreed to TABLE this Item to be agendized for the next [July 22nd] General Board Meeting.

- e) Request for a zone change RA-1 to RD-1.5-1 to build 30-45 multi-family units at 13211 W. Hubbard St., design has changed.
Mr. Krall described the project and Committee consideration process; the Committee recommended supporting the zone change. Stakeholders Mark Looss, Robert Pratt, Pilar Ocampo and David Hembrea spoke at this Meeting in opposition, saying the area is already overcrowded; Mr. Hembrea said “it’ll ruin our area” for home values. Ms. Vo-Ramirez suggested and it was agreed to TABLE this Item.
- f) Request to build 12 condominiums at 14540 Foothill Blvd. as a Habitat for Humanity project.
[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #11.] Tom Stemnock, President, Planning Associates (818-487-6767; tms@pai-la.com) and Habitat for Humanity Board Member, described their homes and financing for this 36,000 square-foot Foothill and Cobalt St. project, which is in conformance with the zoning plan. It would have six duplexes, 12 total units.

MOTION (by Mr. Krall, seconded by Ms. Jenkins): to support the building of 12 condominiums (six duplexes) at 14540 Foothill Blvd. as a Habitat for Humanity project, with a requirement to create a second driveway.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Krall noted that the Committee unanimously supported the project, as did four of five attending Stakeholders. Ms. Vo-Ramirez disclosed that she voluntarily designs Habitat for Humanity homes.

AMENDED MOTION (by Mr. Ortega, accepted by Mr. Krall): to support the building of 12 condominiums (six duplexes) at 14540 Foothill Blvd. as a Habitat for Humanity project, with a requirement to create a second driveway and full-width sidewalks.

AMENDED MOTION PASSED with 12 in favor, one opposed and one abstained.

13. Discussion and possible action to fill vacant Board seats.

Ms. Vo-Ramirez suggested and it was agreed to TABLE this Item.

14. Appointment of Committee Chairs, Sergeant of Arms and Parliamentarian.

Ms. Vo-Ramirez appointed and the following Board Members agreed: Mr. Laufer as Parliamentarian; Mr. Ortega as Sergeant-at-Arms; Mr. Tabarez and Ms. Rowe as Outreach Committee Co-Chairs; Ms. Flores and Ms. Vo-Ramirez (for now) as Public Safety Committee Co-Chairs; and Mr. Ortega and Mr. Smith as Land Use Committee Co-Chairs. Mr. Krall will work on organizing the Town Hall Meeting.

15. Board Member Comments

There were no additional comments.

16. Next Meeting date, Future Agenda Items

The next General Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, July 22nd at 6:30 p.m. at Sylmar Elementary School [Auditorium, 13291 Phillippi Ave., Sylmar].

17. Closing Remarks, Announcements, Acknowledgements and Adjournment

Ms. Vo-Ramirez **ADJOURNED** the Meeting without objection at 9:34 p.m.

Minutes written by DL.