

SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Quyen Vo-Ramirez
VICE-PRESIDENTS: Hiral Bhakta
and Don Neal
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)
GENERAL BOARD MEETING
Thursday, June 23, 2011

at Church of the Foothills, 13425 Glenoaks Blvd., Sylmar, CA 91342

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 led by Ms. Vo-Ramirez.

2. Roll Call

Roll Call was taken by the Secretary. Board Members present: Ricardo Benitez, Hiral Bhakta, Cheri Blose, Rosemary Jenkins, Randall Kelly, Nick Krall, Martin Laufer, Liz Meher, Don Neal, George Ortega, Richard Perry, Jeanne Rowe, Enrique Segura, Chris Shows, Roy Smith and Quyen Vo-Ramirez. Board Members absent: none.

Sixteen of the 16 Board Members were present at the beginning of the Meeting. The SNC quorum (the minimum number of Board Members needing to be present to take binding votes on Agendized Items) is 11, so the Board could take such votes. Five Board seats were vacant. Also attending: 44 Stakeholders and Guests.

3. Approval of Minutes

The following corrections to the May 26, 2011 General Board Meeting Minutes were requested:

Page two, Item #7: "Stakeholder Gary Ramsey requested that the SNC fund the National Multiple Sclerosis Society." should read "Stakeholder Gary Ramsey requested that the SNC provide funding to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society."

Page six, Item #15: "Ms. Laufer" should read "Mr. Laufer".

Page seven, Item #16: "\$5,566, the amount remaining" should read "\$5,566 or the amount remaining."

MOTION (by Mr. Laufer, seconded by Mr. Krall): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its May 26, 2011 General Board Meeting as corrected.

MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with 14 in favor; one abstained.

The December 8, 2010 Second Soil Placement Site Town Hall Meeting Minutes awaits further information to be written.

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

Mr. Bhakta explained the above.

5. Welcome and Introduction by Board Meeting Host.

Meeting Host Barbara Winslow of Church of the Foothills welcomed everyone. They have services Sundays at 9:30 a.m. and are organizing a Seniors Wellness Center.

6. Public Officials, Community Representatives and Board Member

Announcements and Presentations. Guest Speaker: Dr. Monte Perez, L.A.

Mission College President.

Ms. Vo-Ramirez indicated that Dr. Perez was unable to attend.

Manny Figueras, Constituent Svcs. Rep. for L.A. City District Seven Councilman Richard Alarcon (818-756-8409; Manny.Figueras@LACity.org), announced that the Councilman and HUD co-sponsored a federal mortgage insurance event. Also, park pools are open; admission for ages 18 and over is \$2.50; under-18s and seniors get free admission. There'll be a July 4th celebration at Hansen Dam. There was discussion of crime at Hampton House.

John Lonergan, LAPD Mission Division (west of Glenoaks Blvd.) Senior Lead Officer (cell and text 818-634-0610; office 818-838-9848; 31304@LAPD.LACity.org; http://www.LAPDOnline.org/Mission_Community_Police_Station), announced a "24% decrease in crime over the last year" and reminded that fireworks are illegal in L.A. County. There'll be a June 30th Senior Lead Officers Summit at Mission Station.

Tania Soto, Representative for State 39th District Assemblyman Felipe Fuentes (818-504-3911; Tania.Soto@asm.ca.gov), announced a June 30th Pet Fair at Woodley Park and the August 27th 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Family Resource Fair at San Fernando High School.

Mr. Krall announced that pets can be microchipped at the North Central Shelter, 3201 Lacy St. Mr. Neal announced the June 28th Charter School Town Hall Meeting at the Sylmar Recreation Center. Ms. Jenkins announced that Valley Green Team Expo information is available. Ms. Rowe announced that SNC pens are available at "\$144 under budget."

7. Public Comments

Stakeholder Ms. Hendrick is against the vegetation part of the horse trails project.

Ms. Vo-Ramirez explained that the vegetation is to cover the walls to prevent graffiti.

8. Reports

Secretary

The Secretary reported on recent work for Board and Committee Meeting Agenda preparation assistance requests, approvals and posting; scheduling Committee Meetings; assisting Board Members with their e-mail accounts; preparing for the June 28th Charter School Town Hall Meeting; updating the Stakeholder database; processing a Board appointment application and Stakeholders' Agendizing requests;

and providing information about the Agenda, the proposed mining project above Gavina Ave., and more.

Treasurer/Budget

See below Item #14.

Land Use

See below Item #13.

Outreach

Mr. Neal reported that the SNC Facebook site is working. He reminded Board Members that on Facebook they “are not allowed to have a discussion” and “will not be able to respond.” Also, the Sylmar Farmers Market at Mission College is open Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Election

Mr. Laufer reported that there’s “no firm date yet . . . it may be 2013 . . . or 2014 . . . subject to change.”

Public Safety and Services

Mr. Perry reported that he has “taken care of . . . concerns from constituents,” including those forwarded from the Secretary.

Green

Ms. Jenkins reported that pending projects include a Fire Station 91 painting project and community garden. The next Committee Meeting will be on the usual third Tuesday, July 19th at 7:00 p.m. at the Sylmar Recreation Center’s Susan B. Anthony Building. There will be discussion regarding a future Green Fair.

Equestrian

Ms. Blöse reported that there was “a good turnout” at their Meeting; they “identified different problems we want to start working on.” She described ongoing projects and said she’ll soon distribute the Committee Meeting Minutes. Mr. Benitez described a proposed trail route; the City Planning Dept. wants community input. He invited everyone to the Committee’s Meetings on second Thursdays; the Committee can “identify where the trails can be.”

Bylaws

Mr. Perry reported that the proposed restated SNC “Bylaws were submitted to DONE [the L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment] for final approval to be put on the [SNC] website.”

Additional Reports, requested by the President

There were no additional reports.

Unfinished Business

- 9. Report and discussion** on possible action to fill vacant seats on the SNC Board of Directors (Home/Condo Owner Rep.; Faith-Based Organization Rep.; Renter Rep.; Retail Rep.; and At Large Rep.)

Ms. Vo-Ramirez reported that Stakeholder Eugene Hernandez applied for a Renter Representative seat. Mr. Hernandez, a previous Board Member, described his community interests. Ms. Vo-Ramirez expressed concerns about appointing Mr. Hernandez to the Board. Mr. Neal nominated Mr. Hernandez.

MOTION (by Mr. Neal and seconded): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council appoints Eugene Hernandez to the SNC Board Renter seat.

MOTION FAILED by a hand vote with four in favor, six opposed and three abstained.

Ms. Vo-Ramirez explained that the President must follow rules including the Bylaws and that Board Members are held to a different standard than Stakeholders. Mr. Laufer would like to revise the Bylaws to reduce the number of Board Members “to resolve this issue of all these vacant seats.”

MOTION (by Ms. Rowe, seconded by Mr. Laufer): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council refers to its Bylaws Committee to make a recommendation to the Board regarding revising the Bylaws to reduce the number of Board Member seats.

MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with 12 in favor, two opposed and one abstained.

New Business

10. Report and discussion on the permit request for the proposed aggregate mining project above Gavina Ave. on the 70-acre site by the Pacoima Dam on Los Angeles County land.

Ms. Vo-Ramirez explained that the SNC “couldn’t officially respond” at the last General Board Meeting because this issue was not then Agendized. She explained the project Permit process and that there will be public Scoping Meetings. Don Sakaida of Sakaida & Sons Trucking (818-881-5257; DonSakaida@yahoo.com; www.SakaidaAndSons.com; P.O. Box 7412, Van Nuys, CA 91409) introduced himself and is “available to answer questions.” Stakeholder Daryl Vivian said the County is using maps “from the early 80’s.” He believed that “Valley Fever” could be increased by the project and trucks could damage private vehicles. Stakeholder John Ornelas was concerned regarding “destruction of the environment” and that promised infrastructure won’t be built. Ms. Vo-Ramirez reported that County Supervisor Yaroslavsky’s staff is working on the project and the SNC awaits Supervisor Antonovich’s response. Stakeholder Linda Ferrin believed that the project will devalue property.

Stakeholder Gary Stewart was concerned that trucks are already going to the project area at 3:00 – 4:00 a.m. Mr. Sakaida added that “we do not have any trucks going in and out of that development.” Mr. Hernandez stated that “the irreplaceable damage should stop right now . . . there’ll be other companies.” Stakeholder Craig Smith reported that “there’s a project to remove sediment from the Dam . . . by the Army Corps of Engineers.” Mr. Laufer noted that the SNC “has not taken a vote on this project . . . we’re fact-finding . . . we are listening to everything you’ve said . . . we can appeal to them . . . we are part of L.A. City” and it’s a County project. Mr. Bhakta observed that the SNC is dealing with two different County Supervisor

Districts and only one has been responsive. Mr. Sakaida announced that he was told there'll be a Scoping Meeting at the end of July or August and encouraged feedback. Ms. Vo-Ramirez encouraged community support for outreaching and organizing a Town Hall Meeting.

- 11. Discussion and possible action** to support a study for the 405 Rapid Transit Corridor project that would run from Sylmar to Santa Monica. Presentation by Mr. Bart Reed.

Ms. Jenkins introduced Bart Reed, Transit Coalition Executive Director (818-362-7997; Bart.Reed@TheTransitCoalition.us; www.TransitCoalition.org). Mr. Reed displayed maps and described the project. He said that Measure R "pays for transportation improvements" and that the project would be underground because "the Sepulveda Pass is . . . maxed out."

MOTION (by Mr. Bhakta): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council supports a study for the 405 Rapid Transit Corridor project that would run from Sylmar to Santa Monica.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Reed would like to later submit a differently worded Motion for the Board to consider.

MOTION WITHDRAWN by Mr. Bhakta.

Mr. Krall recommended and it was agreed to Agendize this Item for the next [July 28th] General Board Meeting. Ms. Vo-Ramirez requested and Mr. Reed agreed to submit a Motion to the Executive Board.

- 12. Discussion and possible action** [see below Motion]. Presentation by the SNC Outreach Committee.

Mr. Neal reported that "there's a lot of enthusiasm for" such a project.

MOTION (by Mr. Neal, seconded by Mr. Perry): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council creates an Ad Hoc Committee to investigate the feasibility of an "Olive Festival" for September 2012 in Sylmar with the investigation starting in September 2011.

MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with 13 in favor and one abstained.

Recess. There was a brief recess at this time.

- 13. Discussion and possible action** to support the following recommendations by the Land Use Committee:

- a. Maclay St. and Fenton Ave.: construct paving on the easterly half of Fenton St. from intersection of Maclay St. southeasterly along Fenton Ave. for approximately 520'. Roadway paved would be approximately 18' wide with an AC berm for a curb minimum. Recommend Approval.

Mr. Ortega said "the residents came to us for support."

MOTION (by Mr. Ortega, seconded by Mr. Krall): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council supports the laying of asphalt pavement and at the minimum an AC curb along the east side of Fenton from the intersection at Maclay St. south to where the unimproved stream terminates.

MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with 14 in favor.

- b. 12864 San Fernando Rd.: zone variance [see below Motion].
Mr. Ortega described the project.

MOTION (by Mr. Ortega, seconded by Mr. Segura): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council supports the continued use and maintenance at 12864 San Fernando Rd. of a 63,852 s.f. construction yard and medium industrial uses in the PF-1VL zone, with 26,880 s.f. sheds and office trailer, to include a gravel surface for parking areas with no landscaping and no circulation from one parking area to another; future applications shall be updated to show when and why additional areas were included.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Jenkins was concerned that the gravel could cause car damage and air pollution. Mr. Krall was “vehemently opposed” to the project. Mr. Benitez suggested that horse trails could be there. Mr. Ortega noted that due to lease terms “they have to be ready to leave in 30 days.” Mr. Smith reported that the applicant couldn’t attend this Meeting and “was doing his best to keep it clean . . . the MTA told him not to” do any landscaping.

MOTION WITHDRAWN by Mr. Ortega.

- c. 13140 Gladstone Ave.: Zoning Administrator’s Adjustment to add multiple retaining walls to a 41-lot SFD subdivision. Recommend Approval.
Mr. Ortega described the project, saying “the economy delayed it.”

MOTION (by Mr. Ortega, seconded by Mr. Smith): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves a Zoning Administrator’s Adjustment to add multiple retaining walls to a 41-lot SFD subdivision at 13140 Gladstone Ave.

MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with 11 in favor and three abstained.

- d. 13096 Gladstone Ave.: Zoning Administrator’s Adjustment to construct two retaining walls/fences for a 27-lot SFD subdivision. Recommend Approval.
Mr. Ortega described the project.

MOTION (by Mr. Ortega, seconded by Mr. Laufer): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves a Zoning Administrator’s Adjustment to construct two retaining walls/fences for a 27-lot SFD subdivision at 13096 Gladstone Ave.

MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with 11 in favor and two abstained.

- e. 12831 Maclay St: Conditional Use Permit to install a wireless telecommunication facility on a 45’ tall “flag pole” with equipment and cabinets mounted on a slab

enclosed with a 6' CMU wall. Recommend Approval – pole to be relocated to northeast corner of property.

Mr. Ortega described the project.

MOTION (by Mr. Ortega, seconded by Mr. Segura): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves for T-Mobile to install a wireless telecommunication facility on a 45' tall “flag pole” with equipment and cabinets mounted on a slab enclosed with a 6' CMU wall, with the pole to be relocated to the northeast corner of the property.

DISCUSSION: Kevin Raymond of T-Mobile described the project. Mr. Neal was concerned that the SNC is approving “a lot of towers.”

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

MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with 12 in favor and one opposed.

- f. 13540 Glenoaks Blvd.: a proposal for a “7-11” store with additional lease spaces for commercial/retail occupants. Recommend Approval.

MOTION (by Mr. Ortega, seconded by Mr. Smith): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves a proposal for a “7-11” store with additional lease spaces for commercial/retail occupants at 13540 Glenoaks Blvd.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Ortega described the project. Ms. Vo-Ramirez clarified that “the whole complex will be replaced by this retail complex.” One of the co-owners noted that a previous 7-11 “was there 30-35 years ago . . . the 7-11 would occupy 5% of the project . . . there’ll be an office building, 2,400 square feet.” Board Members expressed concerns that there’re already other 7-11s nearby.

MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with 13 in favor and two opposed.

- g. 14441 Foothill Blvd.: zone change and zone variance for a portion of lot from RA-1 to RD1.5 to allow a nine-unit apartment building. Recommend Approval.
Mr. Ortega described the project.

MOTION (by Mr. Ortega, seconded by Mr. Segura): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves the application at 14441 Foothill Blvd. for a portion of the lot for a zone change and zone variance from RA-1 to RD1.5 to allow a nine-unit apartment building.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Jenkins would like the project to have “green landscaping” and be ADA compliant. Ms. Vo-Ramirez was concerned that the project is taller at three stories than the surrounding two-story buildings. Ms. Blose noted that the Motion was only about the zone change and variance application.

MOTION WITHDRAWN by Mr. Ortega. Ms. Vo-Ramirez declared that this Item is Tabled until a future Meeting.

Recess. There was a brief recess at this time.

14. Discussion and possible action to approve SNC May 2011 expenditures.

Presentation by Mr. Randall Kelly.

Mr. Kelly distributed the “[SNC] Budget for Fiscal Year 2010-2011” and “[SNC] Non-Recurring Expense Accounting.”

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Laufer): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves the SNC expenditures of May 2011.

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

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with 13 in favor; Mr. Segura abstained due to not yet being of age (18) to vote on financial matters.

15. Discussion and possible action to approve the recommended Budget for the SNC

2011-2012 Fiscal Year. Presentation by Mr. Randall Kelly.

Mr. Kelly distributed a proposed “[SNC] Budget for Fiscal Year 2011-2012” and described it; a lot of expenses from this year will be paid from next year’s Budget.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Laufer): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves the recommended Budget for the SNC 2011-2012 Fiscal Year.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with 14 in favor; Mr. Segura abstained due to not yet being of age (18) to vote on financial matters.

16. Appointments of Committee Chairs by the President

There were no appointments at this time.

17. Board Member Comments

Ms. Blose apologized for comments she made at the May 26, 2011 General Board Meeting, saying she was “kind of blindsided” by Item #15 “Declaration of vacant seats for Board Members who have three consecutive absences.” She believed that the Bylaws and Standing Rules need to be more consistent.

Mr. Neal announced a ceremony at the next General Board Meeting honoring military veteran Julio Vargas, who was killed in action.

18. Future Agenda Items, next Meeting date

The next General Board Meeting will be Thursday, July 28, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. at Church of the Foothills, 13425 Glenoaks Blvd., Sylmar, CA 91342.

19. Closing Remarks, Announcements, Acknowledgements and Adjournment

Ms. Vo-Ramirez **ADJOURNED** the Meeting without objection at 9:30 p.m.

Minutes written by DL.