

**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

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Minutes of the
**SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (SNC)
GENERAL BOARD MEETING
Thursday, January 26, 2012**

at Sylmar High School, Spartan Hall, 13050 Borden Ave., Sylmar, CA 91342

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

President Quyen Vo-Ramirez called the meeting to order at 6:43 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, Rosemary Jenkins, Randall Kelly, Nick Krall, Martin Laufer, Sherry Lincoln, Derek Martin, Liz Meher, Don Neal, George Ortega, Enrique Segura, Chris Shows, Roy Smith and Quyen Vo-Ramirez. Hiral Bhakta and Cheri Blose arrived later. Board Members absent: Deidre Campbell-Jones (unexcused) and Jeanne Rowe (excused). Three Board seats (Retail, Industrial and Renter) were vacant. Also attending: 20 Stakeholders and Guests.

Fourteen of the 18 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.

3. Minutes Approval

MOTION (by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Laufer): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its November 17, 2011 General Board Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote with 13 in favor.

MOTION (by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Ortega): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its December 17, 2011 Board Retreat as written.

MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with 12 in favor; one abstained.

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

Mr. Neal explained the above.

5. Welcome and Introduction by Board Meeting Host.

Meeting Host Derek Martin, Sylmar High School Counselor, welcomed everyone.

6. 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 fliers regarding and announced “Cash for College” financial aid application help. He also distributed an L.A. City Council Redistricting Commission Hearing Calendar and announced the next Hearings.

Alonzo Menchaca, LAPD Mission Division (north/east of Glenoaks Blvd.) Senior Lead Officer (mobile/text 818-634-0619; office 818-838-9846; 36178@LAPD.LACity.org; http://www.LAPDOnline.org/Mission_Community_Police_Station), introduced himself and distributed a “Mission Area – Part 1 Crime (85) 1/19/12 to 1/25/12” map. Officer Menchaca has been an LAPD Police Officer since 2002 and with the Mission Division since 2005. He said that last month’s crime level was the same as last year’s though burglaries from vehicles are greatly increased.

Board Member Cheri Blose arrived at this time.

Angel Barnuevo, Field Deputy for State 20th District Senator Alex Padilla (818-901-5588; Angel.Barnuevo@sen.ca.gov), distributed fliers regarding and announced free tax preparation help, and reported that Senator Padilla got 18 bills signed by the Governor, a very large amount.

Tania Soto, Representative for State 39th District Assemblyman Felipe Fuentes (818-504-3911; Tania.Soto@asm.ca.gov), encouraged contacting her for information and answers.

Greg Bartz, Neighborhood Council Liaison, DWP (L.A. Dept. of Water and Power) (213-367-2800, Greg.Bartz@ladwp.com) distributed an “LADWP Information Resource List for Local Community Participation.” He reported that work is being done to renew the expiring DWP MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) by March. Also, Draft Recycled Water Master Plan comments are due by February 10th; material was given to Ms. Jenkins for Green Committee consideration. The DWP Ratepayer Advocate was appointed; he is Dr. Fred Pickel, a Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council Board Member.

Ms. Vo-Ramirez thanked City Council District Seven for arranging the installation of a stoplight at the intersection of Roxford St. and Herrick Ave. Ms. Blose requested and Mr. Figueras will follow up regarding installing a raised crossing button on the stoplight for easier equestrian access.

7. Public Comments

Jennie Carey, Community School Coordinator, Sylmar Neighborhood Partnership (818-833.3706; JCarey@laep.org; <http://www.laep.org/sylmar>), announced that the

SNP is applying for a Mayor's Day of Service project and would like to partner with the SNC for outreach as they have with other local organizations. Stakeholder David Hernandez, 29th District Congressional Candidate, described the voting procedure for the June 5th Primary Election. Jack Lindblad, 39th District State Assembly candidate, described his views.

8. Reports

Secretary

The Secretary reported that three years ago the Stakeholders Database had less than 250 addresses; it now has more than 1,100. Recent work included organizing the December 17th Board Retreat; updating the Stakeholders database; forwarding land use documents; and more.

Treasurer/Budget

Mr. Kelly distributed a list of approved, outstanding and expected expenses and US Bank November 21 and December 21, 2011 account statements, and reviewed expenses. So far this fiscal year \$16,700 has been allocated. The balance is more than \$27,000 for the remainder of this fiscal year ending June 30, 2012.

Land Use

Mr. Ortega said that there was no report.

Outreach

Mr. Neal reported that the Farmers Market will re-open in April. The Olive Festival Planning Committee met and is working to secure El Cariso Park for the event.

Election

Mr. Laufer reported that the Neighborhood Councils Election date is to be determined and would be later this year if in 2012; he will advise.

Public Safety and Services

Mr. Shows said that there was no report.

Green

Ms. Jenkins announced the Horticulture Competition February 8th 9:00 – 2:00 p.m. at Sylmar High School that includes local schools. The Committee is working on developing "sustainable urban gardens." February 25th painting of the Fire Station 91 wall and the Sylmar branch Library landscaping project will be finished.

Equestrian

Ms. Blose reported that she met with City officials; "an excess . . . [of] \$118,000 in Quimby funds . . . and another \$250,000 that can be used at Stetson Ranch" will be available. The Committee is discussing having a "horse trailway along Foothill" Blvd.; barricades will be "rebuilt." She will contact the Green Committee regarding tree planting there. Ms. Vo-Ramirez encouraged Mr. Benitez to contact Officer

Menchaca regarding Stakeholder complaints about San Fernando Police Officers enforcing laws with Sylmar equestrians.

Bylaws

Ms. Vo-Ramirez reported that the SNC awaits L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment approval of the proposed restated SNC Bylaws that were submitted in Spring 2011.

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 (Industrial Rep., Renter Rep. and Retail Rep.).
There were no candidates at this time.

10. Report and discussion on possible action to support a micro-chipping clinic in February 2012 for horses at Stetson Ranch with Corral 12, the local chapter of Equestrian Trails Inc. (ETI).

Ms. Blose reported that "funding has been cut for this project." However, City Council District Seven wants to partner with the SNC on a "Day of the Horse"-type event. The National Equestrian Planning Conference will be at Stetson Ranch in Sylmar on April 17, 2012.

New Business

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

Copies of the "Impact Overview" from the Department's Draft Environmental Impact Report and a Site Plan diagram were distributed. Ms. Vo-Ramirez reviewed history of the 80+-acre project at the bottom of Carey Ranch. Stakeholder John Holmes encouraged the SNC to give project input and described potential Park uses, saying "it absolutely needs to be spelled out" that the Park is not only for soccer and/or Granada Hills groups' use.

MOTION (by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Segura): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council will submit a letter before the February 14, 2012 deadline to the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks in response to the Draft Environmental Impact Report for Lakeside Park in Sylmar.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Ortega volunteered to draft the letter.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote with 14 in favor.

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

Ms. Vo-Ramirez described the issue. "The proposal may have the possibility of cutting down 78 trees." Mr. Neal described the County's plan to create two soccer fields, seating, and related facilities where the trees currently stand. He is

communicating with and will “emphasize” the community’s opposition to L.A. County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky’s Office and the County Parks and Recreation Dept. Ms. Vo-Ramirez explained that the County cannot cut down the trees without community input and CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) conformance because the trees are of a minimum width to be subject to CEQA. She encouraged community feedback. [Board@SylmarNC.org; Lori Wheeler, Sr. Field Deputy for Supervisor Yaroslavsky, 818-901.3831, LWheeler@bos.LACounty.gov; Maria Chong-Castillo, Public Works Deputy for Supervisor Yaroslavsky, MCCastillo@bos.co.la.ca.us).

Ms. Jenkins noted that Congressmen Berman and Sherman are also involved; there will be a community meeting in February. Mr. Neal clarified that there is a separate L.A. Mission College softball diamonds project “that would not cut down a single tree” and that LAMC and other community colleges currently have a construction moratorium. David Hernandez invited Board Members to join him for a meeting with Supervisor Yaroslavsky’s Office. Ms. Vo-Ramirez explained that the County’s Demolition Plan will specify their plans and encouraged Stakeholders to request copies from the County of their Demolition Plan and blueprints.

MOTION (by Mr. Neal, seconded by Mr. Krall): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council will submit a letter to the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation in response to the Architectural Engineering Division of Public Works Design and Review Section’s Proposed Site Plan for two soccer fields at El Cariso Park in Sylmar; the letter will also request copies of the Site Plan and Demolition Plan and for the County to have a community meeting regarding the Plan.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote with 15 in favor.

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

Stakeholder Jan Sandstrom, publisher of the Smart Shopper, described its outreach potential. The Smart Shopper circulates 24,000 copies every three months, mostly to Sylmar homes and businesses at a cost of approximately two cents per household. Ms. Vo-Ramirez suggested “to test it” for two quarters. Mr. Kelly indicated that funding is available.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Krall): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council will place an ad in the Smart Shopper quarterly for two quarters to list SNC events and meeting dates by allocating funding not to exceed \$950 at \$475 per quarter.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Laufer was concerned regarding whether funding is or will be available. Mr. Kelly assured that funding is available. Ms. Sandstrom stated that her company, JMS Publishing, is “on the City’s approved pay list.”

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with 10 in favor, three opposed and one abstained.

Recess. There was a brief recess at this time.

Board Member Hiral Bhakta arrived at this time. Board Member Liz Meher had to leave.

14. Discussion and possible action to amend a Motion previously approved October 27, 2011 by the SNC Board allocating \$800 to construct concrete steps with a railing at the Sylmar Branch Public Library by now dividing the funds according to the recommendation of the SNC Green Committee to:

- A) approve up to \$500 to install a hedge at the top of the garden area directly above in front of the library to keep pedestrians from trampling through shrubs and to purchase additional shrubs to replace those which have been trampled and/or otherwise killed.
- B) approve up to \$300 to purchase paint to paint the inside wall of Fire Station 91 in a different color and purchase food, paper goods and similar miscellaneous expenses. Presentation by Steve List.

Ms. Vo-Ramirez explained that this is “reallocating the funding.” Ms. Jenkins described the need for the work. Steve List, Sylmar High School Teacher, “met with the irrigation installers” and described possible solutions to protect the plants. It was agreed to revise and divide the above into two Motions as follows:

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Jenkins, seconded by Mr. Kelly): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council reallocates funding previously approved October 27, 2011 by the SNC Board allocating \$800 to construct concrete steps with a railing at the Sylmar Branch Public Library by now dividing the funds according to the recommendation of the SNC Green Committee to reallocate a portion up to \$500 to install a hedge at the top of the garden area directly above in front of the library to keep pedestrians from trampling through shrubs and to purchase additional shrubs to replace those which have been trampled and/or otherwise killed.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with 13 in favor and one opposed (Laufer).

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Jenkins, seconded by Mr. Krall): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council reallocates funding previously approved October 27, 2011 by the SNC Board allocating \$800 to construct concrete steps with a railing at the Sylmar Branch Public Library by now dividing the funds according to the recommendation of the SNC Green Committee to reallocate a portion up to \$300 to purchase paint to paint the inside wall of Fire Station 91 in a different color and purchase food, paper goods and similar miscellaneous expenses to complete the Fire Station project.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Jenkins described that Glidden Paint discounted recycled paint for the April 9, 2011 Sylmar Library drought-tolerant landscaping project and will do

so again for this project. Mr. Kelly believed that painting the Fire Station's inside wall is not necessary. Ms. Jenkins replied that this is to paint the back side of the outer wall and that unpainted wood fencing at the Fire Station is already deteriorating. There was discussion regarding the merits of funding this. Mr. Neal noted that "it's a good outreach."

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with 10 in favor, three opposed and one abstained.

15. Discussion and possible action to [see below Motion].

Ms. Jenkins explained that she is "asking [for the funding] to be reallocated."

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Jenkins, seconded by Mr. Segura): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council support the recommendation of the SNC Green Committee to allocate a previously-approved unused allocation of \$200 for a previous Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC) Conference to apply that amount toward the March 8, 2012 VANC Mixer.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Vo-Ramirez reminded that invoices are needed to charge using the P-Card (Purchase Card). Mr. Kelly described that he requested but did not receive information to charge the previous event. Ms. Jenkins explained that all San Fernando Valley Neighborhood Council Board Members are invited; usually 50-60 attend.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with nine in favor, four opposed and one abstained.

16. Discussion and possible action to [see below Motion].

Ms. Blose described Conference events happening from around 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Attendance costs \$5 per person.

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Blose, seconded by Ms. Lincoln): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council supports the recommendation of the SNC Equestrian Committee to support in partnership with the City of Los Angeles Department of Planning a National Equestrian Planning Conference at Stetson Ranch in Sylmar on April 17, 2012 in the amount of \$200 towards food and cooking equipment.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Blose confirmed that the SNC can have an outreach booth.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with 11 in favor, one opposed (Ortega) and one abstained (Bhakta).

17. Discussion and possible action to [see below Motion].

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Bhakta): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves SNC purchasing card expenditures for November and December 2011.

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

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with 13 in favor.

18. Appointments of Committee Chairs by the President

There were no appointments at this time.

19. Board Member Comments

Mr. Benitez encouraged outreaching to save adult education (<http://SaveAdultEd.wordpress.com>; 323.929.2529) and welcomed new Stakeholder Angela. Mr. Neal added that City budget cuts threaten adult education programs. Ms. Blose asked and Ms. Vo-Ramirez clarified the SNC letter-writing procedure. Mr. Krall announced that the May 19-20, 2012 6th annual Sylmar Relay for Life cancer-fighting fundraising event [www.RelayForLife.org/SylmarCA] will soon have a kick-off event. Mr. Bhakta is working on setting the General Board Meetings locations for the rest of 2012. Mr. Martin thanked the Board for meeting at Sylmar High School. Ms. Vo-Ramirez thanked Board Members and Mr. List for volunteering to paint the Fire Station fence. The SNC will try to have a CPR and/or First Aid training. She reminded about the need to focus projects on community benefits. She requested for Board Members to [and anyone can] take the Mayor's Budget Survey [<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2012LABudgetSurvey>]. Ms. Vo-Ramirez also reminded that private e-mail addresses are private and separate from Board Members' public e-mail addresses [such as Quyen.Vo-Ramirez@SylmarNC.org].

20. Future Agenda Items, next Meeting date

Ms. Vo-Ramirez announced that the next General Board Meeting will be Thursday, February 23, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. at Sylmar High School.

21. Closing Remarks, Announcements, Acknowledgements and Adjournment

Ms. Vo-Ramirez **ADJOURNED** the Meeting without objection at 9:04 p.m.

Minutes written by DL.