

**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, April 26, 2012

at the 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 6:40 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, Cheri Blose, Rosemary Jenkins, Randall Kelly, Martin Laufer, Sherry Lincoln, Liz Meher, Don Neal, George Ortega, Chris Shows, Roy Smith and Quyen Vo-Ramirez. Hiral Bhakta, Deidre Campbell-Jones, Nick Krall and Enrique Segura arrived later. Board Members absent: Derek Martin and Jeanne Rowe (both excused). Three Board seats (Retail, Industrial and Renter) were vacant. Also attending: 44 Stakeholders and Guests. Twelve 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

Approval of the March 22, 2012 General Board Meeting Minutes was Tabled until the May 24, 2012 Meeting.

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

Mr. Neal explained the above.

5. Welcome and Introduction by Board Meeting Host.

Meeting Host Barbara Winslow welcomed everyone and described Church programs and services.

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), described upcoming events including new bus benches being installed along Foothill Blvd. and Hubbard St. Also, they are getting calls regarding teenagers drinking hand sanitizer.

Board Member Deidre Campbell-Jones arrived at this time.

Mr. Figueras continued that the new Rite-Aid Store at Sayre and Foothill is near completion.

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), reported that some teenagers are smoking synthetic marijuana. Crime is up 1.3% from last year. Assaults are down 63% while burglaries are up 38%. Arrests are up 33%, including gang members and a person who admitted to 16, or ½ of recent burglaries. The criminals are coming from within and outside Sylmar. Since the Gang Injunction started gang crime in Sylmar is “down close to 70%.” There have been false rape reports to avoid consequences for being out late.

Board Member Hiral Bhakta arrived at this time.

Hugo Garcia, MTA consultant on the East San Fernando Valley Transit Corridor Project, announced a May 1st public Meeting regarding improving transportation mobility. Tina Backstrom, LADOT Bikeways Group Engineer (Tina.Backstrom@LACity.org), displayed a diagram of a bike lane mandated by the City Council to be installed May 15th on both sides of Polk St. between San Fernando Rd. and Glenoaks Blvd. There will “still be two lanes of traffic in each direction,” left-turn pockets and a two-way left-turn lane. They expect “no parking impacts.” Mr. Neal announced the May 12th L.A. Mission College SpringFest. The Farmers Market returns there in May. Planning continues for the Labor Day weekend Olive Festival.

Ms. Vo-Ramirez announced the acceptance of Ricardo Benitez’ resignation as an Equestrian Committee Co-Chair; he is still on the Committee. She explained the purpose of the Neighborhood Council and that Board Members “are 100% volunteer” and are “not self-appointed.” Also, Ms. Vo-Ramirez attended a May 23rd Sediment Management Strategic Planning Meeting in Alhambra and gave the details of another such Meeting May 8th at L.A. Mission College. Grading work will be done at the May Sediment Placement Site near Olive View Hospital Mondays through Fridays from May through October.

7. Public Comments

Stakeholders Betty Lopez, Caroline Perez and Cori Villalobos-Morrow were concerned regarding the LAUSD cutting funding for adult education; it was requested that the SNC write a letter supporting funding. Ms. Vo-Ramirez agreed to Agendize this for the May 24th General Board Meeting. Stakeholder Mack Hunter indicated that 24 of 26 of his neighbors oppose the proposed Lakeside Park. He requested help getting pothole repairs, especially on Encinitas Ave. Mr. Figueras said he’d referred the potholes complaint to the City’s Street Services Dept.

Markus Bruder, Sylmar Recreation Center Director (818.367.5656; Markus.Bruder@LACity.org), introduced himself, distributed fliers and thanked the SNC for supporting the Spring Egg Hunt, which 300-400 children attended. He announced free children’s classes, a basketball camp and other programs are available. Ms. Vo-Ramirez added that City Councilmember Alarcon’s Office “sent several hundred Easter baskets” to the event. Richard Valdez, 29th District Congressional Candidate, introduced himself and described some of his views. Belen Flores, College and Career Counselor, Cesar Chavez Learning Academy (818-838-3961; belen.i.flores@gmail.com), announced a students Career Fair May 31, 2012, 9 a.m. – 11 a.m., and is seeking professionals willing to share career information with students.

8. Reports [This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #10.]

Secretary

The Secretary reported on recent work including facilitating and forwarding Agendizing and funding requests; Meeting Agenda preparation assistance; updating the Stakeholder database; Board Candidates assistance; Certificates presentation; forwarding land use applications and Hearing Notices; and more.

Treasurer/Budget -- Mr. Kelly deferred to below Item #16.

Land Use -- Mr. Ortega deferred to below Item #14.

Outreach -- See Mr. Neal's announcements in above Item #6.

Election

Mr. Laufer reported that the SNC Election is scheduled for Saturday, August 4, 2012 and the Committee will soon meet; more information will be available at the May 24th General Board Meeting.

Public Safety and Services -- Mr. Shows said that there was no report.

Green

Ms. Jenkins reported that the Committee discussed the El Cariso Park project.

Equestrian -- Ms. Blöse deferred to below Item #13.

Board Member Nick Krall arrived at this time.

Bylaws -- Ms. Vo-Ramirez indicated that there was no report.

Additional Reports, requested by the President

Ms. Vo-Ramirez reported that the County indicated that the Pacoima Reservoir needs to be cleaned out; she described possible solutions offered by the County. Information will be posted on the [www.SylmarNC.org] website.

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.).

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #7.] Stakeholders Kristin Mills and Laurie Fadness introduced themselves and described their community activities participation and interests.

NOMINATION: Ms. Lincoln nominates Kristin Mills to be appointed to a Renter Seat on the Sylmar Neighborhood Council Board of Directors.

NOMINATION APPROVED by a hand vote with 12 in favor; one opposed.

NOMINATION: Mr. Neal nominates Laurie Fadness to be appointed to a Retail Seat on the Sylmar Neighborhood Council Board of Directors.

NOMINATION APPROVED by a hand vote with 12 in favor; one opposed.

Mr. Laufer led Ms. Fadness and Ms. Mills in reading aloud the Oath of Office. Ms. Vo-Ramirez invited both to sit with the Board.

10. Special presentation and recognition of L.A. City Fire Station 91, State Assembly Member Felipe Fuentes, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and City Council Member Richard Alarcon for directing and assisting in the Fireman's Fund Grant, which enabled the SNC to purchase Emergency Kits for the Sylmar community.

Ms. Vo-Ramirez read aloud and presented a Certificate of Appreciation from the SNC to Mr. Figueras for City Councilmember Alarcon for assisting the SNC in securing Emergency Kits for Stakeholders. A CPR-First Aid class will soon be held.

New Business

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

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #8.] Ms. Vo-Ramirez described the Motion.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Laufer, seconded by Mr. Kelly): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council supports a CPR-First Aid Class with an additional \$375, adding to the previously allocated amount of \$500, bringing the total allocated amount to \$875 to conduct the Class.

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

12. Discussion and possible action to support the following recommendations by the SNC Outreach, and Government Affairs, Public Safety & Services Committees.

Ms. Vo-Ramirez read aloud the Motions. Bart Reed, Transit Coalition Executive Director (818-362-7997; Bart.Reed@TheTransitCoalition.us; www.TransitCoalition.org), introduced the California State University at Northridge Transportation Tiger Team's Sonja Tristan, Gail Pitters and student participants. Mr. Reed described students' Transit Survey and photo work. Students described inadequate security at the Sylmar Metrolink Station and their walkability and transportation connectivity assessment of buses and trains. They will meet with the MTA to present their survey results. Ms. Pitters described a meeting of L.A. Mission College administrators and students. A possible collaboration with the College to utilize their parking garage, which is largely unused from Friday night through Monday morning, was described. Ms. Vo-Ramirez pointed out that the SNC received draft letters for below Items b and c, but not for a and d; Mr. Reed will send those draft letters.

a. [See below Motion.]

MOTION (by Mr. Neal, seconded by Mr. Bhakta): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council will submit a letter to Los Angeles City Councilmember Richard Alarcon requesting to finish bus stop landing pads at the intersection of Borden Ave. and Hubbard St.

MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with 15 in favor.

b. [See below Motion.]

Mr. Laufer was concerned that this is not in the SNC's jurisdiction. Ms. Jenkins believed that this affects Sylmar because students from the above area attend L.A. Mission College. Mr. Neal reported that the Team presented to the Outreach Committee; he is "grateful" for their work and noted that military veterans from Sylmar are "asking for" this bus stop.

MOTION (by Mr. Neal, seconded by Mr. Bhakta): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council will submit a letter to Los Angeles City Councilmember Richard Alarcon requesting to add a "Rapid Stop" to Bus Line 761 on Plummer St. at Van Nuys Blvd. to assist veterans' access to the Veteran's Administration Facility in North Hills.

MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with 12 in favor; 4 opposed.

c. [See below Motion.]

MOTION (by Mr. Neal, seconded by Mr. Bhakta): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council will submit a letter supporting a State law modification to allow bike racks that accommodate three bikes on City buses.

MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with 15 in favor; one abstained.

d. [See below Motion.]

Mr. Laufer wants more information about the Team before endorsing them. Ms. Jenkins noted that the Team presented at the March [22nd General Board] Meeting and would endorse them.

MOTION (by Mr. Neal, seconded by Mr. Bhakta): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council will submit a letter supporting the CSUN Transportation Tiger Team.

MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with 13 in favor; three abstained.

13. Discussion and possible action to support the following recommendation by the SNC Equestrian Committee:

a. [See below Motion.]

Ms. Blöse distributed copies of a draft letter and photos, and described the Motion and changes due to the Sayre St. Fire.

MOTION (by Ms. Jenkins, seconded by Mr. Kelly): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council will submit a letter to the Mobile Home Park at Stetson Ranch and Glenoaks requesting the fire-damaged steps and fence to be replaced and repaired.

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

Ms. Vo-Ramirez requested and Ms. Blöse will work with the Secretary to draft the letter.

b. To support the completion of the "Trail Maps" project with financial support not to exceed \$500 for the Committee to create a Powerpoint presentation of the maps and pictures already collected for final presentation.

Ms. Blöse described the project. Mr. Benitez explained that the funding would be to buy the maps. Ms. Vo-Ramirez indicated that such maps are available to download for free; she requested and Ms. Blöse agreed to Table this Item to get more information.

14. Discussion and possible action to support the following recommendations by the SNC Land Use Committee:

Ms. Vo-Ramirez read aloud the below Motions. Mr. Ortega distributed a "Summary of Land Use Committee Recommended Projects 4-09-12."

- a. Support: 13076 Glenoaks Boulevard, Conditional Use Permit for on-site sales and consumption of alcoholic beverages at a restaurant under construction.
Mr. Smith requested and Ms. Vo-Ramirez agreed to Table this Item.
- b. Support: 13530 Foothill Boulevard, a zone change from LARA (RA-1) to RD1.5 in order to construct eight townhouses on a 20,465 s.f. lot.
Mr. Ortega requested and Ms. Vo-Ramirez agreed to Table this Item.

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

Kokayi Jitahidi, Sr. Community Organizer, L.A. Alliance for a New Economy (LAANE) (213-977-9400; KKwaJitahidi@llane.org) described RePower LA. Businesses were surveyed regarding their energy needs.

MOTION (by Mr. Krall, seconded by Mr. Laufer): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council supports RePower LA's Department of Water and Power (DWP) Energy Efficiency Program by submitting a letter to the Los Angeles City Council and the DWP.

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

Mr. Jitahidi will e-mail a draft letter to the Secretary.

16. Discussion and possible action to approve SNC Purchasing Card expenditures for March 2012.

Mr. Kelly distributed copies of and reviewed the US Bank Purchasing Card statement of March 21, 2012.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Bhakta): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves the SNC expenditures of March 2012.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with 15 in favor; one opposed.

17. Appointments of Committee Chairs by the President

Ms. Blose requested and Ms. Vo-Ramirez agreed to appoint Ms. Fadness as the Equestrian Committee Co-Chair

18. Board Member Comments

There were no comments at this time.

19. Future Agenda Items, next Meeting date

Ms. Vo-Ramirez announced the next General Board Meeting will be May 24, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. at Church of the Foothills.

20. Closing Remarks, Announcements, Acknowledgements and Adjournment

Ms. Vo-Ramirez **ADJOURNED** the Meeting without objection at 9:16 p.m.

Minutes written by DL.