

**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, July 26, 2012**

at L.A. Mission College, Culinary Arts Bldg., 13356 Eldridge St., 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. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. Roll Call**

Roll Call was taken by the Secretary. Board Members present: Ricardo Benitez, Laurie Fadness, Rosemary Jenkins, Nick Krall, Martin Laufer, Sherry Lincoln, Derek Martin, Don Neal, George Ortega, Chris Shows, and Quyen Vo-Ramirez. Cheri Blose, Deidre Campbell-Jones, Kristin Mills and Enrique Segura arrived later. Board Members absent: Hiral Bhakta, Randall Kelly, Liz Meher, Jeanne Rowe and Roy Smith (all excused). One Board seat (Industrial) was vacant. Also attending: 29 Stakeholders and Guests.

Eleven of the 20 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**

Ms. Vo-Ramirez requested and the Board agreed to Table approval of the Minutes of the June 28, 2012 General Board Meeting.

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

Mr. Neal explained the above.

**5. Welcome and Introduction by Board Meeting Host.**

Meeting Host Mr. Neal welcomed everyone. A facility tour is available.

*Board Member Kristin Mills arrived at this time.*

**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), noted recent brush fires and announced new LAPD Mission Division Lead Detective Lieut. Paul Vernon (818.838.9800; 26177@LAPD.LACity.org). Mr. Figueras also reported that U.S. Mail is being stolen from mailboxes at Santiago Estates; management is trying to move the mailboxes closer to the Office. The City Council approved a medical marijuana

dispensaries ban. The CD 7 Sylmar Office moved to 14117 Hubbard, just south/west of Glenoaks Blvd. in the new shopping center near Casa Torres, across from Food for Less, in back of Chief Auto Parts.

Amelia Herrera-Robles, Project Coordinator, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) (213-978-1551; [Amelia.Herrera-Robles@LACity.org](mailto:Amelia.Herrera-Robles@LACity.org); [www.EmpowerLA.org](http://www.EmpowerLA.org)), announced that their General Manager's last day will be August 4<sup>th</sup> and that Neighborhood Council Budgets are due by July 31<sup>st</sup>.

*Board Member Deidre Campbell-Jones arrived at this time.*

Ms. Herrera-Robles reported that "for the last several months the Board has been bombarded with" e-mails complaining about various things. She clarified that complaints and grievances are "not meant to submit against the Board" for personal reasons and are "not meant to be used by the community . . . against . . . Board Members."

Mr. Neal reminded about the Sylmar Olive Festival, September 1-3 at El Cariso Park. Mr. Martin reported that the new Sylmar High School Interim Principal is Henry Torres. Ms. Lincoln announced a Habitat for Humanity event.

Ms. Vo-Ramirez reminded about the SNC Election August 4<sup>th</sup> 1:00 – 7:00 at the Sylmar Recreation Center, Susan B. Anthony Bldg.; LAPD Cadets will assist. Also, the LAPD National Night Out will be August 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. at the Recreation Center. The LAPD/SNC-sponsored Race for Youth police programs fundraiser will be August 30<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. Last year it raised more than \$14,000. Sponsorships are \$250 – \$1,000 to sponsor a Police Officer or Firefighter go-cart driver. The SNC allocated \$2,500 in support. Also, an LAPD "party car" is patrolling Friday – Sunday evenings; she encouraged contacting City Councilman Alarcon (818-756-8409; [Richard.Alarcon@LACity.org](mailto:Richard.Alarcon@LACity.org)) to support it.

Ms. Vo-Ramirez reported for 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](mailto:36178@LAPD.LACity.org); [http://www.LAPDonline.org/Mission\\_Community\\_Police\\_Station](http://www.LAPDonline.org/Mission_Community_Police_Station)), that crime is down 6% and that "the new Captain is doing a tremendous job." The recent shooting was drug-related.

[This comment was made after Item #10.] Angel Barnuevo, Field Deputy for State 20th District Senator Alex Padilla (818-901-5588; [Angel.Barnuevo@sen.ca.gov](mailto:Angel.Barnuevo@sen.ca.gov)), announced that the Senator's "Advanced Manufacturing Policy" and "Student Athlete Bill of Rights" bills are being considered. Mr. Barnuevo indicated that he will work to ensure that Sylmar is informed about progress of the High-Speed Rail Project.

State 39th District Assemblyman Felipe Fuentes (818-504-3911; <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a39>), recognized Steve List, Sylmar High School Teacher, for his contributions to the community. Also, there will be a Back-to-School Fair on August 11<sup>th</sup> with health screeners, information and much more. The Assemblyman is opposed to the City Council's effort to shift sidewalk

repair costs and liability from the City to homeowners; “realtors, property owners, homeowners are in favor of [his] bill.”

*Board Member Enrique Segura arrived at this time.*

## **7. Public Comments**

Stakeholder Guillermo Reyes noted that “there are too many speeders . . . [and] accidents” on Glenoaks between Polk and Hubbard, and more enforcement is needed. He called CD 7 and the Police. Mr. Figueras said he will contact new LAPD Valley Traffic Division Capt. Minsau about this. Ms. Vo-Ramirez reported that Traffic Division Officer Troy Williams gave an excellent presentation regarding pedestrian / driver rights.

*Board Member Cheri Blose arrived at this time.*

Ms. Vo-Ramirez continued that “pedestrians do not always have the right-of-way.” Mr. Neal announced the Sylmar Parade September 1<sup>st</sup>; [www.SylmarOliveFestival.com](http://www.SylmarOliveFestival.com) has a parade application.

## **8. Reports**

### Secretary

The Secretary reported on recent work facilitating and forwarding Agendizing and funding requests; providing August 4th Neighborhood Council Election and Candidate information; fact-checking, revising and coordinating Website information; processing and providing information about Stakeholder filings; responding to various Stakeholder requests; and more.

Treasurer/Budget -- Mr. Kelly was not present and there was no report.

Land Use -- Mr. Ortega announced the next Committee Meeting will be on the usual second Monday August 13th at 6:30 p.m. at the Sylmar Recreation Center’s Susan B. Anthony Building.

Outreach -- Mr. Neal indicated that there was no report.

### Election

Mr. Laufer reported that for the SNC Election Saturday, August 4, 2012, there are 29 Candidates for the 21 Board Seats. “DONE is happy with the recruiting job we did . . . that’s a big turnaround from two years ago.” Election day volunteer help is needed.

### Government Affairs, Public Safety and Services

Mr. Shows encouraged letting the Committee know if there are any concerns.

### Green

Ms. Jenkins reported that she, Ms. Vo-Ramirez and Mr. List met at the Library to finish the planting project by planting a hedge to help prevent people walking on the existing plants instead of using the paved ramps. Ms. Vo-Ramirez noted that Mr. List and High School students did all the heavy work.

### Equestrian

Ms. Blose reported that the Committee “had a wonderful meeting . . . Councilman Alarcon was there” and the Committee “will continue to work to install signs and barricades” for equestrians.

### Bylaws

Ms. Vo-Ramirez reported that a new Bylaws Committee will be elected by the new Board after the August 4th Election.

Additional Reports, requested by the President -- There were no additional reports.

### New Business

9. **Discussion and possible action** to approve SNC purchasing card expenditures for July 2012.

Ms. Vo-Ramirez noted that Mr. Kelly was unable to attend and there was no report.

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

Jaine Burke, CPAB Member, announced the October 10<sup>th</sup> 5:30 a.m. 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Officer Appreciation Day. Ms. Vo-Ramirez added that this is the fourth consecutive year that the SNC is supporting the event.

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Mr. Laufer, seconded by Mr. Benitez): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council allocates funding in the amount of \$200 to support the Community Police Advisory Board’s Officer Appreciation Day, Wednesday, October 10, 2012 for serving utensils, plates, napkins and other food serving items

**DISCUSSION:** Ms. Jenkins encouraged that biodegradable plates be purchased.

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** by a hand vote with 12 in favor.

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

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Assemblyman Fuentes’ comments in Item #6.] Mr. Neal explained that the College asked the SNC for support.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Laufer, seconded by Ms. Lincoln): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council will submit a letter to the Los Angeles Community College District supporting the release of funds to finish the Student Services Building at Los Angeles Mission College.

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

*At 7:56 p.m. the General Board Meeting was temporarily adjourned for a Special Board Meeting.*

*At 7:59 p.m. after the Special Board Meeting was adjourned the General Board Meeting was re-convened.*

12. **Discussion** to recruit volunteers to staff the SNC Election day outreach booth.

Ms. Vo-Ramirez announced that non-Candidate volunteers are needed to help on Election day. Mr. Laufer, Mr. Segura and Ms. Vo-Ramirez volunteered.

**Recess.** There was a brief recess at this time.

**13. SNC Election Candidates Forum** – Candidates for the SNC Election August 4, 2012, 1:00 – 7:00 p.m. at the Sylmar Recreation Center, Susan B. Anthony Bldg., 13109 Borden Ave., Sylmar, will present their views.

Ms. Vo-Ramirez introduced Glenn Bailey, a Neighborhood Council Independent Election Administrator (IEA) [Glenn@EmpowerLA.org; 818-293-8683; Elections@EmpowerLA.org], who explained that he has “no stake” in the Election. Mr. Bailey explained Election procedures; more information is at [www.EmpowerLA.org](http://www.EmpowerLA.org). He called upon Candidates in draft ballot order; they spoke for up to three minutes each. Sixteen Candidates were present and spoke: Rosemary Jenkins, Ann Job, Cheri Blose, Richard Perry, Cori Villalobos-Morrow, Don Neal, Edward Campos, Derek Martin, Dwight Morrow, Roy Smith (through a Candidate statement read on his behalf by Mr. Ortega), Kristin Mills, Chris Shows, Deidre Campbell-Jones, Brianne King, Ricardo Benitez and Sherry Lincoln. George Ortega offered and it was agreed for him not to speak, as he is running unopposed.

Mr. Bailey announced that Region One has 72% more Candidates than the last [2010] Election. SNC voters will use “self-affirmation” for their eligibility to vote “as long as they can identify an address . . . connection . . . or factual basis.” Provisional ballots will be available; “no one’s going to be turned away.” He encouraged outreach regarding the Election location and to vote. Ms. Vo-Ramirez reported that she requested 20 LAPD Cadets to help. She reminded that no electioneering is allowed within 100 feet of the polling place and volunteered to get more volunteers as poll workers. Mr. Segura volunteered to help recruit students to assist.

**14. Board Member Comments**

Mr. Segura thanked everyone “for the opportunity to serve the community.” Mr. Krall thanked everyone for “the great experience” of serving; he will be focusing on the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Laufer expressed appreciation for the opportunity to assist with many community projects. Ms. Campbell-Jones announced a weekly Meet and Greet Bible Study every Friday at 10:00 a.m. at Fiddlers Restaurant [12721 Glenoaks Blvd., Sylmar].

**15. Future Agenda Items, next Meeting date**

Ms. Vo-Ramirez noted that, if there are no Election challenges, a new Board will be seated at the August Meeting. She encouraged future Board Members to continue the SNC’s excellent work and thanked everyone for allowing her to serve. She announced the next General Board Meeting will be Thursday, August 23rd at 6:30 p.m.

**16. Closing Remarks, Announcements, Acknowledgements and Adjournment**

Ms. Vo-Ramirez **ADJOURNED** the Meeting without objection at 9:09 p.m.

Minutes written by DL.