

**SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

PRESIDENT: Don Neal
VICE-PRESIDENTS: George Ortega
and Kristin Mills
TREASURER: Richard Perry
PUBLIC RELATIONS: Jose Oliva



SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
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Minutes of the
**SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (SNC)
GENERAL BOARD MEETING
Thursday, January 24, 2013**

L.A. Mission College, Campus Ctr., Rm. 1-2, 13356 Eldridge Ave., Sylmar, CA 91342

SNC (and all other) Meeting Minutes are a summary, not an exact, verbatim, word-for-word transcript of what was said at a Meeting. The only two exceptions to this are the Motions and quotes, which are words that have quotation marks (“”) at the beginning and ending of a word or words. The Minutes were not, are not and are never meant to be a comprehensive record of what was said about an issue or project.

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

President Don Neal called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

2. Roll Call

Roll Call was taken by the Secretary. Board Members present: Ricardo Benitez, Laurie Fadness, Ann Job, Brianne King, Sherry Lincoln, Don Neal, Judi Neal, George Ortega, Richard Perry, Rubi Ramirez, Chris Shows and Diane Valencia. Cheri Blose, Deidre Campbell-Jones and Derek Martin arrived later. Board Members absent: Edward Campos (unexcused), Kristin Mills (excused), Jose Oliva (excused), Jeanne Rowe (excused) and Roy Smith (excused). One Board Seat (Community-Based Organizations) was vacant. Also attending: approximately 105 Stakeholders and Guests.

Twelve 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. Housekeeping, Speaker Cards and Timekeeper – Mr. Neal explained this.

4. Welcome and Introduction by Board Meeting Host.

Mr. Neal welcomed everyone.

5. Approval of the Minutes

MOTION (by Mr. Perry, seconded by Mr. Ortega): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its October 25, 2012 General Board Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote.

MOTION (by Mr. Ortega, seconded by Ms. Fadness): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its November 15, 2012 General Board Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with 11 in favor; Ms. Valencia abstained.

MOTION (by Ms. Lincoln, seconded by Mr. Benitez): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its December 15, 2012 General Board Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote.

6. Public Officials and Community Representatives 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 a February community meeting about the availability of Federal funds. Lists of local elected officials are available. Tania Soto, Representative for State 39th District Assemblyman Raul Bocanegra (818-504-3911; Tania.Soto@asm.ca.gov), encouraged contacting her for assistance. Gabriela Marquez, Field Representative for U.S. 29th District of California Congressman Tony Cardenas (818-504-0090; Gabriela.Marquez29@gmail.com), encouraged contacting her for assistance.

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 crime is down almost 11% in Sylmar. A new Neighborhood Watch is forming south of Hubbard; meeting space and volunteers are needed.

Greg Bartz, Neighborhood Council Liaison, DWP (L.A. Dept. of Water and Power) (213-367-2800, Greg.Bartz@ladwp.com), encouraged contacting him for help. He distributed information about the proposed Foothill Blvd. Trunk Line Unit 3 Project, due to start in 2015, including a "Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report." They're "in the process of getting community input." There'll be a Scoping Meeting February 15th. Mr. Bartz also provided information for Stakeholders to make a "Residential Sewer Service Charge (RSSC) Request for Adjustment." [See <http://www.LACitySan.org/fmd/ssc1.htm>.]

Jack Wise, L.A. Fire Dept., Battalion 12-C Chief (818.756.8612; Jack.Wise@LACity.org), reported that sand and sandbags are available [including in the parking lot off Polk St. at Fellows Ave. next to Fire Station 91]. Disaster preparedness information is available. He reminded to clean your furnace before use. If your garage or other structure is being used for living, be sure not to overload the electricity.

Board Member Deidre Campbell-Jones arrived at this time.

7. Board Member community announcements.

Mr. Neal reported that 55 trees were cut down at Veterans Park that were said to be diseased. For more information contact Jarrod DeGonia, Field Deputy for L.A. County District Five Supervisor Michael Antonovich (office 818-993-5170; JDeGonia@lacbos.org; www.Antonovich.com). There will be a City Council District Seven Candidates Forum February 2nd in Sunland-Tujunga.

8. Reports

Secretary -- The Secretary reported on recent work providing information about LAPD Senior Lead Officers, the Sylmar Community Plan and the SNC Purchase Card; ordering business cards for seven Board Members; providing Board Member name badge ordering information; and more.

Treasurer/Budget -- Mr. Perry distributed copies of an SNC expenditures list. The balance is \$20,112.24. He reported that the Purchase Card may be available in about one week.

Land Use -- Mr. Ortega said that there was no report.

Outreach -- Ms. Valencia indicated that there was no report. Mr. Neal encouraged "liking" the SNC and the upcoming Olive Festival on the SNC Facebook page [<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Sylmar-Neighborhood-Council/157511407613434>].

Government Affairs, Public Safety and Services -- Mr. Shows indicated that there was no report.

Green -- Mr. Neal indicated that the Chairpersonship of this Committee is open.

Equestrian -- Ms. Fadness reported that the Stetson Ranch project is almost complete, including four main areas, two enclosed and two open.

Bylaws -- Mr. Neal said that there was no report.

Additional Reports -- There were no additional reports.

9. Public Comments

Stakeholder Mack Hunter requested help regarding drainage on Encinitas Ave. between Cobalt and Larkspur. He said the street is rapidly deteriorating, especially with the recent rains. Mr. Neal encouraged Mr. Hunter to work with Mr. Shows. Mr. Ortega also offered to help. Stakeholder Michael Long of Learners for All Ages said the non-profit organization needs volunteers.

Board Member Cheri Blose arrived at this time.

Nicole Chase, Candidate, City Council District Seven (Info@NicoleMChase.com; <http://NicoleMChase.com>), described her community interests. She's most concerned with public safety, overdevelopment and job creation.

David Barron, Candidate, City Council District Seven (jessedavidbarron@gmail.com; jessedavidbarronforcitycouncil.com), was concerned the City is overspending and misusing taxpayer funds.

Monica Ratliff, L.A. Board of Education District Six Candidate, described her qualifications.

New Business

10. Presentation on unmet transportation needs in the NE San Fernando Valley by Bart Reed and CSUN TIGER Team.

Bart Reed, Transit Coalition Executive Director (818-362-7997; Bart.Reed@TheTransitCoalition.us; www.TransitCoalition.org), distributed copies of a "report on unmet San Fernando Valley Transportation Needs." He met with Metro Planning staff and described to them and this Meeting recommended bus improvements.

Board Member Derek Martin arrived at this time.

Mr. Reed also described recommended improvements in bus-train connections, including between Sylmar and CSUN [California State University at Northridge], and with L.A. Mission College and El Cariso Park. Communication improvements were recommended regarding bus operators accommodating bicycles on buses.

11. Presentation by Caltrans on I-5 Corridor Improvements in the Sylmar community. Caltrans Representative Claudia Mejia (ClaudiaMejia@hillintl.com; <http://www.dot.ca.gov>), distributed copies of "I-5/SR-14 Direct HOV Connector Fact Sheet" and "I-5 HOV Lanes and Direct HOV Connector Project" fliers. The I-5 project to add a carpool lane from the 118 to the 170 Freeway "is 65% complete."

12. Discussion and possible vote to [see the below Motion].

Mr. Ortega distributed and reviewed project information and said "most of the lots in the neighborhood have been split . . . this is one of the few survivors."

MOTION (by Ms. Blose, seconded by Ms. Fadness): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves a parcel map to subdivide a 23,234 sq. ft. parcel into two equal plots in the R1-1 Zone at 15009 W. Oro Grande St.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote.

13. Discussion and possible vote to [see the below Motion].

Mr. Ortega distributed and reviewed project information.

MOTION (by Ms. Blose, seconded by Mr. Perry): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves a Zone Variance to construct an ATM and canopy in a P-1 Zone in conjunction with an existing shopping center in the C2-1 Zone at 14671 W. Rinaldi Ave., with a modification to provide a 24' turning radius to eliminate conflicts with other traffic.

DISCUSSION: The nearest such facility is in San Fernando.

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

Recess. There was a brief recess at this time.

14. Discussion and possible vote to [see the below Motion].

Mr. Ortega distributed and reviewed project information.

MOTION (by Ms. Blöse, and seconded): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves a Zone Variance involving construction of 362 units where the previously approved 280 condo units are changing to apartments. Allowance is sought for height of 45' for two- and three-story apartments in lieu of required 35', for architectural and aesthetic reasons, and providing Code-required parking for apartments as opposed to Advisory Agency Parking Policy of 2.5 spaces/unit at 16325 Silver Oaks Dr.

DISCUSSION: A Stakeholder was concerned that San Fernando Rd. construction would increase traffic congestion. Stakeholder Martin Laufer strongly opposed the project due to broken promises and traffic, environmental, animal habitat, density and crime reasons. Christine Whitaker, President, Legends at Cascades Homeowners Association (HOA), distributed copies of letters of opposition to the project and indicated that the HOA is strongly opposed to the project for density and legal reasons. Ms. Blöse explained the project's history and noted that the original project developer went bankrupt. She stated "the project has already been approved" by the City" and all the Neighborhood Council can do is support or oppose the developer's height variance application. She said "the owners are being as responsible as they can." The Land Use Committee is asking for the developer to provide more-than-required parking. The developer's representative stated that "nothing will be built on the golf course property" and the project "will have all the equestrian amenities."

MOTION FAILED by a hand vote with four in favor; seven opposed; three abstained.

15. Discussion and possible vote to [see the below Motion].

Jacqueline Elliot, Co-Founder and CEO, Partnerships to Uplift Communities Schools (818.559.7699; J.Elliott@PUCSchools.org; www.PUCSchools.org), and Greg Brindel distributed copies of a "Proposed PUC Schools Valley Campus" illustration, diagrams and other information. Ms. Elliot said PUC has "seven Schools in the San Fernando Valley." Mr. Brindel described the project and said they'll "take the existing structure and complete it the way it is." They "will be amending the existing CUP to make room" for the facilities. He indicated they are doing a traffic analysis and study; he described vehicle circulation options. Ms. Elliot said "we don't have bells"; Mr. Brindel added that bells "aren't allowed by the Code." Ms. Elliot said activities are "staggered 20 minutes apart." Mr. Brindel reported that they expect construction to last for seven to 10 months. Ms. Elliot noted they will start operations with the 2014-2015 school year. Mr. Brindel indicated they have no plans for an Elementary School. Many Stakeholders in attendance at this Meeting attend or know someone who attends a PUC School. Several of them expressed strong support for the School.

MOTION (by Ms. Blöse, seconded by Ms. Lincoln): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves a Zone Variance for construction of a public charter Junior and Senior High School on 7.5 acres (formerly 1st Lutheran High School), that would accommodate 1,750 students and include a gym, performing arts center, kitchen,

eating area, outdoor recreation areas, 50 classrooms, labs, and school administration space at 13361 Glenoaks Blvd.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote.

16. Discussion and possible vote to name a new SNC Treasurer, if necessary.

Mr. Neal requested and it was agreed to TABLE this Item. He said "Richard Perry has decided to stay." Amelia Herrera-Robles, Project Coordinator, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) (213-978-1551; Amelia.Herrera-Robles@LACity.org; www.EmpowerLA.org), was concerned whether the Neighborhood Council would be able to use its Purchase Card at this time.

17. Appointments by the President: Committee Chairs, Parliamentarian, and Sergeant at Arms, and open SNC Board seat: presently only Community-Based Organization (CBO) Representative.

Mr. Neal announced the formation of a new Education Committee which he will Chair. Members will include Mr. Martin, Ms. Lincoln, Mr. Oliva, and Stakeholders Dr. Monte Perez, Richard Ramos and Amanda Bloom. The Committee will meet on second or third Wednesday nights.

18. Board Member Comments

Copies of a brochure were distributed for and Mr. Ortega announced a January 31st Sylmar Community Plan Update "Open House & Public Hearing" [see <https://sites.google.com/site/SylmarNewCommunityPlan>].

Mr. Martin reported that 34,000 Community Plan Meeting brochures were mailed to Stakeholders regarding the Sylmar Community Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report [see <https://sites.google.com/site/SylmarNewCommunityPlan>]. Mr. Neal mentioned and urged Board Members to attend other community Meetings. Ms. Herrera-Robles announced a February 21st Ethics Training and said that DONE is working on whether to continue issuing Ethics Training Certificates.

19. Future Agenda Items, next Meeting date

Please submit in writing to Executive Board at ExecutiveBoard@SylmarNC.org, or mail c/o Sylmar Neighborhood Council, Sylmar Recreation Center, 13109 Borden Ave., Sylmar, CA 91342. The next General Board Meeting will be on February 28, 2012 at a location to be announced.

20. Closing Remarks, Acknowledgements and Adjournment

MOTION to ADJOURN (by Mr. Neal, seconded by Mr. Benitez).

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote.

Mr. Neal **ADJOURNED** the Meeting at 9:01 p.m.

Minutes written by DL.