

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

PRESIDENT: Ann Job

VICE-PRESIDENTS:

Administration: Diane Valencia

Communications: Kathy Grubert

TREASURER: Patricia Rau

PUBLIC RELATIONS: Maria Silva



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**Minutes of the  
SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (SNC)  
GENERAL BOARD MEETING  
Thursday, March 27, 2014**

at Sylmar High School, Spartan Hall Auditorium, 13050 Borden 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 are the Motions shown in italics and quotes shown with quotation marks (" ") at the beginning and ending of a word or words. The Minutes are not, nor were they ever meant to be, a comprehensive record of what was said about an issue or project.

**1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**

Outgoing President Don Neal called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

a. Welcome, Introduction, and Announcements by Board Meeting Host.  
Board Member Derek Martin welcomed everyone.

b. Housekeeping, Speaker Cards, and Timekeeper.  
Mr. Martin described facilities; Mr. Neal requested that Speakers complete Speaker Cards.

**2. Roll Call of the outgoing SNC Board**

Roll Call was taken by the Secretary. Fifteen of the 19 Board Members were present at the beginning of the Meeting: Ricardo Benitez, Kathy Bloom, Cheri Blose, Deidre Campbell-Jones, Laurie Fadness, Ann Job, Sherry Lincoln, Derek Martin, Don Neal, Judi Neal, George Ortega, Patricia Rau, Chris Shows, Roy Smith and Diane Valencia. Board Members absent: Kristin Mills (excused), Jose Oliva (unexcused), Chardell Powell (unexcused) and Rubi Ramirez (unexcused). The SNC quorum (the minimum number of Board Members needing to be present to take binding votes on Agendized Items) is 11 (see <http://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/Sylmar-NC-Bylaws.pdf>), so the Board could take such votes. Nineteen of the 21 Board Seats were filled. Two Board Seats (Industrial and Retail #3) were vacant. Also attending: approximately 55 Stakeholders and Guests.

**3. Outgoing Board Member Comments.**

Outgoing Board Members Ricardo Benitez, Deidre Campbell-Jones, Sherry Lincoln, Don Neal and George Ortega expressed appreciation for the opportunity to serve the

Sylmar community. Continuing Board Members expressed appreciation for outgoing Board Members' service.

**4. Seating of the new Board** elected on March 8, 2014.

a. Roll Call of the incoming Board

*[This Agenda Item was addressed after Councilman Fuentes' announcements in Item #8.]* Roll Call was taken by the Secretary. Wally Aguilar, Kathy Bloom, Cheri Blose, Laurie Fadness, Lucille Floresta, Kathy Grubert, Ann Job, Carlos Lara, Derek Martin, Jackie Mata, Jeh Meher, Judi Neal, Silverio Pelayo, Patricia Rau, Brenda Resendis, Christian Rubalcava, Chris Shows, Maria Silva, Roy Smith and Diane Valencia. Board Members absent: none. The SNC quorum (the minimum number of Board Members needing to be present to take binding votes on Agendized Items) is 11 (see <http://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/Sylmar-NC-Bylaws.pdf>), so the Board could take such votes. Twenty of the 21 Board Seats were filled. One Board Seat (Faith-Based Organizations) was vacant.

b. Neighborhood Council Oath

Outgoing Board Members moved to the audience and incoming Board Members were Seated. L.A. City District Seven Councilman Felipe Fuentes (818-756-8409; [Felipe.Fuentes@LACity.org](mailto:Felipe.Fuentes@LACity.org); <http://council.lacity.org/Directory/CouncilDistrict7/index.htm>) welcomed the new Board and thanked former Board Members. He read aloud the Oath of Office as the new Board repeated along.

**5. Election of new Executive Board** by newly-seated Board.

*[This Agenda Item was continued after Item #4. a.]* Glenn Bailey, Citywide NCs Election Coordinator, DONE (L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment) [[Glenn@EmpowerLA.org](mailto:Glenn@EmpowerLA.org); 818-293-8683], and Jose Sandoval, a Neighborhood Council Independent Election Administrator (IEA) (DONE) ([JoseS@EmpowerLA.org](mailto:JoseS@EmpowerLA.org); 818.984.2133; [www.EmpowerLA.org](http://www.EmpowerLA.org)), introduced themselves. DONE staff are now also in Van Nuys [Van Nuys City Hall Office, 6262 Van Nuys Blvd., Van Nuys; 818.374.9898]. Leyla Campos, Director of Field Operations, (DONE) (213-978-1551; [Leyla.Campos@LACity.org](mailto:Leyla.Campos@LACity.org); [www.EmpowerLA.org](http://www.EmpowerLA.org)), will administer the SNC Executive Board Election.

Mr. Martin, Chair of the now-former SNC Bylaws Committee, noted that the SNC never approved DONE's 2012 and 2014 Bylaws versions. Ms. Campos said that DONE "fixed" formatting issues and inserted the City Attorney's approved revised Stakeholder definition. Mr. Martin explained that the SNC's revised 2011 Bylaws version was submitted but never approved by DONE and that DONE's 2012 and 2014 versions are different from the SNC's 2011 version.

Ms. Campos noted the five SNC Executive Board positions. Stakeholder Nick Krall, a former long-time SNC Board Member, encouraged voting for Board Member Roy Smith for SNC President. Stakeholder Eugene Hernandez believed that the SNC's

March 8th Election was “illegitimate” because the DONE Bylaws versions were not approved; he’s “going to file a challenge to this Election.” Stakeholder Les Aisenman agreed with Mr. Hernandez, saying “you had no adopted Bylaws.” Stakeholder Martin Laufer, an SNC co-founder and former long-time Board Member who worked extensively on the SNC Bylaws, said “technically you are operating on the 2009 Bylaws” and recommended voting for Mr. Smith for President. Stakeholders Memo Reyes and Ricardo Benitez, former SNC Board Members, also recommended voting for Mr. Smith for President. Stakeholder Sotario encouraged “change” on the Board. Stakeholder Sharon Aisenman encouraged voting for Board Member Ann Job for SNC President.

#### President

Ms. Campos read the President’s responsibilities from the DONE January 26, 2014 version of the SNC Bylaws. Ms. Bloom nominated and Ms. Neal seconded the nomination for Roy Smith for President, who accepted the nomination. Ms. Rau nominated and Ms. Grubert seconded the nomination for Ann Job for President, who accepted the nomination. Mr. Smith and Ms. Job described their community service and interest in being President. In two hand votes Mr. Smith and Ms. Job both received nine votes for President; two abstained. In a third hand vote Mr. Smith and Ms. Job both received ten votes for President. Ms. Campos called for a recess.

**Recess.** A recess was taken at this time.

Ms. Campos invited Mr. Smith and Ms. Job to elaborate on their qualifications and interests in being President. In a fourth hand vote Ms. Job received eleven (11) votes and Mr. Smith received nine (9) votes for President. Ann Job was declared the new SNC President.

#### Vice-President of Administration

Ms. Campos read the Vice-President of Administration’s responsibilities. Ms. Job nominated Diane Valencia for Vice-President of Administration, who accepted the nomination. Ms. Fadness nominated Roy Smith, who declined the nomination. Diane Valencia received 17 hand votes for Vice-President of Administration; three abstained. Diane Valencia was declared the new SNC Vice-President of Administration.

#### Vice-President of Communications

Ms. Campos read the Vice-President of Communication’s responsibilities. Ms. Job nominated Kathy Grubert for Vice-President of Communications, who accepted the nomination. Mr. Smith nominated Christian Rubalcava, who accepted the nomination. Ms. Grubert and Mr. Rubalcava described their qualifications and interests to be the Vice-President of Communications. Mr. Smith spoke in support of Mr. Rubalcava. Ms. Grubert received 13 hand votes; Mr. Rubalcava received six hand votes; one abstained. Kathy Grubert was declared the new SNC Vice-President of Communications.

### Treasurer

Ms. Campos read the Treasurer's responsibilities. Ms. Job nominated Patricia Rau for Treasurer, who accepted the nomination. Ms. Fadness nominated Chris Shows, who accepted the nomination. Ms. Rau and Mr. Shows described their qualifications and interests to be the Treasurer. Ms. Fadness spoke in support of Mr. Shows. Ms. Grubert and Ms. Job spoke in support of Ms. Rau. Ms. Rau received 12 hand votes; Mr. Shows received seven hand votes; one abstained. Patricia Rau was declared the new SNC Treasurer.

### Public Relations Coordinator

Ms. Campos read the Public Relations Coordinator's responsibilities. Ms. Job nominated Maria Silva for Public Relations Coordinator, who accepted the nomination. Mr. Rubalcava nominated himself. Ms. Silva and Mr. Rubalcava described their experience and interest in being the Public Relations Coordinator. Ms. Silva received 12 hand votes; Mr. Rubalcava received seven hand votes; one abstained. Maria Silva was declared the new SNC Public Relations Coordinator.

**MOTION** (by Ms. Job, seconded by Mr. Martin): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council appoints as its Purchase Card (P-Card) Holder and Primary Signatory Treasurer Patricia Rau and the P-Card Second Signatory as President Ann Job.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Hernandez requested that MECHA funding be resolved. There was discussion of whether this Motion is a funding-related Motion and whether Board Members needed to have completed the DONE Funding Training to vote on this Motion. Ms. Campos said that it is not a funding Motion.

**MOTION PASSED** by a hand vote with 16 in favor; three opposed.

There again was discussion of whether this Motion is a funding-related Motion. Ms. Campos and the SNC Board agreed to determine at this time which Board Members had completed the DONE Ethics Training and the DONE Funding Training.

Board Members who had completed the DONE Ethics Training: Aguilar, Bloom, Blose, Fadness, Floresta, Grubert, Job, Martin, Mata, Meher, Rau, Rubalcava, Shows, Silva, Smith and Valencia.

Board Members who had completed the DONE Funding Training: Aguilar, Bloom, Blose, Fadness, Floresta, Grubert, Job, Martin, Rau, Rubalcava, Shows, Silva, Smith and Valencia.

The same Motion as above was voted upon again.

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Ms. Job, seconded by Mr. Martin): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council appoints as its Purchase Card (P-Card) Holder and Primary Signatory Treasurer Patricia Rau and the P-Card Second Signatory as President Ann Job.

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** by a roll call vote of the 14 eligible voters present with eleven in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Aguilar, Bloom, Blose, Floresta, Grubert, Job, Martin, Rau, Rubalcava, Silva and Valencia); three opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Fadness, Shows and Smith).

6. **Appointment** by President of Committee Chairs and Members (Budget, Outreach, Equestrian, Land Use, Bylaws, Govt Affairs & Public Safety, Pacoima Reservoir Sediment Removal Project).

**MOTION** (by Ms. Job, seconded by Ms. Fadness): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council TABLES this Item #6 (“Appointment by President of Committee Chairs and Members (Budget, Outreach, Equestrian, Land Use, Bylaws, Govt Affairs & Public Safety, Pacoima Reservoir Sediment Removal Project”) until its next Board Meeting.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Martin was concerned that there will be no Committee Chairs to run Committee Meetings before the next Board Meeting. Ms. Job related that DONE requested for Neighborhood Councils to take one month to consider which Committees to establish; however, she said the Equestrian and Land Use Committees can continue.

**AMENDED MOTION** (by Ms. Job, seconded by Ms. Fadness): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council TABLES this Item #6 (“Appointment by President of Committee Chairs and Members (Budget, Outreach, Equestrian, Land Use, Bylaws, Govt Affairs & Public Safety, Pacoima Reservoir Sediment Removal Project”) until its next Board Meeting except that the Equestrian and Land Use Committees will continue for one month.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Hernandez requested the re-establishment of the Land Use Committee at this time with new Members. Stakeholder Dan Feinberg encouraged Stakeholder participation. Mr. Aisenman encouraged appointment of Committees at this time. Stakeholder Bonnie Bernard believed that the Bylaws indicate that the only SNC Standing Committees are Budget and Outreach.

Ms. Job WITHDREW the amended Motion.

**ORIGINAL MOTION PASSED** by a hand vote with 18 in favor; one opposed.

7. **Approval of Minutes** of the February 27, 2014 General Board Meeting.

**MOTION** (by Ms. Job, seconded by Ms. Rau): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its February 27, 2014 General Board Meeting as written.

**MOTION PASSED** by a hand vote with nine in favor; seven abstained.

## **8. Public Officials, Community Representative's Announcements & Presentations.**

[*The following was said after Item #4. b.*] Councilman Fuentes indicated that a proposed soccer facility on Foothill Blvd. is "by right" and said "we asked them to speak with" the SNC "to solicit your opinions . . . they've agreed to come and meet with you." Regarding the Pacoima Wash Greening Project, "we're working to identify funding." Regarding the proposed McDonald's Restaurant on the El Chaparral site on Foothill, he said "we've told McDonalds repeatedly that we're not supportive of that kind of use on that site . . . we don't want a drive-through on that corner . . . we want a sit-down type of restaurant." He described the DWP's Feed-in Tariff Program and their proposed large solar panel installation in Lake View Terrace and that "the law says we must take it"; the only thing the City can regulate is how far from private properties they can be. The Councilman is working with the City Attorney to help keep equine property owners in compliance; "it's going to unfortunately be a test case" that will be litigated.

[*The following was said after Item #7.*] Tania Soto, Area Director for L.A. City District Seven Councilman Felipe Fuentes (818-756-8409; Tania.Soto@LACity.org; <http://CD7.LACity.org>), encouraged contacting her if help is needed. There will be a community cleanup March 29<sup>th</sup> on Laurel Canyon Blvd. near Hubbard. CD7 will host a community meeting about the proposed DWP trunk line. Mr. Bailey encouraged attending the VANC (Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils) Mixer April 10<sup>th</sup> at CBS Studios in Studio City.

## **9. Public Comments**

Former Board Member and Faith-Based Organizations Representative Deidre Campbell-Jones noted that the Faith-Based Organizations Board Seat is vacant and requested that it be Agendized to re-appoint her to that Seat. Mr. Feinberg encouraged learning what DWP projects are planned for the Sylmar area and opposing "solar farms" in Sylmar. Will Leider, Candidate for the U.S. 29<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, encouraged the Board to serve Sylmar. Stakeholder David Hernandez encouraged attending the March 29<sup>th</sup> "Welcome Home Viet Nam Veterans Day" event. Stakeholder Jan Sandstrom encouraged attending and supporting the May 3<sup>rd</sup> Sylmar Women's Club event that awards scholarships to students, and the "Relay for Life" Cancer Walk-a-Thon 24-hour event [[www.RelayForLife.org/SylmarCA](http://www.RelayForLife.org/SylmarCA)] from Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. through Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. at Olive Vista Middle School. Jorge Casteneda of Nextdoor.com described Sylmar communities participating in Nextdoor and its usefulness in helping prevent crime. Nina Royal, Publisher, North Valley Reporter ("an all-volunteer paper"), announced that the paper has a new "interactive" website that can quickly show news. Eugene Hernandez believed that "not only the Protestant religion should be represented, but Catholics, too."

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

#### **10. Neighborhood Council Board Orientation**

- a. The role of your NC in your community and for your community
- b. Laws that govern NCs - City Charter, NC Plan, Brown Act PRA, ADA, Conflict of Interest
- c. Getting to know your bylaws
- d. Funding for your NC
- e. Having a great NC meeting
- f. Questions and answers

It was agreed not to have the Orientation at this time. Ms. Campos suggested that the SNC soon call a Special Board Meeting to do a 90-minute Board Training. All Board Members indicated they may be available on a Saturday to attend a Board Training.

#### **11. Future Agenda Items, Meeting date** - Write Executive Board at executiveboard@sylmarnc.org, mail c/o Sylmar Neighborhood Council, Sylmar Recreation Center, Sylmar Park, 13109 Borden Ave., Sylmar, CA 91342. The next General Board meeting will be April 24, 2014. Location: Sylmar HS, Spartan Hall, 13050 Borden Avenue, Sylmar, CA 91342.

Ms. Job announced that the SNC will have a Special Board Meeting for a Board Training and noted the above.

#### **12. Closing Remarks, Acknowledgements, and Adjournment**

Mr. Martin announced that Sylmar High School would be available on Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup> to host a Board Training. Ms. Job, Ms. Campos and Mr. Martin agreed that the Training could be April 12<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Ms. Job expressed confidence that the Board would work together to serve Sylmar.

**MOTION to ADJOURN** (by Ms. Job, seconded by Mr. Aguilar).

**MOTION PASSED** without any objection.

The Meeting **ADJOURNED** at 9:40 p.m.

Minutes written by DL.