

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 (to be approved) of the
SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (SNC)
GENERAL BOARD MEETING
Thursday, November 20, 2014**

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

SNC (and all other) Meeting Minutes are a summary; Minutes were not, are not and are never meant to be an exact, verbatim, word-for-word transcript or comprehensive record of what was said at a Meeting. Exceptions: Motion(s) (included as stated at the Meeting, or, if not stated, as written on the Agenda); quotes (words that have quotation marks ("")) at the beginning and ending of a word or words); and Agenda wording copied into the Minutes.

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

President Ann Job called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

2. Roll Call

Roll Call was taken. Fifteen of the 20 Board Members were present at the beginning of the Meeting: Kathy Bloom, Peggy Courtney, Laurie Fadness, Lucille Floresta, Kathy Grubert, Ann Job, Carlos Lara, Derek Martin, Chardell Powell, Patricia Rau, Brenda Resendis, Christian Rubalcava, Chris Shows, Maria Silva and Roy Smith. Cheri Blose arrived later. Four Board Members were absent: Carlos Gonzalez, Jackie Mata, Jeh Meher, and Diane Valencia. 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 (by election or appointment). One Board Seat was vacant: At Large. Also attending: 25 Stakeholders and Guests.

3. Housekeeping, Speaker Cards and Timekeeper – Ms. Grubert explained this.

Board Member Cheri Blose arrived at this time, making 16 Board Members present (the SNC quorum is 11).

4. Secretary's Report

The Secretary described some of the work completed and in progress, including getting a copy of a Resolution to include in the Meeting Minutes; writing the Board Meeting Minutes, confirming which Board Meeting Minutes were uploaded into Dropbox and are in the SNC computer; and more.

5. Welcome and Announcements by Board Meeting facility Host.

Meeting Host Mr. Martin welcomed everyone and announced that the School was "approved for a full-color marquee."

6. Approval of the Minutes

MOTION (by Ms. Rau, seconded by Ms. Fadness): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its October 23, 2014 General Board Meeting as written.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Ms. Job); there was no objection.

MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 16 eligible voters present with 14 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Bloom, Blose, Courtney, Fadness, Floresta, Grubert, Job, Martin, Powell, Rau, Rubalcava, Shows, Silva and Smith); two abstained (Lara and Resendis).

7. Public Official and Community Representative announcements and presentations.

John Lonergan, LAPD Mission Division (south/west of Glenoaks Blvd.) Senior Lead Officer (mobile/text 818-634-0610; office 818-838-9848; 31304@LAPD.LACity.org; http://www.LAPDOnline.org/Mission_Community_Police_Station), reported that crime is much lower over last year. Tania Soto, Area Director for L.A. City District Seven Councilman Felipe Fuentes (818-756-8409; Tania.Soto@LACity.org; <http://CD7.LACity.org>), announced that the Councilman “will fund a party car . . . specifically for New Year’s.” Franklin Ochoa, Field Representative for State 39th District Assemblyman Raul Bocanegra (818-504-3911; Franklin.Ochoa@asm.ca.gov; <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a39>), announced a December 10th cleanup next to Oakridge Mobile Home Park; volunteers are needed. He explained that nearby homeowners will be advised that they need to maintain their own properties. He reported that many donation bins “are not permitted . . . they’ve become a blight”; he suggested donating to “a better-known charity.” Mr. Ochoa explained efforts to deal with a homeless encampment off Foothill Blvd. between the Von’s and the Post Office. A winter shelter will be available at the Army National Guard facility from December through March. Ms. Job announced that the Discovery Cube just opened at Hansen Dam.

a. Questions / Comments from the Public

There were no questions or comments at this time.

8. Board Member community announcements.

There were no announcements at this time.

9. Committee Reports

Executive -- Ms. Grubert described the need to have Committee Minutes available.

Budget -- Ms. Rau indicated that there was no report.

Outreach -- Ms. Silva reported that “we are continuing to input surveys.” The Committee will meet again in December or January.

Equestrian -- Ms. Blose reported that the Committee will meet the first Tuesday or Thursday of December.

Bylaws -- Mr. Smith reported that the Committee will meet November 25th and “we’re making progress.”

Planning and Land Use -- Ms. Blose reported that the Committee met. Ms. Job noted a VANC (Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils) land use training December 11th, 5:30-9:30 at CBS Studios in Studio City.

Government Affairs & City Services – Mr. Rubalcava reported that he emailed the Board and posted to Facebook about the open Board Seat. He will work with Mr. Powell on community projects. Contact him with ideas at Christian.Rubalcava@SylmarNC.org.

Emergency Preparedness & Public Safety – Mr. Powell reported that the Committee will meet in January and encouraged emailing him (Chardell.Powell@SylmarNC.org) for services.

Ad Hoc Sediment Removal – Ms. Grubert reported that the Committee meets every two weeks at El Cariso Park at 6:30 p.m. and may help host a February 18th Town Hall Meeting.

Underserved Stakeholders – Ms. Courtney reported that there will be a “homeless count” and “we want to identify the services we have . . . to get the help that we need in this area.” Elizabeth Young, Valley Homeless Count Manager, described the homeless count procedure; volunteers are needed.

10. Reports by Liaisons to the City

Budget – Maria Silva and Patricia Rau

Ms. Rau reported that a Budget Advocates [<http://BudgetAdvocatesLA.com>] Newsletter is available.

Department of Public Works – Ann Job

Ms. Job indicated that there was no report.

Legal / City Attorney – Diane Valencia and Ann Job

Ms. Job noted that the representative is Alois Phillips L.A. City Deputy Attorney, Neighborhood Council Advice Division (213-978-8132; Alois.Phillips@LACity.org; <http://atty.lacity.org/CIVIL/index.htm>).

11. Public Comments

Stakeholder Sherry Lincoln announced a December 6th Sylmar Women's Club meeting at the Odyssey Restaurant and the December 7th Granada Hills Holiday Parade on Chatsworth St. Stakeholder Eugene Hernandez is opposed to the 13245 Hubbard St. 22-home housing project. Also, he would like a new Planning and Land Use Committee Chair and Members appointed. Finally, he announced that Tia Chucha Owner Luis Rodriguez was appointed the Poet Laureate of Los Angeles.

Unfinished Business

12. Discussion and possible Board action to approve and/or amend the letter as drafted by Carlos Gonzalez to Mayor Eric Garcetti, copying Councilmember Felipe Fuentes, supporting Garcetti's call for assistance for newly-arrived unaccompanied minors from Central America.

Ms. Job relayed that Mr. Gonzalez indicated he "wants to drop the writing of that letter . . . we will not be submitting that letter."

MOTION (by Ms. Job, seconded by Ms. Grubert): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council TABLES Item #12.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Ms. Job); there was no objection.

MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 16 eligible voters present with 15 in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Bloom, Blose, Courtney, Fadness, Grubert, Job, Lara, Martin, Powell, Rau, Resendis, Rubalcava, Shows, Silva and Smith); one abstained (Floresta).

13. Appointment by the President of Chair for the Education Committee

Ms. Job requested and it was agreed to POSTPONE the appointment.

14. Recess.

New Business

15. Discussion and possible Board action to appoint a new Board member to the vacant At Large Representative seat.

[*Agenda Item #'s 15, 16 and 17 were addressed after Item #23.*] Ms. Job requested and it was agreed to POSTPONE this Item.

16. Discussion and possible Board action (pursuant to our June 26, 2014 board vote) to [see the below Motion].

MOTION (by Ms. Grubert, seconded by Ms. Fadness): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves as written our SNC Community Impact Statement regarding Solar Farm.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 14 eligible voters present with all 14 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Bloom, Blose, Courtney, Fadness, Floresta, Grubert, Job, Lara, Martin, Rau, Rubalcava, Shows, Silva and Smith).

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

MOTION (by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Blose): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council will send a letter to Mayor Garcetti and Councilman Fuentes in support of the appeal made by the community of Foothills Trails to the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission upheld their appeal, and as a consequence the solar company has filed a suit against the City of Los Angeles. Said letter further asserts opposition to the Ground Mounted Solar Farms slated for our community.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 14 eligible voters present with all 14 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Bloom, Blose, Courtney, Fadness, Floresta, Grubert, Job, Lara, Martin, Rau, Rubalcava, Shows, Silva and Smith).

18. Discussion and possible Board action to [see the below Motion].

Ms. Rau reviewed recent expenses.

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Silva, seconded by Ms. Grubert): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves its monthly expenditure report (MER) for November, 2014.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 16 eligible voters present with all 16 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Bloom, Blose, Courtney, Fadness, Floresta, Grubert, Job, Lara, Martin, Powell, Rau, Resendis, Rubalcava, Shows, Silva and Smith).

19. Treasurer’s Report

See above Item #18.

20. Discussion and possible Board action to [see the below Motion].

MOTION (by Mr. Martin, seconded by Ms. Blose): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council will create a new line item in Outreach, as a subsection to Events Expense, for the Equestrian Committee.

DISCUSSION: There was extensive discussion by Board Members and Stakeholders of the merits of the Motion and the meaning of budget allocating. Ms. Grubert reminded that Committees need to make allocation requests to the Board.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Ms. Job); there was no objection.

MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 16 eligible voters present with nine in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Bloom, Blose, Courtney, Floresta, Grubert, Job, Martin, Rau and Resendis); six opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Fadness, Powell, Rubalcava, Shows, Silva and Smith); one abstained (Lara).

Board Member Brenda Resendis left at this time, making 15 Board Members present (the SNC quorum is 11).

21. Discussion and possible Board action to [see the below Motion].

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Martin, seconded by Ms. Rau): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council will reallocate \$2,750.00 from Operations – Temporary Staff in the 2014-2015 Budget in the follow manner; \$1,000.00 to be reallocated to Audio/Visual Services, \$495.00 to Outreach – Events Expense, \$595.00 to Newsletter Expense, and \$660.00 to the new category in Outreach – Equestrian.

DISCUSSION: There was extensive discussion of the merits of the Motion.

AMENDED FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Martin, seconded by Ms. Rau): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council will reallocate \$2,750.00 from Operations – Temporary Staff in the 2014-2015 Budget in the follow manner; \$1,000.00 to be reallocated to Audio/Visual Equipment, \$495.00 to Outreach – Events Expense, \$595.00 to Newsletter Expense, and \$660.00 to the new category in Outreach – Equestrian.

[NOTE: In the above Amended Motion the phrase “Audio/Visual Services” was amended to “Audio/Visual Equipment.”]

AMENDED FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 15 eligible voters present with eight in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Blose, Grubert, Job, Lara, Martin, Rau, Resendis, Rubalcava and Silva); seven opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Bloom, Courtney, Fadness, Floresta, Powell, Shows and Smith).

Board Member Chardell Powell left at this time, making 14 Board Members present (the SNC quorum is 11).

22. Discussion and possible Board action to [see the below Motion].

MOTION (by Ms. Rau, seconded by Ms. Blose): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves hosting a Community Holiday party, rather than a General Board Meeting in December, 2014.

MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 14 eligible voters present with 12 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Bloom, Blose, Courtney, Floresta, Grubert, Job, Lara, Martin, Rau, Rubalcava, Shows and Silva); two opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Fadness and Smith).

23. Discussion and possible Board action to [see the below Motion].

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Grubert, seconded by Ms. Blose): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves an expenditure of funds not to exceed \$350.00 to host a Community Holiday Party in December, 2014.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Mr. Smith); there was no objection.

MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 14 eligible voters present with 13 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Bloom, Blose, Courtney, Fadness, Floresta, Grubert, Job, Lara, Martin, Rau, Rubalcava, Shows and Silva); one opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Smith).

24. Board Member Comments

Ms. Blose encouraged contacting Councilman Fuentes to support GraffitiBusters funding. Mr. Smith would like Board Member comments to be made before Public Comments.

25. Future Agenda item suggestions from public and Board members. Write to Executive Board by email at ExecutiveBoard@SylmarNC.org or mail Executive Board c/o Sylmar Neighborhood Council, 13517 Hubbard St., Sylmar, CA 91342, or PO Box 921023, Sylmar, CA 91392-1023. Due to the December holidays, the next General Board meeting will be the 3rd Thursday of the month, December 18, 2014 at Sylmar High School – Spartan Hall.

The above was noted.

26. Closing Remarks, Acknowledgements and Adjournment

Ms. Job **ADJOURNED** the Meeting without objection at 9:30 p.m.