



**Officers**  
**President: Ann Job**  
**Vice President of Administration: Diane Valencia**  
**Vice President of Communications: Kathy Grubert**  
**Treasurer: Alex Guerrero**  
**Public Relations Coordinator: Maria Silva**

MINUTES  
SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL  
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING  
Thursday, February 25, 2016

Sylmar High School / Spartan Hall  
13050 Borden Avenue, Sylmar, CA 91342

Minutes are a summary of business conducted at a meeting. Only the Motions are precise.  
These Minutes are in meeting order; not in item number order.

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

President Ann Job called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m. Carlos Lara led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. Roll Call**

The Sylmar Neighborhood Council's quorum is 11.

15 of the 21 Board Members were present during roll call: Kathy Bloom, Cheri Blose, Peggy Courtney, Laurie Fadness, Lucille Floresta, Kathy Grubert, Alex Guerrero, Carlos Lara, Ann Job, Derek Martin, Peter Postlmayr, Patricia Rau, Maria Silva, Roy Smith, and Diane Valencia.

3 Board Members arrived later: Joanne Fernandez, Chris Shows, and Kurt Cabrera-Miller

3 Board Members was absent: Dennis Orellana, Brenda Resendis, and Christian Rubalcava (arrived just before meeting ended)

21 of the 21 Board Seats are filled.

**3. Housekeeping, Speaker Cards, and Timekeeper** – Diane Valencia explained meeting protocol.

**4. Welcome and Announcements by Board Meeting facility Host** – Derek Martin welcomed us. The President thanked Sylmar High for allowing this meeting to go ahead despite the room needing to be set up differently for a Black History Celebration starting at 8 AM the next day. As a consequence, she announced that the meeting will conclude at 9:30, and that some items will be held over to a later meeting.

**5. Public Official and Community Representative Announcements & Presentations**

**1) Monica Ratliff, LAUSD Boardmember** – told us about the newly elected Superintendent of Public Schools

**2) Brian Gavidia**, representing Mayor Garcetti – confirmed that the fire station for Sylmar is on the Mayor's desk

Diane Valencia said that she will be sending an invitation to the Mayor for the SNC Town Hall on March 19 regarding fire station(s) in Sylmar; Mr. Gavidia will attend the town hall. The Mayor and Herb Wesson will be speaking with the neighborhood council alliances about the DWP rates.

**3) Jaqueline Serrano**, representing Congressman Cardenas spoke of his bill HR 4588 to extend federal funding for 3 years for health care to families. She provided flyers for the Congressional Art Competition for high school students. She is working with the assistant principal for Sylmar HS to encourage our students to participate in the contest. to get Sent a letter to FCC, provided a copy of the letter the Congressman sent to the FCC.

4) **Lydia Grant**, Commissioner on the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners. She said that the motion for neighborhood councils to have first access to public space, over non-profits has moved from BONC to the City Council for consideration. She encourages candidates in the SNC elections to take the ethics training now, so if elected they will be able to be fully active at the beginning.

*Joanne Fernandez arrived at 7:10.*

Later in the meeting, the following addressed us:

5) **Hermes Ayala**, representing Assemblywoman Patty Lopez, said she is working with about 10 agencies to help people in our district who are in need of affordable housing.

6) **Officer Sean Smith** – spoke on behalf of (SLO) Senior Lead Officer John Lonergan of Mission Division LAPD, who is currently on desk duty. Lonergan’s numbers are: 818/838-9848 (desk); 818-634-0610 (cell). Officer Smith mentioned that they have a unit that is working every day on stolen cars. Property crime is going up, not only in Sylmar, but everywhere. He said about 75% to 80% of his day is spent on issues that come out of homelessness. They are working with LAHSA and other agencies on creating a strategy to work with the homeless. “We can’t arrest our way out of the homeless problem.” Only 8 of the 5 SLO positions in the Mission Division are filled. Currently we don’t have a SLO designated to drive around Sylmar, but when the other SLOs get calls from Officer Lonergan, they respond immediately.

**6. Presentation by Monica Rodriguez, Board of Public Works Commissioner**, regarding city services in Sylmar.

The Commissioner found that the “Adopt a Median” program’s process for providing free permits to community groups wanting to improve medians in their communities took too long. So it discouraged rather than encouraged local participation.

Therefore, she went to the Innovation Fund (which is a separate fund to encourage innovation in tackling city issues) and pitched her idea to create a toolkit to streamline the process. As a result \$40,000 was allocated and local universities in LA County were invited to submit ideas for the toolkit. One idea incorporates a water collection element, so that design might ultimately be implemented citywide. Now if the community group adopts pre-approved guidelines from the toolkit, it would take 1 to 3 months, rather than 6 to 8 frustrating months to get the free permit. Now even federal funds are being provided through Keep America Beautiful to widen this toolkit to help other communities statewide.

Commissioner Rodriguez also spoke of the Blitz program for resurfacing and pothole repairs, whereby the Department of Public Works and neighborhood councils effectively work together. [With board member Christian Rubalcava at the lead, Street Services comes out twice a year to Sylmar to make the repairs on streets the Sylmar Neighborhood Council has identified.]

These two programs are indicative of cooperation between the community and the city—neighborhood councils seeing the problem tells the city of the need.

**7. Public Comment on Non-Agendized Items** within the Board’s subject matter jurisdiction

- 1) John Rupkalvis– talked of wheelchairs on broken sidewalks. He talked with Commissioner Rodriguez about it.
- 2) Eugene Hernandez – took issue with the makeup of the Planning & Land Use Committee
- 3) Jonathan McCoy – supports Apple’s stance on security of the iPhone.
- 4) David Levin – complained about the current board
- 5) Daniel Campos, Commissioner of Human Relations working with the police and the mayor

**8. Approval of the Minutes** for January 28, 2016 General Board Meeting . Item skipped due to time constraints.

**9. Committee Reports:** Item skipped due to time constraints.

**10. City Liaison Reports:** Due to time, only Diane Valencia spoke in her capacity as Public Safety Liaison about action taken with the CIS regarding Fast Response Vehicle and additional Fire Station. It is now on the mayor’s desk. She also spoke with Kathy Bloom about the upcoming Town Hall at Mission College about fire services in Sylmar.

**Unfinished Business:**

**11. Discussion and possible Board action** to approve a revised Sylmar Neighborhood Council budget for the 2015/2016 Fiscal Year.  
Presentation by: Alex Guerrero, SNC Treasurer

*Chris Shows arrived at 8:02.*

**Motion** by Valencia; seconded by Fadness

**Discussion** included assurances that if the website development becomes a possibility, funds will be returned to that line.

**Motion Passed** by vote of the 17 eligible members present. Yes (16): Bloom, Blose, Courtney, Fadness, Fernandez, Floresta, Grubert, Guerrero, Lara, Martin, Postlmayr, Rau, Silva, Smith, Valencia, and Job. No (0); Abstain (1) Shows

- 12. Discussion and possible action** to approve setting up a Sylmar Neighborhood Council “account” on social media platform Nextdoor along with identifying SNC Directors who may be authorized to post SNC events and information.  
Item being referred out to the Outreach Committee.

- 13. Discussion and possible action** relative to the noticing of Committee meetings as “Joint” meetings with the Sylmar Neighborhood Council Board. Item skipped due to lack of time.

**New Business:**

- 14. Presentation** regarding current efforts to put an initiative on the November 2016 ballot regarding the High Speed Rail project, which was approved by a 2008 ballot measure. The initiative would transfer all unspent HSR funds to water projects.  
Presentation by Dave DePinto, S.A.F.E. (Save Angeles Forest for Everyone )

Dave DePinto began by saying that he a stakeholder in Shadow Hills, and is addressing us as such—a stakeholder engaged in this issue with other communities, including Sylmar. The SR-14 route which would affect Sylmar has been a part of the plan for 5 years. He spoke of the need to eliminate from the project the at-grade and above ground routes that would change the character of our communities, to allow study of only tunnel route options in the northeast valley.

Much has changed since 2008, when the voters approved the High Speed Rail. A month ago the High Speed Rail Authority re-prioritized, deciding to turn their attention for now from southern California to northern California (Bakersfield to San Jose). But the pressure is still on the northeast valley, and we must stay engaged.

There was not enough known in 2008. Originally they were approved for \$9.95 B in bond money and projected out the cost to be a \$33B. As of now the budget estimate is about \$64B.

DePinto told us of a potential ballot measure to reallocate unspent HSR money to be added to funds approved several years ago for a bond for water storage projects. We are in the signature gathering stage. A single petition sheet must contain only the names of people registered to vote in a particular county; so if you have a friend in Orange County who wants to sign, it cannot be on a Los Angeles County sheet. S.A.F.E. is asking each community to participate in collecting the needed 585,000 signatures to put this option on the ballot. The petition can be found on the California Water Alliance website. [www.cawater4all.com](http://www.cawater4all.com).

- 15. Self Introductions of candidates** for the 2016 Sylmar Neighborhood Elections. 22 of the 33 candidates introduced themselves.

- 16. Recess** *Kurt Cabrera-Miller arrived during recess.*

- 17. Discussion and possible Board action** to approve the following movement of funds within the SNC Budget for FY 2015-2016, reflecting the City Council having increased neighborhood council funds for this fiscal year from \$37,000 to \$42,000.

\$2,301.71 from FAC Facilities Related and Space Rental,  
\$ 900.00 from TAC Temporary Staff,  
\$1,209.91 from MEE Meeting Expense, and  
\$1,392.05 from WEB Website Maintenance/Enhancement/Creation.

**From Total:** \$5,803.67

Funds’ reallocation:

\$ 875.02 to DAT Data Storage/Domain Name/Email Boxes and Storage,  
\$ 133.35 to MIS Miscellaneous Expense,  
\$ 2,515.30 to OFF Office Equipment and Supplies,  
\$ 2,000.00 to ADV Advertising,  
\$ 1,250.00 to EVE Events Expense/Food & Refreshments, and  
\$ 4,030.00 to GRT Neighborhood Purpose Grants.

**To Total:** \$10,803.67

**Motion** by Martin; seconded by Fadness, call for the vote by Grubert.

**Motion Passed** by vote of the 18 eligible members present. Yes (6): Bloom, Blose, Cabrera-Miller, Courtney, Fadness, Fernandez, Floresta, Grubert, Guerrero, Lara, Martin, Postlmayr, Rau, Silva, Valencia, and Job. No (2) Shows and Smith; Abstain (0)

**20. Discussion and possible Board action** to approve an amount not to exceed \$250.00 for the purchase of Girl Scout cookies for refreshments at SNC General Board Meetings.

**Motion** by Fadness; seconded by Grubert, call for the vote by Martin.

**Discussion:** Cindy Cronin-Yoder (Sylmar stakeholder) and Cindy Sower (on the Sun Valley Area NC) expressed their opposition to this item because someone on the board might be related to a girl scout in Sylmar. Ann Job asked that any boardmember who is related to a girl scout in Sylmar to recuse himself/herself and leave the room. No one did. Diane Valencia pointed out that all board members have taken their Ethic Training, and are aware of their responsibility to disclose a conflict of interest. Ms Valencia further asserted that since no one has a conflict of interest, the vote should proceed.

**Motion Passed** by vote of the 18 eligible members present. Yes (11): Bloom, Blose, Cabrera-Miller, Fadness, Floresta, Grubert, Guerrero, Martin, Rau, Silva, Valencia, and Job. No (5) Courtney, Postlmayr, Shows, Silva and Smith; Abstain (2) Fernandez and Lara.

**21. Discussion and possible Board action** to approve an additional \$2,000 to be added to the \$1,500 (approved at the January General Board Meeting) for the installation of light pole banners at \$125 each for advertising the Sylmar Neighborhood Council throughout Sylmar.

Request made by Kathy Bloom, Outreach Chair

**Motion** by Fadness; seconded by Blose, seeing no further comment, the vote was conducted.

**Discussion:** During conversation several mentioned what a good deal this is, and that some banners should be in Spanish. Smith recommended that they be put at off-ramps. They stay up until the end of the calendar year.

**Motion Passed** by vote of the 18 eligible members present. Yes (15): Bloom, Blose, Courtney, Fadness, Fernandez, Floresta, Grubert, Guerrero, Lara, Martin, Postlmayr, Rau, Silva, Valencia, and Job; No (3) Cabrera-Miller, Shows, and Smith Abstain (0)

*Item 18 was heard upon the arrival of Officer Rodriguez*

**18. Discussion and possible Board action** to approve an expenditure not to exceed \$300.00 to co-sponsor Operations – LAPD Valley Bureau Community Outreach event: Youth Career Day/Youth Discussion at Mission College on April 23, 2016. LAPD Officer Gabe Rodriguez presented.

Officer Rodriguez said that Mission College will match our amount.

**Motion** by Smith; seconded by Fadness, call for the vote by Smith.

**Motion Passed** by vote of the 18 eligible members present. Yes (18): Bloom, Blose, Cabrera-Miller, Courtney, Fadness, Fernandez, Floresta, Grubert, Guerrero, Lara, Martin, Postlmayr, Rau, Shows, Silva, Smith, Valencia, and Job. No (0); Abstain (0)

**22. Discussion and possible Board action** to approve moving \$400 from the Fire Station #91 Appreciation Pancake Breakfast event to the Community Town Hall, an event to raise awareness of the need for additional fire station(s).

Request made by Kathy Bloom, Outreach Chair

**Motion** by Smith; seconded by Valencia, call for the vote by Smith.

**Motion Passed** by vote of the 18 eligible members present. Yes (18): Bloom, Blose, Cabrera-Miller, Courtney, Fadness, Fernandez, Floresta, Grubert, Guerrero, Lara, Martin, Postlmayr, Rau, Shows, Silva, Smith, Valencia, and Job. No (0); Abstain (0)

(18): Bloom, Blose, Cabrera-Miller, Courtney, Fadness, Fernandez, Floresta, Grubert, Guerrero, Lara, Martin, Postlmayr, Rau, Shows, Silva, Smith, Valencia, and Job.

**23. Discussion and possible Board action** to approve an expenditure of \$350 for the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Council Anniversary Mixer, on Thursday, March 10 at CBS Studios in Studio City. The amount of the expenditure will be increased by \$25 for each board member who commits to attending.

(8 members committed to attending, so the original figure of \$150 was increased to \$350).

**Motion** by Fadness; seconded by Lara, call for the vote by Fadness.

**Discussion:** Smith objected to the fact that this is not open to stakeholders.

**Motion Passed** by vote of the 18 eligible members present. Yes (15): Bloom, Blose, Cabrera-Miller, Courtney, Fadness, Fernandez, Floresta, Grubert, Guerrero, Lara, Martin, Postlmayr, Rau, Shows, Silva, Smith, Valencia, and Job.  
No (2) Shows and Smith; Abstain (1) Rau

**24. Discussion and possible Board action** to approve Sylmar Neighborhood Council monthly expense report (MER) for January, 2016.

**Motion** by Cabrera-Miller; seconded by Fadness

**Discussion:** Upon discussion we discovered that we didn't have the MER document, so we discussed Tabling the Item. Cabrera Miller rescinded his original motion and Fadness rescinded her original second.

**Motion to Table** by Smith, seconded by Fadness, call for the vote by Fadness

**Motion to Table Passed** by vote of the 18 eligible members present. Yes (18): Bloom, Blose, Cabrera-Miller, Courtney, Fadness, Fernandez, Floresta, Grubert, Guerrero, Lara, Martin, Postlmayr, Rau, Shows, Silva, Smith, Valencia, and Job; No (0); Abstain (0)

**25. Discussion and possible action** to approve the action of the Planning & Land Use Committee (P&LUC) which approved 13817 W. Foothill, Rite Aid - ENV-2015-4518-CE, to continue the Off-Site Sale of a Full Line of Alcoholic Beverages - ZA-2010-167-CUB-CU-PA1.

Report by Peter Postlmayr, P&LUC Chair

**Motion to Approve** by Postlmayr; seconded by Fadness; call for the vote by Cabrera-Miller

**Discussion:** Postlmayr indicated that the Off-Site Sale refers to it not being consumed on-site, as would be that cast with a bar. Albert Melena from the San Fernando Valley Partnership (SFVP) said that the new location of Rite Aid is an improvement for this sort of sale due to it being well-lit and security monitoring. This store takes very seriously their responsibility regarding underage drinking.

**Motion to Table Passed** by vote of the 18 eligible members present. Yes (18): Bloom, Blose, Cabrera-Miller, Courtney, Fadness, Fernandez, Floresta, Grubert, Guerrero, Lara, Martin, Postlmayr, Rau, Shows, Silva, Smith, Valencia, and Job; No (0); Abstain (0)

**19. Discussion and possible Board action** to approve an amount not to exceed \$250 to Pacoima Beautiful to co-sponsor this year's Youth Leadership Conference Adelante Hombre.

Kathy Bloom, Outreach Chair, reported that they came to the Outreach Committee, and they approved the request. A bus will be made available to Sylmar High School to take 55 Sylmar students to the event, which will be held on Saturday, April 9, at Panorama High School, from 12:45 pm to 2:30 pm.

**Motion** by Smith; seconded by Fadness, call for the vote by Cabrera-Miller.

**Discussion:** Martin expressed concern that in the past this sort of thing has happened and Sylmar High School knew nothing about it. Silva mentioned that Sylmar Biotech Academy should also be included. All students can attend, but the only 55 can go by bus.

**Motion Passed** by vote of the 18 eligible members present. Yes (15): Bloom, Blose, Cabrera-Miller, Courtney, Fadness, Fernandez, Floresta, Grubert, Guerrero, Lara, Martin, Postlmayr, Rau, Silva, and Job.  
No (2) Shows and Smith; Abstain (1) Valencia.

We had to end our meeting by 9:30 PM, therefore, Smith called for adjournment, and no one objected.

**33. Adjournment.** 9:32

The remaining Items were skipped, since we had to end our meeting by 9:30 PM.

**26. Discussion and possible action** related to illegal vending and enforcement of LAMC section 42.00 related to same.

**27. Treasurer's Report.**

**28. Discussion and possible Board action** to approve the President's appointment of Budget Representative(s).

**29. Possible Resumption of Item #7 - Public Comment** no need to resume.

**30. Board Member Community Announcements.**

**31. Board Member Comments** – Comments from Board members on matters within the Board's jurisdiction.

**32. Future Agenda Item** suggestions from public and Board members.

Minutes by the Executive Committee