

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

California



SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

PRESIDENT: Kurt Cabrera-Miller

VICE PRESIDENTS:

Administration: Christian Rubalcava

Communications: Maria Silva

SECRETARY: Marti Marshall

TREASURER: George Ortega

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GENERAL BOARD MEETING - MINUTES

Thursday, March 22th – 6:30 PM

Osceola Street Elementary School

14940 Osceola Street

Sylmar, CA 91342

Minutes by Apple One

- 1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance by Patty Rau 6:40pm**
- 2. Roll Call** The Sylmar Neighborhood Council's quorum is 11.
12 of the 21 Board Members were present during roll call: **Hector** Cabrera, **Kurt** Cabrera-Miller, **Sheldon** Cabrera-Miller, **Paul** Dumont, **Ann** Job, **Marti** Marshall, **George** Ortega, **John** Pacheco, **Peter** Postlmayr, **Diana** Rodriguez, **Christian** Rubalcava, **Maria** Silva
7 of the Board Members arrived after roll call: **Cheri** Blose arrived 6:50 **Lucille** Floresta arrived 6:51 **Kathy** Grubert arrived 6:50 **Greg** Hoerner arrived ??, **Don** Neal arrived 7:14, **Diane** Valencia arrived 6:50, and **Donald** Zelaya arrived 6:59
2 Board Members were absent: **Kathy** Bloom, **Derek** Martin
3 Board Members left Early: **Maria** Silva and **Sheldon** Cabrera-Miller left during the break. **Cheri** Blose left 9:22
- 3. Housekeeping: Speaker Cards, Recording, and Timekeeper.**
Welcome from facility host. Osceola School Principal, Jose Velasquez
- 4. Public Official and Community Representative Announcements & Presentations:**

Leah Gonzales Rep Cardenas' Office: Post Office issue moving along.

Franklin with CD7: As you know, the fires damaged some of the mountainsides. Flooding and mud could be an issue. We did 25 storm drains. Keeping proactive. Asked street services to keep cleaning storm drains to avoid floods. Providing resources to the homeless. A few locations need addressing. We offer homeless services. Lastly, We have installed 5-6 horse crossing signage on foothill blvd to compliment the equestrian saddle tree hedgerow.

Question to Franklin from Maria Silva: Bus stop routes have changed. Elderly have become stranded. The Bus route was changed to serve students. But students can walk, elderly cannot. Maid services have also been impacted. Can we look into what can be done to bring back the old route. The Corner of Hubbard and Eldridge. Please put up English and Spanish signs notifying people, or remove the old bus signs. **Franklin:** I'll be the conduit to Metro for that. Students reached out to Metro. I agree, they will need to remove the bus stop signs that are obsolete.

Diane Valencia: reiterating town hall public safety meeting.

Kelly Gonez: LA USD District 6. I'm advocating for more counseling opportunities. I led the report on the college and career readiness for college and HS students. I've toured 105 out of the 140 schools. I was amazed by the 21st century leadership by students. I'm seeing state of the art engineering labs, and great robotics teams. One key update, the LAUSD is hiring a new

superintendent, looking to hire a permanent superintendent. Online survey available in English and Spanish available till April 1st.

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

Alejandro Vargas, small business owner: It's important to be able to participate in events. I'd like to see move events for small businesses to participate, around parks. Unfortunately we don't have enough of that going on, it's good for the community and students. Reel in the locals. El Cariso park is where the best events are held. Let's get more food trucks out there.

6. **City Liaison and Representatives Reports / (10 minutes)**

Budget Representative - Christian Rubalcava: We have a copy of the budget report given to the mayor every month. No report, no report, no report, defer mine to public safety, no report, Don Neal not here.

7. **Discussion and possible action** to approve a Community Impact Statement for Council File #17-1421 (Illegal Fireworks Task Force / Restrict Usage / Public Safety Threat / Quality-of-Life Issues).

Diane Valencia: Supporting the establishment of a task force to cite illegal fireworks. July 4th is one thing, but we seem to have random fireworks all year long! Call for vote.

1st: Diane; 2nd Marti - Vote was 17/0/0/4 Yes/No/Abstain/Absent

8. **Discussion and possible action** to approve a Community Impact Statement for Council File #18-0036 (La Tuna Canyon / Creek / Wildfires / Reconstruction / Rebuild / Expedite Permits / Fee Waivers).

Diane Valencia: Important to submit this to the city council for approval.

1st: Diane; 2nd Ann - Vote was 17/0/0/4

9. **Presentation / Discussion** – By Karen Ellis Chair, Rancho Cascades Renaming Committee (RCRC). Request that the SNC considers the renaming effort brought forth by residents of Northwestern Sylmar “Rancho Cascades”. Their application to the City Clerk was received February 7th, 2018. Council File - #18-0152. The Rancho Cascades Renaming Committee wishes to emphasize that the proposed boundaries of Rancho Cascades involve a population of approximately 6,200 and that this renaming effort began over 17 years ago

Karen Ellis: Homeowner. My purpose this evening is to inform you of the effort to rename northern Sylmar. 17 years ago we got approval through signatures, not approved formally. Over the past 18 years, many businesses have used rancho cascades as addresses. Monuments exist around the area. Ranchocascadescommunity.com 14 volunteers went out to canvass door to door. We added the new development above the 210 to the movement. Volunteers reported signatures exceeded the minimum required. Sylmar is one of the largest cities in the san Fernando Valley. We feel can have more local participation, and have a stronger voice. We have serious concerns about the response time of the fire and police department. Our area is one of the highest risk areas for fire. (opened for questions) **John-** I suspect there is several areas in Sylmar with fire concerns. Why should we consider this area over others? A: The whole area is in the foothills, the fire prone conditions are different. I feel the northern regions of Sylmar need more protection. **Karen:** Are you asking to secede from Sylmar? Would this mean that the boundaries for the Sylmar neighborhood council would have to be adjusted? A: All we are asking for is official recognition. This is not a separate city. Same zip code. **Cheri:** The reason this wasn't approved is that we all need the same things. All of Sylmar needs more police protection, more fire protection. By Rancho Cascade, all that does is set yourself away from us. The original motivation was based on real estate. **Ann:** I disagree. There are 272 neighborhoods in Los Angeles, people want more local control. **Diane:** I don't understand how this changes anything, there is nothing barring the neighborhood from participating in the community? **Karen:** I don't see this as being property value motivated. This is mainly a formality for something that already exists, we don't need a new fire station. Sylmar as a whole needs another fire station. Granada Hills has even had to help out with fires.---- Next meeting we can allow a vote on this. There's no limit on neighborhood councils based on population. Each neighborhood council gets \$42,000. If a new funding model is approved, we can advocate for more fire protection.

Public comment: (**Stephen**) Sunshine lawsuit is coming to a settlement. In order for us to get leverage against the big dogs, we have to represent each other. We are finally getting reductions in emissions. We feel like we are in no man's land. SAQMD.

2nd opinion: Lots of cities WERE formed for purely profit reasons. Lake View Terrace IS Sylmar, same zip code. Commercial development is already calling it Rancho Cascades, you might as well get the benefit from it.

10. Discussion and possible action – SNC to respond to the recently released Business Plan within the 60 day comment period -Request SNC to send letter demanding removal of E1, E2 and SR-14 and direct High Speed Rail to look at new alternatives that would not cross natural segments of the Los Angeles River and its tributaries, including the Big Tujunga Wash, Pacoima Wash, other foothill canyons, at or above grade and avoid tunneling under established residential communities. If the above routes are not removed the SNC will not support the HSR Business Plan.

Don: We haven't had a meeting on this. There are a number of people on this board who have conflicts of interest with this item. (clarify) **Don-** if you live in the communities where this goes through, and you vote on this...that's against the law, you need to recuse yourself from this comment. (Question) How far? A. 500 feet is the distance.

1st: Diane; 2nd Kathy G - Vote taken. Motion Passes. 10/4/4/3

11. Discussion and possible action Request SNC to authorize its representation at the High Speed Rail Informal Coalition comprised of individuals and representatives from Shadow Hills, Kagel Canyon, Lake View Terrace and La Tuna.

(open comment) This is bigger than that one community issue. We call it the 78 billion dollar mistake. -- **Kurt:** anyone in attendance can announce they are a member of the neighborhood council, but cannot say they represent the whole council.

At some point we need to study this. **Don:** We did, you're about to sign a letter of opposition.

Peter: I was disappointed in the turnout of the last meeting regarding this

Don: We could have done an online survey for free. Nobody asked me.

Janet, public comment: Please educate the public on this. People have no idea of the impact.

1st: Peter; 2nd Marti - Vote: 16/1/1/3

12. Discussion and possible action to approve a Community Impact Statement for Council File - #16-1068 stating LA City Council's opposition to the Refined E2 Alignment for the California High Speed Rail Authority's Palmdale –to-Burbank project Segment, and any other alignments that would cross any natural segments of the Los Angeles River and its tributaries, including the Big Tujunga Wash, Pacoima Wash, other foothill canyons, at or above grade.

Peter: This would allow Sylmar 15 minutes of public comment time on this. Safest route, go on record with a community impact statement.

1st: Peter; 2nd John - Vote: 12/3/3/3

13. Discussion and possible action SNC to request High Speed Rail to hold a public meeting in the Northeast San Fernando Valley.

skipped - no vote

14. Presentation to community member in recognition and appreciation of their work within the community.

Janet Gibson and John Pacheco: Presented to Ray & Sue Wepprecht.

15. MEET AND GREET

16. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee – Kurt Cabrera-Miller

Budget Committee – George Ortega

Bylaws Committee – Diane Valencia

Outreach Committee – Carlos Lara

Beautification project with an elementary. Food available. 8-12noon. CAP's program starts Tuesday April 3.

Planning & Land Use Committee – Peter Postlmayr

Homeless Services Committee – Paul Dumont

Emergency Preparedness – John Pacheco

I passed around a document. We want to do a map-your-neighborhood community. We need about 2 hours of your time, please sign up. Our partnership wants to install 800 smoke alarms.

Equestrian Committee – Cheri Blose

Letters out to 4th grade teachers, kids will produce a picture for us. Signs are being printed. We do this every year. Meeting Monday night. Our Horse Crossing light has been turned on. First of its kind. Ice cream store, next to the 99c store. 7 o'clock.

Public Safety Committee – Diane Valencia

45 people at the last meeting. Next meeting March 29. I please with the Board for outreach. Invites are out.

17. **Discussion and possible action** on approving the November 2017 General Board Meeting Minutes
Item tabled.
18. **Discussion and possible action** on approving the February 2018 General Board Meeting Minutes
1st: Christian; 2nd Marti - Vote: 13/0/3/5
19. **Treasure's Report**
George: We wasted a lot of time in February.
20. **Discussion and possible action** on approving the February 2018 Monthly Expenditure Report (MER)
1st: Christian; 2nd George - Vote: 14/0/1/6
21. **Discussion and possible action** to approve a reimbursement in the amount of \$38.72 to Board Member, Diane Valencia for the purchase of (3) 1 1/2" white binders and 200 sheet protectors from Office Depot to be used to compile binders as discussed during SNC Board meeting on February 22, 2018.
1st: Ann; 2nd Christian - Vote: 14/0/2/5
22. **Discussion and possible action** to approve an amount not to exceed \$600.00 for writing pens. Pens have SNC information on them and are given out at all meetings and events. (This item was tabled from the 2-22-18 Board Meeting)
Net estimate for replacement of pens total \$524.49 for 1000 pens. Cost does not include 3 different discounts. Last year we spent \$475 on pens.
1st: Kathy G; 2nd Ann - Vote: 17/0/0/4
23. **Discussion and possible action** to approve an amount not to exceed \$500 for outreach materials including backpacks or reusable bags with NC logos including hygiene kits and information on housing and supportive services for stakeholders experiencing homelessness. These items would be distributed at upcoming homeless connect events, committee meetings and to stakeholders encountered during Sylmar homeless services outreach activities.
We'd like to find a way to increase the donations to the homeless. Can we have some items donated? Ziplock bags would cut costs from backpacks.
1st: Sheldon; 2nd Christian - Vote: 17/0/0/4
24. **Discussion and possible action** to nominate and vote in SNC Board Member Kathy Bloom as the 2nd Signer. The 2nd Signer verifies funding document have been correctly filled out before submission and acts as the second signer as required on Funding Program documents.

Kurt: We didn't get this done last month. There was no vote to have Kathy to become the 2nd signer.
1st: Ann; 2nd Don - Vote: 17/0/0/4
25. **Discussion and possible action** 13233 N. Wheeler Avenue – This site was approved on March 12 2008 for a maximum 30-Unit detached residential condominium on Lot 1 and for an existing single-family dwelling on Lot 2. Request is to allow a 5-ft. rear yard in lieu of 25 feet for Lot 2. Applicant is Spiegel Development, David Spiegel spiegelhomes@aol.com 818-404-1443 PLUC recommends DENIAL as there is no reason they cannot design around this constraint.
Question: is the property owner the single family home? A: The existing structure is within 5 feet of the new rear yard line. The larger lot is where the 30 condo's will be built. **George:** There's no sidewalk in front of the house, can we ask for that? A: We are denying the 5 foot setback, the map will probably include that. --- its already been approved and is asking for changes.

1st: Ann; 2nd Diane - Vote: 16/0/1/4

26. Discussion and possible action 13727 W. Foothill Blvd. Rok N Sushi ZA-2018-646-CUB a Conditional Use Permit to allow the sale and dispensing of beer and wine only for on-site consumption,; in conjunction with an existing 1,200 square foot restaurant; having hours of operation from 11am to 11pm, Sunday thru Wednesday and 11am to 12-midnight, Thursday thru Saturday; with a seating capacity for 48 patrons; in the [Q] C2-1VL-CPIO zone. Applicant Brian Mammo, fgiusa@earthlink.net 818-355-2808. PLUC recommends APPROVAL of beer and wine license for on-site consumption in conjunction with a dining experience.

It appears that the owner has had several alcohol violations. **John:** I'm assuming this is Johnny. A: There's a different name on the applications involved. Brian is the American version. **John:** I'd like to give them some benefit of the doubt. Need to take a vote to send it back.

To send back to Land Use: 1st: Christian; 2nd Diane - Vote: 16/0/1/4

27. Discussion and possible action to approve a Community Impact Statement regarding CF 15-1138-S32 Emergency Response to Homelessness Plan. Comprehensive Homeless Strategy Shelter System Overhaul.

The council file simply asks to study how to study to accelerate to provide shelter to everyone who does not have a home this year. This is a humanitarian issue.

1st: Diane; 2nd Sheldon - Vote: 17/0/0/4

28. Discussion and possible action to approve amendments to the SNC's Bylaws.

Diane Valencia: What happens after we vote to keep someone on or off the island. Does the clock reset under their absences? If the board takes no action or vote, it will reset or not remove a director.

Response: Absences are indefinite, board members are on the chopping block till action is taken. **Response:** This is a negative action to take someone off the board. We chose in essence by silence not to remove someone.

Diane: We have now and between April 15 to file the amendments. If someone does not 2nd the motion, the motion dies.

Question: My concern is running out of time on meeting. If we run out of time, it needs to be all business next meeting.

Page 10/22. **Diane:** Recommendations for VPC role. The committee members felt that the VPC should be the chair of the outreach community. **Kathy G:** Having Been the VPC, it is a huge job, adding to it, might put it over the edge. Outreach should be wholly devoted to outreach. **Diane** We were not unanimous on this. **Christian:** My recommendation is that the VPC

provides info and acts as a liaison. **Diane:** Are you suggesting we replace that with an Ex officio member? **Don:** I think the exec committee has enough to do. Strike that chair. **Kurt:** Outreach is our number 1 goal of all neighborhood council. I don't want us to be closing the door on opportunity. Get more committee members to do more things. Should we strike "the chair" and replace it with Ex Officio member?

Page 12/22 **Diane:** This is a simple rewording of the description that might be a little more clear on what the expectations are. I'd like to make outreach more clear.

- Responses: On item D I recommend deleting Monthly. Is there a penalty if they don't? Make it a suggestion rather than they Shall. Change Shall to should. Also strike monthly because some projects are on-going, some are shorter.

15/22 Item E. **Diane:** Review of financials. We changed 1nce per quarter to 2x per year. Some language was deleted as unnecessary. We've included for clarification is that if you're suspended from vote, you will have your trainings of ethics and code of conduct. This is for only board members, does not apply for stakeholders. I think the public participation is hard enough in our committees. If we push training req onto community members, we won't have any members.

Don: This might make you lose quorum. I move that we strike this.

1st: Christian; 2nd Marti - Vote: 15/1/0/5

29. Board Member Comments / Announcements

Sheldon: We have internet at the office!

Marti: Please come get your California Constitutions.

Kurt: Phone line as well. Goes straight to the 833 virtual number.

30. Future Agenda Items Write to Executive Board by email at ExecutiveBoard@SylmarNC.org or mail Executive Board c/o Sylmar Neighborhood Council, P.O. Box 921023, Sylmar, CA 91392-10

31. Closing Remarks, Acknowledgements, and Adjournment 9:41pm

The Next Sylmar Neighborhood Council General Board meeting will be:

**April 26, 2018 at 6:30 pm
Sylmar Charter High School
13050 Borden Ave, Sylmar, CA 91342**

Reconsideration of Agenda Items - Bylaws (Article VIII)

The Board may reconsider or amend its actions through the following Motion for Reconsideration process:

- A. Before the Board reconsiders any matter, the Board must approve a Motion for Reconsideration. The Motion for Reconsideration must be approved by official action of the Board. After determining that an action should be reconsidered, the Board has the authority to re-hear, continue, or take action on the item that is the subject of reconsideration within any limitations that are stated in the Motion for Reconsideration.
- B. The Motion for Reconsideration must be brought, and the Board's approval of a Motion for Reconsideration must occur, either during the same meeting where the Board initially acted or during the Board's next regularly scheduled meeting or at a special meeting within these specified time frames to address a Motion for Reconsideration.
- C. A Motion for Reconsideration may be proposed only by a Member of the Board who previously voted on the prevailing side of the original action that was taken by the Board (the "Moving Board Member").
- D. The Moving Board Member may make the Motion for Reconsideration orally during the same meeting where the action that is the subject of reconsideration occurred, or by properly placing the Motion for Reconsideration on the agenda of a meeting that occurs within the allowed specified periods of time as stated above.
- E. In order to properly place the Motion for Reconsideration on the agenda of the subsequent meeting, the Moving Board Member shall submit a memorandum to the Executive Committee in advance of the deadline for posting notices for the meeting.
- F. A Motion for Reconsideration that is properly brought before the Board may be seconded by any Member of the Board.
- G. This reconsideration process shall be conducted at all times in accordance with the Brown Act.

Grievance Process – Bylaws (Article XI)

Any Grievance by a Stakeholder must be submitted in writing to the Board who shall place the matter on the agenda for the next regular Council meeting. At that meeting, the Board shall refer the matter to an Ad Hoc Grievance Panel comprised of three (3) Stakeholders randomly selected by the Board from a list of Stakeholders who have expressed an interest in serving from time-to-time on such a Panel. Within two (2) weeks of the Panel's selection, the Board shall coordinate a time and place for the Panel to meet with the person(s) submitting a Grievance to discuss ways in which the dispute may be resolved. Within two (2) weeks following such meeting, a Member of the Panel shall prepare a written report to be forwarded to the Board outlining the Panel's collective recommendations for resolving the Grievance. The Board may receive a copy of the Panel's report and recommendations prior to a Board meeting, but, in accordance with the Brown Act, the matter shall not be discussed among the Board Members until it is heard publicly at the next regular Council meeting.

This Grievance process is intended to address matters involving procedural disputes, such as the Board's failure to comply with Board Rules or these Bylaws. It is not intended to apply to Stakeholders who merely disagree with a position or action taken by the Board at one of its meetings, which Grievances may be aired publicly at Council meetings. The Neighborhood Council grievance review process will be conducted pursuant to any and all City ordinances, policies and procedures pertaining to Neighborhood Council grievances.

Directors are not permitted to file a Grievance against another Director or against the Council, except as permitted under the City's grievance policy.

(Remove after March 22, 2018)

Approved by:KCM