

**SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
OUTREACH AND PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE AND EVENTS SUBCOMMITTEE
JOINT MEETING
MINUTES
Tuesday March 9, 2010
Sylmar Park
Susan B. Anthony Building
Sylmar, CA 91342**

- 1) The meeting was called to order by Jeanne Rowe and Hiral Bhakta, co-chairs of the Outreach Committee at 6:37pm.
- 2) Introductions were made:
 - Guillermo “Memo” Reyes: Co-Chair of Public Service Committee
 - Jeanne Rowe: Co-Chair of Outreach Committee
 - Hiral Bhakta: Co-Chair of Outreach Committee
 - Erlin Arellano: Chair of Events Subcommittee
 - Ricardo Benitez: Sylmar Neighborhood Council Board of Director
 - George Ortega: Sylmar Neighborhood Council Board of Director
 - Martin Laufer: Chair of Elections Committee
 - Esteban Tabarez: Stakeholder
 - Moises Carrillo: Stakeholder/ Sylmar Youth Task Force
 - Corinne Holmes: Stakeholder
 - John Homes: Stakeholder
 - Emily Servin: Stakeholder
 - Aly Guzman: Stakeholder
 - Mariah Hernandez: Stakeholder
 - Ron Homme: Stakeholder
 - Norma Gallegos: Stakeholder
 - Sherry Lincoln: Stakeholder
 - Officer Chacon: LAPD/ Mission Police Station
 - Zitlali Ley : Representative from Assemblyman Felipe Fuentes Office
- 3) Director Guillermo Reyes moved, and Director Jeanne Rowe seconded, to accept the February 9, 2010 minutes, for the Outreach Committee, as written. Motion passes with two (2) abstentions from Director George Ortega and Director Erlin Arellano.
- 4) No discussion on any new information on previously discussed agenda items.
- 5) Discussion and possible action on presenting a SNC Logo was TABLED.
- 6) Outreach presented this item. Moises Carrillo presented on behalf of the Sylmar Youth Task Force. The Sylmar Youth Task Force will be organizing a fundraiser entitled 1st Annual “Sylmar Community Walk for Youth”, that will raise funds for the Sylmar Girls Softball Team. Due to the city’s financial crisis and funding cuts towards events in L.A, Mr. Carrillo is requesting that the Sylmar Neighborhood Council allocate financial

contribution and participation for the event. He asked that the Sylmar NC supply financial contribution of up to \$500.00 and form a team. However, Mr. Carrillo's primary request is that the Sylmar NC participate in the fundraiser. Director Jeanne Rowe suggested that the Sylmar Youth Task Force specify where the \$500.00 will go and how it would be precisely managed. In response, Mr. Carrillo states that half of the funds would go to sporting equipment and the other half to registration and subsidies. There is a dire need of sporting equipment for the softball players, and most of the girls that participate in the softball teams are those that cannot play on teams in schools, due to the substantial cost of equipment and additional fees. Mr. Carrillo states that the need for equipment is urgent, and the need is now. Director Rowe recommended that the Task Force meet and set up a list of needed equipment and where the money will go. Director Ricardo Benitez agrees with Director Rowe's recommendation. Director Guillermo Reyes moved to support the Sylmar Youth Task Force's 1st Annual "Sylmar Community Walk for Youth" with financial contribution up to \$500.00 towards sporting equipment. Sherry Lincoln Seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

- 7) Outreach presented this item. Officer Chacon presented on behalf of LAPD/ Mission Community Police Station. Officer Chacon is asking that the Sylmar Neighborhood Council contribute financial support for the purchase of a treadmill for the Mission Community Police Station. The City of L.A provided a gym for the Mission Police Station in 2005, since Officers are encouraged to stay in shape. The current treadmill located in the gym is in terrible shape. The treadmill is currently at 25,000 miles and its maximum potential mileage is 30,000. The price of the new treadmill was reduced from \$6,500 to \$4,500. Officer Chacon expressed that although the treadmill may be costly, the treadmill is durable and high performing equipment, which could last for a prolonged amount of time, and would relieve the training need of all the Officers at the police station. Donations have currently been collected among Officers. Budget cuts are making it difficult to receive donations and support. Director Benitez recommended that the local gym in Sylmar be asked to donate gym memberships for the Officers. However, Officer Chacon expressed a concern for the safety of the Officers and citizens, if the Officers were to train at a facility open to the public. Director Guillermo Reyes moved to support the Mission Community Police Station's purchase of a treadmill with financial support of up to \$500.00. Sherry Lincoln Seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

- 8) Both Outreach and Public Service presented this item. It is believed that Sylmar quarters two different basins, which have been confirmed by the City of L.A as debris basins. There have been countless amounts of complaints regarding the current action that the City has taken to dump the excess debris left over from the mudslides that occurred in La Canada, into the Sylmar basin, located behind the Olive View Hospital. Legally, County is okay with the operation; however according to Officer Chacon, EPA (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency) was notified of the issue, and an investigation on federal legality and environmental nuisance is pending. Director Guillermo Reyes has spoken with CD7 regarding the question of how many basins Sylmar quarters. According to Manny Figueras from CD7, Sylmar has four basins. Stakeholder Corinne Holmes, expressed safety concerns about the dirt trucks that have been transporting the debris to the basins. Mrs. Holmes has witnessed dirt trucks unattended and parked in the center

lane on streets; She is concerned of the deprived visibility that the dirt trucks impart for the other drivers on the road. Officer Chacon asked Mrs. Holmes that the dirt trucks cannot park on the center lane, unattended. If the trucks are parked in the center lane for mechanical fixtures and checks, that is not a problem; however if the trucks are parked unattended, then the act becomes a traffic hazard, and the driver could be given a ticket. Officer Chacon recommended that if it were to happen again, to call him or the station and report it. Other stakeholders have expressed concerns about whether the debris was toxic or not, and how long the process would last. Stakeholder John Holmes is concerned about the poor job performance and disorganization of job procedures. Due to many complaints from stakeholders regarding the current issue with the basin, a Town Hall forum with City Officials and stakeholders was recommended to resolve the issue. Director Jeanne Rowe moved to organize a Town Hall Forum in April with the Residence of Northeastern Sylmar and elected officials, in order to resolve the issue with the Sylmar Debris Basin, as it has led to a negative impact on the quality of life to Residents of Northeastern Sylmar. Director Guillermo Reyes Seconds. Motion passes with one abstention from Director George Ortega.

9) Comments/ Future Agenda items:

- 1) An agenda item had been requested for Bridal Bridge to receive speed bumps. However. Director Martin Laufer believes that there are no funds for speed bumps because the City has stated previously that there would be no more money for speed bumps.
- 2) A Spirit Award was recommended to be given in recognition to Virginia (Last name?), from Sylmar Recreational Park, congratulating her on her retirement and thanking her for her leadership and commitment to the Sylmar community.
- 3) March 20, 2010 from 1:30pm to 3:30pm will be the Candidate Forum for the Sylmar Neighborhood Council Elections. It will take place at the Sylmar Library.
- 4) March 27, 2010 are the Sylmar Neighborhood Council Elections from 1:00 pm to 7:00pm. Voting will take place at the Sylmar Recreational Park.

10) Meeting adjourned at 7:42pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Erlin V. Arellano