

Minutes for Special General Board Meeting on April 28th, 2022

Call to Order

The Special General Board Meeting of the Sylmar Neighborhood Council was held on Thursday, April 28th, 2022 on Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 6:36 pm and was presided over by **Andres Rubalcava**.

Role Call

Brielle Acevedo, Rex Allen, Christine Bedolla, Kathy Bloom, Cherie Blose, Lucille Floresta, Roxann Nazario, George Ortega, Peter Postylmayr, Andres Rubalcava, Jose Velasquez and Donald Zelaya were present. **Ivan Hernandez, Jennifer Torres, Evelyn Jimenez, Fernando Lopez** were absent. Motion by **Jose Velasquez** and seconded **Brielle Acevedo**.

Public Comment

Nataly Kemdjian from the nonprofit PSA (Parents and Students in Action) asked for advice on how to submit a successful Neighborhood Purpose Grant. PSA provides tutoring services and mental health counseling for local schools.

Samatha Verganza, from MEND, announced the Center's Covid-19 vaccine clinic, which opens its doors every three weeks from 8 am - 11 am. Gift cards valued at \$25 are available for those seeking vaccines. For more information, her email address is samantha@mendpoverty.org.

Margarita, a private citizen, described a plane crash in her neighborhood. Given the traumatizing nature of the event, she requests the SNC conduct a community impact report on the impact of Whiteman Airport on surrounding neighborhoods.

Mel Wilson announced his candidacy for Mayor of Los Angeles. He's spent many years working against redlining and bolstering public transportation, and he serves as the President of the SFV Board of Realtors and the President of the United Chambers of Commerce.

Rudy Melendez announced his run for Cal Congressional District 29. As a California native, steward of the environment, and organizer for the South and North-East San Fernando Valley, he believes he would be an ideal candidate for the position.

Annakaren Ramirez, a long-time resident of Sylmar, expressed concern over the fatal airplane crash on the 210, which she and her husband missed by a couple of minutes. She requests the SNC support efforts to shut down Whiteman Airport.

Manuel Martinez, a Sylmar resident, requested the SNC's help in fast-tracking a traffic signal on the corner of Linux and Cobalt. This has been the site of many car accidents. Monica Rodriguez's office approved the signal several years ago.

Salvador Manriquez, a Caltrans employee, announced that Caltrans will clear several homeless camps on Monday, May 16th. The homeless individuals will be offered relocation.

Raul Preciado had some announcements. The L.A. Congress of Neighborhoods will take place on Saturday, September 24th. The deadline for the planning survey is May 1st and the workshop proposal deadline is June 15th. Funding training is scheduled for May 20th. June 1st is the final day to submit check payment requests.

Announcements of Sylmar Neighborhood Council vacancies and application process. Andres welcomed Beverly Dupree to the Board as the new At-Large representative. Beverly introduced herself and explained her investment in tenants rights, homeless outreach, and insurancing a healthy and safe environment for all. Her position was approved unanimously.

March 2020 MERS. All present board members voted to approve the MERS. Motion by Jose Velasquez and seconded by Rex Allen.

Committee Structures. Discussion regarding how to return to pre-Covid committee operations. **Andres Rubalcava** appointed **Jose Velasquez** to lead the committee to determine the benefits and drawbacks of keeping the SNC's office.

Motion to approve \$1,000 for printing and distribution of SNC brochure. The motion was approved by all present council members. Approved by Donal Zelaya and seconded by Jose Velasquez.

Board Member Updates

Roxann Navarro has just returned from Sacramento to lobby for B774. This would add a funding subgroup to IC FF that would earmark extra funds for vulnerable student groups (for example, homeless foster youth and students with disabilities). This funding will help shrink Covid-related achievement gaps.

Donald Zelaya announced that the City Council is now considering the budget for the next fiscal year. He recommended that Board members contact Monica Rodriguez with funding requests. Also, he invited SNC members to brainstorm finding request ideas or write up a community impact statement.

Brielle Acevedo invited interested board members to contact her about a bridge housing project. She's happy to share volunteer opportunities.

Adjournment

Andres Rubalcava moved that the meeting be adjourned at 7:53 p.m.