

CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
CALIFORNIA

SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

PRESIDENT: Christian Rubalcava

VICE PRESIDENTS:

Administration: Andres Rubalcava

Communications: David Gonzales

TREASURER: George Ortega

SECRETARY: Michelle Underwood



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**MEETING OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE - MINUTES**

**Thursday, August 8, 2019 - 6:30 PM**

**Oakridge Mobile Home Park - Clubhouse**

**15455 Glenoaks Blvd., Sylmar, CA. 91342**

**Committee Chair – Diane Valencia**

Sylmar Neighborhood Council Meeting Minutes are a summary, not an exact, verbatim, word-for-word transcript of what was said at a Meeting. The only two exceptions are the Motions shown in italics and quotes shown with quotation marks (“ ”) at the beginning and ending of a word or words. The Minutes are not, nor were they ever meant to be, a comprehensive record of what was said about an issue or project.

**1. Call to Order and Welcome**

Diane Valencia called the meeting to order at 6:37 PM

**2. Housekeeping: Sign-In Sheets, taking of Minutes, etc.**

Diane covered housekeeping items and thanked Oakridge for hosting the Committee meeting. Linda Willeford announced that she has taken on a new role and is no longer President of the Oakridge Residents Association and introduced Darlene as the new contact. In the absence of any volunteers, Diane indicated she would take the meeting Minutes.

**3. Appointment and Introduction of Committee Members**

Diane indicated that the Board members who had contacted her about joining the Committee would be appointed – David Gonzales, Penny McMillan and Bob Oppermann. Stakeholders Bonnie Bernard and Tom Weissbarth were also appointed as members. Unless the Committee chooses to at a later date, it will function without a Co-Chair or Vice Chair. Bob had a prior commitment and was not present but had submitted information to be discussed by the Committee.

**4. Discussion and possible action regarding the current stated purpose of the SNC’s Public Safety Committee: To establish and maintain an ongoing dialogue between community stakeholders, local law enforcement, fire department personnel, and elected leaders to foster a safe living and working environment for the community. The Committee will also work to identify, monitor and address various neighborhood public safety concerns related to crime, community policing and emergency services.**

Motion made by Diane and seconded by Tom to approve the existing Committee purpose/mission statement.

Motion passed: 5/0/0

**5. Public Comment on non-agendized matters, within the Committee’s subject matter jurisdiction.**

A Stakeholder raised concerns and asked for help regarding a registered sex offender who lives nextdoor to her. She is concerned for her daughter’s safety.

A Stakeholder raised concerns regarding a large encampment near her home. A flood control channel / tunnel is not operating as such and is continually being used by homeless. The area smells very bad. The tunnel / wash does not get any water during the rains, yet Bledsoe is a river. Penny and Diane offered to help follow-up on this.

Area residents have been trying to get this remedied for a long time. Clean-ups are done but the encampments come right back.

Linda Willeford mentioned that Assemblywoman Rivas would be attending the Oakridge Residents Association Meeting on September 7<sup>th</sup> and extended an invitation to Diane to attend.

**6. Public Official Comments / Presentations, including Q&A**

Christian Rubalcava, President of the Sylmar Neighborhood Council introduced himself and expressed support for the Committee.

Senior Lead Officer Joe Carter presented crime maps. SLO Crawford was not able to attend. Stakeholders raised concerns and asked questions about street racing / donuts and other unsafe driving. SLO Carter mentioned Officer Rocha is the contact for Mission Division at Valley Traffic. He indicated that he has been holding meetings with Apartment Manager and Motels. Trespass Authorization letters were discussed, including that they must be renewed annually. Diane asked about LAPD access to gated communities. SLO Carter explained that the LAPD will make all reasonable efforts to gain entry.

**7. LAPD Mission Division Report / CPAB Updates – LAPD / Tom Weissbarth**

Tom provided an update on Missions Division's CPAB's Quality of Life Committee's work on fireworks.

**8. Discussion and update (if any) on items previously discussed or taken action on by this Committee, including a review of Community Impact Statements, positions statements, letters and pending projects.**

Committee reviewed main items that Committee had worked on previously so that those could be factored into strategic planning discussion. The main carry over items identified were: LAMC 85.02 vehicle dwelling and limiting fire risk within the VHFHSZ; weekly street sweeping; no camping / trespassing within the VHFHSZ, fireworks, Assembly Bill 516, additional fire stations for Sylmar.

**9. Strategic planning discussion with Committee members to determine what projects / issues we wish to focus on and how best to use our resources.**

Each Committee member had an opportunity to share their thoughts on what they wish to focus on as a Committee member. Diane suggested that it would be more productive if each person could help with doing research on their individual topics and bring the data back to the Committee. Penny is concerned with street racing; Bonnie raised issues related to shoplifting at Vons and assisting with getting reflectors for horses to help with visibility at night.

Motion by Tom, seconded by Diane to refer this matter to the Equestrian Committee and potentially make it a joint Committee effort.

Motion passed 4/0/1 with Bonnie abstaining

Bob Oppermann had submitted a document to Diane ahead of the meeting in which he expressed interest in focusing on assisting with delivery of City services like street sweeping. He also wants to focus on additional fire stations for Sylmar. Tom agreed with main carry over items from the prior Committee. David will try to help with communications for the Committee – Constant Contact, Facebook, etc. Diane suggested that the Committee focus on those topics identified and discussed by the Committee, as well as additional community related public safety topics that we become aware of.

**10. Committee Member Comments on subject matters within the Committee's subject matter jurisdiction.**

**11. Future Agenda Items: Please e-mail the Committee Chair, Diane Valencia, at [Diane.Valencia@SylmarNC.org](mailto:Diane.Valencia@SylmarNC.org)**

**12. Closing Remarks, Announcements, Acknowledgements, and Adjournment**

Diane called for adjournment at 8:43 PM, with no objections from the Committee.