

SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Quyen Vo-Ramirez
VICE-PRESIDENTS: Hiral Bhakta
and Don Neal
TREASURER: Randall Kelly
PUBLIC RELATIONS: Nick Krall



SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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Minutes of the
SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (SNC)
GENERAL BOARD MEETING
Thursday, March 22, 2012

at Sylmar High School, Spartan Hall, 13050 Borden Ave., Sylmar, CA 91342

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

President Quyen Vo-Ramirez called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Don Neal.

2. Roll Call

Roll Call was taken by the Secretary. Board Members present: Ricardo Benitez, Deidre Campbell-Jones, Rosemary Jenkins, Randall Kelly, Nick Krall, Sherry Lincoln, Derek Martin, Don Neal, George Ortega and Chris Shows. Hiral Bhakta, Enrique Segura and Quyen Vo-Ramirez arrived later. Board Members absent: Cheri Blose, Martin Laufer, Liz Meher, Jeanne Rowe and Roy Smith (all excused). Three Board seats (Retail, Industrial and Renter) were vacant. Also attending: 34 Stakeholders and Guests.

Ten of the 18 Board Members were present at the beginning of the Meeting, which is not a quorum. The SNC quorum (the minimum number of Board Members needing to be present to take binding votes on Agendized Items) is 11, so at this time the Board could only have discussions without making any Motions or taking any binding votes.

3. Minutes Approval

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Ms. Vo-Ramirez' posting requirement comment in Item #6.] Mr. Kelly requested the following correction: on page six, Item #13 the final Funding Motion that says "in the amount of \$560 towards paper cups" should say "in the amount of \$560 towards paper goods and supplies."

MOTION (by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Laufer): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its February 23, 2012 General Board Meeting as corrected.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote of 11.

4. Housekeeping, Stakeholder Comments, Speaker Cards, and Timekeeper.

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #2.] Sylmar High School Assistant Principal and Meeting Host Freddy Ortiz (818.833.3700+1+8; FXO8969@lausd.net; www.SylmarHS.org) welcomed everyone and introduced new Sylmar Neighborhood

Partnership Community Schools Program Assistant Sandra Monrrigo (818.833.3706; SMonrrigo@laep.org).

5. Welcome and Introduction by Board Meeting Host.

See above Item #4.

6. Public Officials, Community Representatives and Board Member Announcements and Presentations.

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #7.] Tania Soto, Representative for State 39th District Assemblyman Felipe Fuentes (818-504-3911; Tania.Soto@asm.ca.gov), announced a March 30th Senior Services Workshop.

[The following announcement was made after Item #7.] Maria Ochoa, Field Rep. for L.A. City District Seven Councilman Richard Alarcon (818-756-8409; Maria.Ochoa@LACity.org), announced a Diabetes Awareness and Prevention Expo April 14th.

Ms. Vo-Ramirez described recent Board projects regarding the Edison lines property, the El Cariso Park Phase II Improvement Project and the Mayor's Day of Service. Mr. Neal announced that the Sylmar Olive Festival will be Labor Day Weekend. Mr. Krall announced the May 19-20 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. annual Sylmar Relay for Life [www.RelayForLife.org/SylmarCA] cancer research and services fundraiser. Mr. Benitez encouraged calling the police if you see suspicious activity regarding missing horses and equipment.

Mr. Neal turned the Chairmanship of the Meeting to Ms. Vo-Ramirez.

Ms. Vo-Ramirez reminded Committee Chairs that Meeting Agendas must be posted at all five posting locations.

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #3.] Ms. Vo-Ramirez announced that Stakeholders can register on a first-come, first-serve basis starting at the March 31st Mayor's Day of Service for an upcoming CPR – 1st Aid class. Ms. Jenkins volunteered to staff an SNC booth there.

7. Public Comments

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #5.] Stakeholder John Holmes announced an April 23rd Meeting regarding the May Sediment Placement Site and described proposed options. Stakeholder Nina Royal announced a Meeting regarding the proposed Community Care Facilities Ordinance; she encouraged supporting it “to keep them from unscrupulous owners.”

Board Members Quyen Vo-Ramirez and Enrique Segura arrived at this time, making a quorum of 11 (total 12) Board Members. Now the Board could take binding votes on Agendized Items.

[The following comment was made after Item #6.] Stakeholder Cori Villalobos-Morrow encouraged supporting LAUSD Adult Education and contacting LAUSD Board Members.

8. Reports

Secretary

The Secretary reported on recent work updating the Stakeholder database; a Stakeholder interested in joining the Board; a Certificates presentation, forwarding land use applications and Hearing Notices; and more.

Treasurer/Budget

Mr. Kelly cautioned that funding allocations need to stay within the Budget.

Land Use

Mr. Ortega deferred to below Item #14.

Outreach

Mr. Neal requested that events fliers be forwarded to him for website posting.

Election

Ms. Vo-Ramirez reported that DONE (the L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment) may push Neighborhood Council elections to 2014.

Public Safety and Services

Mr. Shows indicated that there was no report.

Green

Ms. Jenkins described the need for “sealant to protect” the mural project at Sylmar High School and asked for volunteers.

Equestrian

Mr. Benitez announced the next Meeting as Thursday, April 12th and encouraged helping draft an equestrian trails map to advise the City.

Bylaws

Ms. Vo-Ramirez indicated that there was no report.

Additional Reports, requested by the President

Mr. Krall attended the Mayor’s Budget Day and reported that approximately 5,400 Angelenos took the Mayor’s Budget Survey. The Mayor will submit his proposed Budget on April 30th; the City Council will vote on it in June. Mr. Krall described City Budget possibilities in view of a projected Fiscal Year 2012-2013 \$220 million deficit.

Unfinished Business

9. Report and discussion on possible action to fill vacant seats on the SNC Board of Directors (Industrial Rep., Renter Rep. and Retail Rep.).

The Secretary reported that today one Candidate contacted the SNC.

10. Presentation of California High-Speed Rail Project update by consultant.

Samantha Foley, Assistant Account Manager, Consensus, Inc. (213.438.1755; Samantha.Foley@ConsensusInc.com; www.ConsensusInc.com) reported that on April 19th the Project Board will be voting to narrow the Project alignment possibilities for the Sylmar-to-Palmdale section. Contact her for information and to submit comments.

11. Special presentation and recognition of Fire Station 91, Captain Thomas Kennington of LAFD and State Assembly member Felipe Fuentes for directing and assisting in the Fireman's Fund Grant, which gave the opportunity for the SNC to purchase Emergency Kits for the community of Sylmar.

Ms. Vo-Ramirez described Fire Station 91 community service and that they directed the SNC to the Grant. She also acknowledged State Assemblyman Felipe Fuentes, City Councilmember Richard Alarcon and Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa for funding the Grant. Mr. Neal read aloud and presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Captain Kennington and Firefighters. The Captain noted that the Grant was through Fireman's Fund Insurance and totaled \$26,000. Ms. Vo-Ramirez described Emergency Kit supplies; the Kits were purchased locally from SOS Supplies.

New Business

12. Presentation and report on preliminary findings on the Sylmar bus train connectivity Transit Survey by California State University at Northridge Transportation Team. Discussion on potential positive impact to community of extension of hours and bus service to Sylmar. Presentation by Bart Reed or Sonja Tristan of CSUN Transportation Tiger Team.

The Team distributed a "[CSUN] Transportation Tiger Team – The Transit Coalition" handout and a "Sylmar Metrolink Station Bus Routes" map. The Team's Ms. Tristan explained that CSUN Urban Planning students are doing an internship and surveyed Metro bus Lines 230 and 236. She described the Survey process, which was conducted on February 17th. Riders cited a lack of frequency, hours and late-night bus runs. The Team is requesting \$500 to continue the study, which will "be turned over to the next group of students." Olive View Hospital was included in the Survey. Survey "results will go to Metrolink." Mr. Ortega commented that he has extensively surveyed Sylmar bus stops and is willing to share the information.

MOTION (by Ms. Jenkins, seconded by Ms. Lincoln): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council will write a letter of recommendation for the CSUN Transportation Tiger Team indicating that the SNC supports their preliminary Sylmar bus-train connectivity Transit Survey of the potential positive impact on the community of an extension of bus service and hours to Sylmar.

MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with 11 in favor.

Mr. Reed said that Team Members will send a draft letter to Ms. Jenkins.

Board Member Hiral Bhakta arrived at this time.

13. Discussion and possible action [see below Motion].

Mr. Neal described the event at which more than 100 countries' food will be represented by students' cooking. The Outreach Committee recommended supporting the event.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Neal, seconded by Mr. Segura): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council supports Los Angeles Mission College's "Springfest" Wine & Food Festival on Saturday, May 12, 2012 with funding not to exceed \$500 for food, event supplies, and banners, with the stipulation that the SNC be allowed to set up an Outreach booth and SNC banners.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Kelly cautioned that current and proposed allocations are not all available in the SNC Budget. Mr. Neal noted that the LAMC Foundation "has helped us a lot" and that the Outreach Committee has followed procedures. Mr. Ortega was concerned regarding allocating funds that may not be available. Ms. Vo-Ramirez reminded of the need to adhere to the Budget and explained that some Agenda Items were "Agendized as a bookmark" because of previous funding and demonstrated community benefit. Mr. Kelly listed pending and proposed allocations. Mr. Krall reported that the City is considering cutting Neighborhood Council annual Budgets from \$40,500 to \$25,000. Ms. Campbell-Jones noted that funding was allocated for the Olive Festival for event permits and insurance.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with 11 in favor and one opposed (Ortega).

Recess. There was a brief recess at this time.

14. Discussion and possible action [see below Motion].

MOTION (by Mr. Ortega, seconded by Mr. Bhakta): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council supports the following recommendation by the SNC Land Use Committee: to support a Conditional Use Permit for 13570 Eldridge Avenue to install a new wireless telecommunications facility in the form of a flagpole, 50' in height, with equipment in a block wall enclosure.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Ortega distributed a "Summary of Land Use Committee Recommended Projects 3-12-12" and related documents and described the project. The pole diameter would be 20"-30". Ms. Jenkins reminded that the Board has expressed that it does not want more cell towers in Sylmar. Mr. Neal pointed out that the facility would be on Concordia High School property and generate revenue for them. Ms. Vo-Ramirez reminded that government agencies cannot consider health concerns regarding such facilities per the 1996 Telecommunications Act and believed that the Sylmar area needs a lot of cell towers in the event of a disaster.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Mr. Kelly); there were no objections.

MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with 10 in favor; one opposed (Jenkins); one abstained (Benitez).

15. Discussion and possible action [see below Motion]. [This was the first Agenda Item #15.]

MOTION (by Mr. Bhakta, seconded by Mr. Segura): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council renames the Public Safety and Services Committee as the Government Affairs and Public Safety and Services Committee, maintaining Committee membership with Chris Shows as the Chair.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Bhakta commented that this is “to increase and broaden the public service aspect” and that many Neighborhood Councils have a Government Affairs Committee.

MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with 11 in favor; one opposed (Lincoln).

15. Discussion and possible action [see below Motion]. Presentation by Randall Kelly, SNC Treasurer. [This was the second Agenda Item #15.] Mr. Kelly distributed the monthly USBank statement of 2-21-12 and reviewed allocations.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Bhakta): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves its Purchasing Card expenditures of January and February 2012.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote with 12 in favor.

16. Appointments of Committee Chairs by the President

There were no appointments at this time.

17. Board Member Comments

Mr. Bhakta announced that remaining 2012 General Board Meeting locations are arranged and are all free to the SNC. He reminded Board Members to follow laws, rules and procedures regarding serial communications and other compliance procedures. Mr. Kelly reminded Board Members to submit invoices and receipts as soon as possible. Ms. Vo-Ramirez supported Mr. Bhakta’s remarks and reminded that the President can remove Committee Chairs. Also, Board Members need to complete the Ethics Training or they will be removed at the April General Board Meeting and they need to belong to at least one Committee.

18. Future Agenda Items, next Meeting date

Ms. Vo-Ramirez announced that the next General Board Meeting will be Thursday, April 26th at 6:30 p.m. at Church of the Foothills, 13425 Glenoaks Blvd., Sylmar.

19. Closing Remarks, Announcements, Acknowledgements and Adjournment

Ms. Vo-Ramirez declared the Meeting **ADJOURNED** at 9:09 p.m.

Minutes written by DL.