

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

**SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL  
EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

PRESIDENT: Don Neal  
VICE-PRESIDENTS: George Ortega  
and Kristin Mills  
TREASURER: Richard Perry  
PUBLIC RELATIONS: Jose Oliva



**SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

13109 Borden Ave., Sylmar, CA 91342  
Telephone: (818) 833-8737  
Fax: (818) 833-8707  
E-mail: Board@SylmarNC.org  
Website: www.SylmarNC.org  
Office Administrator: David Levin

Minutes of the  
**SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (SNC)  
GENERAL BOARD MEETING  
Thursday, February 28, 2013**

at Concordia Jr./Sr. High School, Auditorium, 13570 Eldridge Ave., Sylmar, CA 91342

SNC (and all other) Meeting Minutes are a summary, not an exact, verbatim, word-for-word transcript of what was said at a Meeting. The only two exceptions to this are the Motions and quotes, which are words that have quotation marks (""") at the beginning and ending of a word or words. The Minutes were not, are not and are never meant to be a comprehensive record of what was said about an issue or project.

**1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**

President Don Neal called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

**2. Roll Call**

Roll Call was taken by the Secretary. Board Members present: Ricardo Benitez, Edward Campos, Laurie Fadness, Ann Job, Brianne King, Sherry Lincoln, Derek Martin, Kristin Mills, Don Neal, Judi Neal, Jose Oliva, George Ortega, Richard Perry, Chris Shows and Roy Smith. Cheri Blose and Deidre Campbell-Jones arrived later. Board Members absent: Rubi Ramirez (excused) and Diane Valencia (excused). Two Board Seats (Community-Based Organizations and Retail) were vacant. Also attending: 40 Stakeholders and Guests.

Fifteen of the 19 Board Members were present at the beginning of the Meeting. The SNC quorum (the minimum number of Board Members needing to be present to take binding votes on Agendized Items) is 11, so the Board could take such votes.

**3. Housekeeping, Speaker Cards and Timekeeper** – Mr. Neal and Meeting Host Barbara Winslow explained this.

**4. Welcome and Introduction by Board Meeting Host.**

Meeting Host Barbara Winslow welcomed everyone. The School will have an Open House next week. The School will produce a music concert March 15 and 15<sup>th</sup> and the play "Annie" on April 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>.

**5. Approval of the Minutes**

Mr. Neal said and it was agreed that approval of the Minutes is TABLED until the March 28<sup>th</sup> General Board Meeting.

Board Member Deidre Campbell-Jones arrived at this time.

**6. Public Officials and Community Representatives announcements and presentations.**

*[This Agenda Item was addressed after the Item #8 Secretary's report.]* Tania Soto, Representative for State 39th District Assemblyman Raul Bocanegra (818-504-3911; Tania.Soto@asm.ca.gov), encouraged contacting her for employment and other services.

*[These announcements were made after Item #9.]* Sandra Monrrigo, Community School Program Assistant, Sylmar Neighborhood Partnership (818-833.3706; SMonrrigo@laep.org; <http://www.laep.org/sylmar>), announced the upcoming Sylmar Healthy Living Fair at Sylmar High School that will include giveaways, workshops, food-tasting, games and celebrating Earth Day. Former State 39th District Assemblyman Felipe Fuentes urged voting in the March 5th Primary Election. Renato Lira, Metro, Public Safety Education, encouraged voting in the LAUSD Election. Ashley Meachem, Metro consultant (213.438.1755; Ashley.Meachem@consensusinc.com), described the East San Fernando Valley Transit Corridor study [see <http://www.metro.net/projects/east-sfv>], and announced that Draft EIR (Environmental Impact Report) Review writing and community Meetings are starting.

**7. Board Member community announcements.**

Mr. Benitez encouraged voting in the March 5<sup>th</sup> Primary Election.

**8. Reports**

Secretary -- The Secretary reported on recent work providing information about the Sylmar Community Plan, Neighborhood Watch, Treasurer and e-mail procedures, Ethics Training and completion Certificates, computer operations, Neighborhood Purpose Grants, and more.

Treasurer/Budget -- *[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #6 Ms. Soto's report.]* Mr. Perry deferred to below Item #11.

Land Use -- Mr. Ortega deferred to below Item #16.

Outreach -- Mr. Neal encouraged contacting the Neighborhood Council to have event fliers and information posted on the SNC website [[www.SylmarNC.org](http://www.SylmarNC.org)].

Government Affairs, Public Safety and Services -- Mr. Shows indicated that there was no report.

Equestrian -- Ms. Fadness encouraged people to attend the March 7th Sylmar Community Plan Update "Open House & Public Hearing" [see

<https://sites.google.com/site/SylmarNewCommunityPlan>]. Mr. Neal said the information will be on the SNC website.

Bylaws -- Mr. Martin indicated that there was no report.

Education – Mr. Neal reported that, at the new Committee’s first Meeting, Michael Long of For Learners of All Ages said he is working with Tree People on community projects “to beautify and restore the natural environment here in Sylmar.” Mr. Neal announced that L.A. Mission College is developing online classes. Stakeholder Seymour Amster announced a March 13<sup>th</sup> Parent Trigger Law Meeting at the College.

## **9. Public Comments**

Stakeholder Bonnie Rodger reported that the City approved the Legends at Cascades apartments project [that includes 362 units]. She encouraged Board Members to attend SNC Land Use Committee Meetings.

## **New Business**

**10. Presentation** by LA County Parks & Recreation personnel and LA County Supervisor Michael Antonovich’s Office to inform and address concerns of the community on the tree cutting project at Veteran’s Park.

*[This Agenda Item was addressed after the Item #6 Ms. Monrrigo’s report.]* Jarrod DeGonia, Field Deputy for L.A. County District Five Supervisor Michael Antonovich (office 818-993-5170; JDeGonia@lacbos.org; www.Antonovich.com), introduced L.A. County Parks and Recreation Department Regional Facilities Agency employees Kevin Kane, Construction Project management; Dwight Lacroix, Facility Operations and Craft Manager; Selestino (Saul) Mercado, Tree Trimmer District Manager; Mark Miltko, Tree Trimmer Working Supervisor; and Robert Horio, Regional Grounds Maintenance Supervisor. Mr. Horio described tree maintenance services and said “since 2011 we have installed 200-300 trees; this year we expect to install 75 more trees.” Photos were displayed of eucalyptus, pine and other trees damaged by pine-bark beetles.

*Board Member Cheri Blose arrived at this time.*

Mr. Neal stressed the importance to Sylmar of replacing the trees to be cut down and keeping the community informed of operations. Staff described their desire to preserve trees when possible. Mr. DeGonia indicated that the County Parks and Recreation Dept. has been notified to let Supervisor Antonovich’s and Supervisor Yaroslavsky’s Offices know of tree removal operations. Mr. DeGonia will help ensure notice to the community. Staff described tree-saving efforts; myrtles and sycamores are also being planted.

**11. Discussion** of all remaining funding requests, allocations and commitments (along with funding request deadlines) to complete budgeting planning for the remainder of the Fiscal Year through June 30th.

*[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #6 Ms. Meachem's announcement.]*  
Mr. Perry distributed and reviewed an "[SNC] Balance Sheet as of February 28, 2013," "[SNC] Statement of Cash Flows, July 2012 through February 2013" and "[SNC] Expenses by Vendor Summary, July 2012 through February 2013." Mr. Neal explained that unallocated funds must be returned to the City.

**12. Discussion and possible action** [see the below Motion].

George Perez, former Co-Chair, Mission Community Police Council, described the 3rd Annual Race for Youth fundraiser go-cart race tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> or the first week in June 2013 at the MB2 Raceway in Sylmar. The Race raises funds for Police youth programs such as Cadets, Jeopardy and Boot Camp.

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Mr. Oliva, seconded by Ms. Fadness): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council supports the LAPD's Race for Youth, an annual fundraiser event to support Mission Station LAPD Cadet and other programs, funding to rent venue and food not exceed to \$2,500.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Perez said that last year the event raised around \$20,000.

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** by a hand vote with 16 in favor; one abstained.

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

Mr. Neal recused himself from this Item, discussion and vote and left the room because he is an L.A. Mission College Foundation Board Member. Mr. Ortega presided.

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Mr. Ortega, seconded by Mr. Oliva): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council supports the Mission College Springfest Food/Wine Event put on by Culinary Arts Institute students, an annual fundraiser to support scholarships for Mission College students. Funding for food costs, marketing materials, banners and insurance, not to exceed \$1,000.

**DISCUSSION:** An LAMC Foundation Member said that the last Springfest raised \$41,000; 2/3 funded student scholarships and 1/3 was allocated to their general fund. The Springfest will be Saturday, May 11, 2013. Ms. Campbell-Jones noted the College's support of the Olive Festival.

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** by a hand vote with 13 in favor; two abstained.

Mr. Neal returned to the room and again presided.

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

Mr. Oliva said that the Festival is considering giving its net proceeds to the Children's Hospital of Los Angeles, to MEND [Meet Each Need with Dignity], and

possibly another organization. Mr. Oliva recused himself from this Item, discussion and vote and left the room because he is on the Board of both organizations.

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Mr. Martin, seconded by Ms. Lincoln): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council supports the Sylmar Olive Festival, an annual community event to showcase our history and our community, put on by community members. Funding for fencing, porta-potties, portable sinks, marketing materials and banners, not to exceed \$3,000.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Neal said the Festival was attended last year by 10,000-12,000 people. L.A. Mission College contributed \$10,000 for it. Ms. Campbell-Jones was concerned that MEND is based in Pacoima, not Sylmar; she encouraged supporting local organizations.

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** by a hand vote with 15 in favor; Mr. Smith opposed.

Mr. Oliva returned to the room

**15. Discussion and possible action** [see the below Motion].

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Mr. Benitez, seconded by Ms. King): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council supports Sylmar Park's Easter Egg Hunt, an annual community event put on by LA City Recreation and Parks to support children and needy families in our community. Funding for outreach materials and banners, food and Easter candy not to exceed \$500.

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** by a hand vote with 12 in favor; two opposed; two abstained.

**16. Discussion and possible action** to approve a Zone Change from RE-11 to RD5 on a 167,017 s.f. lot at 13901 Polk Street to allow for a single family subdivision. Note: proposal is revised from 8-8-11 presentation, a separate approval shall be required for subdivision. LUC Recommends Approval.

Mr. Ortega distributed and reviewed project information. Mr. Smith described previous SNC Committee and Board consideration and said "this was a school at one time." Property owner and developer Chuck Francoeur, a Montage Development Principal, displayed diagrams and described the project. He is "proposing . . . four- and five-bedroom homes" with "two access points . . . with an adequate turnaround for pumper trucks." The property "drops a little over 12 feet . . . it's going to be re-graded." Wheeler Ave. would be widened. He has built before in Sylmar and has outreached to surrounding residents.

Stakeholder Carryl Cortez was concerned that the project is over-developed. Ms. Fadness recused herself from this Item, discussion and vote due to a possible conflict of interest. Bishop Joe Howard, of a church that is located on the property, described his housing development experience and that he "chose" Mr. Francoeur

because of the quality of his work. Stakeholders Carmen Cortez and Rigo Garcia are opposed to the project and believed that there were few Stakeholders at this discussion because of a lack of notice. She was concerned about traffic impacts. Ms. Blose indicated that Mr. Francoeur has made accommodations for mitigations. Ms. Campbell-Jones related “positive comments” from herself and neighbors about their Montage homes.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Ortega, seconded by Ms. Campbell-Jones): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council supports the recommendation of its Land Use Committee to approve a Zone Change from RE-11 to RD5 on a 167,017 s.f. lot at 13901 Polk Street to allow for a single family subdivision.

**MOTION PASSED** by a hand vote with 14 in favor; Mr. Oliva abstained.

17. **Discussion** of SNC Outreach activities, goals, outreach vehicles, SNC Board Member responsibilities and expectations of the Sylmar Neighborhood Council. Mr. Neal requested and it was agreed to TABLE this Item. He reminded that “outreach is everyone’s responsibility.”
18. **Appointments and/or vote** to appoint new Board Members. Open seats: Community-Based Organizations and Retail Representatives; Committee Chairs, Parliamentarian, and Sergeant at Arms. Mr. Neal requested and it was agreed to TABLE this Item. There were no appointments at this time.
19. **Board Member Comments**  
Mr. Campos described crimes including vandalism and dumping near his business. He would like volunteers to clean the neighborhood. Ms. Lincoln announced that elementary schools need reading volunteers. Mr. Martin noted that, in March, around 1,000 Sylmar and San Fernando eighth-graders will decide whether to attend Sylmar, Cesar Chavez or San Fernando High School. Current students will stay at their Schools. Mr. Neal asked for a moment of silence to honor Jeanne Rowe, an SNC Board Member who recently passed away.
20. **Future Agenda Items, next Meeting date**  
Write to Executive Board at ExecutiveBoard@SylmarNC.org or c/o Sylmar Neighborhood Council, Sylmar Recreation Center, 13109 Borden Ave., Sylmar, CA 91342. Mr. Neal announced the next General Board meeting will be on March 28, 2013. Location TBA.
21. **Closing Remarks, Announcements, Acknowledgements and Adjournment**  
Mr. Neal declared the Meeting **ADJOURNED** at 9:07 p.m.

Minutes written by DL.