

**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, August 23, 2012**

at the Church of the Foothills, 13425 Glenoaks Blvd., Sylmar, CA 91342

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

President Quyen Vo-Ramirez called the meeting to order at 6:47 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. She explained that the City Charter requires the new Board that was elected on August 4, 2012 to be seated as soon as possible.

2. Roll Call of the outgoing Board

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

Fifteen of the 20 outgoing 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. Minutes Approval

MOTION (by Mr. Laufer, seconded by Mr. Bhakta): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its June 28, 2012 General Board Meeting as written.

Board Member Cheri Blose arrived at this time.

MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with 13 in favor; one abstained.

MOTION (by Ms. Jenkins, seconded by Ms. Lincoln): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its July 26, 2012 General Board Meeting as written.

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

The next Agenda Item addressed was Item #6.

4. Reports [*This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #5.*]

Secretary: The Secretary reported on recent work facilitating and forwarding Agendizing and funding requests; providing Neighborhood Council Election information; fact-checking, revising and coordinating Website information; forwarding land use applications and Hearing Notices; processing and providing information about Stakeholder filings; responding to various Stakeholder requests; and more.

Treasurer/Budget: Mr. Perry indicated that there was no report.

Land Use: Mr. Ortega indicated that there was no report.

Outreach: Mr. Neal indicated that there was no report.

Election: There was no report at this time.

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

Green: Mr. Neal indicated that there was no report.

Equestrian: Ms. Fadness said she is waiting for trail maps.

Bylaws: Mr. Martin reported that DONE (the L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment) approved revised SNC Bylaws.

Additional Reports, requested by the President: There were no additional reports.

The next Agenda Item addressed was Item #9.

5. Outgoing Board Member Comments.

[*This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #8.*] Mr. Krall, Ms. Jenkins and Mr. Bhakta thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve the community. Mr. Krall announced an August 31st Chamber of Commerce Mixer.

Board Member Laurie Fadness arrived at this time.

Ms. Vo-Ramirez thanked Board Members for their work and the opportunity to serve, and recounted many projects and community work with many others, including being first responders setting up the evacuation center for the 2008 Sylmar Fires and spending personal money for service recognition plaques. She was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation by State 39th District Assemblyman Felipe Fuentes. Ms. Vo-Ramirez said she will still be a City Land Use Commissioner and do other community work. Dan Rosales, Jr., Planning Deputy for L.A. City District Seven Councilman Richard Alarcon (818-756-8409; Dan.Rosales@LACity.org), gave Certificates of Recognition to outgoing and new Board Members.

The next Agenda Item addressed was Item #4.

6. Seating of the new Board elected on August 4, 2012.

[*This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #3.*] Ms. Vo-Ramirez led outgoing Board Members to seats with other non-Board Member Stakeholders while newly-elected Board Members were seated with re-elected Board Members. Glenn Bailey, a Neighborhood Council Independent Election Administrator (IEA), led the new Board in reading aloud the Oath of Office. Amelia Herrera-Robles, Project Coordinator, DONE (213-978-1551; Amelia.Herrera-Robles@LACity.org; www.EmpowerLA.org), encouraged Board Members to work together.

Board Member Kristin Mills arrived at this time.

7. Roll Call of the incoming Board.

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

Eighteen of the 20 new Board Members were present at this time. 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.

8. Election of new Executive Board by newly-seated Board.

President: Ms. Herrera-Robles read the SNC Bylaws “duties of the President.” Mr. Smith nominated Mr. Neal, who accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations for President. Mr. Neal was elected President by a hand vote with 17 in favor. Ms. Herrera-Robles clarified that, according to the SNC Bylaws, the President can choose to vote or not.

Vice-President of Administration: Ms. Herrera-Robles read the SNC Bylaws “duties of the Vice President of Administration.” Mr. Neal nominated Mr. Ortega, who accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations for Vice-President of Administration. Mr. Ortega was elected Vice-President of Administration by a hand vote of all 18 in favor.

Vice-President of Communications: Ms. Herrera-Robles read the SNC Bylaws “duties of the Vice President of Communications.” Ms. Campbell-Jones nominated Ms. Mills, who accepted the nomination. Ms. Job nominated Ms. Valencia, who accepted the nomination. Mr. Benitez nominated Mr. Smith, who accepted the nomination. The Candidates spoke regarding their qualifications. Ms. Mills was elected Vice-President of Communications by a hand vote with eight in favor; Mr. Smith received seven votes; Ms. Valencia received three votes.

Ms. Herrera-Robles read the SNC Bylaws “duties of the Treasurer.” Mr. Smith nominated Mr. Martin, who declined the nomination. Mr. Neal nominated Mr. Perry, who accepted the nomination. Mr. Perry was elected Treasurer by a hand vote with 17 in favor.

Ms. Herrera-Robles read the SNC Bylaws “duties of the Public Relations Coordinator.” Ms. Mills nominated Mr. Oliva, who accepted the nomination. Mr. Smith nominated Mr. Martin, who declined the nomination. Ms. Job nominated Ms. Valencia, who accepted the nomination. Mr. Oliva and Ms. Valencia spoke regarding their qualifications. Mr. Oliva was elected Public Relations Coordinator by a hand vote with 13 in favor; Ms. Valencia received three votes.

Ms. Herrera-Robles announced a September 15th Board Members Training and explained the importance of attending. Also, the annual Neighborhood Councils Congress will be September 22nd. Mr. Bailey reported that the SNC and four other northeast Valley NCs (of seven) exceeded their 2010 vote totals. He thanked new and outgoing Board Members for Election outreach and noted that the SNC had the most Poll Workers. Ms. Herrera-Robles thanked Ms. Vo-Ramirez for her service.

The next Agenda Item addressed was Item #5.

9. Appointment by President of Committee Chairs and Members. (Land Use; Outreach; Election; Government Affairs, Public Safety & Services; Green; Equestrian; and Bylaws Committees.)

[*This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #4.*] Mr. Neal appointed and Mr. Ortega and Mr. Smith accepted as Land Use Co-Chairs; Ms. Valencia, Ms. Mills and Ms. Campbell-Jones as Outreach Co-Chairs; Mr. Shows as the Government Affairs, Public Safety & Services Chair; Ms. Jenkins, as a non-Board Member, as the Green Chair; Ms. Blose and Ms. Fadness as Equestrian Co-Chairs; and Mr. Martin as the Bylaws Chair.

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

Mr. Neal explained the above.

11. Welcome and Introduction by Board Meeting Host.

Meeting Host Barbara Winslow welcomed and invited everyone to services every Sunday at 9:30 in English and at 4:00 in Spanish. The Church has a Health and Wellness Center and a drum circle once a month (\$5 fee). The Community Garden is thriving. Ms. Campbell-Jones will lead an exercise class there September 7th.

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

Ms. Rowe encouraged participating in the Sylmar Parade September 1st starting and finishing at the Sylmar Recreation Center. Mr. Neal reminded about the Sylmar Olive Festival September 1-3 and thanked Mr. Rosales and the CD7 Office for their help. Mr. Oliva announced that the L.A. Mission College Foundation will convene a Mayoral Candidates Forum. Mr. Neal reminded about the August 30th Race for Youth Police fundraiser.

13. Presentation of CPR Training Certification cards to Stakeholders who completed the May 31, 2012 training.

Ms. Vo-Ramirez explained that Fire Station 91 helped apply for a grant which funded, among other things, the May 31st CPR class and emergency kits. LAFD Capt. Donald Darby, Fire Station 91, accompanied by three Firefighters, read aloud CPR class attendees' names and those present received their cards. He reported

that at the Station, the ninth busiest of 106 in the city, medical calls are up due to the heat and cautioned that brush is starting to grow back.

14. Public Comments

Mr. Bailey invited everyone to the VANC (Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils) Meetings on second Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. at Sherman Oaks Hospital on Van Nuys Blvd. There's a guest speaker every month. Also, Board Members can participate in the NC Board Members Facebook group [Board Members can e-mail Glenn@EmpowerLA.org for information]. The L.A. Public Works Dept. is considering transferring sidewalk repair and liability to homeowners.

Stakeholder Valerie Bodson-Kieselhorst said that the El Cariso Park swimming pool will soon close for the winter. She has a petition people are signing to keep the pool open longer and noted that 20 seniors and others use the pool every morning. Ms. Jenkins, of the El Cariso Park Advisory Committee, later advised that the Park is installing "starting blocks" in the pool. Stakeholder Dan Feinberg said the local sediment placement site is to be filled with Pacoima Reservoir material below Cable Mountain and encouraged the SNC to oppose it.

Nina Royal, Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council Treasurer-elect, encouraged opposing the 710 Freeway extension for cost and environmental reasons and e-mailing City Councilman Alarcon. Stakeholder David Barron encouraged voting in the City elections and supporting anti-gang efforts. Stakeholder David Hernandez, 29th District Congressional Candidate, encouraged working together. Steeve Inagaki (TunnelSafety@yahoo.com), a CAL-OSHA Engineer, spoke regarding the 1971 Sylmar tunnel explosion in which 17 miners were killed, prompting safety and other improvements. He encouraged the SNC to help establish a memorial.

Recess. There was a brief recess at this time.

Unfinished Business

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

Bart Reed, of The Transit Coalition, and the Tiger Team, described their ADA-type accessibility survey methods and results that showed bus-train connections need improvement. This is not about bus benches. Sites were selected per "industry standard." They are working with Councilmember Alarcon and his staff. Funding would come from the Transportation Development Act. A Tiger Team Member described his field study and the need for bus stop landing pads and curb cuts.

MOTION (by Mr. Perry, seconded by Mr. Benitez): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council will submit a letter to L.A. City Councilmember Richard Alarcon to finish bus stop landing pads at the intersections of Hubbard St./Dronfield St., Glenoaks Blvd./Cobalt St., and Glenoaks Blvd./Bledsoe St.

MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with 15 in favor; one abstained.

New Business

16. Presentation regarding the "East San Fernando Valley Corridor Transportation Study" regarding Van Nuys and Sepulveda Blvds.

Brian Stratford, a Metro consultant, encouraged attending community meetings that will be held in the Fall and giving feedback.

17. Discussion and possible action to [see the below Motion].

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Blose, seconded by Mr. Martin): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council allocates up to \$75 to purchase a PDF file converter computer program to assist in performing editing, printing, posting and other computer document functions.

DISCUSSION: The Secretary and Mr. Neal explained the need.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with 16 in favor.

18. Discussion and possible action to [see the below Motion].

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Ortega): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council allocates up to \$75 to purchase a two-wheeled, collapsible supplies cart for transporting SNC equipment, supplies, food, etc. to and from SNC meetings and other events.

DISCUSSION: The Secretary and Board Members explained the need.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with 16 in favor.

19. Discussion and possible action to [see the below Motion].

Mr. Perry distributed and reviewed copies of the US Bank Purchasing Card statement of 7-23-12.

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Lincoln, seconded by Mr. Ortega): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves the SNC purchasing card expenditures for July 2012.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with 14 in favor; two abstained.

20. Board Member Comments

Mr. Neal reminded about upcoming SNC events.

21. Future Agenda Items, next Meeting date

[The next General Board Meeting will be Thursday, September 27, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. at Church of the Foothills, 13425 Glenoaks Blvd., Sylmar, CA 91342. Mr. Neal reminded to submit Agenda Items requests to the Executive Board.

22. Closing Remarks, Announcements, Acknowledgements and Adjournment

Mr. Neal declared the Meeting **ADJOURNED** without objections at 9:27 p.m.

Minutes written by DL.