

**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
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Minutes of the
SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (SNC)
GENERAL BOARD MEETING
Thursday, July 25, 2013

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 6:31 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

2. Roll Call

Roll Call was taken by the Secretary. Fourteen of the 19 Board Members were present at the beginning of the Meeting: Ricardo Benitez, Cheri Blose, Laurie Fadness, Ann Job, Brianne King, Sherry Lincoln, Kristin Mills, Don Neal, Judi Neal, George Ortega, Rubi Ramirez, Chris Shows, Roy Smith and Diane Valencia. Edward Campos arrived later. Board Members absent: Deidre Campbell-Jones (excused), Derek Martin (unexcused), Jose Oliva (unexcused) and Richard Perry (excused). 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. Nineteen of the 21 Board Seats were filled. Two Board Seats (Community-Based Organizations and Retail) were vacant. Also attending: 29 Stakeholders and Guests.

3. Housekeeping, Speaker Cards and Timekeeper – Mr. Neal explained that “no one is required to fill out a Speaker Card.” He consulted with DONE [the L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment] and the City Attorney’s Office; Neighborhood Councils are allowed to limit speaker times to “two minutes to speak.”

4. Welcome and Introduction by Board Meeting Host.

Meeting Host Barbara Winslow of Concordia Jr./Sr. (formerly L.A. Lutheran) High School [<http://www.ConcordiaHigh.com>] welcomed everyone. They have K-12 schools here and in Granada Hills. All 46, 100% of the most recent class graduated; 55% will be attending four-year universities. [Applause.]

5. Approval of the Minutes

MOTION (by Mr. Ortega, seconded by Mr. Benitez): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its June 27, 2013 General Board Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with 13 in favor; one opposed (King).

6. Public Officials and Community Representatives announcements and presentations.

[*This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #7.*] Tania Soto, Area Director for L.A. City District Seven Councilman Felipe Fuentes (818-756-8409; Tania.Soto@LACity.org; <http://CD7.LACity.org>), encouraged contacting her for services. Their office is on Glenoaks next to Casa Torres. She introduced Steve Jaramillo, CD7 Council Aide (818-756-8409; Steve.Jaramillo@LACity.org). There will be a cleanup October 19th. National Night Out will be August 6th at Grand Park.

7. Board Member community announcements.

Mr. Ortega surveyed his area regarding possible street services repair requests and encouraged submitting more requests to Aida.Valencia@LACity.org.

Board Member Edward Campos arrived at this time.

Mr. Neal reminded about the September 21-22 Sylmar Olive Festival; King and Queen applications are being accepted. Ms. Job found unidentified dogs; they're available for adoption. Ms. Blöse wants to discuss and have law enforcement against private fireworks activities, which are illegal in L.A. County.

8. Reports

Secretary -- The Secretary reported on recent work for the Race for Youth fundraiser; Board Candidate filing; Bylaws referencing; previous SNC work and Meetings about the May Sediment Placement Site; the proposed Sylmar Tunnel Memorial; L.A. Street Services repair work; Ethics Training, Funding Training and more.

Treasurer/Budget -- Mr. Neal noted that Mr. Perry was not present; there was no report.

Land Use -- Mr. Ortega announced an August 2nd Committee Meeting.

Outreach -- Ms. Valencia and Ms. Mills indicated that there was no report.

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

Equestrian -- Ms. Fadness reported that "Stetson Ranch is now open . . . totally remodeled."

Bylaws -- Mr. Neal noted that Mr. Martin was not present; there was no report.

Education – Mr. Neal reported that Nury Martinez won the City Council District Six Special Election.

9. Public Comments

Mr. Neal explained that speakers “have two minutes.” Kevin Suskevich, State 39th District Assembly Seat Candidate, described his views on local and other issues. Stakeholder Eugene Hernandez announced that Luis Rodriguez is the Green Party Candidate for Governor. Mr. Hernandez would like the SNC to write a support letter for L.A. Mission College President Dr. Monte Perez. Groundbreaking for the El Cariso Park improvements, including a community garden, will be August 17th.

Old Business

- 10. Discussion and possible vote** to approve a Neighborhood Purposes Grant to rent venue (the MB2 Raceway) for LAPD’s Race For Youth, an annual fundraiser event to support Mission Station LAPD Cadet program. Funding to rent venue not exceed to \$2,400. Presentation by member of MCPC.

MOTION to TABLE (by Mr. Ortega, seconded by Mr. Smith): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council TABLES this Item because the Race for Youth was postponed.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote.

New Business

- 11. Discussion and possible revision** of SNC Bylaws. Scheduling of Bylaws Committee meetings.
Mr. Neal announced that the Bylaws Committee will meet in August.

- 12. Discussion** of all Ethics and Funding training requirements, along with deadlines, for the Sylmar NC Board for this year, needed to complete budget planning for remainder of fiscal year. Discussion about having Board retreat in August to assist new Board Members in completing mandatory NC training.
Mr. Neal reminded that all Board Members must complete both Ethics Training and Funding Training by September 1st. [See <http://Ethics.LACity.org/Education/Ethics2007/?audience=done> and <http://empowerla.org/funding>]. If Funding Training is not completed, the Board Member(s) will not be eligible to vote on funding matters; if Ethics Training is not completed, the Board Member(s) will not be eligible to vote on anything.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Ortega, seconded by Ms. Fadness): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council will have a Board Retreat August 24, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. at the Sylmar Recreation Center.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Ortega confirmed that the public would be able to attend. Funding Training is available online [see <http://empowerla.org/funding>].

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote.

13. Discussion and possible vote to approve (if needed) any requirements to approve the Sylmar NC 2013-2014 Budget of the Sylmar Neighborhood Council.
Presentation by Richard Perry, SNC Treasurer.
Mr. Neal noted that Mr. Perry was not present; there was no Motion. The Purchase Card has been funded again and all documents submitted to DONE.

14. Presentation by Neighborhood Housing Services of Los Angeles about a proposal to do a neighborhood beautification project in Sylmar. (NHS buys distressed properties, cleans them up and sells them. As community outreach & beautification, they do a makeover on 3 residences which are close to their properties. A block of 3 homes are invited to apply, and the homes get new paint and landscaping. NHS will provide the paint and have professionals do the prep. On the day of the event, volunteers come and paint the home, and redo the landscaping. They need Sylmar NC and community involvement and donations for meals for the volunteers, and plant donations). Presentation by Spencer Sanchez.
Mr. Sanchez, of the non-profit NHSLA [<http://www.nhslacounty.org>], explained that the NHSLA owns a home at Glenoaks and Dyer. Volunteers are needed for the above. He said the “overall goal of the project is to start a Neighborhood Watch . . . [and] to promote home ownership . . . our organization is funded from various sources.” The NHSLA buys homes, “fixes them up and sells them to low-income families.” Ms. Job described Mr. Sanchez’s “very engaging” presentation to the Outreach Committee. Ms. Blose recommends their “really interesting” website. Mr. Neal said the SNC will post a link to the NHSLA website and video. Ms. Soto indicated that she has “worked with NHS before.”

15. Presentation on “The Raise LA” campaign which seeks to raise the quality of life of Los Angeles’s working families while providing much-needed economic stimulus through the establishment of a living wage for workers in the hospitality industry. A living wage ordinance will not only help workers in the affected industries, but their communities as well. Presentation by Luke Dowling.
[This was the first Item #15.] Mr. Neal noted that Mr. Dowling could not attend.

MOTION to TABLE (by Mr. Benitez, seconded by Ms. Lincoln): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council TABLES this Item.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote.

15. Discussion and possible vote to form a Sylmar Neighbor Council Ad Hoc Committee to study and make recommendations on LA County Department of Public Works plans for the sediment wash basins and Pacoima Dam sediment removal and Sediment Placement sites. Presentation by Les Aisenman.
[This was the second Item #15.] [This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #16.]

MOTION (by Ms. Job, seconded by Ms. Fadness): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council will create an ad hoc Committee to study the sediment removal process and to write a Motion to present to the SNC Board at next month’s SNC Board Meeting regarding L.A. County Dept. of Public Works plans for the Pacoima Reservoir. The ad hoc Committee will submit its recommendations to the Neighborhood Council Board by the Board’s next Meeting.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote.

Board Members Ms. Valencia and Ms. Fadness volunteered to Co-Chair the Committee. Mr. Neal clarified that an SNC ad hoc Committee can have no more than five Board Members also serve as Committee Members. Board Members Ms. Lincoln, Ms. Job and Mr. Benitez volunteered to be Committee Members.

- 16. Discussion and possible vote** to support a Sylmar Neighborhood Council resolution on the LA County Department of Public Works plans for the sediment wash basins, Pacoima Dam sediment removal, and Sediment Placement sites. Presentation by Les Aisenman.

Mr. Aisenman read aloud and commented upon his suggested resolution. He was concerned about "serious health impacts on the community." Mr. Ortega encouraged Mr. Aisenman to work through the group Citizens Against Strip Mining (CASM) and was concerned about the validity of some of the resolution's statements. He explained that a Neighborhood Council can only file a Community Impact Statement "on an item that the City Council is acting on" and "is on their Agenda." He offered to informally meet with Mr. Aisenman. Mr. Neal noted previous SNC work on the issue and encouraged Mr. Aisenman to first present his resolution to the SNC Land Use Committee. Stakeholder Dan Feinberg described County plans and actions regarding Sediment Placement Sites (SPS's), including a new SPS. Stakeholder John Holmes reported difficulty convincing staff of County Supervisors Yaroslavsky and Antonovich that the County Dept. of Public Works was dumping above Sylmar, and described health and traffic challenges during previous dumping. He said "80% of" the May SPS "is within the city limits . . . and the only way they can move that material is through City streets." A number of Stakeholders urged the SNC to pass the resolution and form an ad hoc Committee.

- 17. Appointments and/or vote** to name new Board Members. Open seats: Community Based Organization (CBO) and 3rd Retail Representatives, Committee Chairs, Parliamentarian, and Sergeant at Arms. Board Candidate Chardell Powell introduced himself and explained his background and community service interests. Mr. Neal appointed Mr. Powell to one of the Board Member Retail Representative Seats.

18. Board Member Comments

Mr. Campos encouraged volunteering for the Olive Festival. Mr. Neal encouraged CASM to have an outreach booth at the Festival.

19. Future Agenda Items, next Meeting date

Future Agenda Items, Meeting date - Write to Executive Board at executiveboard@sylmarnc.org, or mail c/o Sylmar Neighborhood Council, Sylmar Recreation Center, 13109 Borden Ave., Sylmar, CA 91342. The next General Board meeting will be on August 24, 2013 at a location to be determined.

20. Closing Remarks, Acknowledgements and Adjournment

Mr. Neal **ADJOURNED** the Meeting without objection at 9:03 p.m.

Minutes written by DL.