

**SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL  
EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

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



**SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

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Minutes of the  
**SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (SNC)  
GENERAL BOARD MEETING  
Thursday, October 24, 2013**

at Sylmar Park Recreation Center, 13109 Borden 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 6:33 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

**2. Roll Call**

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

**3. Housekeeping, Speaker Cards and Timekeeper** – Mr. Neal explained this.

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

The Meeting Host was not available.

*Board Member Rubi Ramirez arrived at this time.*

**5. Approval of the Minutes**

**MOTION** (by Mr. Ortega, seconded by Ms. Fadness): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its August 24, 2013 General Board Meeting as written.

**MOTION PASSED** by a hand vote with 11 in favor; Ms. Valencia abstained.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Ortega, seconded by Ms. Fadness): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its July 25, 2013 General Board Meeting as corrected.

**DISCUSSION:** page one, Item #2: "Sherry Lincoln (unexcused)" should read "Sherry Lincoln (excused)."

**MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a hand vote.

*Board Member Chardell Powell arrived at this time.*

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

Tania Soto, Area Director for L.A. City District Seven Councilman Felipe Fuentes (818-756-8409; Tania.Soto@LACity.org; <http://CD7.LACity.org>), thanked and presented a Certificate of Appreciation to the SNC for helping with the October 19<sup>th</sup> community cleanup. Bill Larsen, L.A. City Deputy Attorney, Nuisance Abatement Division (213.393.5561; 213.978.8100; William.Larsen@LACity.org; [http://www.atty.LACity.org/our\\_office/CriminalDivision/CNAP/index.htm](http://www.atty.LACity.org/our_office/CriminalDivision/CNAP/index.htm)), reported that the Maclay House at Maclay and the 210 Freeway is owned by Paul Dumont; around 20 to 30 people reside there. The "original Certificate of Occupancy" is as a group home. L.A. Building and Safety found no violations. Mr. Larsen encouraged advising him if you know of more problems or arrests.

*[The following announcement was made after Item #8.]* Franklin Ochoa, Field Representative for State 39th District Assemblyman Raul Bocanegra (818-504-3911; Franklin.Ochoa@asm.ca.gov; <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a39>), offered help.

**7. Board Member community announcements.**

Mr. Neal reported that a TV show is looking for "people who've been ripped off by contractors."

**8. Reports**

Secretary -- The Secretary reported on recent work including assisting the ad hoc Sediment Committee, and about Ethics Training, Funding Training, spam e-mails to avoid opening, and the SNC website; and forwarding land use documents and more.

Treasurer/Budget -- Mr. Neal announced that the Treasurer position is open.

Land Use -- Mr. Smith deferred to below Item #'s 20 and 21.

Outreach -- Mr. Benitez encouraged more outreach.

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

Equestrian -- Ms. Blöse reported that 40-50 Stakeholders attended a Meet and Greet with City Councilman Fuentes. She described dangers of horse riding on and near streets, and intersections where the Committee is working to have walk buttons moved up higher so that horse riders can more easily reach them and to “designate access trails.” Commemoration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the L.A. River Aqueduct will continue with 100 mules riding through Sylmar November 5-7.

Bylaws -- Mr. Martin was not present and there was no report.

Education – Mr. Neal reported that LAUSD is holding off issuing iPads to students until more challenges are solved. Also, more than 270 Stakeholder students, staff and parents helped at the October 19<sup>th</sup> community cleanup.

Ad Hoc Pacoima Dam Sediment Removal – Ms. Valencia reported that the Committee was invited to meet with the County on October 15<sup>th</sup>. “Some changes” were made to the County’s plans. The Committee had expressed to the County concern about a lack of outreach. Information is on the County and SNC websites. Mr. Neal clarified that “the ad hoc Committee is a fact-finding Committee established to report to the Board.” Mr. Ortega added that “by definition as an ad hoc committee, they’re not obligated to include the public” and that volunteers could assist the Committee.

## **9. Public Comments**

Stakeholder Eugene Hernandez reported on a “lively meeting” about the County’s sediment placement plans. He described potential truck routes through Sylmar for the May Sediment Placement Site. He was concerned that fire-retardant chemicals being used at the SPS are also killing vegetation, causing animals to search further down the hillsides for food. Michael Long of For Learners of All Ages announced an October 26<sup>th</sup> Movie Night. Bill Hopkins, Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council Board Member and Emergency Preparedness Committee Chairman, brought many copies of “A Children’s Guide to Emergency Preparedness” for people to take. That Committee meets first Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. at the GHNNC Office [www.GHNNC.org].

## **Old Business**

### **10. Discussion and possible appointment** of 2 budget reps, 1 rep each to work with DWP oversight and advocacy, legal liaison, planning representative, public works liaison, transportation representative.

Mr. Neal announced the following volunteers to represent the SNC with various City agencies: Ms. Job and Mr. Ortega as Budget Representatives; Mr. Neal as the Legal Liaison; Mr. Ortega as the Planning Representative; Mr. Shows as the Public Works Representative; Ms. Campbell-Jones as the Transportation Representative; and Ms. Valencia as the DWP Representative.

## **New Business**

- 11. Appointment and possible vote** to name a new Treasurer for the Sylmar Neighborhood Council.

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Mr. Ortega, seconded by Ms. Lincoln): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves the appointment of Board Member Chris Shows as its Treasurer.

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** by a roll call vote of the 13 eligible voters present with 12 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Benitez, Blose, Fadness, Job, Lincoln, Don Neal, Judi Neal, Ortega, Powell, Ramirez, Shows and Valencia) and one abstention (Smith). Ms. Ramirez is now of age (18) and can vote on financial matters.

- 12. Discussion and possible vote** on the NC Elections Stipulations Worksheet for the March elections.

**MOTION to TABLE** (by Mr. Ortega, seconded by Mr. Powell): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council TABLES a vote on approval of its Elections Stipulations Worksheet for its March elections.

**MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a hand vote.

- 13. Presentation** by Caltrans representative about the I-5 corridor/road improvements. Caltrans Representative Claudia Mejia (ClaudiaMejia@hillintl.com; <http://www.dot.ca.gov>), distributed copies of “I-5/SR-14 Direct HOV Connector Fact Sheet” and “I-5 HOV Lanes and Direct HOV Connector Project” fliers and announced that the Osborne, Van Nuys and Terra Bella ramps that were closed for construction are now open. Call her or 511 or see [www.501.com](http://www.501.com) for information. The I-5 project to add a carpool lane from the 118 to the 170 Freeway is 75% completed. Ms. Mejia noted that if there’s an issue outside the project it may be Metro’s jurisdiction. Also, “in 2016, something may be coming” about sound walls along the 210 Freeway.

- 14. Presentation/Recap** of Neighborhood Pride Day, pictures and videos, including the 311 App clip, by Michael Long and Spencer from NHS. Mr. Long and Spencer Sanchez of the non-profit NHSLA [<http://www.nhslacounty.org>] described the extensive cleanup work that Hamer Toyota co-sponsored and presented a slide show of “about 150 volunteers” who “painted three houses and started four gardens.” Mr. Benitez and Mr. Smith were thanked for helping. Sylmar High School Teacher Steve List “donated around 150 plants from the High School.” They may do it again in Sylmar in 2014.

- 15. Presentation** by For Learners of All Ages on Sylmar activities. Academic tutoring, helping suburban farm, and a back to basics program both in the community, and at LA Mission College. Presentation by Michael Long. Mr. Long reported that they’re planning a November 7<sup>th</sup> Sylmar High School event about community services. Mr. Hernandez described an El Cariso Park November 9<sup>th</sup> Community Garden event.

- 16. Presentation** by Legion VI, a Greco-Roman re-enactor group, who wants to participate in more Sylmar activities. They would like to share who they are, what they do, and what they'd like to do in Sylmar.

Dave Michaels, President of Legion VI ([www.LegionSix.org](http://www.LegionSix.org)), described their mission to educate about ancient history. He said "we'd like to make [Sylmar] our home base. They "would like to expand on" their participation in the annual Olive Festival. They would like to coordinate with Sylmar High School, who are the Spartans, and with the SNC Equestrian Committee about the use of horses.

*Board Member Deidre Campbell-Jones arrived by this time.*

- 17. Discussion and possible vote** [see the below Motion].

Mr. Neal reported that the YMCA submitted all necessary documents. Jane Stanton, NVYMCA Director, described the program's growth, saying "this year we're giving 2,800 baskets away . . . we'll be helping" at Olive Vista, Harding and Sylmar Elementary Schools. School Principals "come up with a list" of people to whom the baskets will be distributed. The SNC would be recognized.

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Ms. Campbell-Jones, seconded by Ms. Fadness): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council financially supports the North Valley YMCA at Porter Ranch (NV YMCA) request for a \$1,000 Neighborhood Purpose Grant toward their Thanksgiving basket program.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Neal indicated that funding is available. Melvin Canas, Project Coordinator, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) (213-978-1551; [Melvin.Canas@LACity.org](mailto:Melvin.Canas@LACity.org); [www.EmpowerLA.org](http://www.EmpowerLA.org)), introduced himself; he's taking over for Amelia Herrera-Robles, who is no longer with DONE. He clarified the need to consider and make the Motion as an NPG, not a "donation."

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

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a roll call / hand / voice vote of the 14 eligible voters present with 12 in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Benitez, Blose, Campbell-Jones, Fadness, Job, Lincoln, Don Neal, Judi Neal, Powell, Ramirez, Shows and Valencia); two abstained (Ortega and Smith).

- 18. Presentation** by Prometheus on Mobile App with QR Code capability to assist in Sylmar NC outreach and elections effort. Presentation by Armand Santos.

Mr. Santos displayed slides and described the software program. The "app" works on various mobile devices.

*Board Member Chardell Powell left at this time.*

Mr. Santos demonstrated how surveys, photos and comments can quickly be entered and sent; "changes are real time." The "initial bill is \$3,000" then \$1,700 per year.

- 19. Presentation** by Moore Business Systems on Mobile App with QR Code capability to assist in Sylmar NC outreach and elections effort. Presentation by Wendy Moore.

Ms. Moore presented slides and described the SNC website. The website's "content management system" was created in 2007. She described technical changes since then and new design features. She described differences between "mobile applications versus responsive design." A website upgrade would cost \$3,600. Mr. Santos noted that the SNC would be the first NC to use the Prometheus app. Ms. Fadness would like the SNC to use both the app and the current website.

- 20. Discussion and possible vote** [see the below Motion].

Mr. Ortega and Mr. Smith described the project.

**MOTION** (by Ms. Blöse, seconded by Mr. Smith): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council recommends approval of Zone Adjustment / Amendment for the construction, use, and maintenance of a 3-story, 138-unit senior independent / assisted living care housing facility at 13147 Gladstone Avenue.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Smith explained that "it's under senior zoning . . . which requires less parking." Mr. Ortega confirmed that it is not current equestrian property. Mr. Smith added that "a `K' overlay was requested" but not processed by the City.

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

**MOTION FAILED** by a hand vote with six in favor; five opposed; one abstained.

- 21. Discussion and possible vote** [see the below Motion].

Mr. Ortega and Mr. Smith described the project.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Ortega, seconded by Mr. Smith): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council recommends approval of a Zone Variance to allow the continued use and maintenance of a contractor's office and storage yard for a pool plastering business, the parking of vehicles with a gross vehicle weight in excess of 5,600 pounds, and with two parking spaces within the front yard setback on a 23,226 s.f. site in the RD3-1 and RA-1 Zones at 14518-14520 Foothill Boulevard.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Smith indicated that there are no changes to the use.

**MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a hand vote.

- 22. Presentation and vote** [see the below Motion].

**MOTION** (by Mr. Ortega, seconded by Ms. Campbell-Jones): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council formally accepts the resignations of SNC Members Richard Perry and Edward Campos.

**MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a hand vote.

**23. Appointments and/or vote to approve new Board Members.** 4 Open seats: 1-Community Based Organization (CBO), 2-At Large, 3-Homeowner, & 4-Industrial Board seats, and any Committee Chairs, as needed.  
Stakeholder Kathy Bloom, a resident since 1974, is interested in the At Large Board Seat.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Neal): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves the appointment of Stakeholder Kathy Bloom to its At Large Board Seat.

**MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a hand vote.

Stakeholder Patricia Rau, a long-time resident, is interested in the Community-Based Organizations (CBO) Board Seat.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Neal): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves the appointment of Stakeholder Patricia Rau to its Community-Based Organizations (CBO) Board Seat.

**MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a hand vote.

Mr. Neal noted that the Industrial and one of the Retail Board Seats are vacant. Ms. Bloom and Ms. Rau were Seated with the Board and will serve until the March election.

**24. Board Member Comments**

Mr. Smith reported that Trashbusters needs to clean up their residence, which is not zoned as a commercial site.

**25. Future Agenda Items, Meeting date**

Write to Executive Board at ExecutiveBoard@SylmarNC.org, or mail Sylmar Neighborhood Council, c/o Sylmar Recreation Center, 13109 Borden Ave., Sylmar, CA 91342. The next General Board Meeting will be on November 21, 2013.  
Location: Sylmar Recreation Center, Sylmar Park.

**26. Closing Remarks, Acknowledgements and Adjournment**

**MOTION** (by Mr. Neal, seconded by Mr. Smith): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council ADJOURNS this meeting.

**MOTION PASSED** without any objection.

Mr. Neal **ADJOURNED** the Meeting at 9:08 p.m.

Minutes written by DL.

**Sylmar, October 24, 2013**