

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
PRESIDENT: Ann Job
VICE-PRESIDENTS:
Administration: Diane Valencia
Communications: Kathy Grubert
TREASURER: Patricia Rau
PUBLIC RELATIONS: Maria Silva



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**Minutes of the
SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (SNC)
GENERAL BOARD MEETING
Thursday, January 22, 2015**

at Sylmar High School, Spartan Hall Auditorium, 13050 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 Ann Job called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. Derek Martin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call

Roll Call was taken by Ms. Job.

Twelve of the 20 Board Members were present at the beginning of the Meeting: Kathy Bloom, Peggy Courtney, Laurie Fadness, Lucille Floresta, Kathy Grubert, Ann Job, Derek Martin, Jackie Mata, Patricia Rau, Christian Rubalcava, Maria Silva, and Diane Valencia.

Two arrived later: Cheri Blose and Brenda Resendis, resulting in 14 board members present until the recess.

Peggy Courtney left at Recess, resulting in 13 board members present for the remainder of the meeting.

Six Board Members were absent: Carlos Gonzalez, Carlos Lara, Jeh Meher, Chardell Powell, Chris Shows and Roy Smith.

The SNC quorum (the minimum number of Board Members needing to be present to take binding votes on Agendized Items) is 11 (see <http://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/Sylmar-NC-Bylaws.pdf>), so the Board could take such votes. Twenty of the 21 Board Seats were filled. One Board Seat (At Large) was vacant. Also attending: 38 Stakeholders and Guests.

3. Housekeeping, Speaker Cards and Timekeeper – Ms. Valencia explained this.

4. Welcome and Announcements by Board Meeting facility Host.

Meeting Host Derek Martin of Sylmar High School welcomed everyone and reported that “427 seniors are on track to graduate.”

5. Approval of Minutes of the November 20, 2014 General Board Meeting

MOTION (by Ms. Valencia, seconded by Ms. Rau): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its November, 2014 General Board Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED by reverse voting of the 12 board members present with 10 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Bloom, Courtney, Fadness, Floresta, Grubert, Job, Martin, Rau, Rubalcava, and Silva); none opposed; 2 abstained due to not having been at Special Board Meeting in November (Mata and Valencia).

Board Member Cheri Blose arrived at this time (6:39) making 13 Board Members present (the SNC quorum is 11).

6. Approval of Minutes of the December 27, 2014 Special Board Meeting

MOTION (by Ms. Rau, seconded by Ms. Grubert): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its December 27, 2014 Special Board Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 13 eligible voters present with 9 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Bloom, Blose, Courtney, Floresta, Grubert, Job, Mata, Rau, and Valencia); none opposed; 4 abstained due to not having been at Special Board Meeting in December (Fadness, Martin, Rubalcava, and Silva.)

7. Public Official and Community Representative announcements and presentations.

Alonzo Menchaca, LAPD Mission Division reported that Mission Division crime is “down 8%” and that Sylmar crime is “around 13% down,” but there is still a big problem with stolen cars. “The Mission Division will participate in a pilot program” in which Officers will wear body cameras. He described policies and procedures will be created. They are not yet wearing the cameras. There will be a public comment period; no dates are set. Officer Menchaca described the effects of Proposition 47 that voters passed. Around five medical marijuana shops are in Sylmar; “one was grandfathered in; the others are supposed to be shut down.” He added that “if we can hear music over 150 feet . . . we can issue a citation and shut them down.” Also, many drug users “don’t want the help.”

Board Member Brenda Resendis arrived at this time (7:00) making 14 Board Members present (the SNC quorum is 11).

State 18th District Senator Bob Hertzberg (818-901-5588; <http://sd18.senate.ca.gov>), said there are one million people in this State Senate District. He encouraged contacting him for help. Soon Senator Hertzberg will announce an Open House.

Ricardo Benitez, Field Representative for State 39th District Assemblymember Patty Lopez (818-504-3911) introduced himself.

7a. Questions / Comments from the Public – There were none at this time.

8. Board Member community announcements.

Ms. Fadness reminded that the SNC needs help finding office space.

9. Secretary’s Report

The Secretary made a statement. For a copy of it, please contact the executive board.

10. Committee Reports

Equestrian -- Ms. Blose reported that the Committee is planning events.

Government Affairs & City Services – Mr. Rubalcava reported that the City Bureau of Street Services will do more street repairs in February. He encouraged contacting him at Christian.Rubalcava@SylmarNC.org with street repair requests.

Budget -- Ms. Rau said the next Committee Meeting will be January 27th at 6:30 at Concordia.

Executive – Ms. Valencia described how the SNC Office was lost “early last year” and that “we were notified in December that we had to move by the end of the month.” The SNC Special Board Meeting in late December “voted to move all of our office equipment” into a storage facility (Nova). She explained phone service is costing \$4 per month and that the Executive Committee automatically receives phone messages. She encouraged Board Members to complete Ethics Training and sign the Code of Conduct.

Outreach – There was no report.

Bylaws -- Mr. Smith was not present and there was no report at this time.

Planning & Land Use -- Ms. Blose deferred to below land use Items.

Emergency Preparedness & Public Safety – Mr. Powell was not present and there was no report at this time.
Ad Hoc Sediment Removal – Ms. Grubert deferred to below Item #21.
Underserved Stakeholders – Ms. Courtney deferred to below Item #13.

11. Reports by Liaisons to the City

Budget – There was no report at this time
Department of Public Works – There was no report at this time.
Legal / City Attorney – There was no report at this time.

12. Public Comments

- 1) Imelda Padilla, a LAANE (L.A. Alliance for a New Economy; 213-381-5611; LARaiseTheWage.org) Organizer, distributed fliers about their January 30th rally “to raise the minimum wage.”
- 2) Stakeholder Nick Krall announced the Sylmar “Relay for Life” Cancer Walk-a-Thon 24-hour event [www.RelayForLife.org/SylmarCA] from Saturday, May 17th at 9:00 a.m. through Sunday, May 18th at 9:00 a.m. at Olive Vista Middle School [14600 Tyler St.] from 9:00 a.m. Saturday, May 16 through 9:00 a.m. Sunday, May 17. He said they will “be asking for \$1,000” in funds; the SNC logo would be on all materials.
- 3) A Youth Speak Collective (818.890.8033; www.YouthSpeakCollective.org; Info@YouthSpeakCollective.org) representative distributed brochures and described their programs.
- 4) Ray Verches, SoCal Gas Company Advanced Meter Project representative, distributed information and again reviewed the project and reported that “within the next thirty days” they will mail letters about the meter switch. He displayed a sample meter and reported that “we’re about halfway through it” and “we’ll be able to read your gas on a daily basis.” He said the output is “65 megahertz . . . one million times less than your cell phone.” The cost increase is expected to be “\$2 per month.” An “opt out” program is being developed and may cost around \$10 per month. He said, “you’ll receive a letter” about upcoming home and business visits. He reminded everyone to put pets inside if SoCal Gas is visiting; “you need to notify” them if you have a pet or other reason that the meter would be inaccessible.
- 5) Stakeholder Bonnie Bernard would like to not have “two Committee Meetings on the same night.”
- 6) Stakeholder Sharon Aisenman, noting that no sound system was set up for this Meeting, said “it’s a waste of time” to meet without a sound system.”

New Business

13. Presentation: Homeless Count on January 29, 2015.

Ms. Courtney announced the February 10th Underserved Stakeholders Committee Meeting. She described the importance, sign-up process and procedure to volunteer for the Homeless Count.

14. Recess

Board Member Peggy Courtney left at this time (8:10) making 13 Board Members present (the SNC quorum is 11).

15. Discussion and possible Board action to approve Sylmar Neighborhood Council monthly expenditure report (MER) for December, 2014

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Grubert, seconded by Ms. Fadness): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves its Monthly Expenditure Report (MER) for December 2014.

DISCUSSION: the motion was discussed.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Ms. Job); there were no objections.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 13 eligible voters present with 12 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Bloom, Blose, Floresta, Grubert, Job, Martin, Mata, Rau, Resendis, Rubalcava, Silva and Valencia); one opposed (Fadness); none abstained.

16. Discussion and possible Board action to approve Sylmar Neighborhood Council monthly expenditure report (MER) for January, 2015

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Rubalcava, seconded by Ms. Fadness): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves its Monthly Expenditure Report (MER) for December 2014.

DISCUSSION: the motion was discussed.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Ms. Job); there were no objections.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 13 eligible voters present with 12 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Bloom, Blose, Floresta, Grubert, Job, Martin, Mata, Rau, Resendis, Rubalcava, Silva and Valencia); one opposed (Fadness); none abstained.

17. Treasurer’s Report – Treasurer Patricia Rau made the report.

18. Discussion and possible Board action to move \$2,000.00 within Category 100 in the following manner: \$2,000.00 to be reallocated from the Miscellaneous Expense line to the Translation and Transcription line.

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Grubert, seconded by Ms. Resendis): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves to move \$2,000.00 within Category 100 in the following manner: \$2,000.00 to be reallocated from the Miscellaneous Expense line to the Translation and Transcription line.

DISCUSSION led to an amended motion.

AMENDED FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Job, seconded by Ms. Rau): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves to move \$400.00 within Category 100 in the following manner: \$400.00 to be reallocated from the Miscellaneous Expense line to the Translation and Transcription line.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Ms. Job); there were no objections.

AMENDED FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 13 eligible voters present with 12 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Bloom, Blose, Floresta, Grubert, Job, Martin, Mata, Rau, Resendis, Rubalcava, Silva and Valencia); one opposed (Fadness); none abstained.

19. Discussion and possible Board action to approve the payment of an amount not more than \$400 for translation of this January 22, 2015, meeting’s agenda into Spanish and the simultaneous translation for this meeting.

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Valencia, seconded by Mr. Rubalcava): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves the payment of an amount not more than \$400 for translation of this January 22, 2015, meeting’s agenda into Spanish and the simultaneous translation of this meeting.

DISCUSSION: the motion was discussed.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Ms. Job); there were no objections.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 13 eligible voters present with 11 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Bloom, Blose, Grubert, Job, Martin, Mata, Rau, Resendis, Rubalcava, Silva and Valencia); none opposed; 2 abstained (Fadness and Floresta).

20. Discussion and possible Board action to reallocate \$6,500.00 in the 2014-2015 Budget from Category 100 – Operations in the following manner: \$2,000.00 to be reallocated to Category 300 – Community Improvement; and \$4,500.00 to be reallocated to Category 400 – Neighborhood Purpose Grants

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Blose, seconded by Ms. Fadness): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves the reallocation of \$6,500.00 in the 2014-2015 Budget from Category 100 – Operations in the following manner:

\$2,000.00 to be reallocated to Category 300 – Community Improvement; and

\$4,500.00 to be reallocated to Category 400 – Neighborhood Purpose Grants

DISCUSSION led to an amended motion.

AMENDED FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Rau, seconded by Mr. Rubalcava): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves the reallocation of \$6,500.00 in the 2014-2015 Budget from Category 100 – Operations in the following manner:

\$1,000.00 to be reallocated to Category 200 – Outreach to the Events line

\$1,000.00 to be reallocated to Category 300 – Community Improvement; and

\$4,500.00 to be reallocated to Category 400 – Neighborhood Purpose Grants

DISCUSSION: the amended motion was discussed.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Ms. Job); there were no objections.

AMENDED FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 13 eligible voters present with voted unanimously in support (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Bloom, Blose, Fadness, Floresta, Grubert, Job, Martin, Mata, Rau, Resendis, Rubalcava, Silva and Valencia); none opposed; none abstained.

- 21. Discussion and possible Board action** to approve an amount not to exceed \$1,000 for expenses related to outreach for the Ad Hoc Sediment Removal Committee’s town hall educational event tentatively scheduled for February 18. Requested by Kathy Grubert, Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee for Sediment Removal

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Rau, seconded by Ms. Fadness): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves an amount not to exceed \$1,000 for expenses related to outreach for the Ad Hoc Sediment Removal Committee’s town hall educational event tentatively scheduled for February 18.

DISCUSSION: the motion was discussed.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Ms. Job); there were no objections.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 13 eligible voters present with 9 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Bloom, Blose, Grubert, Job, Martin, Mata, Rau, Resendis, Rubalcava, Silva and Valencia); 2 opposed (Fadness, Silva); 2 abstained (Bloom, Floresta).

- 22. Discussion and possible Board action** to approve an amount not to exceed \$100 for the SNC to provide refreshments to volunteers for the Homeless Count on January 29, 2015.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Martin, seconded by Ms. Fadness): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves an amount not to exceed \$100 for the SNC to provide refreshments to volunteers for the Homeless Count on January 29, 2015.

DISCUSSION: the motion was discussed.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Ms. Job); there were no objections.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 13 eligible voters present with 13 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Bloom, Blose, Fadness, Floresta, Grubert, Job, Martin, Mata, Rau, Resendis, Rubalcava, Silva and Valencia); none opposed; none abstained.

- 23. Discussion and possible Board action** related to the public hearing held on Monday, January 5, at the Marvin Braude Center in Van Nuys. Subject of the hearing: 13245 Hubbard Street: 21 Small Lot Houses.

A presentation by Cheri Blose, Planning & Land Use Committee - Interim Chair. was followed by a discussion with Jim Brewer and David Spiegel available for questions.

DISCUSSION: After a lengthy discussion including numerous stakeholders, a straw poll was taken of the stakeholders: 3 in favor of the project; 11 against it.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Ms. Job); there were no objections.

MOTION FAILED by a roll call vote of the 13 eligible voters present with 5 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Blose, Floresta, Mata, Rau, and Valencia); 8 opposed (Bloom, Fadness, Grubert, Job, Martin, Resendis, and Silva); none abstained.

- 24. Discussion and possible Board action** related to the public hearing held on Friday, January 9, at the Marvin Braude Center in Van Nuys. Subject of the hearing: Casa Torres restaurant, Sylmar Towne Shopping Center, 14117 Hubbard Street. Presentation by Cheri Blose, Planning & Land Use Committee - Interim Chair. Available for questions: Applicant: Albert Gonzalez. Contact Person: Sean Nguyen

This Agenda Item was POSTPONED until the next Board Meeting.

- 25. Discussion and possible Board action** related to the public hearing held on Monday, January 12, at the Marvin Braude Center in Van Nuys. Subject of the hearing: Solar Farms. Report by Cheri Blose, Planning & Land Use Committee - Interim Chair.

This Agenda Item was POSTPONED until the next Board Meeting.

- 26. Discussion and possible Board action** related to the public hearing held on Thursday, January 15, at the Marvin Braude Center in Van Nuys. Subject of the hearing: Starbucks restaurant and drive through 13673-13689 Foothill Blvd. Presentation by Cheri Blose, Planning & Land Use Committee - Interim Chair

This Agenda Item was POSTPONED until the next Board Meeting.

- 27. Board Member Comments** – there were none.

- 28. Future Agenda item suggestions** from public and Board members. Write to Executive Board by email at ExecutiveBoard@SylmarNC.org or mail Executive Board c/o Sylmar Neighborhood Council, P.O. Box 921023, Sylmar, CA 91392-1023. The next General Board meeting will be on February 26, 2015 at Sylmar High School – Spartan Hall.

- 29. Closing Remarks, Acknowledgements and Adjournment**
Ms. Job ADJOURNED the Meeting without objection at 9:45 p.m.

Minutes written by DL, edited by the SNC. The first paragraph of some Items is directly from the Agenda.