

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

California

SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

PRESIDENT: Ann Job

VICE PRESIDENTS:

Administration: Diane Valencia

Communications: Kathy Grubert

TREASURER: Patricia Rau

PUBLIC RELATIONS: Maria Silva

Sergeant-At-Arms: Christian Rubalcava



SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL SPECIAL BOARD MEETING - MINUTES

Thursday, April 30, 2015

Concordia Jr / Sr High School, 13507 Eldridge Avenue, Sylmar, CA 91342

All Minutes are a summary, not a transcript, of what was said at a meeting. The only two exceptions to this are the Motions and quotes. Minutes are not 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 7:05 p.m. The President led the Pledge of Allegiance

2. **Roll Call** – Roll Call was taken by Ann Job. The Sylmar Neighborhood Council quorum is 11.

15 of the 20 Board Members were present at the beginning of the Meeting: Kathy Bloom, Cheri Blöse, Peggy Courtney, Laurie Fadness, Lucille Floresta, Kathy Grubert, Ann Job, Carlos Lara, Peter Postlmayr, Patricia Rau, Brenda Resendis, Christian Rubalcava, Chris Shows, Roy Smith, and Diane Valencia.

1 arrived later: Maria Silva resulting in 16 board members present..

4 Board Members were absent: Carlos Gonzalez, Derek Martin, Jackie Mata, and Dennis Orellana

20 of the 21 Board Seats were filled. The vacant board seat is Retail Representative

8 stakeholders and guests signed in, including LA Fire Department Battalion Chief, Jack Wise.

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

Maria Silva arrived at the time 7:09.

4. **Welcome by facility Host** – Meeting Host Peggy Courtney of Concordia Jr/Sr High School welcomed everyone.

5. **Public Official and Community Representative announcements and presentations.**

1) LAFD Battalion Chief Jack Wise said that as fire season ramps up it is important for stakeholders to clear the brush around their own homes. He urged stakeholders to file a complaint with the Brush Clearance Unit if they see areas needing clearing. The Brush Clearance Unit can be accessed at www.lafd.org.

6. **Public Comment on Non-Agendized Items within the Board's subject matter jurisdiction.**

1) Eugene Hernandez told us that the Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust is holding an event regarding the drought at El Carsio Park on Saturday 9, 2015 from 10 AM to 1 PM. There will be food.

7. **Discussion and possible Board action** to approve adjustments, as recommended by DONE, to the draft Bylaws submission, previously approved by the Sylmar Neighborhood Council on March 26, 2015:

Bylaws Committee Chairs, Roy Smith and Diane Valencia, explained that the seven items on the agenda represent changes requested by DONE. They said that everything else in the Bylaws had been accepted at the March 26 meeting by Board vote, and therefore were not subject to discussion or action at this time. They explained that each of the seven items could be voted on separately and would require a simple majority to pass. They further explained that after voting on the seven items under consideration, a final vote on the Bylaws would be held, requiring two-thirds (2/3) vote to pass.

7a. Regarding Article V, Section 8 Censure: Inclusion of the sentence, "The Council shall consult with the Office of the City Attorney throughout the censure process."

MOTION (by Roy Smith, seconded by Laurie Fadness) to approved the inclusion of the above wording to the Sylmar Neighborhood Council Bylaws.

After discussion the....

MOTION PASSED unanimously by vote of the 16 present board members in favor: Bloom, Blose, Courtney, Fadness, Floresta, Grubert, Lara, Postlmayr, Rau, Resendis, Rubalcava, Shows, Silva, Smith, Valencia, and Job.

7b. Regarding Article VI Officers, Section 2 Duties of the President: The word ‘appoint’ to be replaced with the word ‘nominate.’

MOTION (by Christian Rubalcava, seconded by Laurie Fadness): to approved replacing the word ‘appoint’ with the word ‘nominate.’

After discussion the....

MOTION PASSED unanimously by vote of the 16 present board members in favor: Bloom, Blose, Courtney, Fadness, Floresta, Grubert, Lara, Postlmayr, Rau, Resendis, Rubalcava, Shows, Silva, Smith, Valencia, and Job.

7c. Regarding Article VII Committees and Their Duties, Section 3B and 3C Committee Structure: The word ‘appoint’ to be replaced with the word ‘nominate.’

MOTION (by Christian Rubalcava, seconded by Roy Smith) to approved replacing the word ‘appoint’ with the word ‘nominate’.

After discussion the....

MOTION PASSED by vote of the 16 present board members with 15 in favor: Bloom, Blose, Courtney, Fadness, Floresta, Grubert, Lara, Rau, Resendis, Rubalcava, Shows, Silva, Smith, Valencia, and Job; none against; 1 abstaining: Postlmayr.

Peter Postlmayr said that he abstained because of his confusion with the use of the word “Members” rather than “Chairs” in Section 3B.

Peter Postlmayr’s comments resulted in a motion to reconsider Section 3B:

MOTION to RECONSIDER (by Diane Valencia, seconded by Roy Smith): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council votes to reconsider Section 3B.

After discussion the....

MOTION to RECONSIDER PASSED unanimously by vote of the 16 present board members in favor: Bloom, Blose, Courtney, Fadness, Floresta, Grubert, Lara, Postlmayr, Rau, Resendis, Rubalcava, Shows, Silva, Smith, Valencia, and Job.

After the above vote the reconsidered motion was made:

MOTION to APPROVE THE RECONSIDERED MOTION (by Diane Valencia, seconded by Peter Postlmayr) to approve that the beginning of Article VII, Section 3B read: “Committee Structure – With the exception of the Executive Committee, Committee Chairs shall be nominated by the President and ratified by the Board.”

After discussion the....

MOTION to RECONSIDERED MOTION PASSED unanimously by vote of the 16 present board members in favor: Bloom, Blose, Courtney, Fadness, Floresta, Grubert, Lara, Postlmayr, Rau, Resendis, Rubalcava, Shows, Silva, Smith, Valencia, and Job.

7d. Regarding Article VIII Meetings, Section 1 B Special Meetings: The number seven (7) be replaced with eleven (11).

MOTION (by Diane Valencia, seconded by Patricia Rau) to approve replacing the number ‘7’ with the number ‘11.’

During the discussion Diane Valencia mentioned that this is just a comment from DONE, not necessarily a suggestion. Stakeholder Les Aisenmen (Bylaws Committee Member) further explained that seven members could be empowered to call for a special meeting, realizing that the quorum of 11 would be required to hold the meeting.

MOTION FAILED unanimously by vote of the 16 present board members against: Bloom, Blose, Courtney, Fadness, Floresta, Grubert, Lara, Postlmayr, Rau, Resendis, Rubalcava, Shows, Silva, Smith, Valencia, and Job.

7e. Regarding Article VIII Meetings, Section 2 Agenda Setting: Correct the typo error from ‘but’ to ‘by.’

MOTION (by Diane Valencia, seconded by Roy Smith) to approved replacing the word ‘but’ with the word ‘by.’

With no discussion the...

MOTION PASSED unanimously by vote of the 16 present board members in favor: Bloom, Blose, Courtney, Fadness, Floresta, Grubert, Lara, Postlmayr, Rau, Resendis, Rubalcava, Shows, Silva, Smith, Valencia, and Job.

7f. Regarding Article XI Grievance Process: Include wording suggested by DONE, “The Council grievance review process will be conducted in accordance with the rules and regulations established by the City. The rules and regulations established by the City shall take precedence over any inconsistent language in the Council bylaws.”

MOTION (by Diane Valencia, seconded by Laurie Fadness) to insert the provision as stated above.

Peter Postlmayr started the discussion by asking if our grievance process is consistent with the City’s grievance process and expressing concern that the City could supercede anything we do. Patti Rau expressed her concern that DONE could impose changes on the Council, without our input.

Cheri Blose and Brenda Resendis left at 8:02 during the discussion, leaving 14 present.

MOTION FAILED by vote of the 14 present board members, with 3 in favor: Rubalcava, Silva and Valencia; 11 opposed: Bloom, Courtney, Fadness, Floresta, Grubert, Lara, Postlmayr, Rau, Shows, Smith, and Job; none abstaining.

Carlos Lara left at 8:07 during the discussion.

7g. Regarding Article XIV, Section 2 Training: Include “Code of Conduct” to the list of trainings now required by the Commission, and add the sentences: “Time allowed for the completion of training is pursuant to established City rules and regulations. There is no wait period for Ethics and Funding trainings. These trainings are required for voting on funding-related matters.”

MOTION (by Kathy Grubert, seconded by Christian Rubalcava) to insert ‘Code of Conduct’ in the list of trainings, and include the above sentences in the provision.

Roy Smith wants to retain the 45-day grace period. Les Aisenman expressed his concern that whatever DONE says, the Council has to do it. Patti Rau questioned whether the Code of Conduct still dictates that if a boardmember does not finish the Code of Conduct training the member would be removed from the Board, whereas the required Ethics and Funding Training only limits the boardmember’s right to vote. Peter Postlmayr stated that Ethics Training should also be required for voting on land use issues.

Kathy Grubert suggested rewording the Motion....

MOTION (by Kathy Grubert, seconded by Laurie Fadness) that ARTICLE XIV, Section 2: Training read: “All Board Members shall take training in the fundamentals of Neighborhood Council, including, but not limited to, ethics, funding, workplace violence, sexual harassment, and Code of Conduct trainings provided by the City within forty-five (45) days of being seated, and shall remain current in all such training or they will lose their

Council voting rights. Ethics and Funding Trainings are required for voting on funding and land-use related matters.”

Seeing no further comments, the vote was called for.

MOTION PASSED by vote of the 13 present board member, with 8 in favor: Bloom, Courtney, Fadness, Floresta, Grubert, Postlmayr, Valencia, and Job; 5 opposed: Rau, Rubalcava, Shows, Silva, Smith; none abstaining.

7. Discussion and possible Board action to approve the Amended Bylaws now including actions taken by the Board relative to changes (some accepted, some altered, some rejected) recommended by DONE, to the draft Bylaws submission, previously approved by the Sylmar Neighborhood Council on March 26, 2015.

MOTION (by Roy Smith ‘reluctantly’, seconded by Laurie Fadness) to approve the amended Bylaws.

With no discussion the...

MOTION PASSED by vote of the 13 present board members, with 12 in favor: Bloom, Courtney, Fadness, Floresta, Grubert, Postlmayr, Rau, Rubalcava, Shows, Silva, Valencia, and Job; 1 against: Smith; none abstaining.

Upon conclusion of the Bylaws items, Stakeholder Bonnie Bernard asked about an indented paragraph on page 16/19. Ann Job admitted that the error was hers, and that it is not a part of the Bylaws.

Patricia Rau did another roll call to determine if we still had a quorum, in order to move forward with the funding items on the agenda. There is a quorum of 11: Kathy Bloom, Peggy Courtney, Lucille Floresta, Kathy Grubert, Peter Postlmayr, Patricia Rau, Christian Rubalcava, Chris Shows, Maria Silva, Diane Valencia, and Ann Job.

President Ann Job announced that we had and quorum, but before she could get to the next item (Item 8), she was questioned by Stakeholder Sharron Aisenman about Item 13 and then about Item 12. Ms. Aisenman accused the board of not being professional. Patricia Rau pointed out an error that she had made.

8. Discussion and possible Board action to move \$1,255.04 within Category 100 Operations onto line AUD – Audio and Video Equipment/Services, by reallocating Category 100 funds in the following manner: (6)
\$389.15 from EDU/Training and Board Retreat
\$300.00 from FAC/Facilities Related and Space Rental
\$565.89 from TAC/Staffing and Temp Help

MOTION (by Peter Postlmayr, seconded Peggy Courtney)

Discussion included Stakeholder Les Aisenman’s complaint that the item to move money was before the items which would possibly approve the expenditure. The President acceded to the request and proceeded to Item 10.

10. Discussion and possible Board action to approve the payment of an amount not to exceed \$1100.00 for a multimedia projector and screen with stand.

MOTION (by Kathy Grubert, seconded Kathy Bloom)

Discussion included Stakeholder Les Aisenman assertion that he was against the expenditure. Stakeholder Dan Feinberg asserted he thought that this was a long overdue purchase. Bonnie Bernard reminded those present that the Board has been talking about needing this equipment for a long time.

At this point (1 hour and 39 minutes into the meeting) a stakeholder made a provocative comment to another stakeholder. A third stakeholder took umbrage at the comment and verbally assaulted the stakeholder making the comment. A fourth stakeholder reacted with physical violence against the stakeholder who had made the unfortunate statement.

Diane Valencia made a motion to adjourn, Ann Job seconded it and gaveled out the meeting. Under the circumstances asking if anyone was opposed was not a viable option. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM (1 hour and 40 minutes into the meeting)

Note: Items 9 through 19 were not covered due to early adjournment.