



Officers

President: Ann Job
Vice President of Administration: Diane Valencia
Vice President of Communications: Kathy Grubert
Treasurer: Alex Guerrero
Public Relations Coordinator: Maria Silva

MINUTES
SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
GENERAL BOARD MEETING
Thursday, January 28, 2016

Sylmar High School / Spartan Hall
13050 Borden Avenue, Sylmar, CA 91342

**Minutes are a summary of business conducted at a meeting. Only the Motions are precise.
These Minutes are in meeting order; not in item number order.**

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

President Ann Job called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m. Derek Martin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call – Roll was taken by Board Members stating their names and seat designation.

The Sylmar Neighborhood Council's quorum is 11.

16 of the 21 Board Members were present during roll call: Kathy Bloom, Cheri Blose, Kurt Cabrera-Miller, Laurie Fadness, Lucille Floresta, Alex Guerrero, Ann Job, Derek Martin, Peter Postlmayr, Patricia Rau, Brenda Resendis, Christian Rubalcava, Chris Shows, Maria Silva, Roy Smith, and Diane Valencia.

2 Board Members arrived later: Joanne Fernandez, and Kathy Grubert.

Ms. Grubert was attending a Pacoima Spreading Grounds meeting on behalf of the Sylmar Neighborhood Council. She arrived upon that meetings completion.

2 Board members left before meeting ended: Lucille Floresta and Brenda Resendis.

3 Board Members was absent: Peggy Courtney, Carlos Lara, and Dennis Orellana

21 of the 21 Board Seats are filled.

3. Housekeeping, Speaker Cards, and Timekeeper – Diane Valencia explained meeting protocol.

4. Welcome and Announcements by Board Meeting facility Host – Derek Martin welcomed us. He told us that because Sylmar is in the Zone of Choice more than 1400 eighth graders visited Sylmar High and will visit other high schools in order to pick the school they want to attend next year. The marquee for the Sylmar High School was ordered last week.

5. Public Official and Community Representative Announcements & Presentations

Ms. Fernandez arrived during this item

1) Battalion Chief Ward reported on fires services in Sylmar. He announced that the Fast Response Vehicle (FRV) was brought to Sylmar for a 90-day trial basis. In light of the data pointing to the need the RFV in Sylmar, it has been extended for another 4 months. They will try to make it permanent. The RFV operates 10 hours a day, Monday through Thursday. It is getting to incidents 2 minutes faster. He brought their newsletter for the information table.

2) **Abigail Moreno** from Councilmember Fuentes' office reported that the bulky items pick up continues every Tuesday. They continue to assist with the homeless issue to help our underserved community members. The office will assist in community clean-ups. Ann Job pointed out that our councilmember could not attend this meeting because he is at the important Pacoima Spreading Grounds meeting. The homeowner of an infamous drug house on Cobalt and Herrick, about which we heard at a previous SNC meeting, has been "taken to trial" and the house is to be vacated.

3) **Steve List** introduced himself as the newly appointed by Councilmember Fuentes as member of the City Council's Urban Forestry Advisory Committee for Council District 7. The committee is dedicated to employing best practices in maintaining city trees. Mr. List will emphasize education and getting the word out about trees that are at risk. There will be a clean-up on April 16 Earth Day at Dyer Elementary Street School. Sustainable Saturday is held at the Pacoima City Hall on the first Saturday of every month; it is run by MEND, Sylmar Agriculture and Pacoima Beautiful.

4) **Julio Anleu** from LAUSD Boardmember Monica Ratliff's office, announced that Michelle King has just been hired as the new Superintendent of Schools. On a date to be determined, a town hall will be held to introduce Ms. King.

5) **Brian Gavidia** from Mayor Garcetti's office representing the East Valley, spoke later in the meeting because he had been at the Panorama City Neighborhood Council. He mentioned that Civic U 2.0 was going to be held soon. He gave us his cell number as 213-713-0960 and his email is brian.gavidia@lacity.org. Bonnie Bernard, Cheri Blose and Kathy Bloom spoke to him of the need for two more fire stations.

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

1) **John Pacheco** brought up that Sub-Queen, a restaurant that has been at the Von's shopping center for a very long time, has lost its lease. He urged us to talk with the new owners of the shopping center, so we can have some input.

2) **Eugene Hernandez** applauded the council members who attend community activities, and urged more to do so. He wants the DWP to hold some of its rate increase hearings out in the valley, not just downtown.

3) **John Holmes** also spoke of the DWP rate increase, saying that stakeholders do not have enough input.

4) **Annie Ortega** with the San Fernando Valley Partnership and member of the Communities In Action Coalition introduced herself. Her focus is on prevention of substance abuse and underage drinking, and empowering our youth regarding quality of life issues.

5) **Beatrice McGarry** is the Chaplin of the VFW in Sylmar and of the American Legion in San Fernando. She came to represent 12 families of low-income veterans living in condos built by Habitat for Humanity at 14540 to 14562 Foothill Blvd. at Cobalt. She wanted to make us aware that the veterans' vehicles are being broken into, and they are reporting it to the police, but the police say they cannot do anything unless they 'can catch them in the act.' They have also asked the Councilmember's office to help.

6) **Albert Melena** of the SF Valley Partnership and also the Communities In Action Coalition talked a new project they are rolling out at Mission Division. Local retailers are putting up signs in their stores to warn our youth of the serious legal consequences of 'beer runs' which can turn into a felony—a record they will not want to have for the rest of their lives.

7) **David Rodriguez** expressed his concern that three of our officials are currently under scrutiny by the FBI and a Grand Jury. He thinks that their lack of respect for process is at the root of their problem. He urges that the council do its homework when developers come before us with projects, and also that as voters do our homework regarding special interests when we select our representative in order to have better representation.

With the board's approval Item 12 was moved up in the agenda. President Ann Job thanked Kelli Land for facilitating our getting this presentation by the Lucy Pet Foundation.

12. **Presentation by Dr. Karen Halligan**, Chief Veterinary Officer for the Lucy Pet Foundation. Dr. Halligan gave a powerpoint presentation, showing their state-of-the-art mobile spay and neuter clinic in operation. She discussed the foundation's new contract with Los Angeles Animal Services offering free spay and neuter services for low income citizens, and the heightened need for such services in Sylmar. Their motto is that they treat each pet as if it were their own. Spayed or neutered pets live 40% longer than those who are not. Every Friday and 2 Saturdays a month they are at Hansen Dam. They left flyers and bags on the information table.

10. **Committee Reports** were made by:

Executive Committee – Diane Valencia, reminded committee chairs to submit their minutes. She said that Kurt Cabrera-Miller and Lucille Floresta have been involved in looking for office space, but without success so far.

Equestrian Committee – Cheri Blose reported that the committee is hard at work on the upcoming Make Your Horse Count event.

Planning & Land Use Committee – Peter Postlmayr said that since the operator and the owner were present now for Item # 21, he asked that the item be moved up in the agenda as a courtesy to them.

Budget Committee – Alex Guerrero said that for the most part meetings will be held on Friday. He announced that Bonnie Bernard, Patti Rau, and Amanda Bloom are on the committee. He invited any other board members or stakeholders to attend the committee meetings and/or let him know if they are interested in being on the committee.

Outreach Committee – Kathy Bloom spoke of the Pencil Project that was created by Maria Silva and that evolved into a vehicle to send information regarding the SNC home with elementary school students. She also spoke of the upcoming Town Hall regarding Sylmar fire services.

Government Affairs & City Services Committee – Christian Rubalcava reported that every street he recommended for pothole repair was approved by street services, and that tomorrow they will be repairing those streets.

Ad Hoc Committee for the Sylmar Sign – Laurie Fadness reported that they have held their first committee meeting and that it was very successful. Members of that committee have been selected.

11. City Liaison Reports were made by:

Public Safety Liaison – Diane Valencia reported that she and Ann Job attended a Neighborhood Council Emergency Preparedness Alliance meeting downtown at the Emergency Operations Center. After the meeting a few of us toured the Metro Dispatch Center which is in the same building. During our conversation with the dispatch center personnel we spoke Sylmar's lack of fire services. They assured us that they are very much aware of the very real problems in that regard that Sylmar has.

Animal Services Liaison – Amanda Bloom reported that she and Laurie Fadness are serving as this liaison. She thanked the Lucy Foundation for its presentation. She announced that on Saturday, Feb 13 at the East Valley Animal Shelter free vaccinations, micro-chipping, spaying and neutering will be provided all day. This event is affiliated with Best Friends Animal Society, the American Red Cross and the Veterinary Medical Association. She mentioned that Best Friends offers free spaying and neutering to anyone living in the 91342 zip code.

(As a courtesy to Mr. Werner requested by Peter Postlmayr, Item # 21 was moved up in the agenda.)

21. Discussion and possible action relative to approving the project as presented, per Planning & Land Use Committee (PLUC) Report on 12087 Lopez Canyon Road – Building Materials Sale Yard as a principle use in proposed M1-1 Zone, CPC-2015-4375-SC-ZV and ENV-2015-4376-EAF.

The yard is located on the mesa above the 210 and 118 freeway interchange and is limited to a small portion of the property. This yard resides in the City and is surrounded by County land with other ongoing use.

Motion: To approve the Building Materials Sale Yard on 12087 Lopez Canyon Road as a principle use in proposed M1-1 Zone, CPC-2015-4375-SC-ZV and ENV-2015-4376-EAF. This is a Zone Change from the [T][Q]M1-1 Zone to M1-1. The removal of the [T][Q] Conditions to allow open storage on a permeable surface material and “Building Materials Sales Yard” as a “principal” use.

Moved by Postlmayr; seconded by Blose; call for the vote by Rubalcava after discussion.

Discussion: Mr. Gary Werner explained the project further, and is asking to amend the zoning to represent what is already there, allowing for it to be its primary use, rather than a secondary use. He also answered questions.

Motion Passed by unanimous vote of the 17 eligible members present. Yes (17): Bloom, Blose, Cabrera-Miller, Fadness, Fernandez, Floresta, Guerrero, Martin, Postlmayr, Rau, Resendis, Rubalcava, Shows, Silva, Smith, Valencia, and Job. No (0); Abstain (0)

7. Approval of the Minutes for November 19, 2015 General Board Meeting .

Moved by Rubalcava; seconded by Martin.

Motion Passed by vote of the 17 eligible members present. Yes (16): Bloom, Blose, Cabrera-Miller, Fadness, Fernandez, Floresta, Guerrero, Martin, Postlmayr, Rau, Resendis, Rubalcava, Shows, Smith, Valencia, and Job. No (0); Abstain (1) Silva, since she was not at the November meeting.

8. Approval of the Minutes for the January 4, 2016 Special Board Meeting

Moved by Rubalcava; seconded by Postlmayr, call for vote Valencia

Motion Passed by vote of the 17 eligible members present. Yes (12): Bloom, Blose, Cabrera-Miller, Fadness, Floresta, Postlmayr, Rau, Resendis, Rubalcava, Shows, Silva, and Job; No (1) Smith; Abstain (4) Fernandez, Guerrero, Martin and Valencia – all because not at the special meeting.

9. Approval of the Minutes for the January 7, 2016 Special Board Meeting

Moved by Smith; seconded by Valencia; call for the vote by Postlmayr

Motion Passed by vote of the 17 eligible members present. Yes (10): Bloom, Cabrera-Miller, Fernandez, Floresta, Martin, Postlmayr, Rau, Rubalcava, Smith, and Job. No (0); Abstain (7) Blose, Fadness, Guerrero, Resendis, Shows, Silva, and Valencia – all because not at the special meeting.

13. Discussion and possible action relative to the 2014/2015 Self-Assessment due by September 1, 2015.

Motion to Table by Valencia “until such time as DONE provides the paperwork requested”; seconded by Rau.

Motion to Table Passed by reverse vote of the 17 eligible members present. Yes (16): Bloom, Blose, Fadness, Floresta, Fernandez, Guerrero, Martin, Postlmayr, Rau, Resendis, Rubalcava, Shows, Silva, Smith, Valencia, and Job. No (0); Abstain (1) Cabrera-Miller.

14. Discussion and possible action to establish the regular General Board meeting schedule for the remainder of 2016.

Upon discussion led by Diane Valencia the Motion was to declare that formally we declare that the regular meetings for the 2016 Calendar year will be the 4th Thursday of every month. The only exceptions being that the November meeting will be held on the 3rd Thursday, and upon the recommendation of Roy Smith, the December meeting’s date will be determined by the new board.

Moved by Valencia; seconded by Smith

Motion to Passed by unanimous vote of the 17 eligible members present. Yes (17): Bloom, Blose, Cabrera-Miller, Fadness, Fernandez, Floresta, Guerrero, Martin, Postlmayr, Rau, Resendis, Rubalcava, Shows, Silva, Smith, Valencia, and Job. No (0); Abstain (0)

15. Discussion of the Sylmar Neighborhood Council Bylaws regarding absences was led by Diane Valencia.

16. Discussion and possible action to remove SNC Director Maria Silva, per Article V, Section 7 (Absences) of the Sylmar Neighborhood Council Bylaws, dated September 1, 2015. (This item was not acted upon.)

20. Recess

17. Discussion and possible action to designate a delegate from the Board to communicate Board-approved positions to the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC) and the Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition, (LANCC).

Ms. Floresta left during this item

Motion: The President is to be the designated delegate to the alliances.

Moved by Valencia; seconded by Rubalcava

Motion Passed by unanimous vote of the 16 eligible members present. Yes (16): Bloom, Blose, Cabrera-Miller, Fadness, Fernandez, Guerrero, Martin, Postlmayr, Rau, Resendis, Rubalcava, Shows, Silva, Smith, Valencia, and Job. No (0); Abstain (0)

18. Discussion and possible action to approve setting up a Sylmar Neighborhood Council “account” on social media platform Nextdoor along with identifying SNC Directors who may be authorized to post SNC events and information. (Item skipped due to lack of time.)

22. Discussion and possible action to approve Sylmar Neighborhood Council monthly expenditure report (MER) for November, 2015.

Moved by Rubalcava; seconded by Fadness

Motion Passed by unanimous vote of the 16 eligible members present. Yes (16): Bloom, Blose, Cabrera-Miller, Fadness, Fernandez, Guerrero, Martin, Postlmayr, Rau, Resendis, Rubalcava, Shows, Silva, Smith, Valencia, and Job. No (0); Abstain (0)

Ms. Resendis left after this item

23. Discussion and possible action to approve Sylmar Neighborhood Council monthly expenditure report (MER) for December, 2015.

Moved by Guerrero; seconded by Rau

Discussion: Patti Rau wondered which category the flowers for Laurie when she was in the hospital should be in. it was put in Operations. Laurie Fadness recused herself and left the room.

Motion Passed by vote of the 15 eligible members present. Yes (8): Bloom, Blose, Fernandez, Guerrero, Martin, Postlmayr, Rau, and Job. No (4) Cabrera-Miller, Shows, Smith, and Valencia; Abstain (2) Rubalcava and Silva; Recusal (1) Fadness.

24. Treasurer’s Report. Alex Guerrero, our new treasurer made his first report. In our bank account currently is \$18,350. Another deposit by DONE is expected in April to reflect the \$42,000 budget for the 2015-2026 FY. He announced that Patti, Rau, Amanda Bloom, and Bonnie Bernard are on the committee. He thanked Kurt Cabrera-Miller for his help during the transition.

Kathy Grubert arrived at this time.

A very important meeting about the Pacoima Spreading Grounds Community meeting was being held at the same time as this meeting. Kathy Grubert attended it on behalf of the SNC. She reported that the project is to run for 18 months and is to begin in

April 2017. Chris Stone from the LA County Dept. of Public Works told Kathy that the Pacoima Reservoir Sediment Removal project would not begin until this one is completed. She brought comment cards for the information table, and urged everyone to go the DPW website for the full report. Ann Job commented that this is the type of nimbleness she hopes the council will continue to demonstrate, in order to enable us to gather important information for our stakeholders, even when there are scheduling conflicts with our meetings.

25. Discussion and possible action to approve a revised Sylmar Neighborhood Council budget for the 2015/2016 Fiscal Year. Tabled until after the upcoming Budget Committee Meeting in March.

26. Discussion and possible action to approve an expenditure not to exceed \$3,700 for advertising the upcoming Elections.

Moved by Fadness; seconded by Valencia

Discussion began with Ann Job emphasizing that the election is outreach. That this is the best opportunity we will have to let the community know that there is a neighborhood council in Sylmar. The IEA (Independent Elections Administrator) for Region 1, Terrence Gomes, spoke about the obligation of the council to use elections as outreach. He said that this is in keeping with the City Charter—the neighborhood council is a conduit to the City. He is currently hired by the City Clerk. He said that he has asked the City Clerk to extend the time for candidates to file for an additional week. As a consequence of the discussion the amount was increased.

Amended Motion: To approve an expenditure not to exceed \$5,000 for advertising the upcoming Elections.

Moved by Blose; seconded by Guerrero

Motion Passed by vote of the 16 eligible members present. Yes (15): Bloom, Blose, Cabrera-Miller, Fadness, Fernandez, Grubert, Guerrero, Martin, Postlmayr, Rau, Rubalcava, Shows, Silva, Valencia, and Job. No (1) Smith; Abstain (0)

27. Discussion and possible action to approve an expenditure not to exceed \$1,500 for pole banners advertising the Sylmar Neighborhood Council to be expensed from Outreach Advertising.

Moved by Blose; seconded by Fadness

Motion Passed by unanimous vote of the 16 eligible members present. Yes (16): Bloom, Blose, Cabrera-Miller, Fadness, Fernandez, Grubert, Guerrero, Martin, Postlmayr, Rau, Rubalcava, Shows, Silva, Smith, Valencia, and Job. No (0); Abstain (0)

28. Discussion and possible action to approve holding a Community Town Hall Meeting to raise public awareness for the need, at a minimum, of one additional fire station in Sylmar, to include approval of an amount not to exceed \$1,200 for items necessary to promote and hold the event, including, but not limited to hall rental, flyers, banners, refreshments, etc.

Moved by Grubert; seconded by Cabrera-Miller; call for the vote by Postlmayr

Motion Passed by unanimous vote of the 16 eligible members present. Yes (16): Bloom, Blose, Cabrera-Miller, Fadness, Fernandez, Grubert, Guerrero, Martin, Postlmayr, Rau, Rubalcava, Shows, Silva, Smith, Valencia, and Job. No (0); Abstain (0)

29. Discussion and possible action relative to hosting a free Pancake Breakfast at the Sylmar's LAFD Fire Station #91 to show our appreciation for their dedication to our community, to include approval of an amount not to exceed \$1,200 for items necessary to promote and hold the event, including, but not limited to tables, chairs, and cooking equipment rentals, flyers banners, food and refreshments.

(During Item #5, Battalion Chief Ward expressed his support of and appreciation for the SNC wanting to hold this pancake breakfast.)

Moved by Job; seconded by Blose; call for the vote by Fadness

Motion Passed by unanimous vote of the 16 eligible members present. Yes (16): Bloom, Blose, Cabrera-Miller, Fadness, Fernandez, Grubert, Guerrero, Martin, Postlmayr, Rau, Rubalcava, Shows, Silva, Smith, Valencia, and Job. No (0); Abstain (0)

35. Closing Remarks, Acknowledgements, and Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 pm.

Due to lack of time the following items were skipped:

19. Discussion and possible action relative to the noticing of Committee meetings as "Joint" meetings with the Sylmar Neighborhood Council Board.

30. Discussion and possible action to approve the President's appointment of Budget Representative(s).

31. Possible Resumption of Item #8 – Not necessary since everyone was able to speak during Item #8..

32. Board Member Community Announcements.

33. Board Member Comments – Comments from Board members on matters within the Board’s jurisdiction.

34. Future Agenda Item suggestions from public and Board members.

Minutes by the Executive Committee