

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

California



SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

PRESIDENT: Kurt Cabrera-Miller

VICE PRESIDENTS:

Administration: (open position)

Communications: Maria Silva

TREASURER: George Ortega

SECRETARY: (open position)

P.O. Box 921023
Sylmar, CA 91392-1023
Telephone: (818) 833-8737

E-mail: Board@SylmarNC.org
Website: www.SylmarNC.org

SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL GENERAL BOARD MEETING – MINUTES

Thursday, July 27, 2017

Osceola Street Elementary School

14940 Osceola Street Sylmar, CA 91342

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

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

President Kurt Cabrera-Miller called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. Officer Crawford led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call –

The Sylmar Neighborhood Council's quorum is 11.

14 of the 20 Board Members were present during roll call: Kathy Bloom, Hector Cabrera, Kurt Cabrera-Miller, Lucille Floresta, Greg Hoerner, Ann Job, Marti Marshall, Derek Martin, George Ortega, John Pacheco, Peter Postlmayr, Christian Rubalcava, Emily Rubalcava, and Maria Silva.

1 of the Board Members arrived after roll call: Kathy Grubert arrived at 7:02pm

3 Board Members were absent: Cheri Blose, Diana Rodriguez, and Diane Valencia

1 Board Member left Early: Kathy Bloom left around 9:30pm and did not vote on items 20 or 21.

1 Board Member was sworn in during the meeting: Paul Dumont

3. Housekeeping: Speaker Cards, Recording, and Timekeeper. Welcome from Facility Host – Kurt Cabrera-Miller

explained meeting protocol. Principal Jose Velasquez welcomed us to our host facility, Osceola Street Elementary School.

4. Public Official and Community Representative Announcements & Presentations

1) **Christina Correa** the field representative Assemblymember Raul Bocanegra, shared a flyer about Summer Movie Nights and extended her thanks to the Sylmar Neighborhood Council for their support of AB22, a bill which addressed illegal dumping concerns, and has been passed. The office looks forward to working on further legislative issues with the Sylmar Neighborhood Council. She also noted that due to staffing reallocations, she will no longer be the representative for this area. Rosemary Jenkins has been assigned to the area and will be attending the meetings in the future.

2) **Officer Crawford**, came to shared a flyer for the LAPD Open House and Car Show on August 19th from 9am to 2pm. He also shared that August 1st from 5pm to 8pm is the National Night Out in Sylmar at Sylmar Park. Lastly, he shared the crime statistics for Sylmar for the 4-week period from June 18th to July 15th. The area of Sylmar is divided by Glenoaks Blvd into two areas. Officer Crawford has Glenoaks to the East. Year to date he and Officer Giron are even with the statistics from last year, which is good as last year was a down year for Part 1 crimes. Regarding fireworks for the Independence Day weekend, over one thousand fireworks were confiscated and the bomb squad was called out 3 times.

3) **Alvin Arzu**, Neighborhood prosecutor for the Mission Division came to introduce himself. He explained that his presence at the police station and at the Van Nuys courthouse is as someone for the community to contact when in need or have questions. He left his cards at the information table.

- 4) **Franklin Ochoa**, the area director for Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez, came to connect with the Sylmar Neighborhood Council. He lives in the area and is ready to connect with the community and the board. He can be reached at Franklin.ochoa@lacity.org or at his office line, 818-756-8409.
 - 5) **Vanessa Serrano**, from the department of Neighborhood Empowerment, brought flyers for the Planning 101 workshops and informed the meeting that the closest to Sylmar is on August 28th at Pacoima City Hall. They are still conducting Neighborhood Council 101 workshops to inform the community of what a neighborhood council does. Please let her know of any groups who would benefit from the knowledge or from who are underserved currently. Lastly she expressed her thanks for all the Community Impact Statements submitted last year and encourages the board to continue this into the new year.
 - 6) **Abigail Moreno**, from the office of Congressperson Tony Cardenas, came to share that three bills from the congressman just pass the committee. More information was made available at the back table. She also shared about the Congressional App Challenge, which is for youth under 25 years old to use STEM and computer science. They can submit their apps between now and November 21st. She plans to distribute flyers to all the schools once school returns from summer break. Eugene Hernandez asked Ms. Moreno about what the congressman is doing for health care. He requested a town hall meeting be held when Congressperson would be back in town in August.
5. **Public Comment on Non-Agendized Items** within the Board's subject matter jurisdiction
- 1) **Isabella Miranda**, a resident of Sylmar for the last 24 years, came to ask for help with the buses parked outside her home with their engines on all the time. The noise of the engines in idle is affecting their sleep and health. Signs are posted which mandate the drivers not to run their engines constantly, but the drivers are no longer listening.
 - 2) **Eugene Hernandez**, echoed Ms. Miranda concerns about the buses. Mr. Hernandez and Ms. Miranda would like the Board to write a letter to the MTA asking them to enforce their own rules. They would also like Government Affairs committee to write a letter regarding the affect of quality of life impairments.
 - 3) **John Holmes**, came to speak about the signs posted on Pacoima Damn Road regarding an unknown city program. Bonnie Last Name said she had information and Mr. Holmes connected with her separately.
6. **Committee Reports** were made by:
- Executive Committee** – Maria Silva extended thanks to all the committees who submitted their meeting minutes. The minutes have been posted to the website. www.sylmarneighborhoodcouncil.org. She also listed out the number of meeting minutes which are currently outstanding. Kurt Cabrera-Miller also reminded the committees chairs that all flyers must be approved by the whole board before they are distributed.
- Budget Committee** – As there is a larger budget discussion later on the agenda, Mr. Ortega passed on his report.
- Bylaws Committee** – Diane Valencia was absent this week and there was no update.
- Outreach Committee** – There is no report this week.
- Planning & Land Use Committee** – George Ortega the report as Peter Postlmayr was not able to attend the meeting. Mr. Ortega shared that there were only two items discussed at the last meeting. On the William's project, a response has not yet been received, so the committee sent a negative letter towards their application for development. They also reviewed the Orchard Neighborhood Market proposal and had some questions so subsequent meeting will be set for further discussion.
- Government Affairs Committee** – Ann Job had nothing to report.
- Homeless Services Committee** – The next meeting is August 3rd at Church of the Foothills. Peggy Courtney shared that the official numbers for the Sylmar homeless count should have been posted yesterday (7/26). It will be interesting to look at those numbers and discuss at the next meeting.
- Emergency Preparedness Committee** – John Pacheco shared that the 1st CERT class has become Map Your Neighborhood presenters. A few of the upcoming events which the Emergency Preparedness Committee will be a part of include the Valley Disaster Preparedness Fair will be on October 7th at the Northridge Fashion Center, and on October 14th we will be partnering with the Red Cross to install Smoke Alarms in the community. In October/November, they will be hosting an Emergency Preparedness seminar for local businesses.
- Equestrian Committee** – Kelly Land came to read Cheri Blose's report. There were no meetings held in June or July and the next meeting will be August 2nd at the new ice cream store next door to the 99Cent Store. The focus of the meeting will be on equestrian access and implementation with the city. They will be looking at future community events including next years Make Your Horse Count.
- Harvest Festival** – Kathy Bloom shared that the park already has a lot of events in October/November and there is no availability for a Harvest Festival. The park suggested something in the spring, which would not a harvest festival, so the whole idea is being relooked at.
7. **Discussion and possible action to appoint Carlos Lara for the Outreach Committee.**

Appointed by Kurt Cabrera-Miller;

Discussion: Carlos Lara shared about himself and reminded those present that the Outreach Committee meets every 2nd Tuesday of every month.

Motion Passed by vote of the **15** eligible members present. Yes (15): Kathy Bloom, Hector Cabrera, Lucille Floresta, Kathy Grubert, Greg Hoerner, Ann Job, Marti Marshall, Derek Martin, George Ortega, John Pacheco, Peter Postlmayr, Christian Rubalcava, Emily Rubalcava, Maria Silva, and Kurt Cabrera-Miller; No (0) None; Abstain (0) None

- 8. Discussion led by George Ortega Treasurer, with assistance from the Board, to set/create and approves the 2017/2018 Strategic Budget Package.** Mr. Ortega led the board through the Proposed Strategic Budget Package, highlighting that in the new financial operating system Operations and Outreach are within the same section. This means moving money in between those two categories is very easy.

Moved by George Ortega; seconded by Greg Hoerner

Discussion:

- Marti Marshall noted that the numbers for the NPGs are inaccurate based on what was approved in the meeting minutes. Mr. Ortega responded that his numbers came from Ann Job. Ms. Job explained that not all that of the NPGs, which were approved, were actual spent, for reasons like paperwork not being completed at the time. Ms. Marshall noted that the minutes should reflect any changes to what was approved of at a previous meeting.
 - Kurt Cabrera-Miller asked that for all future treasury reports, George Ortega include an update on the status of NPGs.
 - Bonnie Bernard from the audience commented that in the past the committee who first approved the NPG was responsible for follow the process all the way through.
- Kathy Grubert asked if this went through the budget committee and George Ortega explained that there is not a committee yet. She also asked about the status of the office. In the past the board has approved an amount not to exceed \$500 per month for the office. The office is in contract negotiation currently. Diane Valencia will have more information to report when she returns.
- Ann Job clarified that with the 2016/2016 Adopted Budget, the Community Improvement Fund was set aside for Emergency Preparedness in hopes of getting community bins. She also noted that with NPG are not just the board giving money but for
- John Pacheco expressed pride in all the outreach and all that David Rodriguez did in his time as Public Relations and Outreach chair.
- Maria Silva clarified how the operations grand total was calculated.
- Greg Hoerner asked if Department of Neighborhood Empowerment's (DONE) new software and budget programs would impact what is approved today. Kurt Cabrera-Miller clarified the new software would not affect the budget numbers being approved but rather provides greater transparency for the communities. Anyone can go online and find the current budget and financial status of their neighborhood council. Vanessa Serrano provided a quick demonstration of how to navigate to the information online.
 - John from the audience asked for a flow chart of how to get to this information. Mr. Cabrera-Miller said one would be posted on the website.
- Ann Job noted that until a budget is submitted, the Sylmar Neighborhood Council only has \$333 to spend for three months. Once a budget has been submitted into the City Clerk, the council can function as per normal.

Motion Passed by vote of the **15** eligible members present. Yes (13): Kathy Bloom, Hector Cabrera, Lucille Floresta, Kathy Grubert, Greg Hoerner, Ann Job, Derek Martin, George Ortega, John Pacheco, Peter Postlmayr, Christian Rubalcava, and Maria Silva, Kurt Cabrera-Miller; No (1) Marti Marshall; Ineligible (1) Emily Rubalcava

- 9. Discussion and possible action to accept the resignation of Emily Rubalcava.** Ms. Rubalcava fills the Youth Representative Seat on the Board and has been accepted to University of California, Berkeley.

10. As per SNC Bylaws Available Board Seats – Kurt Cabrera-Miller

A standing agenda item must exist on Council agendas so long as a vacancy exists. Here is a list of the current available seats and each of their requirements.

- Youth - A Stakeholder who lives, works, owns property or declares a stake in the neighborhood as a community interest stakeholder and is between the ages 14 through 20.
- Retail - A Stakeholders who are business owners or representatives of a business within the neighborhood and who are 14 years or older.
- Home Owner - A Stakeholders who are Home/Condo owners within the neighborhood and who are 14 years or older.

- At Large - A Stakeholder who lives, works, owns property or declares a stake in the neighborhood as a community interest stakeholder.

11. **Introduction of board applicant Paul Dumont.** He applied 7/10/2017 for the Retail seat.

12. **Recess** – 8:00pm – 8:18pm

13. **City Liaison Reports** were made by:

Animal Services Liaisons – Kelli Land was not able to stay after the break. She left a report that Lucy Pet Foundation will be meeting August 9th and August 19th Clear the Shelter Day nation wide and all LA shelters would like volunteers. Ms. Land went to a meeting for the Animal Services at the city council office, they will be meeting in again in August. The goal of the meeting was to identify and make action plans to support the animal issues in the community.

Budget Representatives – Christian Rubalcava noted that, as Ann Job is no longer a budget advocate, we need to connect with a new budget advocate. We need to look at the city’s budget and express what our community wants. He also noted that there is a new line in the city budget for tree trimming.

City Attorney Liaisons – Diane Valencia was absent.

DWP Liaison – George Ortega has nothing to report.

Homelessness Liaison – Ann Job had nothing to report.

Planning Liaisons – While Peter Postlmayr was out of town, Cheri Blose attending a hearing for the Williams Homes construction on 13345 and 13343 West Foothill Blvd. Phase One has already been approved and is under construction, but they are making some changes and therefore going back through the planning department. The Planning and Land Use committee recommend we object and the board supported that recommendation. Ms. Blose attending the meeting and shared a letter addressing all of the concerns and cited specific examples of how the development has failed to meet previously stated goals. The planning commissioner took this information and directed Williams Homes to address these issues and come back with an updated plan.

Public Safety Liaison – Greg Hoerner had nothing to report.

Public Works – Christian Rubalcava shared that every 6 months the Bureau of Street Services sends an asphalt repair truck to the neighborhoods. He also reminded those in attendance that if you report a pothole on 311, it will be fixed within 3 to 4 days.

Transportation Liaison – There is not currently a liaison for transportation.

14. **Item removed from the agenda,** as Mr. Tim Marceau had to remove his application for the “Home/Condo Owner”.

15. **Discussion and possible action of the President to Appoint for Board Approval, new Board Member Paul Dumont to fill vacant “Retail” Seat.** Paul Dumont runs a recovery home in Sylmar and is personally 13 years recovered from substance abuse and was formerly homeless. He currently works with other neighborhood councils, the city council office and is active politically. It was clarified that ‘Retail’ covers anyone who has a business license. It was also noted that the name of the seat has been changed in the bi-laws to be “Business”.

Motion Passed by vote of the 14 eligible members present. Yes (14): Kathy Bloom, Hector Cabrera, Lucille Floresta, Kathy Grubert, Greg Hoerner, Ann Job, Marti Marshall, Derek Martin, George Ortega, John Pacheco, Peter Postlmayr, Christian Rubalcava, Maria Silva, and Kurt Cabrera-Miller; No (0) None; Abstain (0) None

Mr. Dumont was sworn in by Vanessa Serrano as the new Business Seat on the Sylmar Neighborhood Council and he joined the board at the table.

16. **Presentation and update on the Mission Wells Project.**

Presentation given by D.W.P. Mr. Jason Stinnett & Evelyn Cortz-Davis

Mr. Jason Stinnett and Ms. Evelyn Cortz-Davis came to address the concerns raised by the residents of the neighborhood. Attached to these notes is a handout with the information they presented. Also LADWP has created a website for this project www.ladwp.com/missionwells to provide better transparency.

Fact Check: Contamination Concerns at Mission Wells

LADWP is deeply concerned about the soil, air and water quality issues recently expressed by customers that reside in the Sylmar (area near our Mission Wells Facility). We would like to clarify some of the information that was reported in the July 12,2017 article published in the San Fernando Valley Sun.

There is no evidence of a threat to the health of area residents or LADWP work crews posed by Mission Wells Project construction on or nearby the property based on multiple environmental screenings and soil tests.

Soil & Air Quality

LADWP conducted three separate screenings for volatile organic compounds (VOCs). The first screening conducted in January 2015 did not detect any VOCs and LADWP crews were subsequently allowed to start construction. The second screening on June 29, 2017 and the third screening on July 14, 2017 were conducted in a trench in the residential area near the facility on Envoy Street. The result of these screenings showed no presence of VOCs including TCE or other chlorinated solvents. In addition, the South Coast Air Quality Management District responded to four complaints, one in January 2015 and three in July 2017. No violations were noted.

Water Quality

The purpose of the Mission Wells Project is to help LADWP fully utilize its groundwater rights and production from the Sylmar Basin by upgrading existing groundwater facilities, which includes construction of three new wells. As LADWP representatives explained at a June 29th community meeting there are a total of five wells on the site, none of which are currently active. Of these wells, only one is expected to be operational by next year.

Additionally, monitoring wells which play an important role in tracking groundwater quality are in place or being built in the area. These monitoring wells will ensure that LADWP operates the Mission Wellfield safely and that any water served from this source meets all drinking water standards set for volatile organic compounds, including TCE.

While continuing to protect local groundwater, supplies is an important part of our mission, our highest priority is to provide safe and reliable drinking water to all of our customers. LADWP achieves this goal by testing the water we serve every day for substances that pose a threat to public health.

In fact, during 2016 LADWP's water quality team collected nearly 40,000 water samples throughout the city and conducted more than 140,000 water quality tests for compliance as well as for research and operational improvements. We tested for more than 200 regulated and unregulated contaminants, including TCE, as well as for water quality issues such as hardness.

This testing is conducted by a team of qualified field and laboratory personnel at about 300 locations around the City and is regulated by the State Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The drinking water served by LADWP has met all Federal and State standards because of effective treatment and operational controls. We encourage customers to review the results of our most recent analyses in the Drinking Water Quality Report.

LADWP has been in regular communication with community members and will continue to be responsive to all questions and concerns. We encourage anyone with questions on the Mission Wells Project to contact Community Affairs at (213) 367-3803.

Questions from the board: Maria Silva asked if this information has been given to residents as well. Ms. Cortz-Davis responded that those who attended the community meeting in June received the same information. John Pacheco asked how these wells play a part in an emergency situation. Ms. Cortz-Davis responded that they are critical in an emergency. Peter Postlmayr expressed his thanks for their sharing the soils tests and asked if that could be in a report and posted on the website. Ann Job thanked Peter Postlmayr for attending the community meeting in June and for the great answers from Mr. Stinnett and Ms. Cortz-Davis.

Question from the community: Rhonda Garza asked about the other wells in the area which have been noted that inside the wells are containments. Ms. Cortz-Davis responded that full information EPA information can be found at the website www.ladwp.com/remediation. She also addressed specifically of the 5 wells in the Mission Wells, Well #7 was taken offline in 2011 as they found higher level TCE and Well #6 was taken offline due to construction activity. Eugene Hernandez asked if the public was allowed to have a tour of the site. Ms. Cortz-Davis responded that unfortunately, due to safety and maintenance, public tours are not possible at this time. Also she assured those in attendance that when a well was taken offline, it does not mean that residents have less water available. John Holmes asked if the Sylmar tunnel repairs are connected with this project. It was clarified that that is a storm water recovery project to fill the basin in San Fernando. Ms. Cortz-Davis left her business card (copied below).

Evelyn Cortez-Davis, P.E., BCEE
Manager of Special Projects & Groundwater Planning
OFFICE (213) 36-3564
FAX (213) 367-0928
CELL (213) 792-9823
Email: evelyn.cortez-davis@ladwp.com
Department of Water & Power
City of Los Angeles
111 North Hope Street, Room 1352
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2694

17. Treasurer's Report – George Ortega noted that the June MER was dealt with last month and July has not been prepared. Marti Marshall asked when the budget committee meetings are held. Mr. Ortega shared that they will be scheduled as soon as he has a committee. He also noted that anyone interested in being on the budget committee should contact him directly.

- 18. Discussion and possible action**, to approve an amount not to exceed \$500.00 to Co-Sponsor “Summer Movie Night” at Sylmar Park in partnership with California State Assemblymember Raul Bocanegra. Date of the movie night is August 11th.

Moved by Peter Postlmayr; seconded by Christian Rubalcava

Discussion: Les Aisenman a stakeholder, asked about this item and it’s path through the board and various committees. He then stated that there are those of the community who still remember when the Assemblymember could not be bothered to be in the area he represented. He does not believe the Sylmar Neighborhood Council should underwrite this event and support him. Eugene Hernandez agreed with Les Aisenman and expressed that the Assemblymember should use his own discretionary funds. Peter Postlmayr expressed that he felt the event is good for community. Maria Silva spoke, both as the Educational Representative on the board and as a mother in the community, that this event is something for our youth and is a free event for families. It is also an opportunity for the Sylmar Neighborhood Council to be out there with the community. Kurt Cabrera-Miller expressed that many of the families in the community cannot afford to go to movie theaters and on average 300 to 400 families attend these type of events. Mr. Cabrera-Miller also noted that Assemblymember Raul Bocanegra was previous in attendance at the meeting (the July SNC meeting). He arrived that evening at 7:27pm and was around until the end of recess at 8:18pm. Bonnie Bernard shared that these events are community gatherings and are available for non-profits to attend.

Motion Passed by vote of the **15** eligible members present. Yes (14): Kathy Bloom, Hector Cabrera, Lucille Floresta, Kathy Grubert, Greg Hoerner, Ann Job, Marti Marshall, Derek Martin, George Ortega, John Pacheco, Peter Postlmayr, Christian Rubalcava, Maria Silva, and Kurt Cabrera-Miller; No (0) None; Abstain (0) None; Ineligible (1) Paul Dumont

- 19. Discussion and possible action, Motion of Reconsideration of June 22nd Agenda Item 18 - Item is tabled because it was written incorrectly**

The motion was tabled.

Moved by Kurt Cabrera-Miller; seconded by George Ortega

- 20. Approval of previous Board Meeting minutes, with the corrections noted.**

Discussion and possible action to approve the meetings minutes for General SNC Board Meeting June 22, 2017

Moved by Christian Rubalcava; seconded by John Pacheco

Discussion: Kathy Grubert’s name was twice on roll call, once on being time and once as being late. The roll call list is inaccurate with Derek Martin, John Pacheco, and Greg Horner’s names missing.

Motion Passed by vote of the **14** eligible members present. Yes (13): Hector Cabrera, Lucille Floresta, Kathy Grubert, Greg Hoerner, Ann Job, Marti Marshall, Derek Martin, George Ortega, John Pacheco, Peter Postlmayr, Christian Rubalcava, Maria Silva, Kurt Cabrera-Miller; No (0) None; Abstain (1) Paul Dumont

- 21. Discussion and possible action to** appoint Ann Job as the Sylmar Neighborhood Council’s 4th authorized person to submit Community Impact Statements (CIS). The other 3 individuals are Diane Valencia, Kathy Grubert & Maria Silva. Ann Job would be replacing former Board Member Wilson Bell.

Moved by Christian; seconded by Kathy Grubert

Discussion: None

Motion Passed by vote of the **14** eligible members present. Yes (14): Hector Cabrera, Paul Dumont, Lucille Floresta, Kathy Grubert, Greg Hoerner, Ann Job, Marti Marshall, Derek Martin, George Ortega, John Pacheco, Peter Postlmayr, Christian Rubalcava, Maria Silva, Kurt Cabrera-Miller; No (0) None; Abstain (0) None

- 22. Point of Information/Approval of SNC Bylaws.** The Amendments were approved by the Board of Neighborhood Councils (BONC) and the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) on 6/26/2017. The Bylaws official effective date was **June 26, 2017**.

- 23. Board Member Comments / Announcements**

Maria Silva – Asked committee heads to review the committee names and descriptions posted on the website. If there are any updates, please send them to her so she can update the website.

Marti Marshall – Noted board meeting minutes since November of last year have not been posted to the website. She also asked Maria Silva for an update on how the collection for new names in the database is going.

Ann Job – Shared that National Night Out is on August 1st this year and encouraged everyone to take part.

Derek Martin– Reminded everyone that summer school has just finished and all the LAUSD schools start back up on August 15th.

Kurt Cabrera-Miller – Acknowledged Ms. Norma Virgin to speak. She shared that trees outside her home were drying out and dying very quickly. There was concern as to why this was happening and that branches would be falling on the cars and people around there, so they tried calling several authorities about it. She sent a message to Mr. Cabrera-Miller on July 8th for help and two hours later the emergency response team arrived to review the tree. The family was originally given a date in August for the tree removal, but they pushed further to get a sooner date. When the tree was removed a gas leak was found and repaired right away. She expressed her gratitude to Mr. Cabrera-Miller and the whole Sylmar Neighborhood Council board.

24. Future Agenda Items

Write to Executive Board by email at ExecutiveBoard@SylmarNC.org or by mail at:
Executive Board c/o Sylmar Neighborhood Council, P.O. Box 921023, Sylmar, CA 91392-1023

The next General Board meeting will be:
Thursday August 24, 2017 at 6:30pm
Sylmar Charter High School, 13050 Borden Ave. Sylmar, CA 91342

25. Closing Remarks, Acknowledgements, and Adjournment. Adjourned at 9:45pm.