

**Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council  
General Meeting Minutes  
From  
Tuesday, November 11, 2008  
6:30pm – 8:30pm**

**Villa Scalabrini Retirement Center  
10631 Vinedale Street  
Sun Valley, CA 91352**

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Status</b>
Mike O’Gara	President	Present
Mary Benson	1st Vice President	Present
Elidia Vasquez	2nd Vice President	Present
Karina Garcia Valles	Secretary	Absent
Julie Monroy	Treasurer	Present
Susan A. Bartlett	Board Member	Present
Jon Eshbach	Board Member	Present
Stephen Franklin	Board Member	Present
Jerry Piro	Board Member	Present
Danielle Harmon	Board Member	Present
Luis O. Medina	Board Member	Present
Manuel “Manny” de la Torres	Board Member	Present
Angel Silva	Board Member	Present
Lee McTaggart	Board Member	Present
Rafael Cardenas	Board Member	Present
Carmen Perez	Board Member	Absent
Dionisio Alcala, Jr.	Board Member	Absence excused
Tina Cameron	Board Member	Absent
Raul Gonzalez	Board Member	Absent
Arthur Sweet	Board Member	Absence excused
Nancy Vasquez	Board Member	Absent
Vinita McClennon	Board Member	Absent
Frank Felix	Board Member	Absent

<b>Others in Attendance who addressed the Board</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Esther Vasquez	Senior Lead Officer, LAPD’s North Hollywood Division
Gary Gray	High School Principal
Yolanda Anguiano	Assemblyman Felipe Fuentes’ Office
Mark Alpers	Consultant for Athens Services
Navraj Singh	Resident
Louis Pugliese	Resident

**1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call, SVANC Pledge**

- President Mike O’Gara called the meeting to order at about 6:34pm
- Jon led the Pledge of Allegiance
- Mike O. took roll call and recited the SVANC pledge.

**2. Opening Remarks**

- Mike O. asked the Board members to empty the file he brings in every month

- Mike O. mentioned that there was good turnout at both parks for the Halloween events. He also said that the second youth advocate, Stephanie, attended a Halloween at the park event.
- Mike O. said that Capitan Minsal, who attended October's Board meeting, has not firmed up anything about the service warranty for the patrol car cameras.
- Mike O. stated that the SVANC has been paying \$1,000 per month in rent for the office. However, since the office does not have a bathroom, next year's lease will be \$100 less in rent per month.
- On November 22, 2008, from 9:00-11:00 am, at the median on Winnetka by the Mervyns store, there will be planting of trees by the Chamber of Commerce under the direction of Virginia Beck. This is part of the Mayor's Day of Service, but it is also part of Virginia's long term project. The project is expected to begin on this date and the goal is to complete it by Earth Day in April.
- During October's SVANC's general meeting, the Board approved the expense for Mike O. to attend a three day seminar at South Coast Air Quality in Diamond Bar regarding the Ultra fine Diesel particles and retrofitting of the Diesel engines, but he was not able to get into the seminar because it was full.
- Mike O. was not able to work on the subject of the Sun Valley H.S. name to include on this month's agenda, but he mentioned that the H.S. Principal, Dr. Gary Gray is present to talk about it.
- Mike O. said that trees are still being planted but no plans are being made to water them.
- Mike O. requested a volunteer from the Board to organize donations for a x-mas care package to send to Dionisio "Danny" Alcala, board member who is serving in Iraq.
- Mike O. also mentioned the Tip-A-Cop event on November 18 at the Acapulco Restaurant from 11:00am to 09:00 pm.

### **3. Emergency Personnel from Fire and Police Departments**

- Esther Vasquez, Senior Lead Officer, LAPD's North Hollywood Division
  - Mentioned that Sun Valley is currently having an increase in burglaries by the North Hollywood area close to the 170 and the 5 Freeway.
  - The burglaries are being committed by burglars who climb in through windows. The officer mentioned to keep all windows and doors locked.
  - To date seven suspects are in custody, from **Brant and Poly High Schools**. All the burglaries occur in the day time.

### **4. Presentation/Announcements from Elected Officials or their Representatives**

- Yolanda Anguiano, representative from Assemblyman Felipe Fuentes' office, introduced Israel Salas, who will replace Efrain Valdovinos, a new field rep assigned to Sun Valley. The Assemblyman's office is located on Laurel Canyon Blvd., zip code 91331.

### **5. Comments from DONE Representative - none**

### **6. Public Comments**

- Mr. Gray, High School Principal, asked the Board to include the Naming of the High School as an item for next month's agenda.
- Mr. Gray distributed a list with some of the names being suggested for the new high school. He added that the community, parents, students and the school board will be the ones who will ultimately decide on the name for the HS. The

three names that have been suggested are: the Howard Finn HS, Julie Kornstein HS, and Sun Valley HS.

- Mr. Gray asked to email any other suggestions for the name to [gary.gray@lausd.net](mailto:gary.gray@lausd.net). All these names/recommendations will be forwarded to his local District's Superintendent.
- The Board of Education would like to vote on a name by the end of this year.
- Mary B. asked Mr. Gray to take the strategic plan documents which talks about a proposal for the NC to adopt a strategic plan to coordinate jobs and education curriculum for the new HS.
- Mr. Gray mentioned that one of the HS's main visions is to create partnerships with businesses and other agencies throughout the district and the city for internships especially in the areas of environmental concerns. The HS will offer an environmental studies program, with six new science and project rooms.
- Luis Pugliese, CYF's commissioner, introduced himself as a candidate for the LAUSD School Board for District 6's seat, and asked for the SVANC's support.

## **7. Board Member Comments**

- Stephen announced that their school's leadership class will be going to Washington DC, and part of the funding for this trip is through events like the one that will be held at Acapulco Night at the Restaurant on Thursday, December 4. The Restaurant will donate 25% of the proceeds when patrons show the flyer.
- Lee mentioned that about 63 applications are being processed for the **Volunteer's for Evelyn's team.**
- Lee attended a 5-week self defense class in Burbank, and suggested to have this item on the agenda for next month to possibly sponsor a class for Sun Valley women.
- Lee stated that there is a rapist in Hanson Dam and attacks on the 24<sup>th</sup> of every month. So far he has not raped anyone but has beaten women when they fight back. It is suggested that no women be on the Dam alone, especially on the 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Susan mentioned the Children's Day event, which focuses on youth between the ages of 4 and 14, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November at Woodley Park.
- Susan also said that the mural at the swap meet needs to be washed with soap and water and then rinsed. She has tried to reach Manuel Velasquez to ask him about the cleaning process.
- Susan mentioned that four trees are dead on Ratner Street, which were planted by Hollywood Beautification Team; nine trees are dead between Peoria and Sheldon on the northbound side. A lot of the trees are dying; Susan's team is watering as much as trees possible, but they are running out of money and time. A crime report will be filed regarding the 19 trees that were brutalized.
- Jon mentioned that last Saturday or the Saturday before, Sun Valley Beautiful Rotary Club and people from the community went to Poly HS and worked on the maintenance of the trees around the school, including watering, cleaning-out the weeds, making the dishes, etc., so that they can survive the winter.
- The general consensus from the Board is that a lot of trees are being planted without a maintenance plan for the trees.
- One of the Board members asked Board member Angel Silva to ask the Environmental Club at that school if they could participate in the maintenance of the trees.
- Elidia V. mentioned that besides the Environmental Club, the Rotary Club can also be asked to help with the maintenance of the trees outside of campus.

However, one of the Board members mentioned that it would help if hose bibs were installed in order to water up to 15 trees at a time, but it was mentioned that the school does not want to pay for the water used to water the trees.

- It was mentioned that the LADWP settled with LAUSD and paid them about \$63 Million for the overcharges.
- On behalf of the Sun Valley Community, Julie thanked everyone for participating in the giveaways, candy and prizes for over 700 kids that went to the Sun Valley Rec Center.

## **8. Committee Reports**

- President: none
- Treasurer: A sheet has been placed in each Board member's folders with the demand warrants paid and the expenditures by credit cards held by Julie and Mike O. To date the remaining account balance is \$127,651.05, which does not include six demand warrants submitted to DONE on November 10, 2008 which are for \$1,487; \$262.50; \$2,887.50; \$472.50; \$500; \$1,000. Minus these amounts the total balance in the NC's account is \$121,041.05.
- Julie asked the Board members to include a Community Benefits Form along with a demand warrant in order to submit it to DONE.
- One of the Board members presented a letter about the camera for the patrol car and was informed that the Police Dept, as the recipient of the funds, had to first fill out a Community Impact Form stating that it is for their patrol car in order for the Controller's office to pay it.
- Land Use: The Land Use Committee met on October 27, 2008, and will update the Board members on the termination of this committee during next month's meeting.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Item 9:** Mike O. mentioned that there are four openings on the Board with four alternates. During last month's general NC's meeting Jon asked who would meet the requirements under each category; there is one opening under residence; two opening under business; and one opening at large. All four alternates are in the business category, therefore one has to be classified under the residence category and one under the at-large.

- Jon asked if the Board could assign these members to these categories, and it was clarified that the first selections have to be made to the NC's categories. Another Board member added that some may qualify under these categories, but if they don't qualify then DONE makes a decision whether to select or assign a person to the Board regardless of the person's qualifications to the Board.
- Mike O. expressed that two of the nominees are residents and one could go under the residence category; none of the four are under the category of "at large." Mike mentioned that he did not feel that someone who did not run and go through the campaigning should be allowed to get a seat at the Board.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Item 10:**

- A motion was presented to provide carolers for the Board's December meeting and invite the residents from the retirement home to the Board meeting. Jon will contact Dr. Cypress to find out if one of their campus groups is willing to participate on December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Mike O. will arrange the time and the amount of \$400 for the school carolers.

- Stephen recommended having the carolers at the home from 3:00pm to 5:00pm. It was also suggested to invite other clubs and organizations to participate, and whoever is interested should contact Mike O. (Motion made by Jerry P. and seconded by Jon to spend up to \$400-. Motion was approved unanimously).

**Item 11:** Regarding the purchase of the collared shirts for Board members to wear when participating in outreach events for the NC. Stephen asked for the number of t-shirts and the colors requested in order to get an estimate before putting it up for a vote. It was answered that it would be a four-colored, embroidered t-shirt for 25 people. No motion or vote was taken.

**Item 12:** Regarding the letter sent to the City Zoning Administrator from SVANC regarding the Athens Service draft EIR; Mary B. and Mike O. along with the consultant attended the Athens Services meeting, but due to time/business constraints a letter has not been drafted and submitted to the City but the deadline for the submittal of the letter is November 24, 2008. However there is a public comment meeting on November 12 at Stonehurst Park, on Dronfield St., The committee wants approval from the Board to write the letter by no later than November 24, 2008, which will include the notes taken during the November 12, 2008's public meeting.

- Mike added that the NC will ask for tipping fees and for an extension of 45 days beyond November 24, in order to review the Draft EIR. He added that the **ATSAC** is part of the extension because the City has changed the rules and it may be a factor in this extension request.

(Jerry P. made a motion and was seconded by Julie, with a friendly amendment by Jon to send a draft letter by email at least two days in advance to the rest of the Board members. It was approved unanimously).

**Item 13:** This item is regarding sending a letter to Councilman Cárdenas advising him of the NC's concerns about the possible closure of Mervyn's Department store and asking him to instruct his economic deputy to report back to the NC ASAP about the serious deleterious economic impact on Sun Valley. The goal is to find another tenant. Mike O. sent letters to the leasing agent and was informed that Mervyn's owns that property, but that they (the leasing agent) would be interested in purchasing it. It was also suggested to contact the Mayor, but not before hearing from Councilman Cárdenas' staff. (Jon and Angel presented and seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously).

**Item 14:** This item is to approve the Sun Valley Area NC Environmental Justice Strategic Plan, which includes the following mission statement and five goals as read by Mary Benson (*note: Sun Valley is an Environmental Justice Zone, an Enterprise Zone and a Community redevelopment Zone*):

- **Mission Statement:** Provide leadership and policies and identify programs to preserve and integrate safe and affordable housing, transportation and job opportunities and promote strong community involvement for all stakeholders.
- **Goal One:** Integrate existing Master Plans and studies into a comprehensive strategy for rental and entry level housing, watershed management and solid waste management plans, "green technology industry and transportation infrastructure.
- **Goal Two:** Establish Communication
- **Goal Three:** Maintain the Health and Safety of Existing Housing Stock
- **Goal Four:** Strengthen Sun Valley Community by Improving Infrastructure and Attracting, Expanding and Retaining "Green Technology" Businesses and Jobs for Stakeholders.

- **Goal Five:** Strengthen Sun Valley Community by improving communication with regulatory agencies that monitor the quality of Air, Water, and Waste Disposal

It was mentioned that the dilapidated mobile home park's electrical and water pipes' systems has been upgraded by LADWP. This is the mobile home park on Laurel Canyon. (Stephen made a motion and was seconded by Jon to adopt the Environmental Justice Strategic Plan; it was approved unanimously).

**Item 15:** This item is to approve letters to the Planning Dept with comments from the Planning Committee on proposed planning issues in Sun Valley and to approve the Community Impact Statement for the project that is being proposed to build 30 condos at 9041 Laurel Canyon, which is at the on ramp of Sheldon and the 5 Fwy. This Community Impact Statement is attached to the Council file.

-One problem is that there is only one access road and the other problem is that the Developer has applied to change the Zoning, and if approved, then he will be allowed to build 40 condos at that site by right, because he never filed a tentative track map. Also the distance from this site to the one road is only a few feet.

(Jon moved this item and Julie seconded it; the vote was called and approved with one Board member, Jerry Piro, in opposition).

**Item 16:** This item is to oppose the CAP and trade State PUC Plan on Power Carbon Credits and oppose IBEW/DPW (*Dept of Public Works*) Solar initiative for the March Ballot, which was approved by the City Council on Friday, November 7, 2008. This is with regards to building/installing solar panels on top of all the LADPW buildings and on top of other sites throughout Southern L.A. as far as the Mojave Desert.

-The IBEW's members from the DWP will be the only ones who will be contracted to build/install the solar panels.

-Mary B., as the NC's DWP rep., clarified that this NC's vote means that it stands with the recommendation of the DWP committee's formal vote to take a formal stand in opposition of this initiative, since per the MOU with the DWP, they are supposed to involve all the NCs with a 90-day-notice period, and this was violated. The DWP committee consists of representatives of all the NCs.

(Jon moved this item and Danielle seconded it; it was approved).

**Item 17:** Revision, corrections and approval of October 14<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved as amended.

**Item 18: Public Comment**

- Mr. Navraj Singh congratulated the NC's Board for its leadership, commitment and respect in running the meeting in such a democratic manner.

**Item 19: Meeting was adjourned at 8:01 pm approximately**

(Jon moved and Julie seconded and it was approved unanimously)