

**Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council
General Meeting
on
Tuesday, January 13, 2009
6:30pm – 8:30pm**

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

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

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

- President Mike O’Gara called the meeting to order at about 6:32 p.m.
- Jon led the Pledge of Allegiance
- Mike O. took roll call and announced a quorum for the official meeting.
- Karina recited the SVANC pledge

2. Opening Remarks – Mike O’Gara

- Mike O. mentioned that Capitan Minsal, Foothill Division, brought the patrol car with the camera and asked those present at the meeting to go outside to the parking lot to see the patrol car. Ten NCs contributed \$4000 each for the cameras for the patrol cars. These cameras read the license plates of the cars as they travel down the street.
- Mike O. mentioned that the Mervyn’s at the Canyon Shopping Plaza will be replaced by Kohl’s. They are filing applications at the Planning Dept. to redesign the store and have applied for LEAD certification. If approved, it is

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estimated that the reconstruction of the store will begin in March 2009. They will begin accepting job applications in July 2009 for approximately 135 job openings. The grand opening is expected to take place in October 2009.

- A letter was received from Dionisio Alcala, who is still in Iraq, thanking the NC members and other donors for the X-mas package sent to him by the SVANC. He is expected to return in September 2009.
- Home Depot withdrew from opening in the Sunland area neighborhood. This sends a strong message to the business community, and its result is a great success to what the unity of the NCs can accomplish.
- The Valley Alliance Neighborhood Council Mixer was partly sponsored by the SVANC where they had an informational booth and approximately 5 people from the NC attend the event.
- Mike O. stated that board member Jerry Piro is in the hospital.
- Miko O. announced that Frank Felix has become an Eagle Scout.
- Mike O. reminded all present that Thursday, January 15, is the Public Information Meeting for Athens at Polytechnic High Auditorium at 7:00 p.m.
- Various Board members mentioned concern regarding calls made to the Police Dept regarding complaints about neighborhood nuisance related issues.
- It was also mentioned that any all complaints need to have a police report number in order to have a follow up.

3. **Emergency Personnel from Fire and Police Departments** - Esther Vasquez, Senior Lead Officer, LAPD's North Hollywood Division

- Officer Vasquez mentioned that Capitan Minsal asked her to give the NC an update on the contract service agreement for the camera on the patrol car. She stated that the Capitan is still negotiating the 3-year service agreement.
- It was mentioned to Officer Vasquez that the invoice/purchase order for the service agreement needs to be made out to the SVANC by the company providing the service/product.
- Officer Vasquez mentioned that Sun Valley is covered by Foothill Division starting at Saticoy and that Arleta is now covered by Mission Division.
- Officer Vasquez mentioned that crime rate at that Division has remained at about the same level.
- The CPAB meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 06:30 p.m. at the Villa Scalabrini Retirement Center.

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

- Eric Menjivar, CD 2, announced that the plans for the Voit Art Project have been approved by every City Department. The engineer for the project just submitted the public utility notices to At&T and Bureau of Street Lighting, and once he receives them back, he will apply for the excavation permit.
- Eric also brought energy-saving light bulbs for the attendees.

5. **Comments from DONE Representative**

- Barry Stone reminded the Board that the new members and those who took the ethics training two years ago need to register for this mandatory training once again. You can visit the website at www.lacityneighborhoods.com to register and to do the training on line.
- Barry promised to email to the Board a list with the names of the members that need to take the ethics training again.

- Barry also reminded the Board members to fill out the budget survey by visiting the same website above.
- Barry announced a Neighborhood Council Valley Training Day on January 24, 2009 from 08:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at the Marvin Braude Building in Van Nuys. The topics will include NCs and the DOT-NC's Feedback regarding the MOU, and the Neighborhood Purposes Grant. This same training will be held in the West or South L.A. Region in the month of February, but for more information on the dates and locations of this training go the www.lacityneighborhoods.com.

6. Possibly Talk with Capt Ivan Minsail about the License Plate Reader Police Car –
See above under Item 3 for Officer Vasquez' update on this item.

7. Public Comments

- Mr. Corcoran, WM, reminded everyone to attend the Planning Commission Hearing which will discuss WM's Recycling Center and Transfer Station's permit request. It will be held on February 26, 2009 at 08:30 a.m., at the Marvin Braude Center in Van Nuys.
- Mr. Corcoran also reminded the attendees not to discard the energy-saving light bulbs in the trash container because they contain mercury. However, City of L.A.'s Bureau of Sanitation offers a program which assists you with getting rid of this type of waste.
- James Unger made a presentation regarding the campaign Yes on Measure B.
- Cindy Dumo, Senior Recreation Director at Fernangeles Rec Center, presented a letter of gratitude to the Board for co-sponsoring their First Annual Posada event. The SVANC's contribution helped to provide a gift for each child present and a meal for all the event's attendees. Other contributors include, Lily Lee from WM, Stella from Peoria Neighborhood Watch, Living Hope, Sun Valley Rec Center, among others.
- Fernando Chavez, Cerrell and Associates representing Athens Services, reminded the attendees about the public information meeting regarding the Athens Sun Valley Material Recovery Facility project which will be held on Thursday, January 15, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at Polytechnic High School's Auditorium. He left for the public fact sheets about the project.

8. Board Member Comments and Committee Reports

- It was announced that a Kidnap Prevention Workshop with Instructor David Bellman, for children ages 3-15, on Saturday, January 17, 2009 from 03:30-05:00 p.m. at the Fernangeles Rec Center.
- It was mentioned that a fire prevention/safety class for children can be taught free of charge through the Children's Burn Foundation and the City's Fire Department.
- A board member thanked the SVANC participating in the Holiday Show at Sun Valley Rec Center, which was a success and over 700 toys were given out to the children.
- It was informed to the SVANC that the Tree People organization has asked the NC to participate in the distribution of trees.
- Mike O. stated that Senator Padilla's office had a flyer stating that his office is hosting a Fruit Tree Giveaway at the Sepulveda Rec Center on Saturday, January 17th, from 12:00 p.m. to 04:00 p.m.

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- Jon and Mary asked to recognize Nick Pedaris as a new board member but since this item was not in the agenda no action could be taken to officially appoint him to the Board, but it will be included in next month's agenda.
- Angel thanked the SVANC on behalf of Poly High and the Student Leadership for the donation of \$499 to the Toy Drive.
- Elidia mentioned that there is a store that dispenses medical marihuana very close to a school, near Byrd and Fernangeles schools, and would like that store to be moved from that area.
- Officer Vasquez stated that they are aware of that store and have had it under surveillance for issues not related to the store.
- Susan mentioned that Graffiti Busters' budget has been cut and that this will affect their clean-up activities because they've reduced the number of bags they get for this activity. The cost for the bags is over \$5,000. Currently, their budget helps pay for safety equipment, lights on top of the vehicles, etc.
- Susan mentioned that last month Graffiti Busters removed over 81,000 feet of graffiti with 83 court workers who worked a total of 2,372 hours. On the clean up activities a total of 724 bags of trash were used and picked-up 3,583 bulk item bags.
- Jon spoke about the Graffiti Buster's budget cuts and said that the members of Graffiti Busters are carefully reviewing their Budget's expenses in order to find ways to absorb some of these cuts and not reduce the services they provide to the community.
- President: (please see Item 2-Opening Remarks by Mike O.)
- Treasurer: Mike O. asked Julie for an updated budget report for next meeting. *Julie's remarks were not clear on the recording.*
 - Mary added that if you visit the website www.lacityneighborhoods.com click on funding, you will be able to see all the checks that the City has issued on behalf of all the NCs and all the credit card expenses the NCs have charged.
- Land Use: Mary stated that this committee did not have a land use meeting in December, however they will hold a meeting on the 26th of January (the 4th Monday of the month). She added that a lot of this committee's attention has been directed at the Athens Waste proposed project.
- Outreach: none
- Environmental/Bradley Landfill Ad-Hoc: none
- Ad-hoc office: none

UNFINISHED BUSINESS/OLD BUSINESS

Item 9: *Item 9 was skipped numerically in the agenda.*

Item 10: Brief discussion of Shirts for Board members to wear to outreach events (*Stephen Franklin*).

- Stephen asked for an exact number of shirts needed in order to get a price. Mike O. asked him to get a price on 30 shirts.

NEW BUSINESS

Item 11: Motion/Discussion/Vote to approve up to \$2000 to pay Michael Kodama to continue as our Consultant on the Athens Services DEIR. This will complete the project.

- Mike O. stated that in October 2008 the Board approved \$8,000 to pay Mike Kodama for his services and to date \$7,900 have been spent.

-Motion was made by Susan and seconded by Julie to approve this amount and it was approved unanimously.

Item 12: Motion/Discussion/Vote to approve a letter to send to the City Zoning Administrator and Councilwoman Wendy Greuel, from the SVANC with our response to the Athens Services Draft EIR (Mary Benson & Mike O'Gara)

- Mike O. discussed that Athens wants to increase its capacity of construction & demolition material from 400 tons to 500 tons/day; and is also asking to add 1,000 tons/day of municipal solid waste, which is the trash that come out of your black containers.
- Currently there are no vendors processing municipal solid waste. If this is approved it would create more problems with the environment and the quality of life of the neighbors adjacent to this facility and of the community.
- Jon asked Mr. Chavez the address of the project, which is 11121 Pendleton Street, Sun Valley. Jon stated that he received by mail the meeting notification with a bad return address.
- Mary made a motion and was seconded by Jon that the Board accept this letter in its Draft form, but wants the following issues that have been identified and which have the full support of the SVANC, be on the record:

1. This letter is requesting that a Community Advisory Committee be formed.
2. That an education fee from Athens be set up in order to continue studying the issues.
3. That a contribution on par with WM for the tonnage, which amounts to \$20,000/year for five years or \$100,000 be paid
4. The permit that is issued by the local enforcement agency also require Host and Tipping fees.
5. That there is a negotiation for clean-fuel vehicles that come in and out of the site that are owned as part of the Athens Waste fleet.
6. That the EIR be corrected to add that "this is within the Environmental Justice Zone," and
7. That we get social equity on par with other material recycling facilities.

- Jon asked that this letter also address the parking areas for the trucks and the impacts of these trucks for the property on Peoria Street.

-The Board passed this motion unanimously.

Second Item 11 (number was repeated on the agenda): Motion/Discussion/Vote

OUTREACH Discussion of several programs at POLY High School that we may be able to use for publicizing the SVANC possible. Motion/Vote to spend the money to accomplish this (Eldia Vasquez)

- Mike O. mentioned that Poly High has a wood shop class and a culinary arts class. Last Thanksgiving the students cooked a big meal for a lot of the victims of the fire.

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- Elidia reiterated that the students cooked this meal with donations from staff and stakeholders. Even though the turnout was not as high as it was originally expected because other organizations were hosting similar dinners, the students want to continue hosting this type of meals in the future.
- Elidia also mentioned that the School District does not allow them to use coupons or the School credit card to purchase food and asked if anyone was interested in contributing they can do so by purchasing and donating canned food items for the students.
- The Play Production program is starting again with the first play presented on December 19, 2008. They are planning on presenting "Grease - the musical" this March. One way the community can help is by helping purchase props.
- The students of the wood shop class have fixed cabinets, broken items and playground furniture for local day cares. They are always in need of lumber and a storage area. The students suggested visiting Scalabrini Retirement Center as a class project.
- They also have a Horticulture program and are seeking a grant for funding programs like "Community Adopt a Plot" where they will rent out a section of the horticulture area for community members to use as garden.
- The students are planning on landscaping with California native plants inside the school property along Peoria Street near Sharp.
- Elidia will present a motion next month for potential funds to advertise the play Grease on local newspapers.

Item 12 (number was repeated on the agenda): Motion/Discussion/Vote to approve letters to the Planning Dept with comments from the Planning Committee on proposed planning issues in Sun Valley (Mary Benson)

- Regarding the application requesting a liquor license for the 7-11, Susan was able to gather around 300 signatures on a petition which was presented to the Liquor Control Board. This petition needs to be presented to Daniel S., City's Planning Committee.
- Jon asked if a vote had to be taken on this item and Mary clarified that this is a position that the SVANC would take, but because of the community's opposition the Board would probably need to vote before Mary can send the letter, which is regarding the position on the 7-11. The NC is against having a liquor license at that store because of the community's opposition of having an additional liquor store in the area.
- Jon made the motion and Susan seconded it, and after a vote it was approved unanimously.

Item 13: Review, correct and approve minutes from our December 9th meeting. This item will be included in next month's agenda.

Item 14: Public Comment - none

Item 15: **ADJOURN** – motion was made to adjourn the meeting.