

Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council
General Meeting
on
Tuesday, March 10, 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	Absence Excused
Karina Garcia Valles	Secretary	Present
Julie Monroy	Treasurer	Present
Susan A. Bartlett	Board Member	Absent
Jon Eshbach	Board Member	Present
Stephen Franklin	Board Member	Present
Jerry Piro	Board Member	Present
Danielle Harmon	Board Member	Absent
Luis O. Medina	Board Member	Present
Manuel “Manny” de la Torre	Board Member	Present
Angel Silva	Board Member	Present
Lee McTaggart	Board Member	Present
Rafael Cárdenas	Board Member	Absent
Carmen Perez	Board Member	Present
Dionisio Alcala, Jr.	Board Member	Absence excused
Arthur “Art” Sweet	Board Member	Absence excused
Nicholas Dalton Powell	Board Member	Absence excused
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 6:30.
- A Board Member led the Pledge of Allegiance
- Mike O. took roll and since there was a quorum, he called the meeting to order.

2. Opening Remarks – Mike O’Gara

- Mike sent the Board an update about Holy Cross Providence project and will also forward a copy of a newspaper article on Holy Cross.
- The Holy Cross Providence expansion was approved by City Council but without an EIR, therefore the road in front of the hospital will not be widened. The community is very upset about this decision.
- DONE will have a Congress in the Valley sometime in May. DONE will be asking for donations from the NCs to cover the cost of approximately \$20,000, which will pay for food, video taping seminars and the location cost. They are looking for a location preferably in a school, and Valley College was recommended.
- DONE will also have a Valley focus group regarding the Valley Congress on 3-11-09 at 6:00 p.m. on the 3rd floor Conference room of the Braude Building.
- Voter registration forms are on the table for the next election to be held on May 19th.

- Mike thanked Luis M., Stephen F., Frank F., and Jon E. for setting up the room for this meeting.

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

- Discussed an increase in transients/homeless people with shopping carts at Sun Valley park because they are being asked to leave the businesses' parking lots, and instead of going to the shelters or to receive services they are being offered, they choose to go the park instead.
- Mentioned that last month they had a truancy taskforce for Poly High and Byrd middle school areas because it's believed that most of the burglaries occurring in the area were by truant burglars. The Command post was set up at Fernangeles Park and 17 arrests were made.
- Officer Vasquez reported no burglaries in the day-time to date. However, since the task force's operation, two burglaries have occurred in the pm hours.
- The Spanish Citizen's Academy starts this Thursday with 50 participants enrolled, due to limited space. Officer Vasquez will call the people who were interested in attending but were not accepted because of limited space to inform them of next year's academy. However, the English version of the Academy will be held in September.
- The suspect of a purse-snatch robbery was arrested in great part due to the citizens' help.
- A couple of business robberies occurred at the Laurel Canyon Plaza area. Pay attention to your surroundings when shopping, especially early morning. The officer encouraged business owners to keep their employees safe by having at least two employees working different tasks (not standing still in one place), and by having video surveillance.
- Illegal dumping has been occurring but thanks Graffiti Busters and to a business owner the license plates were written down. Surveillance cameras are being used to monitor some of these areas for illegal dumping.

4. Presentation/Announcements from Elected Officials or their Representatives

- Gemma, Senator Padilla's office, mentioned that the State budget just approved unfortunately has a lot of budget cuts for non-profits, health services for the elderly, and increases on the vehicle license fees.
- Gemma, Senator Padilla's office, announced that the Senator is presenting legislation, SB601, which prevents the sale of tobacco within 1,000 feet from schools, and prohibits the sale of tobacco to non-traditional retailers, such as video stores, doughnut shops, etc.
- Olga Ayala, CD7, announced that CD7 is working on outreach events for the entire district. The Self Defense Workshop will be held on Saturday, March 21, from 11:00-1:00 at Fernangeles Rec. Center. Ms. Ayala informed the Board that due to the City's budget crisis, funds to sponsor events have been greatly reduced thus making it very difficult for Council offices to help fund future events. Jerry asked Ms. Ayala for a brief summary of the City budget for next meeting.
- Jon asked Ms. Ayala why the event organizers can't use City staff that work at the locations where the event will take place at no extra cost to the organizers and participants. Ms. Ayala answered because of lack of funding for overtime hours since a lot of the events take place on weekends. Mike O. suggested changing some of the City employees' work week to Wed through Sun like in many other industries.

- Eric Menjivar, CD2, announced that the contract for the artist of the Voit Art Project has been amended and is expected to be approved by the CAO's office in a couple of weeks.
- Eric announced that Councilwoman Greuel will continue in her position until June. As of July 1, the CLA's office will manage CD2.
- A Board member asked Eric if the 2-hour parking restriction sign in a residential area can be removed. It is on Cartwright and Sherman Way and Valerio. The residents are asking CD2's help to remove that parking restriction.

5. Comments from DONE Representative

- Barry Stone, DONE, announced the Valley Focus Group to be held on March 11 at 6:00 p.m. At which time, the NCs' reps and stakeholders will be asked for suggestions on the Valley's issues and their priorities. These will be used as focus points during the upcoming Valley Congress.
- Barry also announced an event which will include Ethics Training for all Board members by the City Attorneys, and a roundtable discussion with DONE's GM on March 21, 2009 at 8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at the Braude Building.

6. Update from Chip Clements regarding Community Recycling & Resource Recovery

– The EIR is not ready, but it is expected to be ready by the end of March.

- Fred James, Law Office of James and Spacey, represents Community Recycling, did not bring the scientific consultants', traffic consultants', environmental consultants' reports because the EIR is not out yet. However, these reports will be brought to the public meetings and at the presentation to the Land Use Committee and to the Board.
- Mr. James said that in January 2008 a Draft EIR was submitted to the City of L.A., which is still under their review and hope the EIR will be finalized and published by the end of March.
- Mr. James reviewed the handout which includes the project's description, the site plan, a before and after illustration of the project along De Garmo Ave and Randall Street.
- The project includes a new enclosure around the entire area that includes a complete enclosure over the organic/green waste area, which is in the Northwest corner of the site. This area has had the most issues with odor and noise from the grinding operations, but the full enclosure of this 100,000 sq.ft. building with a ventilation system will have a tremendous positive effect. There will be partial enclosures over the solid waste and the Construction and Demolition areas.
- No major changes are proposed on De Garmo Avenue side only a new scale will be installed.
- The ultimate solution to a lot of the negative issues is the building of this enclosure, the better enclosure of the other areas and the mitigations the Company is proposing with the EIR.
- The next steps are: The Draft EIR will hopefully be completed in the next 30 days, this in turn triggers a public review period of 45 days by State law, but SVANC's President requested to extend this review period to 90 days, which was agreed upon by the applicant. During this period of time, community meetings will be held and the document will be available immediately to the public. Comments will be accepted before the end of this comment period.
- Upon the completion of the final EIR (includes the Draft, the comments, and the response to comments), then the public hearings before the City begin for

approval consideration of the Conditional Use Permit, Solid Waste Use Permit, a Site Review and one Variance related to the parking.

- There will be at least three public meetings as requested by the SVANC President Mike O. and the applicant agreed, plus a series of public meetings related to the EIR.
- This building is a \$10M-\$12Million dollar project to build the 100,000 square foot enclosure with a state-of-the-art filtration system.
- Jon asked for how long will the green waste be left exposed before it's brought into the building, to which Mr. James answered that it is all processed on the same day.
- Mr. James offered the Board a tour of the proposed facility. Mike O. said that he will organize those who are interested in taking a tour.
- Mr. James mentioned that Councilman Cárdenas suggested organizing a Community Advisory Committee (CAC) for this project.

7. Public Comments

- Veronica Padilla, Director of OCON CDC, will be hosting its 2nd Annual Coffee with Pan Dulce at the MEND Building, 10641 San Fernando Road, Pacoima from 9:00 – 11:30 a.m. where public officials are invited to answer stakeholder questions and concerns. This year, Senator Padilla, Assembly member Fuentes, Councilmen Alarcón and Cárdenas have confirmed.
- Karina Valles, SVANC Board member and employee at Fernangeles Rec. Center, announced that the opening season for T-Ball, Baseball and Softball will be held during Easter. She also said that coach volunteers are needed for these teams.
- Doug Corcoran, WM, announced that the City has postponed the hearing to the 23rd of April.
- Mr. Corcoran mentioned that WM will start applying the final cap to the landfill in about two weeks, with an approximate completion date of September. WM challenged the contractors who handle the heavy equipment for this type of work to use the Tier 3 Engines, the cleanest diesel engine for running the type of heavy equipment that will be used during this process, resulting in about 50%-70% cleaner emissions than traditional construction equipment.
- WM will also be receiving 10 additional LNG trucks on site and taking 10 diesel trucks out of operation.
- Mr. Robin Pearson, Sun Valley Park, announced about the City's budget cuts that will affect the programs and services provided by the park.

8. Board Member Comments and Committee Reports

- Jerry Piro announced that the Star Night event will be held on April 10 and the public will be able to view the stars using other people's telescopes at Hansen Dam.
- Stephen Franklin said that on Thursday, April 12, there will be Acapulco Night for Sun Valley Middle School from 3:00 p.m – 9:00 p.m. A percentage of the cost of meals will be donated to Sun Valley Middle School.
- Susan Bartlett asked the Board for letters to be written to the Public Works Dept. in support of Graffiti Busters' projects.
- Mary Benson gave a report regarding the City's Budget.

9. Committee Reports

- President: see item 2 above

- Treasurer: Julie Monroy gave an update of the SVANC's budget, reporting all expenses year-to-date. She distributed a copy of this report.
- Land Use: none
- Outreach: none
- Environmental/Bradley Landfill Ad-Hoc: none
- Ad-hoc office: none

UNFINISHED BUSINESS/OLD BUSINESS

Item 10: Discussion of 30 polo shirts for Board members to wear at future outreach events (Stephen Franklin). Possible action item for Motion/Discussion and Vote NEED TO MOVE ON AND GET SIZES.

- Stephen F. distributed a list of the Board members in order to get their sizes for the Polo shirts.

NEW BUSINESS

Item 11: Vote to appoint Nick Perdaris (Alternate) to the Board (Neighborhood Pledge). Mike O. informed that Board that since Nick is absent, this item will carry to next month's agenda.

- Jon made the motion and was seconded by Mary.
- The motion carried unanimously.

Item 12: to support the Foothill Trails NC in their effort to get the planning department to require an EIR for any development of Lopez Canyon Landfill. Presently there is a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for a Truck Driving School. Requests SVANC to write a letter to the Zoning Administrator denying the original application for a number of reasons.

- Mike O'Gara called for the question and all the Board members present were in favor.
- Jon made the motion to write the letter and was seconded by Nick P.
- The motion carried unanimously.

Item 13: Motion/Discussion/Vote to approve up to \$500 for outreach thru the Poly High School Drama class for space in their play's program. The Play is "Grease-The Musical." -A vote for this item carried unanimously at the February 10, 2009's regular SVANC's Board meeting. No action was taken at this meeting.

Item 14: Motion/Discussion/Vote to participate in the cost of the planting of the median at Laurel Canyon Blvd., amount not to exceed \$1000 (Jon Eschbach).

- Mike O. asked how many plants and how much do they cost. Virginia said that 10 trees are planted already.
- Jon showed an illustration of what it will look like after planting the shrubs, flowers, ground covers, etc. Jon discussed some costs using City labor.
- Julie made the motion and was seconded by Nick.
- The project will begin as soon as the irrigation system is installed by the City. Steve might be able to bring students as volunteers to help with the planting.
- After a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Item 15: View flyers from Fernangeles and Sun Valley Parks for SVANC on flyers for the Baseball and Easter Events to be held at the parks. (Julie Monroy & Karina Vallas).

- Karina announced that the Easter flyer has not been prepared, but SVANC's log will be placed on the flyer.

Item 16: Motion/Discussion/Vote – We need a volunteer to be our representative on the LADOT MOU Committee.

- Nick volunteered to be the NC's representative.
- Mary moved and Jon seconded the motion to vote for Nick's appointment as the NC's representative at the LADOT MOU Committee.
- The motion carried unanimously.

Item 17: Motion/Discussion/Vote to take a position against Form 54 and recommend an alternative Affidavit.

- Mike O. mentioned that Form 54 is a financial disclosure form which requires the disclosure of sources of income over \$5,000, the financial holding of immediate family members, and any real estate owned in the City.
- Mike O. informed that the Signed Affidavit would state "I have no Financial Interest in this project." If the individual does not want to sign the Affidavit, then that person has to recuse him or herself while the discussion of this project is taking place.
- Mike asked permission to send the letter saying that the SVANC wants the alternate Affidavit to be used.
- Jon made the motion and was seconded by Stephen F.
- The motion carried unanimously.

Item 18: Motion/Discussion/Vote to spend up to \$100 for a cart (to haul files) and a flash drive for the Treasurer (Julie Monroy).

- Jon made the motion and was seconded by Mary.
- The motion carried unanimously.

Item 19: Motion/Discussion/Vote to use \$500 to outreach to parents at Sun Valley Middle School by purchasing an ad in the leadership class flyer for a trip to Washington D.C.

- Jon moved and Lee seconded.
- Steve mentioned that the SVANC's logo will be included in the school's year book like last year.
- The motion carried unanimously.

Item 20: Motion/Discussion/Vote to hire a consultant to help with the EIR for Community Recycling and Resource Recovery (CRRR). The amount is not to exceed \$8,000. (O'Gara).

- Mike O. mentioned that these amounts were approved for Bradley's and Athens' EIRs. He clarified that this amount will not come back to the NC, instead the money spent will definitely come back to this community through fees, etc.
- Mary mentioned that Mike K. is a mobility expert. He was able to get Caltrans to Sun Valley for the transportation issues, which might help get the Caltrans' off-ramp upgraded to heavier duty.
- It has not been decided whether to contract Mike for this issue. Mary suggested hiring an expert that works with Integrated Waste Management Board in order to look at Sun Valley as a whole.
- Mike O. has two recommendations made by Mike K. as possible consultants who are also experts with EIRs.
- Julie made the motion and was seconded by Steve.
- The motion carried unanimously.

Item 21: Discussion to buy shopping bags, canvas carry bags with SVANC's logo for outreach events. (Julie Monroy).

- Julie distributed a list of websites including the silk screening vendor who has a contract with the City. The company with the lowest price is My Shop Angel, quoting

\$2.93 per bag with one-color ink for SVANC's logo, but it will be \$0.50 more per bag for the full color for the SVANC's logo, for a total cost of about \$3.50 per bag.

- Mary suggested for Lee to send Julie the information of the local Sun Valley businesses for more research.
- Mary suggested buying 250 canvas bags at \$3.50 per bag. This item will be included in next month's agenda.

Item 22: Possible Motion/Discussion/Vote to approve any letters to the Planning Department with comments from the SVANC's Planning Committee on any proposed planning issues in Sun Valley (Mary Benson).

- Mike O. mentioned that there are five projects pending, these include: the facility on Telfair; the three-floor apartment complex being planned on the vacant lot next to the rock house on Sunland; the Verizon phone tower on Laurel Canyon and Sheldon (Mike O. is going to tell the representative of this project to plant two real palm trees or Mike will give him five alternate sites for the tower).
- Mike is asking permission from the Board to write letters regarding these projects.
- Jon made the motion and was seconded by Angel.
- The motion carried unanimously.

Item 23: Review, correct and approve the minutes from SVANC's February 10 regular meeting.

- No changes or corrections were made.
- Mike O. called for the questions. The Board voted in favor of the approval of the February 10, 2009's regular Board meetings as presented.

Item 24: Public Comment: none

Item 25: **ADJOURN** – The meeting was adjourned at approximately 09:20