

**Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council  
General Meeting  
on  
Tuesday, May 12, 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	Absent
Julie Monroy	Treasurer	Absent
Susan A. Bartlett	Board Member	Present
Jon Eshbach	Board Member	Absence excused
Stephen Franklin	Board Member	Absent
Jerry Piro	Board Member	Present
Danielle Harmon	Board Member	Absent
Luis O. Medina	Board Member	Present
Manuel “Manny” de la Torre	Board Member	Absent
Angel Silva	Board Member	Present
Lee McTaggart	Board Member	Absent
Rafael Cárdenas	Board Member	Absent
Carmen Perez	Board Member	Absence excused
Dionisio Alcala, Jr.	Board Member	Absence excused
Arthur “Art” Sweet	Board Member	Absence excused
Nicholas Dalton Powell	Board Member	Present
Nick Perdaris	Board Member	Absence excused
Samuel Palomino	Board Member	Present
Frank Felix	Board Member	Absent

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

- President Mike O’Gara took roll and with quorum met called the meeting to order at about 6:35 pm.
- Angel led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**- The Agenda was suspended temporarily in order to have an election for the Board members present:**

- President’s seat: Mike O., and Mary Benson were nominated.
  - Mike O. was voted President by a majority vote.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Asst. President’s seat: Mary B. was nominated.
  - Mary B. was voted 1<sup>st</sup> Asst. VP unanimously.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant President: Elidia V. was nominated.
  - Elidia was voted 2<sup>nd</sup> Asst. President unanimously.
- Secretary’s seat: Karina
  - Karina was voted Secretary unanimously.
- Treasurer’s seat: Julie

- Julie was voted Treasurer unanimously.

- Mike O. , Mary B., Elidia V.,led the Neighborhood Pledge.

## **2. Opening Remarks – Mike O’Gara**

- Mike announced that Crown Disposal (now know as Community Recycling) will have a public information meeting on May 21, at 6:00 p.m., at Sun Valley Middle School.
- City Planning Commission continued Bradley’s hearing to June 25<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. in the Braude Building.
- Sun Valley HS will have its ribbon cutting ceremony on May 27<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 a.m. at the old Byrd HS. The name being considered for this new HS is Sun Valley HS pending a vote by the School Board.
- Mike suggested planning an outreach event for Khol’s grand opening in September.
- An NC Valley Congress will be held for all the NCs on May 30<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. at Panorama High School.
- The Bureau of Sanitation will have a zero-waste meeting on May 30<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. at the Cathedral down town.
- Danielle H., SVANC’s Board member has resigned due to missing five consecutive meetings.

## **3. Emergency Personnel from Fire and Police Departments - Esther Vasquez, Senior Lead Officer, and Officer Michelle Rodriguez, Senior Lead Officer, LAPD’s Foothill Division.**

- Esther V. (covers the W side of the 5 Fwy) announced that crime statistics were down to 12 last week. Also that a crime detail took place in Sun Valley and the crime stats were down during the spring break.
- The truancy and curfew task force has been taking place during the day because the day time crimes have been residential burglaries.
- The officer emphasized that the residents need to lock doors, windows and doggy doors, especially during the summer months.
- Officer Michelle re-emphasized that all doors must be locked because all the crimes that are going on are preventable.
- In February, there was an illegal card skimmer (the machine that captures your card’s information) and a little camera installed at an ATM machine of a bank and warned the audience to be vigilant of any suspicious activities.

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

- Antonio Sanchez, East Valley Area Director for the Mayor’s office, announced that the gun buy-back program was held on May 9, 2009, with 19 sites throughout the City, 7 in the Valley. 82 weapons were collected in the Van Nuys area. The weapons collected will be melted and made into an Art pieces.
- The Mayor submitted his budget about three weeks ago, which included about a 10% cut throughout all Departments, including the funding to the NCs’ yearly budget.
- A question was asked about the Mayor’s 1 million tree program. Mr. Sanchez answered that to date about 200K trees have been planted.
- Q: A stakeholder asked if there is a possibility that the Neighborhood Council system will be eliminated due to the budget crisis. The answer was that it was unlikely for it to happen.
- Erick Menjivar, CD2, announced that Councilwoman Greuel is supporting the NCs wholeheartedly and agrees with a 10% cut to the NC’s annual allocation, from \$50k to \$45K annually.
- Erick encouraged all attendees to participate in the budget hearings, to visit the website and/or watch these proceedings on Channel 35.

- Erick announced that the artist has already started the creating the Art piece for the Voit project. He also announced that the dead tree in the middle of the median (on Glenoaks between Hollywood Way and Landmark) will be removed

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

**6. Presentation from LADWP regarding the Shortage Year Rates and Phase III Water Conservation requirements and regulations, Greg Bartz, Government and Neighborhood Liaison (213-367-2800 greg.bartz@ladwp.com)**

- Greg distributed a folder with copies of the City's 20-year water plan and a recent publication regarding the infrastructure improvement programs: Power Reliability Program (referred to as PRP) and Water Infrastructure Improvement Program (referred to as WIIP).
- Greg gave a brief overview of the shortage year rates explaining that the water rates are based on a water allotment system under the following five factors:
  - Two seasonal periods: High (peak) – June through October and Low (off-peak)- November through May
  - Two consumption/rate tiers – the water allotment size to move from Tier 1 to Tier 2 varies depending on the next three factors
  - There are five lot size categories
  - There are three temperature zone categories
  - There are eight household-size categories
  - Effective June 1, 2009 the only increase in rates is a 44.2% increase in Tier 2 rate. The objective is to reduce consumption by 15% and if you do that you will stay out of Tier 2 and won't be affected by the rate. The reason why this increase begins on June 1<sup>st</sup> is because that is when the high peak season starts.
  - On July 1<sup>st</sup> the pass-through adjustments (including the Metropolitan Water District purchased, etc.) for the Tier 1 rate are increasing by \$0.355 added on per billing unit (11.9%--mostly due to purchased water) and the Tier 1 base rate is increasing by \$0.84 per billing unit (2.8%--as a result of the rate action that was approved in April 2008). . Look at your bill's HCF consumption and multiply it by \$0.35 or 11.9%, this total will be your increase.
  - Effective July 1<sup>st</sup> the Tier 2 base rate is increasing by \$0.10 per billing unit or \$0.144 per billing unit with shortage year rates (2.8% as a result of the rate action that was approved in April 2008).
  - You can call in to the customer service reps 1-800-DIALDWP to find out your consumption rate or get your CAN (customer access number) from your utility bill to access this information on line.

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**6A. Presentation from Vulcan Materials Company's application for a Zone Variance and a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) – Mee Smecken**

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- Vulcan has a project site located at 9436 Glenoaks which is a landfill but is not a municipal waste. A zoning variance application is pending with the City to continue operations until 2024. In 1982 a zone variance was granted for 15 years, and in 1999 another 10 year zone variance was granted.
  - Vulcan is located in a 125 acre site in Glenoaks.
  - In 1977 a reclamation plan was approved for that site, and in the next 5 years, Vulcan plans to engage in a planning process with the community to talk about the best reuse of this site after it closes.
  - Since this site is a pit, it goes down in the earth and once it reaches the ground level a plan will be created to plan for the surface use.
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- The operation will be in operation between 7:00 am – 04:00 pm Monday – Friday.
- The trucks come in off of Sheldon through the DWP easement and they drive along a paved driveway to the pit entrance, check in at the booth, enter the pit via a 100-foot wide access road, they deposit the debris materials to the bottom of the pit.
- The zone variance application is to continue the operations for another 15 years to fill the pit to the surface level.
- Mary asked for a 60-day extension of the comment period to focus primarily on the Sheldon entrance. Vulcan and DWP have easements on part of that property.
- A motion was made by Nick Dalton Powell and seconded by Susan Bartlett to send the write the letter for a 60-day extension to the City's Planning Department. The motion carried unanimously.

## **7. Public Comment**

- Mr. Erick Freedman is concerned about three propane trucks that were parked on Ratner St. about one month ago. Officer Esther informed that Building and Safety have issued compliance orders to have them removed.
- Mr. Sam Kalof emphasized the importance of attending and participating in all the NC's events such as the Congress that will be held in the Valley on May 30<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. at Panorama High School
- Sandra M. organizer for LAUSD and Stella A. from Peoria neighborhood watch extended an invitation for the ribbon cutting ceremony at the Valley Region Byrd High School Reconfiguration, on Wednesday May 27, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. The school will open in September with 1,200 students from 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> grades, with the 12<sup>th</sup> grade opening the following school year.
- Mary Aldrich informed that the 7-11 store on Sticoy and Vineland pulled the request for an ABC license but requested to be open 24/7. However, the Planning Commission's decision was for the store to close at 11:00 p.m. The operators have appealed this decision. SVANC's reps were present at the Commission hearing stating their opposition to the liquor license request.

## **8. Board Member Comments and Committee Reports**

- Jerry stated that the place on Ratner St. across from the post office is in bad condition and needs to be beautified so he asked to have this item included in next month's agenda.
- Jerry announced that Waste Management will host a light dinner event to be held on top of the closed landfill at Waste Management's site.

## **9. Committee Reports**

- President: none
- Treasurer: none
- Land Use: Mary announced that most of the land use issues will be discussed under item 11. Mary will change the committee's meetings from the last Monday of the month to the first Friday of each month at 5:00 pm at the SVANC office at 9000 Sunland Blvd., Suite A, on the corner of Penrose and Sunland Blvd.
- Outreach: none
- Environmental/Bradley Landfill Ad-Hoc: Mike announced that in about two weeks a meeting will be held to discuss Community Recyclin's and Vulcan's projects. Community Recycling is having a public information meeting on Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at Sun Valley Middle School, 7330 Bakman Ave.
- Ad-hoc office: none

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS/OLD BUSINESS**

### **Item 10:** Update on Outreach items Polo Shirts and Shopping Bags

- Julie (in charged of the canvas bags) and Stephen (in charged of the shirts) were both absent.
- Item to be carried to next meeting's agenda.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Item 11:** Discussion/Motion/Vote to approve letters to the Planning Dept with comments from the SVANC Planning Committee on proposed planning issues in Sun Valley (Mary B.) on the projects:

- 8654 N. Sunland Blvd., Apartment Complex; 9999 Edmore Place, 8 single family residences.
- Mary stated that regarding the letter for 9999 Edmore Place, Sun Valley , and the Tentative Tract VTTM: 70961, the SVANC recommends that staff find that MND, GPA and ZC is acceptable and the MND be certified, provided the Environmental Mitigation conditions of approval include:
  - That the Tentative Tract Map be approved concurrently as an integral part of the Zone Change and General Plan Amendment approval process.
  - That all of the following conditions for development of the Tentative Tract be agreed to by the developer as conditions of approval:
    - Each lot will be a minimum of 20,000 sq ft.;
    - Find that approximately 70% of the site, identified as Lot 9, is significant core habitat in the Verdugo Mountains and should be protected by a Conservation Easement and recorded Deed Restriction at the expense of the Applicant;
    - No grading or staging will take place on the area designated as Lot 9;
    - The landscape plan, including 24" box and 36" box California Native trees be adopted as a condition, and that an automated drip watering system be installed and maintained for a period of at least three years;
    - Wildlife will be allowed passage through lots 1-8 via a corridor defined by the trees indicated on the landscape plan which will not be fenced for the life of the project.
    - All retaining walls will be landscaped to mask their visual impact;
    - An automatic decorative gate shall be installed at the developer's expense across the entrance of property owned by the City of Los Angeles, Department of Recreation and Parks. The gate should be fitted with a solar device strong enough to open/close gate automatically; and
    - The developer has agreed to protect habitat designated as Lot 9 and landscape Lot 1 thru Lot 8 with California native trees. Currently habit is severely impacted by night activity, fire clearance and trash. In exchange for development rights that are greater than would otherwise be permitted, the applicant has agreed to substantial mitigation, improved fire protection and controlled access to public open space.
- Nick made the motion and Mary seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.
- Regarding the 45-foot, three-story apartment complex, with 42 apartments at 8654 N. Sunland Blvd., right next to the cultural center, which will displace commercial space:
  - The NC's land use committee is asking that the Board support a recommendation to deny the applicant's proposal to allow a height variance, which is to 45', and,
  - Since the City of L.A. spent almost \$75,000 to restore the L.A. Historic Cultural Monument, L.A. 644, located on the South side of the project, the proposed project will completely overshadow this historic landmark, where the Sun Valley Youth Center is also located.
  - The elevation and design is inconsistent with the modern style of this historic commercial corridor.

- In order for the City to grant these variances, the Zoning Administrator has to find in favor of the applicant that an application of the existing rules would create an unnecessary hardship, and the NC's committee does not believe that the applicant can meet that on the basis that the applicant bought this as commercial property in a commercial zone.
- A motion was made by Susan and seconded by Mary to send a letter to the Planning Dept.
- The motion carried unanimously.

**Item 12:** Discussion/Motion/Vote to outreach at the Sun Valley H.S. by assisting with giveaway pens for students embossed with SVANC 7 Sun Valley HS names. Amount not to exceed \$1,500. SVANC's banner will be displayed at the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

- Stella A., Sun Valley activist, asked for the SVANC's financial support for this item.
- Angel made the motion and was seconded by Susan to provide outreach materials, including pens and other school supplies to encumber funds in the amount of \$1,500
- The motion carried unanimously

**Item 13:** Motion to discuss Environmental Historic Sites in Sun Valley-SURVEY LA (Mary B.)

- Mary stated that the City of L.A. has a 26-minute presentation on preserving and locating historic resources in the City of L.A.
- It was suggested to include the scheduling of a future SURVEY L.A.'s presentation in next month's regular meeting's agenda.

**Item 14:** Approve the form letter from DONE assigning \$241.93 from SVANC to the Valley Congress

- This amount was voted on during SVANC's April 2009's regular meeting, and DONE is now requesting a wet signature from an SVANC's authorized board member.
- It was approved by the Board members to have an authorized rep sign the letter.

**Item 15:** Motion/Discussion/Vote to endorse the default positions for our Election Procedures SIGNATURES REQUIRED (O'Gara-Benson-Vallas)

- Sue made the motion and was seconded by Mary to send this document to DONE.
- The motion carried unanimously.

**Item 16:** Motion/Discussion/Vote to vote on the 2009-2010 SVANC Budget due June 1<sup>st</sup> 2009.

- This item will be included in next month's SVANC regularly scheduled meeting.

**Item 17:** Discussion of BLACK WIDOWS BASEBALL

Possible Motion/Vote to assist the players to go to Cooperstown New York to play baseball (J. Monroy).

- This item will be included in next month's SVANC regularly scheduled meeting.

**Item 18:** Review, correct and approve minutes from SVANC's March 10, April 14 and the special meeting regarding the staff report for the Bradley WM EIR.

- These minutes will be reviewed and approved at the June 2009 SVANC's regularly scheduled Board meeting.
- All the Board members present agreed.

**Item 19:** Public Comment:

- Lily Lee, WM, thanked the SVANC for participation in EARTH DAY event sponsorship held at the park, which turned out to be a great success.

**Item 20:** **ADJOURN** – A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at approximately 08:45 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.