

**Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council
General Meeting
on
Tuesday, August 11, 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	Present
Susan A. Bartlett	Board Member	Present
Jon Eshbach	Board Member	Present
Stephen Franklin	Board Member	Present
Jerry Piro	Board Member	Absence excused
Luis O. Medina	Board Member	Present
Manuel “Manny” de la Torre	Board Member	Present
Angel Silva	Board Member	Absent
Lee McTaggart	Board Member	Present
Rafael Cárdenas	Board Member	Absent
Carmen Perez	Board Member	Present
Dionisio Alcalá, Jr.	Board Member	Absence excused
Arthur “Art” Sweet	Board Member	Absence excused
Nicholas Dalton Powell	Board Member	Present
Nick Perdaris	Board Member	Absent
Frank Felix	Board Member	Present
Samuel Palomino	Board Member	Absence excused

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.
- Nicholas Powell led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Opening Remarks – Mike O’Gara

- Announced a health fair on August 13, 2009 from 12noon to 4 p.m. at NEVHC Sun Valley Health Center, 7223 N. Fair Ave., (corner of Sherman Way). The SVANC was a co-sponsor. Free immunizations for children will be provided.
- Gave an update about Community Recycling and Resource Recovery (CRRR) aka Crown Disposal. The SVANC earmarked funds to hire a consultant, who was a lawyer, but the NC was not allowed to hire the consultant because of the attorney-client privilege. Chatten Brown and Carstens law firm, a leading law firm in CEQA document and EIRs in the city, referred another consultant to the NC. The City requested that she (*the consultant*) needs to have a contract with the City even though the total amount approved by the NC for this consultant was \$7,000 and she is a sole proprietor. The SVANC will pay her \$130 per hour.

- The City sent a six-page contract and a 107 page document, which include pages on lobbying, slavery clauses, child care, ADA, etc., for the NC and the consultant to review. Mike has written a letter to Jane Usher, office of the City Attorney regarding this issue, they are having a neighborhood forum this Thursday to discuss this matter.
- In the meantime, the consultant is working and the Board should have a 22-page document from her regarding the EIR. Three more pages were sent by the consultant to Mike and Mary made some changes, which will also be incorporated in her final analysis.
- The SVANC logo is on the pedestrian walkways on Sunland Blvd.
- Julie, the SVANC treasurer, and Mike filled out and submitted the budget and equipment inventory paperwork. The SVANC should be current with the City's finance dept's requirements.

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

- Mike received a letter from Officer Rodriguez stating that she was not going to be able to attend this evening's meeting and neither would Officer Vasquez.

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

- Erick Menjivar, CD2 field deputy, stated that the engineer for the Voit project had to make some structural changes, and so did the Bureau of Engineering who will get back to the project engineer in a couple of weeks regarding these changes. Therefore, it is expected that the plans will be finalized in a couple of weeks.
- As of now, construction has started on the median but it has stopped pending the changes by the City's Bureau of Engineering.
- CD2's office is still in operation. All field deputies are still on staff. However, Angela, from CD2's Sun Valley office transferred to CD13's office.
- The election for the Council District 2 seat will be held on Tuesday, September 22nd. There are 10 candidates running for this seat and if it goes into a run-off, then the run-off election will be held on December 6th 2009.
- A list of the candidates and their campaigns' financial disclosures, along with other information can be found on the City's Ethics website.

5. Comments from DONE Representative – Barry Stone

- Distributed and left L.A. Neighborhood Council Stakeholder's Surveys and asked all Board members and stakeholders to complete it preferably by the end of this meeting.
- The Neighborhood Councils' elections will be administered by the City Clerk's office, but DONE is in charge of the outreach for the NCs' elections. DONE is looking for two NCs' representatives to do outreach, one outreach chair and an alternate, to participate in strategic planning sessions. One will be on Thursday, September 10th, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at the Young Oak Kim Academy, 615 So. Shatto Place, L.A., for the 2010 elections. Anyone interested please see Barry Stone or call Betty Wong at (213) 485-1360 to RSVP.
- On Saturday, September 12, 2009, at the Marvin Braude Building in Van Nuys, a regional roundtable and training will be held featuring topics by Jeff Carr, Director, Office of the Mayor, Gang Reduction and Youth Development, Vivienne Swanigan, City Attorney's office, who will talk about "serving your neighborhood while protecting your assets," and Prince and Phelps consultants will present "creating a safe & Healthy Environment for NCs." To RSVP call Daniel Ruiz at (213) 485-4415.

- The Congress of Neighborhoods and Budget Days will be held on October 10th at downtown City Hall. All board members and stakeholders are welcome to participate and discuss you neighborhood's priorities for the next fiscal year.
- DONE is also asking the Board to assign two Budget representatives.
- An outreach questionnaire went out to all the Neighborhood Councils asking for feedback and the best practices the NCs use for outreach. Please fill it out and return to DONE ASAP.
- DONE has a video on sexual harassment for the NC's Board to view. Barry will bring it to the next SVANC's Board meeting.
- If anyone is interested in receiving e-blasts from DONE, please give your email address to Barry Stone so you can receive weekly updates.

5a. Presentation to Ted Muller - none

5b: 10 minute presentation regarding the high-speed bullet train – Lilian de Loza, Consensus Inc. is a consultant with the California High-Speed Rail Authority

- The high-speed train's route in Southern California it will start in Anaheim, go out to a station in Norwalk, then to Union Station, Burbank, Sylmar and Palmdale; then it will continue up to Bakersfield (inaudible) to San Francisco.
- The back of the system will be built by 2020 and we are the furthest along in terms of any other high speed rail project in the nation.
- \$8 billion stimulus package was set aside specifically for high speed rail under the Obama's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and Proposition R.
- There are \$508 billion in requests with \$8 billion available, but V-President Biden has stated that California is very well positioned to receive a large amount of those funds because California is very far ahead in the process.
- It has already cleared an environmental impact statement for the program level, and is currently at the project level environmental review process, which carefully looks at the details of the project: (inaudible), how should the alignment run? Should it go upgrade, aerial, above ground, or below ground? The Alternative Analysis report recently issued, specifically mentions the L.A. Union Station and State Route 134 in Burbank and its detail analysis information on the alignment run.
- The report is available for public review and comment in the California High-Speed Rail website. A brochure with the website address and contact information has been placed at the table for the public.
- It is encouraged that the NC Board participates in an upcoming stakeholder working group that will help the California High-Speed Rail Authority move forward with the environmental review process. The stakeholder working group will consist of representatives from throughout L.A. and Palmdale.
- *Q: What is the total cost for this project? About \$42 billion, approximately \$10 billion in bond money will come from Prop 1A—which will serve as a down payment for the system; plus a large amount will come from the Prop R money.*
- It is estimated that a total of \$45 billion will be spent for 800 miles. It will be a public and private partnership.
- *Q: What is the cost of ridership of a ticket? It is estimated that it will cost ½ of an airline ticket between Los Angeles and San Francisco.*

6. Public Comment

- Raymond announced that the 69th annual Los Angeles Nisei week Japanese parade and festival will be held from August 15th thru August 23, 2009 from 8:00 a.m to 8:00 pm, on San Pedro between 2nd and 3rd Street, in Little Tokyo. *The rest of the event announcements were inaudible on the recorder.*

- Verno Huizar and Ivette Mendoza, Poly High School, announced that \$27,000 was raised last year for the toy drive. This year's goal is \$30,000. Their organization is non-profit. They were informed that an action item will be placed in next month's SVANC agenda requesting funds for this drive.
- Nancy Woodruff, land chair at Foothill Trails District NC, talked about the Lopez-Canyon landfill truck driving academy stating that there were numerous letters of support from the community and from various Neighborhood Councils. The Bureau of Sanitation is going to apply for a zone change to commercial, which is beneficial to the community. Essentially the Foothill Trails District NC will ask for the SVANC's support for this zone change in the future.
- Jessica Yas, field deputy for Congressman Brad Sherman, 27th District, which includes Sunland, Tujunga and Sun Valley, introduced herself to the community and invited the residents to visit their very active constituent service department located at 5000 Van Nuys Blvd., Sherman Oaks. Ms. Yas can be reached at Jessica.yas@mail.house.gov, at (818) 501-9200 or at www.sherman.house.gov.
- The Congressman will hold a town hall meeting at the Valley Cultural Center on November 16th and 30th.
- Sam's question was inaudible.
- Frank Sheftel introduced himself as one of the Candidates who is running for CD2's seat.
- Mary Benson introduced herself as one of the Candidates who is running for CD2's seat. Her website is website is www.benson4cd2.com

7. Board Member Comments and Committee Reports

- Board member Frank Felix presented his letter of resignation as member of the Board. He thanked everyone who voted for him and for everything he learned from this experience.
- Stephen congratulated the students from Poly High School for their incredible and successful work during the Toy Drive; it turned out to be one of the most successful school toy-drives ever organized.
- Susan stated that Sun Valley Graffiti Busters has relocated to 8062 San Fernando Road, Sun Valley, on the other side of the tracks. The public can get to their office using Clybourn Ave.
- Carmen congratulated Mr. Felix and asked the rest of the Board members to wish him good luck and to encourage the youth to follow their dreams.

8. Committee Reports:

- **President:** Mike informed the Board that he will not attend September's Board meeting and neither will Mary B. but Elidia will preside over the meeting.
- Mike also announced that the polo shirts for the board members to wear at events for outreach efforts will be distributed to the Board members at the end of this evening's meeting.
- **Treasurer:** Julie and Mike spent around 8 hours in the office to bring all the paperwork up-to-date and she personally delivered it to the Finance Dept.
- **Land Use:** Mary mentioned that a land use letter is included in the Board's package regarding 9347-9355 San Fernando Road. This application is for a metal building to be constructed on San Fernando Road just south of the intersection of San Fernando Road and Sheldon Street, and it also addressed the pile of auto parts that you can see from Sheldon. The letter states the this application was incomplete and therefore should be revisited and that the addition of another metal pre-fabricated building in Sun Valley so close to apartments is not something the community wants. It is also in the Sun Valley community re-development zone.

- The Redevelopment Agency is a City agency that makes low cost loans and takes blighted areas and redevelops it. Mary suggested to the Redevelopment Agency that the area in Sun Valley that can benefit from redevelopment and revitalization is Sheldon and San Fernando Road. That property is probably not owned by the person that presented the application to the Planning Dept.
- **Environmental Justice:** None

NEW BUSINESS:

ITEM 9: Review, correct and approve minutes from our JULY 14 meeting.

- Susan made the motion and Jon seconded it.
- The July 14th meeting minutes were approved as amended unanimously.

ITEM 10: Motion/Discussion/Vote to support Senator Padilla on a bill he is proposing in the State Senate. SB 600 to increase cigarette tax by \$1.50 a pack

- Jon stated that he is against the taxation of cigarettes by the government.
- Stephen stated that he hoped to have more time to review this bill before voting. He was informed that this item has been on the agenda for at least three months.
- Sam said that taxation is not the answer. The answer is to reduce government by reducing all their costs.
- Nick made the motion and was seconded by Frank.
- Nine board members voted yes; four were against it; and 1 abstained.
- This item was approved by a majority vote.

ITEM 11: Motion/Discussion /Vote to support Senator Padilla's bill to require pawnbrokers and secondhand dealers to report firearms acquisitions directly to the California Department of Justice

- Susan made the motion and Stephen seconded it.
- Jon asked where this information has been sent to date, and he was informed that it was being sent to the local enforcement agency's jurisdiction.
- Mike stated that most of the legislation is about handguns, but this is not about handguns, it's firearms, rifles and shotguns, and that is exactly what the 2nd Amendment says "We have the right to bear arms, we have the right to organize a militia." The bill states "firearms" not handguns.
- Mary stated that in theory this bill changes who the pawn broker or the dealer reports to, from a local Sheriff or law agency to the California Dept. of Justice. Since it is just a change in who they report to as required now, the new bill standardizes that all reports be sent to the California Department of Justice.
- Four voted yes; five were against it, 4 abstained, therefore this item did not pass

ITEM 12: Motion/Discussion /Vote to approve the DRAFT letter for Public Comment re CRRR EIR. The draft will be completed by the Planning committee and submitted to the Planning Department before August 17th 2009.

- Stephen made the motion and Nicholas seconded it.
- Jon's questions were inaudible
- Mike clarified that the reparation fee has to be paid in and the purpose of the fee is to help them purchase CNG and LNG trucks, then they can draw that money to get rid of the old trucks.
- Stephen requested to show a vote count for each action item on the agenda.
- Six votes yes; three voted against it and 5 abstained. The item passes by majority vote

ITEM 13: Motion/Discussion /Vote to approve sending the Polling place suggestion form to the City Clerk with our suggestions for places and times for our board Elections (needs contact name for Poly HS)

- Jon made the motion and Susan seconded it.
- Mike suggested that the SVANC's polling places be: 1. Poly High; 2. Byrd Middle School; 3. Sun Valley H.S.; 4. Fernangeles
- The Polling place schedule was discussed to be between the hours of 1:00 to 7:00 pm
- The motion carried unanimously

ITEM 14: Motion/Discussion /Vote to appoint an Outreach Committee Chairperson, to do outreach for SVANC. We also need a Chairperson for the Election Committee Election to keep SVANC in compliance with the rules and regulations of the City Clerk for the Neighborhood Council Elections in March 2010. We also need help on the Planning Committee.

- Mike asked for an Outreach Committee Chairperson, another Chairperson for the Election Committee, and for Community Affairs Chair.
- Stephen suggested having a description for each committee and Mike agreed to email a description of the responsibilities of these committees to the Board.
- Susan volunteered as the Chair of (inaudible) committee and a member of the public volunteered to assist Susan.
- This item was tabled for next month's meeting agenda.

ITEM 15: Discussion and Possible Motion/Vote To approve letters to the Planning Dept with Comments from the SVANC Planning Committee on proposed planning issues in Sun Valley (MARY BENSON) APCNV 2009-1410-ZC-BL 9347-9355 San Fernando Road. LETTER for Seven-Eleven. Letter for 8654 Sunland Blvd Apartments.

- Mike attended a number of hearings regarding the application for the 7-11 on Saticoy and Vineland. However, at one of the hearings the applicant asked for a continuation stating that he had just hired a new lawyer two days before the hearing. At one of this hearings, Mike handed in the letter approved by the Board stating that its opposition for a liquor license for this store and for the hours of operation, which are being requested to stay open between midnight and five in the morning. Mike also had a stack of 600 petitions from the original application and 565 additional petitions from neighbors. Mike asked Tony Castro to turn these petitions at the August 20th hearing; the time will be announced at a later date.
- The SVANC submitted a letter against the project at 8654 Sunland Blvd Apartments. At the hearing Daniel (inaudible) said that they have a mitigated negative declaration but neither Mike nor Mary has seen it. Daniel (inaudible) stated that there were too many things left out of the mitigated negative, including hydrology, the road that goes down is under question as to who has the right-of-way, and there is also an easement for LADWP. This was postponed indefinitely. The homeowner's and the SVANC Board will meet on this issue, and the architect was supposed to contact the SVANC but has not yet contacted the SVANC.
- Steve (inaudible), ti316@aol.com, Shadow Hills home owner association's vice president, stated that they have had an easement for 28 years with the two properties.
- No action taken on this item

ITEM 16: Public Comment

- Michael McCue is a board member of the Studio City NC and a member of the NC's government affair's committee, introduced himself as a candidate for the CD2 seat.
- Sam's comments were inaudible.

ITEM 17: ADJOURN – Jon made the motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm