

**Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council
General Meeting**

**on
Tuesday, December 14, 2010
6:30pm – 8:30pm**

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

Board Member	Title	Status
Angelica Dueñas	President	Present
Gary Aggas	1 st Vice President	Present
Mike O’Gara	2 nd Vice President	Present
Robert Lim	Treasurer	Present
Julie Monroy	Secretary	Present
Susan A. Bartlett	Board Member	Present
Monica Vacas	Board Member	Present
Elidia Vasquez	Board Member	Resigned
Karina Garcia Valles	Board Member	Present
Art Kalantarian	Board Member	Present
Vic Hernandez	Board Member	Absent
Gerry Prieto	Board Member	Present
George Ron Dahlquest	Board Member	Absent
Guy Dionne	Board Member	Present
Linda Housden	Board Member	Present
Nicholas Dalton Pawle	Board Member	Present
Fern Romans	Board Member	Present
Danny Bejarano	Board Member	Present
Dalia Galvan	Board Member	Present
Carmen Perez	Board Member	Present
Luis Medina	Board Member	Present
Wesley Hernandez	Board Member	Absent
Imelda Padilla	Board Member	Present
Carlos Coronel	Board Member	Present
Stella Arrington	Board Member	Present

ITEM 1: Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Code of Civility, Roll Call

- Angelica Dueñas called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 p.m.
- The Pledge of Allegiance was recited
- Angelica Dueñas took roll

ITEM 2: Opening Remarks (President)

- Ms. Dueñas reminded fellow Board members to complete the Ethics and Open Government training workshop which can be found online at the website under Item 2A. The deadline for elected board members to take this workshop is March 2011 and is good for two years. Any board member who needs a Certificate of completion needs to contact Julie.

ITEM 2A: Reminder for the members of the SVANC to complete Ethics and Open Government Training for City Officials. Please visit:

<http://ethics.lacity.org/education/education.cfm>

ITEM 3: Emergency Personnel from Fire and Police Departments (Officer Esther Vasquez, Senior Lead Officer, and Officer Michelle Rodriguez, Senior Lead Officer.

- Officer Vasquez announced the crime stats: burglary for motor vehicles is down; theft of motor vehicles, bicycles and stores is slightly up; slight increase on purse thefts left in cars or on purses that are being snatched from the victims; vacant home/business burglaries are up; business robberies has slightly increased; prostitution activity has increased slightly- however, LAPD is now focusing more on the 'John's' as a reduction effort.
- Officer Vasquez encouraged stakeholders to report to the LAPD any vacant homes or businesses before they becomes a nuisance by calling LAPD's non-emergency number at 1-877-ASK-LAPD.
-

ITEM 4: Presentation/announcements from **elected officials** or their representatives. **TONY CARDENAS** will be at this month's meeting.

- Mr. Cárdenas thanked SVANC's board for their invitation and encouraged everyone to contact his office and staff on any issue that affects the community and that are under his jurisdiction.
- Q: In the next three years, Sun Valley will have monies in Trust Fund accounts from WM, L.A. Paper Stock and most probable from Community Recycling. These funds are to be used for projects in Sun Valley; presently, Sun Valley has a Trust Fund from WM in the amount of \$500,000. Can you please set up a Community Advisory Council (CAC) formed of community members to advise the Councilmember as to Sun Valley community's wishes for the use of these funds? Can you form a CAC within the next six months, making sure that at least one of SVANC's board members is part of CAC?
- *Councilman's Answer:* "Yes, the CAC is technically still in existence and is an advisory council that convenes upon its members calling a meeting. They discuss how they want these monies to be spent and invested in this community. These funds came from WM when it wanted to get a number of permits, one of which was to extend the existing permit for the expansion of the height of the landfill, and I was not in favor of it, and WM eventually exhausted their options and their permit expired. This is the first time in Sun Valley's history that a Councilmember was approached by a local waste hauling company and they were not granted the expansion. I am very proud to say that as a Councilmember I did not grant them permission to extend their permit, although pervious Councilmembers had give them and every other landfill in our area for the last 50 years increases on their permits. During that process I let them know that I was not interested in talking to them about anything since they had been doing business in our community for decades without ever giving any mitigation to the community. As a result, WM promised to give \$125,000 during that first quarter times four and deposit these monies into a fund that the City could

control. This is the CAC who advised me on how to spend the money; this money grew to \$500,000 in deposits. CAC then recommended/advised me on spending tens of thousands of dollars on hiring experts; therefore I presented a motion to the full Council to approve these expenditures. The experts recommended by CAC did an analysis on both of WM's EIRs of the prospective projects, which were the expansion of the landfill and building a transfer station. The experts were paid with WM's own funds that it deposited in the Trust Fund. This is the first time Sun Valley hired experts to advise this community on how we should respond to that kind of process, using about \$70,000 from these funds for this purpose. Now with the interest earned this amount is back to \$500,000. This CAC was originally formed by previous Councilwoman Ruth Galanther, and now I am looking to revise CAC and I will make sure that at least one member of SVANC's board be part of this council, or maybe two or three members. For example, one of your board members Carmen Perez is part of CAC and also stakeholder Fr. Zanotti". "Also, Sun Valley Paper Stock agreed to mitigation, but not as much as what WM is contributing but I will form an advisory council for that as well". About Trammel Crow, a board member stated that Trammel Crow also verbally promised at a planning meeting to give Sun Valley \$1million and Daniel Skolnick, CD6 Planning Deputy, was present when this statement was made. *The Councilman answered* "I met with Trammel Crow about a big development of over 30 acres which has been going on for a long time and it's located on the corner of Branford and San Fernando Road. They went through all their entitlement process to get as much as about 500K square feet of manufacturing space, which it's zoned for and which means more jobs, and it appears right now that they are considering a project of 350K square feet, which will translate into well over one thousand jobs. So if they promised Daniel \$1million to deposit into a trust fund, I will have my staff follow through on their promise and form a CAC for this as well".

- *Q:* Sun Valley is a community which lacks many resources, we don't have a youth center, a non-profit, or a senior center or anything that is of extracurricular for our community. We believe that lack of these programs contributes to gang activity, violence and other social problems. Can you help us advance the City of Sun Valley to create this type of programs with the money that is already supposed to be strictly for Sun Valley?
- *Councilman's Answer:* "Yes, for example, the CAC that was formed to advise me on how to spend the \$500k, this amount of money will not be enough to build a community center, but it might help with building a skate park. For example, I am trying to do everything within my possibility to attract local, state and federal monies for our community, like for Strathen Pit. This is something the funds from Prop O have allowed us to mitigate for flood control in Sun Valley, even though flood control is a County responsibility, now we have the most effective flood control measures in the City. I worked with Prop O's commission and was successful at convincing them to buy Strathen Pit for less than \$20million and now the County is taking control of it. In my opinion, the County should have bought the land but since they were not going to do it and we have to live in this flooding area, I convinced the Prop O commission, which is a City funded Proposition, to spend a little

bit over \$18million to buy that land, and now the County is going to take over and create a nice lake where the water will seep back into the ground along with a park-like setting where there are walking paths. We will also work with organizations like the Santa Monica Conservancy to help us with funds. This will be a nice public place that will help with recreation. This site is not a trash landfill, it's an inert landfill which means that all they did for the last decades is bury stuff like concrete, dirt, rocks, etc., and this helps us pass all the legal requirements for this type of use, where a large amount of water will be diverted from Tujunga into that site, be retained there and seep into the ground. Also, the City is about to close escrow on a property on Sheldon right off of Laurel Canyon where a skate park will be built. Also, I applied for a state grant to get \$5million for that site, and for another \$5million for the site on Sheldon and Arleta, which is another former landfill, capped over 30 years ago. After \$14million invested from City, State and Federal funds, the grading has already begun at this site and it will be made into a park. Now I have to find another \$15 to \$20million to finish the park over the next 4-5 years. The designs of this park have been presented only in concept and not in its final design."

- *Q:* Are there any plans for any non-profits to help staff an actual recreation center in order to facilitate activities for children or seniors?
- *Councilman's Answer:* "Yes, I have to figure out what we all want on that site, but it's not large enough for a gym, but maybe a meeting room or a site to serve lunches to seniors. As far as the skate park, there is an organization that does art with teenagers, and since it's a skate park, I am wondering if it can be designed in the 2nd phase, and by the summer in 2011 have it opened. Along one side, I am trying to get more funds to build a building with meeting rooms for teaching and art classes for seniors and children, like an inter-generational program.
- *Q:* What is the timeline for the Cesar Chavez Park? When will it be fully built and what is delaying it?
- *Councilman's Answer:* "Hopefully it will be finished in the next four to five years but due to the economics' current state, we are competing more for the same funds with other jurisdictions throughout the state of California. I have to depend on State and Local bonds to get a lot of funds to complete this project. My goal is to have a non-for-profit organization run the programs at this site."
- *Q:* Can you please give us an update on the motor cross park?
- *Councilman's Answer:* "The motor cross park on Tujunga went through the planning process but I nor my colleagues supported it because the gentleman who was proposing this park along with the landowner went to court to try to sue the City stating that we (*the City*) did not adhere to the legal process to accept or deny someone's change of plan on the property. They've been in court for the last three years and it is currently under the Judge's jurisdiction to either overturn or affirm the Council's vote. I will meet with Karl Kunak and about 30 other people to discuss the opposition about the motor cross park and in turn I will also listen to the person who is proposing the motor cross park. I have not said to anyone that I am going to change my mind. The proposer said that he wants to add a skate park

and a BMX bicycle facility to let the children play free of charge."

- *Q: What are your plans if any to build a civic center in Sun Valley?*
- *Councilmember's Answer: "The only major projects that are currently in the pipeline are the Sheldon/Arleta site, the skate park, and the other infrastructure improvements that have been made at that park; but there are no plans to build a civic center site as of now because there is no money."*
- *Q: What are your plans to attract major retail stores to City of Sun Valley?*
- *Councilmember's Answer: "I think that it's great that Lowe's opened a store at the old Mervyn's site, this was accomplished by the Mayor's office and mine."*
- *Q: What are your plans to ensure that the budget's downfall does not further affect the operations of the park and recreation and the libraries.*
- *Councilmember's Answer: "I am constantly saying on the council floor that the police department is not the only one who helps with public safety, but that the libraries also help and keeping the parks open along with staff to run the programs is a great safety factor."*
- *The remaining verbal stakeholder or board member's questions were inaudible because the microphone was not used.*
- *Angelica stated that any other board members or stakeholders who still had questions/comments for the Councilman could email them and in turn would be forwarded to the Councilman. It was also suggested to organize an ad-hoc committee along with a member of his staff to discuss bench purchases.*

- Louie Sanchez, consultant with Assembly member Felipe Fuentes, invited the stakeholders to an open house on Thursday, December 16, 2010, at the Assembly member's regional office.

- Mary Benson, CD2, is having an open house on Wednesday, December 15, 2010 from 4:00 to 7:00 pm, at the field office located at 7747 Foothill Blvd., Tujunga.

- Mary announced that Caltrans is going to widen the 5 Fwy and stated that it will heavily impact SVANC. She asked for any volunteers who were interested in this project and in working with both City Council Districts to contact each districts' representatives respectively for more info on how to get involved.

ITEM 5A: Byrd MS Leadership Team will introduce themselves and present their project to SVANC's board members. Presenters: Mark Greenbaum, Assistant Principal at Byrd Middle School, and Jennifer Rose, Leadership Teacher,

- Mr. Greenbaum stated that this school has only been open for three years and during this time it has maintained its enrollment and been able to keep its teaching staff.

- Mr. Greenbaum said that it has two independent after school programs servicing about 200 students daily.

- Mr. Greenbaum said that the middle school has recognized the students who have made progress on their California Standards Test during their time at Byrd. The students receive an All Stars recognition t-shirt, designed by the student. Two years ago 1,016 students were recognized. This year about 911 students increased their test scores. The t-shirts can be worn along with their regular school uniform. They are asking SVANC for a donation of about \$750 to pay for the nearly 1,000 t-shirts

and SVANC's logo will be displayed on the front of the t-shirts.

- Mr. Greenbaum stated that their local district office relocated to Byrd Middle School campus. For more information please contact Mr. Mark Greenbaum at mark.greenbaum@lausd.net, or by calling (818) 521-3661.

ITEM 5B: Kevin M. Tamaki, Public Affairs with AT&T, will be discussing "graffiti prevention and clan up" on the cable boxes throughout Sun Valley.

- Stated that AT&T is a telecommunications and technology company, which has made great advancements in consumer products such as U-verse. It is a combination of digital phone, high speed Internet access and TV programming all in 1 cable to the customer's home. This technology is provided with additional fiber optic cable with increase bandwidth to the neighborhood and it's connected to the existing copper network that goes to the client's home. The fiber optic cable terminates in an electronic cabinet referred to as a 'Node' through a Node Initiative, which is also known as Project Lightspeed or Lightspeed Initiative.
- This is permitted under the Above Ground Facilities Ordinance (AGF) that telecom companies follow in order to place the equipment in the public right-of-way (the streets, sidewalk areas). The AGF requires the applicant, AT&T, to provide notification to the neighborhood council, to adjacent residents, the City Council office and any home owners associations, if any in the area. However, a board member stated that these notifications letters are sent certified and if not picked up from the post office, then they are sent back to AT&T and are deemed as 'having been delivered.'
- Mr. Tamaki answered that the certification mail process was part of the AGF Ordinance. He added that on average about five property owners receive these notifications.
- AT&T notification includes a computer simulation photo of the new cabinet (the existing cabinet is the one the technicians use to repair and install phone service). It also includes Mr. Kevin M. Tamaki, Director of External affairs as the contact person for this initiative. His contact information is office: (213) 743-7083; mobile: (213) 618-0435; fax: (213) 745-8278; 1150 S. Olive Street, Suite 2801, Los Angeles, CA 90015; email Kevin.tamaki@att.com. He is also the contact person for landline and wireless issues.
- Mr. Tamaki stated that if a property owner has a real concern and his/her questions have not been addressed to their satisfaction, they can go to the Board of Public Works' Bureau of Engineering to appeal AT&T's application for the permit. The permit is not issued and no construction happens until the appeal period expires. The appeal period lasts about two weeks.
- Mr. Tamaki mentioned that graffiti is an issue with new cabinets, but AT&T is dealing with this issue through mitigation measures. For example, AT&T's technicians routinely remove the tagging from their cabinets; but also there are ways for the NCs and the public to eliminate graffiti by calling a toll free number that's on a sticker adhered to the cabinet and normally the graffiti is removed within about 48 hours. The new cabinets, however, are sealed with a graffiti resistant coating. Also, to report graffiti send an email to graffiti@att.com and include the location, street address and zip code of the cabinet. He added that each box costs about \$1,000.
- Mr. Tamaki said that he is working with AT&T's legal team to allow community

youth to create art on some of the cabinets in order to discourage tagging.

- Mr. Tamaki added that the AGF Ordinance, passed by City Council in 2002, dictates the criteria of where a cabinet will be placed. It includes the distance a cabinet must be from structures like trees and poles, and AT&T tries to place them on the sides of properties, if possible. It is not allowed to place them on doorways, walkways, storm drains, etc., but they try to place the new cabinets as close as possible to the existing cabinets because of the copper wires—they can't be more than 350 feet apart, thus, when these cabinets are closer together it allows to service a wider area.
- The cabinets, being that they are too big, can't be placed on a structure or a pole because it would restrict climbing space for technician; and can't be placed underground because the vaults, also called control environment vaults, that contain electronic equipment are huge and it's very difficult to find a clear patch of ground that does not have utilities, trees, storm drains, etc. Also, AT&T gets commercial power for the cabinets and DWP does not have an underground solution.

Julie made a motion and Mike O. seconded it to extend the meeting another 30 minutes until 9:15 pm. Motion carried.

ITEM 5C: Public Comment:

- Josephine Nevarez, SVHS student from Mr. Lee's class, gave a brief update on their eco-friendly projects.

ITEM 6: Board member comments

- Guy Dionne said that he did not receive the email for the special meeting that was held regarding the funds from SVANC for the Veteran's Day parade. Angelica answered that she will forward the email and minutes to Mr. Dionne and to the rest of the Board.

OLD Business:

ITEM 7: Review, correct and approve minutes October and December 2010 meeting. (Julie Monroy).

- The October minutes are not ready because of technical problems with the sound on the recording but will continue to work on the sound in order to transcribe them.
- Mike O. made the motion to accept the November 2010 minutes as amended and was seconded by Nick.
- The motion carried.

NEW Business:

ITEM 8: Committee Reports Treasurer- Outreach- Planning- Community Affairs- By-Laws

- Rob, SVANC's Treasurer, discussed the purchase card monthly expenditures for October, 2010, totaling \$322.78, which include:
 - o Staples \$ 5.48 (11/08) – Poster foam board
 - o Papa John's Pizza \$ 53.29 (11/09) – pizza for Nov. Board Mtng
 - o Crown Uniforms - \$760.90 (10/26) - t-shirts for outreach

- Crown Uniforms \$845.90 (11/12) - t-shirts for outreach
- AT&T \$ 120.10 (11/30) - office phone
- Time Warner \$ 58.91 (11/30) - internet service for office
- Mike made the motion to approve the Treasurer's report and Nick seconded
- The motion carried

- Mike O., outreach committee, stated that the last time the outreach committee met was in April or May 2010. He again asked for board members interested in joining this committee and Angelica, Karina, Rob and Julie volunteered to join. Mike O. will notify all the interested board members regarding the date of the next meeting.
- Julie said that a list of volunteers for this committee had already been created and would look for it on the previous meetings' minutes.

- Angelica reported that the Veteran's Day Parade was a success with a lot of SVANC's board members participation, including Luis, Fern, Dalia, Gary, Linda, Carlos, and Karina.
- Rob informed the board that the \$500 funds that were approved by SVANC at a previous meeting for this event have not been requested by the parade's organizing committee.
- Julie stated that the organizing committee did not keep their promise to SVANC to provide t-shirts for the volunteer board members who would participate in the parade, the magnets were not ready, and the banner did not have SVANC's logo.

- Monica, planning committee, announced that a hearing will take place for the (inaudible) project on January 3rd, 2011. *The rest of Ms. Vacas' report and other boardmembers' comments were inaudible because the mic was not used.*

ITEM 9: Updates from Regional Budget Representatives on Mayor's Budget Survey (LIM)

- Rob distributed a flyer regarding the budget survey which had a progress timeline, a questionnaire of core City services and information on the creation of public-private partnerships. The budget survey will be released in mid-January 2011.
- Rob also stated that the Mayor is carrying out a big outreach campaign effort through the local media sources, like DWP, press releases, email blasts and CH 35, to encourage more stakeholders to complete the survey.
- Rob announced that six committees were formed including the Public Works Dept. committee, the City Attorney committee, Public Safety Committee, Outreach Committee, and Financial and Data Liaison Committee.

ITEM 10: Discussion and questions with Tony Cardenas regarding the coming election. He will present as his schedule allows. (PADILLA)

- See Item 4 above.

ITEM 11: Discussion/Vote to participate in Poly HS' toy drive. (not to exceed \$350)

(O'GARA)

- Mike O. stated that he is not in favor of this motion because in the past two years SVANC has given \$500 each year to Poly HS for their toy drive but the toys have been distributed outside of Sun Valley. Also, in the last two years SVANC has gotten very little participation from Poly HS students and/or staff in the neighborhood or in the NC. Mike recommended voting against this motion.
- A vote was taken in opposition of this item. The vote count to not give Poly HS the \$350 14 in opposition, and four votes were in favor.
- The motion carried not to participate in Poly's toy drive.

ITEM 12: Discussion/Vote to participate in Sun Valley Health Clinic toy drive. (not to exceed \$350) (O'GARA)

- Mike O. stated that the toy drive already took place on December 13th.
- No action was taken on this item.

ITEM 13: Public comment

- None

ITEM 14: Adjournment – the meeting adjourned at approximately 09:15 pm.