

**Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council
General Meeting Minutes
for
Tuesday, April 12, 2011
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
Imelda Padilla	Board Member	Present
Susan A. Bartlett	Board Member	Present
Monica Vacas	Board Member	Present
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	Resigned
Guy Dionne	Board Member	Present
Linda Housden	Board Member	Present
Nicholas Dalton Pawle	Board Member	Absence excused
Fern Romans	Board Member	Present
Danny Bejarano	Board Member	Absent
Dalia Galvan	Board Member	Absence excused
Carmen Perez	Board Member	Present
Luis Medina	Board Member	Present
Carlos Coronel	Board Member	Absence excused
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 6:40 p.m.
- The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and SVANC’s code of civility was also recited
- Angelica Dueñas took roll

ITEM 2: Opening Remarks (President)

- Ms. Dueñas thanked Julie, Rob and Mike for their hard work in writing and processing the Neighborhood Grants. She also thanked the translator for translating SVANC’s agenda into Spanish, free of charge.

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>

- Ms. Dueñas stated that DONE has set the Ethics training date for the 1st Saturday in June, 2011, but the time and place will be announced by DONE in the near future. All will be informed of this information when it's received from DONE.

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

- Mike O. read the crime statistics which included a homicide on Muscatine and Amboy; it was gang related. That crime is still under investigation.
- Mike O. stated that per Officer Rodriguez' notes, crime overall is down. Her notes indicated the importance of taking the necessary precautions to avoid property crime, especially property crime occurring from items left in full view inside vehicles, thus causing thefts to break into vehicles.

ITEM 4: Presentation/announcements from **elected officials** or their representatives.

- Mary Benson, CD2 representative, announced that an Earth Day event has been organized along with Councilmember Cardenas and Assemblyman Fuentes. Activities will include an egg hunt event, an LADWP shade tree delivery sign up, a rain Barrel give-away, and many other fun activities for children.
- Mary added that on Thursday, April 28th, 2011, in the afternoon for ½ hour time slots, the Councilmember will have office hours for stakeholders who want to meet 1-on-1 with the Councilmember and talk about any ideas, suggestions and District's issues regarding the Neighborhood Council or Jobs and Government issues. Please contact Mary Benson to set up an appointment.
- Mary stated that Saturday, April 30th is the Mayor's Day of service throughout the City. There are 3 projects taking place in CD2, two are being held in connection with Friends of the L.A. River. These projects consist of not only clean up, but also to build trails and visit the big Tujunga Wash. These projects will begin at Oro Vista and Big Tujunga Canyon Road, in Sunland; the other project will commence at All Nations Church, 10000 Foothill Blvd.
- Mary said that every month at City Hall downtown, 3rd floor—on the Bridge, there is a display of Artwork from local artists and organizations from throughout the City. This month a Sun Valley Art Center's exhibition is on display.

ITEM 5A: Presentation by LAUSD in regards to what is being built next to Byrd MS.

- Mr. Christos Chrysioliou, LAUSD's Design Manager, Facility's New Construction; Fortunato Tapia, LAUSD's Community Outreach Dept.; Dan Holmquist, Owner's Authorized Agent—overseeing construction; Trevor Schmidt, Project Engineer
- Mr. Chrysioliou presented the project regarding the Valley Region Middle School #3 that is under construction at Roscoe and Arleta Streets, providing the following information:
 - o Valley Region Middle School #3 is designed with the same original design as the adjacent former East Valley H.S. 1A.
 - o Due to community comments from stakeholders, East Vally HS 1A was repurposed to change to a middle school.

- This project was approved about 7 years ago by the School Board. It was a Phase II project, and its purpose, when originally designed, was to relieve the student over population of various nearby schools. However, the demographic projections did not support the actual construction of the school; therefore, the project became unfunded in 2008.
 - This project will permit one of the buildings to be used by Poly H.S. in an effort to relieve their student population overcrowding (downsizing it from a 3,000 site campus to a 2,500 site campus). Also, the County's Adult Education located at the Pacoima Skill Center contributed funds toward this project in order to include a permanent new building for their use.
 - This project's design was approved in April 2007 for two Small Learning Communities (SLCs). One of the SLCs has about 19 classrooms, administrative spaces, science labs, a school library, a multipurpose area with offices, a school library, classrooms in Building C, a play field, and an exterior semi-covered amphitheater with a stage. The other SLC is for Poly H.S.'s use of its 19 classrooms for about 500 of its students. The team is currently working on a pre-design for a pedestrian bridge to cross Arleta so students can cross safely from the Middle School and Poly HS to the new site.
 - Mr. Chrysioliou stated that this project underwent an EIR process, and hence this site does have clearance and all the necessary approvals. However due to the adjacency to the landfill, the District has included safety factors to prevent any migration of contaminants from the landfill to the project site.
 - Mr. Chrysioliou said that all of the schools under the Civic Center Act can be used by the public during certain hours. However, there is no joint use agreement for this site yet, but their goal is to enter into an agreement in order for the Amphitheater to be used by the community.
- Dan Holmquist, Owner's Authorized Agent, stated the following regarding the project:
 - The team is doing a 3D modeling to coordinate all the different trades
 - The buildings have been designed based on Byrd MS's original designs
 - The area in and around Building C has been recommended to be used by Poly High's 9th graders. It will be fenced off from the area in and around the building for the Adult Education facility, which will operate as a separate facility/campus
 - The design includes substations for power and storage, and it will also have additional parking. It also has a lot of covered walk ways for the students walking between the buildings and on the bridge
 - LAUSD has very stringent testing requirements for soil, toxicity, etc. The soil at this site has been tested regularly and no methane gas been found. However, a gas protection membrane will be placed under all the buildings as a protective measure.
 - Drainage for this site will be captured and put back into the aquifer on site in order to prevent run-off into neighboring properties
 - The District has a local-hire program which encourages the contractor to hire within the district and local area to the site as much as possible
 - Fortunato Tapia's, community outreach, contact information is (213) 241-6521, email fortunate.tapia@LAUSD.net

ITEM 6: Board member comments

- Imelda Padilla announced that Sun Valley Watershed Strathern Wetlands Park Project will hold a meeting on Saturday, April 16, 2011, Byrd Middle School Auditorium, from 10:00 AM to 01:00 PM.

NOTE: Public comments shall not be subject to discussion BUT issues may be recommended to be placed on the agenda for future meeting, by a Board member during board member comments period.

- A community member (*name not given on the record*) asked about a report about any school built next to a freeway. Mike O. stated that he is disputing whether or not the EIR done for the previous building is valid for this building because Byrd M.S. should not be build against the freeway due to the diesel fuel emissions. Mike said that at a meeting regarding this project, Mr. Palermo, safety expert, was asked if this would be a problem and Mr. Palermo answered 'No'. However, six months later, the State passed a law stating that no schools could be built up against a freeway.
- Mr. Chrysioliou replied that the State's requirement is 500 feet away from a freeway. This project facilities' building for the students are within 500 feet, but the EIR's intent is not to have any faculty or staff that serves at the school more than a certain amount of periods.

OLD Business:

ITEM 7: Review, correct and approve minutes from October 2010, February 2011 and March 2011 meetings. (Julie Monroy)

- Mike O. made a motion to approve October 2010's minutes of the general meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously by the Board
- Mike O. made a motion to approve February 2011 minutes of the general meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously by the Board
- Mike O. made a motion to approve March 2011 minutes as corrected of the general meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously by the Board

NEW Business:

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

- PLANNING COMMITTEE UPDATE: Monica stated that the 7-11 on Saticoy and Vineland is appealing their alcohol license request. Ms. Vacas asked for everyone's support to oppose this appeal.
- COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE UPDATE: none
- BYLAWS COMMITTEE UPDATE: Art said that the Committee held a special meeting on March 30th to approved the Bylaws, hence they have been submitted to DONE and are awaiting their response
- OUTREACH COMMITTEE UPDATE: Mike O. asked for volunteers to set-up and tear-down of the booth, etc., on Friday, April 15th, from 3:00 to 6:00 for Fernangeles Park's Easter egg. Also, he needs volunteers for April 23rd Earth Day's event to help set-up, tend the booths and tear it down. Volunteers for Earth Day are needed for a 4-hour time period. Karina, Carmen, and Art volunteered.
- Treasurer's Report:

March 2011 Purchase Card Transactions

Date	Vendor	Description	Amount	Purchaser
03/10/2011	Carla's Café	Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils Mixer Event	\$150.00	M. O'Gara
03/10/2011	Ralph's	Refreshments for Board Meetings	\$14.07	R. Lim
03/11/2011	Papa John's	Pizza for February Board Meeting	\$53.29	R. Lim
03/22/2011	Visions Recycling,	Paint and supplies for Sun	\$1,000.00	M. O'Gara

	Inc	Valley Graffiti Busters		
03/28/2011	Time Warner	Internet (office)	\$58.91	R. Lim
04/02/2011	AT&T	Phone (office)	\$0.00	R. Lim
04/07/2011	USPS	P.O. Box – 1 year	\$110.00	M. O'Gara
		Total Spent:	\$1,386.27	

March 2011 Demand Warrants

Date	Vendor	Description	Amount	Purchaser
04/03/2011	Byrd Middle	Neighborhood Purposes Grant	\$5,000.00	SVANC Board
04/03/2011	Fernangeles Elementary	Neighborhood Purposes Grant	\$5,000.00	SVANC Board
04/03/2011	Fernangeles Recreation Center	Neighborhood Purposes Grant	\$5,000.00	SVANC Board
04/03/2011	Poly High	Neighborhood Purposes Grant	\$5,000.00	SVANC Board
04/03/2011	Roscoe Elementary	Neighborhood Purposes Grant	\$5,000.00	SVANC Board
04/03/2011	Sun Valley High	Neighborhood Purposes Grant	\$5,000.00	SVANC Board
04/03/2011	Sun Valley Library	Neighborhood Purposes Grant	\$5,000.00	SVANC Board
04/03/2011	Sun Valley Middle	Neighborhood Purposes Grant	\$5,000.00	SVANC Board
04/03/2011	Sun Valley Recreation Center	Neighborhood Purposes Grant	\$5,000.00	SVANC Board
04/03/2011	Languages4You	Minutes Transcription (07, 09-12/2010, 01-03/2011)	\$1,840.00	SVANC Board
04/03/2011	Languages4You	Spanish Translation (09-12/2010, 01-03/2011)	\$1,505.00	SVANC Board
		Total Spent:	\$48,345.00	

- Rob added that as of March 2011, the YTD budget expenditures are \$58,397.80; SVANC's total budget balance (excluding approved items) is \$50,623.09.
- Rob said that SVANC and DONE are in the process of doing a yearly reconciliation where all the items that have been approved throughout the year are itemized and sent to DONE.
- Monica asked how the elementary schools were chosen. Rob answered that every single institution (elementary, middle, high schools) and the two parks were included and none in Sun Valley were left out to the best of their knowledge.
- A discussion among Board members was held whether or not Glenwood Elementary School is in Sun Valley. Imelda and Monica will research this issue and requested this item to be included in May 2011 agenda for action.
- Mike O. made the motion and Julie seconded the approval of the Treasurer's report.
- The motion carried unanimously

ITEM 9: Mayor's Budget Representative updates (LIM)

- Rob said that the Community Budget Day had a good number of NC representatives that attended. Also in attendance were Wendy Greuel, Carmen Trutanich and Georgia Mattera, deputy Mayor, Performance Management Unit. He added that it was a very interactive and positive event with community suggestions/recommendations presented as a White Paper to the Mayor. Some recommendations included:
 - o The creation of ACE (Administrative Code Enforcement) Unit, as a subsidiary

- to the City Attorney's office.
 - o The cost of LASERs administrative costs should be paid by Union members
 - o The formation of an oversight committee for pensions
- Rob just received an email from the Budget NCs Advocates group informing him that the Council's Budget and Finance Committee requested a draft of an ordinance regarding the ACE recommendation.
- Rob said that www.budgetadvocatesla.com has all the information, documents, and timelines of the budget representatives

ITEM 10: Credit Card Report July 1 2010 thru February 2011 (LIM)

- Rob said that the Credit Card statements were emailed to the Board, but has extra copies available for anyone interested in getting one.

ITEM 11: Address what must be reported at a Neighborhood Council Meeting by the Treasurer (LIM)

- Rob stated that per DONE, the Treasurer is required to read off the monthly expenditures, demand warrants processed, and provide the budget sheet maintained by SVANC. He said that any further questions regarding the Treasurer's reporting responsibilities should be addressed to DONE.
- Mike O. said that Rob is doing an excellent and thorough job, and added that Amelia Herrera-Robles, DONE, has written a letter to SVANC congratulating them for the excellent Accounting reporting Mr. Lim has been doing for SVANC.

ITEM 12: Discuss/Motion/Vote to participate in SVMS Leadership trip to Washington DC (\$500) (PADILLA)

- Ms. Padilla said that Mr. Franklin, leadership teacher, and his students made a presentation last month requesting a donation for their trip to Washington DC. Ms. Padilla fully supports approval of this item.
- Mr. Franklin said that he wrote the request for the Neighborhood Purposes Grant and the \$5000 approved will be used to provide an after school tutoring program, to buy musical instruments and to provide buses for school trips. He thanked SVANC for the approval of the grant.
- In reference to this trip, Mr. Franklin said that the school's staff is planning it in order to keep the travel cost down. He emphasized that his students are very civic oriented and would very much appreciate the Board's approval of these funds for the trip.
- Julie said that this civic-oriented experience is a great idea, but did ask for more community service participation from SVMS's students.
- Mike O. stated that SVANC has supported this program at least twice, but SVANC has not gotten sufficient outreach from it nor enough student participation at events, and continued stating that SVANC's funds are to be used to reach the largest number of students possible, but that the approval of these funds for this trip will only support a low number of students. Mike O. will not support the approval of this item.
- Imelda stated that the mere fact of teaching civic participation through the NCs is not easy, and added that it is not fair to always expect something back especially for this amount.
- Mary Benson asked if Imelda or anyone checked with DONE about this issue because these funds are tax payer dollars that cannot be gifted but instead must be used for some type of outreach program but not for sponsorship.
- Mike O. stated that he did not feel SVANC had gotten any outreach from SVMS students and he called the question.

- Carmen asked to vote in favor of the \$500 requested since other groups of students have been supported by SVANC in the past. Additionally, she added that this will be a nice experience for the students that will visit Washington DC and will get an opportunity of a life time.
- Art said that it is a noble thing to help kids, but the issue at hand is whether or not SVANC's Board can vote on this item.
- Julie said that SVANC is not sponsoring the trip, but instead, it is purchasing an advertisement on their program.
- Rob moved to amend this item to state Discuss/Motion/Vote to purchase an advertisement as an outreach item for Sun Valley Middle School's Leadership Trip to Washington DC in the amount of \$500 and was seconded by Julie.
- After discussion the motion was put up for a vote
- The motion carried with a majority vote, with 1 vote against it.

ITEM 13: Discuss/Motion/Vote to purchase 3 bulletin boards- 2 Recreation Centers and the 7-11 (not to exceed \$2,000) (O'GARA)

- Mike O. said that SVANC does not have enough areas where to place community announcements. But with this purchase if approved, three community bulletin boards will be placed one at each park and one at the 7-11 when the alcohol license is not approved. These bulletin boards will not be used for commercial uses.
- Julie made a motion to approve this item and Karina seconded it.
- The motion carried

ITEM 14: Motion/Discussion/Vote to participate with the booster club of Byrd Middle School to purchase 1100 T-shirts these T-shirts will have SVANC logo on the sleeve. (Cost not to exceed \$1,800) (O'GARA)

- A representative of the booster club (name not given on the record) is requesting \$750 to help purchase 1,100 CST Allstar shirts. She has included SVANC's logo (sample shown to the Board) on the shirts' sleeves. She stated that their students' scores have gone up more than 200 points in the past decade.
- Mike O. said that this the third time SVANC has used this avenue as outreach for SVANC and supports it. Also the representative said that their leadership students are volunteering their time, on their own suggestion, for a clean-up event from Byrd at Arleta to Laurel Canyon and all the side streets. The students are volunteering their first Saturday of their Spring break, which was suggested and carried out by the students.
- Mike moved to approve this item with the amount not to exceed \$1,800 and was seconded by Julie.
- The motion carried

ITEM 15: Discuss/Motion/Vote to purchase a water meter for the Median in front of Kohl's (not to exceed \$4,000) (O'GARA)

- Mike O. said that the plan for the Median at Kohl's started about six years ago. Now the area is beautified and completed. He added that SVANC voted to plant the bedding plants and the City was to install the irrigation system but the water meter was missing. Mike O. asked for approval to purchase the water meter.
- Virginia thanked SVANC for their consideration of this item
- Julie made the motion and Karina seconded it.
- The motion carried.

ITEM 16: Discuss/Motion/Vote to purchase Office Supplies and paper for upcoming Outreach events (\$750) (O'GARA)

- Mike O. wants to purchase color paper for future events, such as for the town hall meeting that is being tentatively planned.
- Angelica made a motion to approve the item Rob seconded
- The motion carried

ITEM 17: SVHS has \$978 in a rollover account since the dedication of the school. We will be issuing them out a check. (O'GARA)

- Socorro Ruiz, Eco Club President, and Alexandria Hernandez, Eco Club Vice President, Sun Valley H.S., commented that their purpose is to promote the awareness of eliminating the use of plastic bags in Sun Valley.
- They stated that this would reduce the consumption of plastic bags in Sun Valley and it would be a substantial initiation to the project because the City would be facilitated with the proper resources towards a common goal.
- They added that the plastic bags can be easily ripped and they clog up the sewer systems, which causes flooding, and are used for other non-eco friendly uses. Therefore, the use of replacement of these plastic bags with cotton tote bags is much more positive for the environment.
- Mike O. stated that SVANC has already voted for and approved \$2000 to be spent on Sun Valley HS, and currently has about \$900 left of the monies approved. Therefore, Mike is recommending writing the \$900 check for the tote bag purchase in order to be ready for SVANC's use of them at its upcoming outreach events.
- Since this amount had already been voted on and approved at a previous SVANC's previous general meeting, this item was for informational purposes only.

ITEM 18: Discuss/Motion/Vote for the Planning Committee to write a letter regarding the project on Rincon Ave and Sheldon St (VACAS, O'GARA)

- Ms. Vacas stated that a copy of the letter is on the table for the public. The letter states opposition to this store having a liquor license, since another establishment across the street already has an alcohol license.
- Mr. Rick Prado is requesting a Zone change to a C1, presently it's an RA-1 zone. He stated that this property was previously approved as a C1 in 2001 and has already gone through an entitlement change. The reason why this change is being requested again is because the City has a timeline by which one has to act on an approved zone change and since nothing happened in the previous request, the previously approved C1 zone change was lost.
- This new zone change is being requested under a new owner
- Mike said that SVANC had previously written a letter requesting a lot of conditions for this Zone change request. The planning committee approved the Zone change but with four-pages of conditions. These include no sales of alcohol, tobacco, auto parts, adult materials, etc., and other conditions. The community has other issues of concern they want addressed, such as hydrology, storm water, etc.
- Mike O. is recommending approval of the Zone change with conditions.
- Art asked why the owner is not present to answer questions and to talk about the planned use and Mr. Prado answered that the owner is out of town but is planning on being present at future area planning meetings.
- Mike made a motion to approve the letter and Julie seconded it.
- The motion carried

Julie made a motion to extend the meeting another 15 minutes and Angelica seconded it. The motion carried.

ITEM 19: Discuss/Motion/Vote for the Planning Committee to write a letter regarding the new 7-11 planned to be built on Lankershim (VACAS, O'GARA)

- Angelica made a motion to approve the item and was seconded by Mike O.
- The motion carried

ITEM 20: Discuss/Motion/Vote to write letter to LAUSD in support of keeping the preschool SRLDP Program (DUENAS)

- Angelica asked permission to write the letter in support of keeping the preschool program open
- Angelica made a motion to approve this item and was seconded by Julie
- The motion carried

ITEM 21: Discuss/Motion/Vote on creating an ad-hoc committee to take a survey from stakeholders to get a name for the new skate park on Sheldon and Remick. (O'GARA)

- Mike O. said this survey is to seek suggestions from community members for a name for the new skate park
- Imelda volunteered to chair this ad-hoc committee and Angelica is responsible to form the committee
- Julie made the motion and Mike O. seconded it
- The motion carried

ITEM 22: We are looking for volunteers to find out more information about the bus routes that are being eliminated in Sun Valley. (O'GARA)

- Mike O. stated that he was hoping some of the youth who ride the buses would be present in order to get this information.
- Christina Montes de Oca volunteered to send an email blast in an effort to get this information. No action was taken on this item.

ITEM 23: Motion/Discussion/Vote to participate in the funding for The Neighborhood Council Congress to be held Sept 24th (\$250) (O'GARA)

- Mike O. said that an email was sent by DONE requesting a contribution of \$250 from each NC for their Congress which will be held on September 24th, 2011. Therefore Mike is recommending the approval of \$250 for this purpose.
- Julie made a motion to approve this item and was seconded by Rob
- The motion carried

ITEM 24: Discuss/Motion/Vote to write a Community Impact Statement to the City Council regarding the "I" measure that was voted on and passed last election. (O'GARA)

- Mike O. said that when the City Council has a council file to consider, the NCs have an opportunity to write a community impact statement.
- Mike O. added that Measures I and J had to do with the Rate Payers Advocate for LADWP, which is somebody who was going to be on the ratepayer's side in front of the LADWP and would have access to all the DWP's records; this was regarding Measure J which was approved by the voters. Measure I was approved to organize a group of volunteer, for a 5-year term for the advisors, to advice a Board of public accountability that went with the Rate Payers Advocate position. Mike is suggesting that the advisory committee should be appointed as follows: one appointee from the Mayor, two appointees from the City Council, and two appointees from the NCs and is asking permission from SVANC to write a community statement stating that this NC supports this suggestion.
- Mike made a motion and was seconded by Art
- The motion carried

ITEM 25: Discuss/Motion/Vote on the SVANC renting advertising space at the bus stops

from CVS/DECAUX (not to exceed \$4,300) (O'GARA)

- Mike said that the bus bench companies will provide five bus benches for \$400 for six months. Mike suggested that this might be a better choice and added that for five bus benches it will cost \$365 for the artwork (which will have SVANC's logo and the meeting's location information) on the benches. Mike added that with \$4,300 he could get five bus benches for 10 months as outreach for SVANC. Susan asked how the benches are coated because graffiti is also removed from bus benches and Mike said that he will double check on the coating.
- Mike asked to make a friendly amendment to this Item's description from "bus stops from CVS/DECAUX" to "bus benches".
- Mike made the motion and Monica seconded it.
- The motion carried

Julie made a motion to extend the meeting another 15 minutes and Angelica seconded it. The motion carried.

ITEM 26: Discuss/Motion/Vote to extend the SVANC Office lease for 2 years. The cost of this item would be \$21,600 (2 years @\$10,800) (O'GARA)

- Rob stated that in February 2011 SVANC's board approved the office lease for 2011-2012. Therefore this Item should be amended but Mike interrupted saying that the City will not grant a 2-year lease, so no action was taken on this item.

ITEM 27: Discuss/Motion/Vote to give a Neighborhood Purposes Grant to Rescue Mission (\$5,000) (DIONE)

- Guy stated that the representative from Hope of the Valley Rescue Mission will make a statement
- Mr. Jonathan Leeper, Director of Community Relations for Hope of the Valley Rescue Mission, stated that this organization is a non-profit rescue mission, and that all services provided are free.
- Mr. Leeper said that they are engaging Sun Valley and the homeless, with 50% of those receiving services are the working poor. Also, schools like Sun Valley Middle School has hosted the mission's toy give-away, giving away about 10,000 toys in December of last year to the area's families.
- Mr. Leeper is hoping to be able to invest the \$5,000, if approved, back into the community. He added that on Fridays the mission has its outreach meal in Sun Valley Park located at the corner of Cantara Street and Fair Avenue at the Church, where about up to 75 people are fed. Also they provide an outreach breakfast meal in Van Nuys and Magnolia, provide clothes, a 150-bed shelter facility, and provide free health services.
- Mike O. said that the purpose of the Mission is a very good one, but many groups like this try to administer to the needs of the homeless. This group came to Sun Valley about three years ago with a new shower truck coming each Tuesday to a church on Cantara Street. The mission's group provides showers and clean clothing and the church feeds them. Since that time, the permanent population of homeless living in the park has increased. A member of this NC recently asked what can SVANC do for the homeless. The answer was that we don't know! It's a problem that huge institutions across America are trying to solve. The purpose of this NC is to help stakeholders have a voice in City government and to try and improve the quality of life in our neighborhood for all stakeholders. To this goal, SVANC supported and encouraged a group called L.A. Family to build a 64-unit apartment building on Glenoaks Blvd to house the homeless. This is a place where they can get the help that they really need. There are many agencies that provide services for the homeless with the goal to get them back into society, but many homeless

refuse these services.

- Mike stated that the parks are supposed to be open spaces for families or for people in general to congregate with their neighbors and to recreate. But this is becoming very difficult in Sun Valley Park because parents are afraid to let their children play there due to the homeless lingering in these open spaces. The children have witnessed unwanted, illegal and undesirable activities going on at the park.
- Mike O. asked that this request not be approved in the best interest of the overall stakeholders and our community.
- Mr. Leeper's rebuttal statement was inaudible on the recording.
- Julie said that when she worked at the Sun Valley Recreation Center there were about three homeless staying overnight but it soon went up to about 50. She added that it became a nuisance and a lot of people stopped coming to the park due to this issue. Julie asked that this item not be approved since it would only attract more transients to the community.
- Monica said that giving money for services to the homeless is a very noble cause but had no knowledge about this Mission's goals. Therefore, she is inclined to vote against it.
- Mike O. said that the mothers will not take their children to the park during the day because they are afraid to visit the park, notwithstanding this organization is a worthwhile one but this location is not the right place to provide these services.
- The gardener/care taker of the park testified that he often finds himself picking up/cleaning up after the debris left behind by the homeless
- Maria, community member, stated that she's lived in front of Sun Valley Park since 1982. Since then, the problem was the gangs, and just recently the problem has been the homeless who are engaging in illegal activities in the public areas. So she is asking SVANC's Board not to approve these funds.
- Dave, community member, stated that he too has seen an increase in the homeless population which is causing a lot of nuisances in the public spaces and it has affected the general population's attendance to the preschool near the park and to the park.
- Guy made a motion to approve this item, but there was no second.
- The motion dies

ITEM 28: Discuss/Motion/Vote to give a Neighborhood Purposes Grant to People in Progress (\$37,000) (BARTLETT)

- Angelica said that Susan is not sponsoring this Item and asked if someone is interested in sponsoring this Item.
- Susan said that this proposal was brought to her attention the day before last month's Board meeting. She thought that this item was only up for discussion but not up for a vote.
- She has worked with People in Progress and knows that it is a good program and they support the community, but she is not supporting this Item or the amount.
- Angelica asked if there was any other member of the Board interested in sponsoring this item.
- Mr. Josh Smith, People in Progress, said that if you "Give a Man a Fish, you feed him for a Day, if you Teach him how to Fish you Feed him for a Lifetime." He added that since 1989 the organization has been housing the homeless at 8140 Sunland Blvd, and has been eager, willing and frequent participants in this community in bringing about a solution. The organization has a licensed facility for 88 men, currently 26 are funded through the LAHSA, 20 are veterans, and 15 are offenders. It is the organization's goal to help rehabilitate these men and reinstate them into society.

- Mike O. asked about the organization's plans to build an addition to the building, and added that SVANC's Planning and Land Use Committee has not seen any of these plans yet.
- Josh answered that it has not submitted plans for review yet. He added that the project is being partially funded by the Dept. of Veterans Affairs (\$167,000) which requires matching funds, and has also secured an undisclosed amount from private funding sources like A&E Development Corp., but added that additional funding is still needed.
- Imelda wants to sponsor it for the purposes to hear what the organization wants to do with the money. Imelda's motion was not seconded.
- The motion dies

ITEM 29: PUBLIC COMMENT

- none

ITEM 30: Adjournment- A motion was called to adjourn the meeting at about 9:20. The motion carried