

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA



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SUN VALLEY AREA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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This draft has not yet been approved by a vote of the board and is for information purposes only

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 8, 2008

Villa Scalabrini Retirement Center

10631 Vinedale Street

Sun Valley, CA 91352

1. The General Meeting of the Sun Valley AREA Neighborhood Council was called to order at 6:41 p.m. by Jon Eshbach, Presiding Officer. Roll call was taken.

Members Present: Jon Eshbach, Nicholas Perdaris, Cynthia Rodriguez, Susan Bartlett, Stephen Franklin, Raul Gonzalez, Lee McTaggart, Mike O'Gara, Carmen Perez, John Prieto, Art Sweet, Jorge Torres, and Nancy Vasquez.

Board Members absent were: Mary Benson (excused), Tina Cameron (not excused), Yolanda Aranda, (not excused), Virginia Beck, (not excused), Manuel De La Torre, (not excused), Frank Felix, (excused), Silvia Gracia, (not excused), Jose Morales, (excused), Exiquio Ruiz, (excused), and Dr. Ronald Sipus, (excused)

Thirteen of the 23 Board Members were present, which is a quorum and the business of the Council could be conducted.

Also present were 12 Stakeholders and Guests.

Mr. Eshbach read the SVANC Pledge, then led John Prieto in saying the Pledge as a newly elected Board Member and welcomed him to the Board.

2. Review, correct and approve Minutes

Mr. Eshbach asked Members to review the December Minutes. Corrections: page one, Section 5a, "Nancy" should read "Nancy Vasquez"; and page two, Land Use Committee report, "Trammel Pro" should read "Trammel Crow."

MOTION (by Mr. O’Gara, seconded by Ms. Bartlett): to approve the December Minutes as amended.

MOTION APPROVED by a voice vote.

Mr. Eshbach asked Mr. O’Gara to lead a September Minutes corrections discussion. Mr. O’Gara stated that he e-mailed the September Minutes, including Board Members’ comments that were e-mailed to him, to the Board Members last month, and that they are a re-created version from the previous version.

MOTION (by Mr. Sweet, seconded by Ms. McTaggart): to TABLE discussion of previous Minutes’ acceptance.

MOTION APPROVED by a voice vote.

Mr. Eshbach said that he would add the above item to the February Agenda.

3. Emergency Personnel from Fire and Police Departments – None at this time.

4. Presentation/announcements from elected officials or their representatives

Eric Menjivar, Field Case Worker for L.A. City District Two Councilwoman Wendy Gruel (818-755-7676; eric.nenjivar@lacity.org), reported that a Q-Star cameras representative will be available next month to answer questions, and that a Public Safety forum will be held on January 28th at All Nations Church, 10000 Foothill Boulevard, Lake View Terrace. Also, a Graffiti and Illegal Dumping forum will be held on January 26th at 8:30 a.m. at Northeast Valley City Hall office. The Adopt-a-Wall schoolchildren’s art competition winners, who will paint their designs on local walls, will be announced in February (vines are also available to put on the walls). A Car Seat Inspection Day will be held February 21st from 9:00 – 1:00 at Stonehurst Elementary School.

Antonio Sanchez, East Valley Area Director of Neighborhood & Community Services for Mayor Villaraigosa (818-778-4990; antonio.sanchez@lacity.org), distributed a flyer noting that the Mayor has been in office for two years, and that he has focused on safety and education, and crime and traffic reduction, and that construction downtown is booming.

Olga Ayala, Field Deputy for L.A. City District Six Councilman Tony Cardenas (756-7558; olga.ayala@lacity.org), announced that she is replacing Alvin Kelly, and that Tujunga Avenue will reopen around February 28th after repair is finished of a three-year-old cave-in. Mr. Eshbach related that businesses have been waiting and traffic has been diverted all this time, and Mr. O’Gara voiced that the community’s been waiting 34 months for this main route to reopen. Mr. Gonzalez noted that there’s been illegal dumping on Tujunga Avenue between Strathern Street and Saticoy Street, and he and Ms. McTaggart referred to a drain being blocked. Mr. Gonzalez reported graffiti on the 11085 Olinda building and the Wickes pedestrian walkway. Stakeholder Karl Kunak expressed that the mud on Strathern has to be coming from elsewhere.

5. Comments by DONE representative

Manuel Durazo, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) Project Coordinator (manuel.durazo@lacity.org), congratulated the NC, especially Mary Benson and Mike O’Gara, for election procedures work under time pressure. Tomorrow, he’ll send an election procedures approval letter. Mr. O’Gara pointed out that DONE’s Melvin Canas and Mr. Durazo also helped a lot. The election will be April 5th and combined with the Foothill Trails District and Sunland-Tujunga NCs.

Mr. Durazo distributed an “Informational Meetings in Reference to Neighborhood Council Election Transition to City Clerk” flyer and reported that the City Clerk will oversee NC elections after April; there will be an Informational Meeting about that on January 19th at 10:00 a.m. at the Braude Center at 6262 Van Nuys Boulevard, Van Nuys; he encourages the NC to send a representative. Then, he introduced Grayce Liu, hired as a new DONE Project Coordinator from among 200 applicants, who mentioned her legal and real estate background, that she’s excited to be working with NCs and DONE, and invited people to ask her questions. Mr. Durazo requested that people still direct questions and concerns to him for now and to send a copy to Ms. Liu.

6. Public Comment

Robin Gilbert of the California Clean Money Campaign distributed brochures and said that the City Council is considering redoing the City’s campaign finance law, and offered to make a presentation to a future Board Meeting, a smaller group, or to individuals.

Mr. Kunak noted that permit support is still being sought from the NC to the City Planning Department to name a Pony League baseball scoreboard at 8045 Whitsett Avenue for long-time supporter Frank Micelli; this was on the December Agenda but wasn’t included in this Agenda. Mr. O’Gara voiced that he talked with Tony Severra regarding this, but that, even though time is short, this isn’t an emergency by DONE’s definition.

Mr. Eshbach related that Carrie Schneider of Clements Environmental asked to reschedule her presentation to the February Meeting.

7. Board Member comments

Mr. O’Gara distributed “City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks Citywide Community Needs Assessment Invitation to Public Meetings” and “Valley Area Community Workshops” flyers and stated that a survey is being done. Ms. McTaggart said that there’ll be a July 17th Chamber of Commerce Sun Valley Middle School ribbon-cutting ceremony. She revealed that Providence Holy Cross Hospital is being sued regarding their expansion plans, said that we should support the hospital, and described that a person was diverted from there to County-USC Hospital because they have the only Trauma Center left in the area.

8. Committee Reports

President

Mr. Eshbach said that there's been lots of activity; Mr. O'Gara worked hard to set up the new NC office at 9000 Sunland Boulevard, Suite A at Penrose Street. Mr. O'Gara continued that there'll be a copy machine training there this Thursday at 2:00 and encouraged Board Members to make other arrangements if they can't be at the Office then. Minor construction and security work is being done; the heater is working, but takes time to warm up the Office.

Treasurer

Mr. Eshbach indicated that he received a letter dated today from Ms. Rodriguez, announcing her resignation as Treasurer; she'll help until a new Treasurer is appointed; and a volunteer is sought. Ms. Rodriguez distributed a "Past Funding and Expenditures" report and "Treasurer's Report January 8, 2008," noting that the NC has received \$200,000 in appropriations since its beginning and has spent \$83,317.02. The rent has been paid and office expenses are to be deducted from the balance of \$116,682.98; also, \$16,682.98 needs to be spent by the end of the fiscal year on June 30th or it will have to be turned back to the City, because NCs aren't allowed to carry over more than \$100,000 past then. Mr. O'Gara noted that there is more than \$8,000 in bills, including \$5,000 for the website and \$3,700 for office equipment. Ms. Rodriguez recommends linking expenses to the DONE website to get real-time balances. The budget is on target. Website maintenance costs \$75 per hour for approximately three hours per month, or \$225. She will soon submit the December bills that arrive.

Land Use

Mr. Kunak said that there was no new action and no December Meeting.

Outreach

Mr. O'Gara reported that he'll contact Independent Elections Administrator Steven Box regarding election outreach.

Community Service

Ms. Bartlett stated that there's been no Meeting yet and that she'll work with Mr. O'Gara, as Community Service and Outreach "kind of overlap."

Bradley Landfill Ad Hoc

Mr. Kunak reported that the next Meeting will be sometime in the third week this month; he'll e-mail the NC about it and post the Meeting Notice. It'll be decided who'll help with the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) and Environmental Impact Report (EIR), and which governmental representatives to invite to the Meeting.

Ad Hoc Office

Mr. O'Gara reported that a desktop computer is networked and a copier available which is City-leased to make up to 5,000 copies per month. Mr. Eshbach requested that no one move the copier because it would break the computer connection, and

Mr. O’Gara added that the copier would jam if moved. The City pays for supplies and maintenance.

OLD BUSINESS

Item #1

The Sun Valley Youth Arts Center representative was not present, but Mr. O’Gara estimated that he’d distributed 1,500 flyers for their Cyrano de Bergerac production classes beginning January 19th from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Ms. Bartlett wishes that the Center was more involved in the community and Mr. O’Gara said that he’d e-mail them regarding the NC.

Item #2

Ms. McTaggart explained that she worked with Ms. Benson regarding whom to honor at the February 16th Pancake Breakfast and that they will contact governmental representatives for Certificates of Appreciation. Ms. Bartlett suggested honoring LAPD (Los Angeles Police Department) Officer Densley of the North Hollywood Division and Senior Lead Officer Gabriel Ahedo of the North Hollywood Division. Mr. Kunak added that Officer Ahedo stopped some local street racing. Ms. McTaggart would also like to honor two L.A. City Fire Department Captains and crews, and an L.A. County Fire Department Captain and crew.

Item #3

Mr. O’Gara stated that website and computer bills were previously submitted on June 27, 2006 and approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Item #1

MOTION (by Mr. O’Gara, seconded by Ms. Bartlett): to extend by up to five months the terms of Board Members elected in 2005 and appointees whose terms expire in February 2008 to enable the Board to continue its business.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Rodriguez voiced that the NC needs to extend all Members’ terms to May for consistency and continuity.

MOTION APPROVED by a voice vote.

Item #2

Mr. O’Gara related that he is contacting potential candidates to fulfill the unexpired term of former Board Member Doug Corcoran.

Item #3

Mr. O’Gara distributed an “SVANC: Election April 5, 2008” two-page flyer that contains information about the election, who can vote and how to apply as a Board candidate, and explained that there was no report because the Chairman wasn’t there and the DONE representative had to leave.

Items #4, 5 and 6

Ms. Rodriguez stated that these Items are not necessary, as they are already covered in the budget.

Item #7

Mr. O'Gara reported that a letter had been sent regarding the proposed Department of Water and Power rate increases.

Item #8

Mr. O'Gara described that the LAPD North Hollywood Division has five interrogation rooms, but that none have audio equipment; they want to equip two rooms at around \$6,000 and are asking for a \$750 contribution.

MOTION (by Mr. O'Gara, seconded by Ms. McTaggart): to spend up to \$750 for audio equipment for the North Hollywood LAPD station.

MOTION APPROVED by a voice vote.

Item #9

MOTION (by Ms. Rodriguez, seconded by Ms. Bartlett): to approve the election procedures and all documentation for DONE for the April 5th election to be held.

MOTION APPROVED by a voice vote.

Item #10

Mr. Eshbach said that this Item is not necessary in view of the above actions.

Item #11

Mr. O'Gara mentioned that posters and flyers will be added to the election expenses, which Ms. Rodriguez stated are already covered in the budget.

Item #12

Mr. Eshbach said that this Item was completed during the Treasurer's Report.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.