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CALIFORNIA

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**Sun Valley Area  
Neighborhood Council**  
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**SUN VALLEY AREA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday, February 12, 2008**

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

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

The General Meeting of the Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council (SVANC) was called to order at 6:40 p.m. Roll call was taken.

Board Members Present: Jon Eshbach, Mary Benson, Susan Bartlett, Tina Cameron, Manuel De La Torre, Stephen Franklin, Sylvia Gracia, Julie Monroy, Lee McTaggart, Mike O’Gara, Carmen Perez, and Art Sweet. Arriving late was Nicholas Perdaris.

Board Members absent were: Yolanda Aranda, Virginia Beck, Frank Felix, Raul Gonzalez (excused), Jose Morales, John Prieto (unexcused), Exiquio Ruiz (excused), Dr. Ronald Sipus (excused), Jorge Torres, and Nancy Vasquez (excused).

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

Also present were 14 Stakeholders and Guests.

**2. Review, correct and approve the Minutes**

The Minutes of the January 8, 2008 were **APPROVED** by a unanimous voice vote with the following corrections: 1) Sylvia Gracia’s name is spelled Gracia, not Garcia; 2) Ms. Gracia and Ms. Monroy were both excused from attending that Meeting; and 3) Item #6, paragraph two should read: “for long-time supporter Frank Micelli . . . Mr. O’Gara voiced that he talked with Tony Sevrera . . .”, reversing the two names.

**3. Emergency Personnel from Fire and Police Departments – None present.**

4. **Presentation/announcements: elected officials or their rep's** – None at this time.

5. **Comments from D.O.N.E. representative** – None at this time.

6. **Public Comment**

Stakeholder Karl Kunak said that community input was received regarding Rudy of the L.A. Unified School District (LAUSD).

Stakeholder Electra Kruger of the Shadow Hills Property Owners Association thanked the Sun Valley Graffiti Busters for their exemplary cleanup on Wentworth Street.

7. **Board member comments**

Ms. McTaggart recapped the accomplishments of the Foothill Volunteer Surveillance Team (VST) and noted that they've volunteered more than 2,000 hours since last year, including contributing to two felony arrests, and said that there's a ride-along program available. Ms. Benson asked the names of those Board Members who'd completed the Mayor's Budget Survey: Ms. Bartlett, Ms. Benson, Mr. Eshbach, Mr. Franklin, Ms. McTaggart, Ms. Monroy, Mr. O'Gara, Mr. Perdaris, and Mr. Sweet. Mr. Franklin reported that the new 24-hour health clinic will, in cooperation with UCLA and LAUSD, have a Grand Opening on April 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Sun Valley Middle School.

Presentation by Clements Environmental regarding the Crown Disposal/Community Recycling & Resource Recovery project.

Chip Clements of Clements Environmental Corporation made a presentation regarding the planned expansion of the Community Recycling and Resource Recovery (CRRR) recycling plant at 9143 to 9189 De Garmo Ave, Sun Valley operated by Crown Disposal Company. This would be the primary facility of the City's Zero Waste Plan, and be all privately financed. The City wants to increase all recycling, including for all restaurants to recycle leftover food. Many kinds of recycling will be done there, including of construction materials. Environmental controls will use the latest technology; most dust and odors will be more enclosed than before, and traffic mitigation is planned. The City expects to finish reviewing Clements' Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) in March and then will invite public comments. DEIR copies will be provided to NC members who request them.

Stakeholder Jerry Piro voiced that our community has more such facilities than other communities. Mr. Clements responded that this facility has been here for 20 years and the City will be building more such facilities in other communities.

**Committee Reports**

**President's Report**

Mr. Eshbach said that there was no report at this time.

**Treasurer's Report**

Mr. Eshbach reported that Cynthia Rodriguez resigned as Treasurer last month. He's considering two volunteers who're interested in being Treasurer.

### Land Use Committee

Ms. Benson reported that the Committee met on January 28<sup>th</sup> and meets on the fourth Monday every month (except holidays) at 6:30 p.m. at the Office at 9000 Sunland Blvd., Suite A, Sun Valley; the next Meetings will be 2/25, 3/24, 4/28 and 5/19.

The Committee agreed to write a letter to Jane Usher, L.A. City Planning Commission (CPC) President, regarding that the Committee concurs with the findings of CPC Hearing Officer Frank Quan regarding the City's Zoning Administrator determination on the 9041 Laurel Cyn. Blvd. property that the developer should only be allowed to build 12 condos plus three for density bonus, not 34 condos, and that the CPC further explore the concern of developing so many units so close to the freeway that it is now a State of California CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) concern. A scheduled Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> CPC hearing may be postponed.

The Committee and the CPC have agreed and determined that the small lot subdivision at 11964 Allegheny has a problem with not enough guest parking and recommends five guest parking spaces. There will be a Public Hearing regarding a tentative tract amendment.

There was a CUP (Conditional Use Permit) Hearing on February 11<sup>th</sup> regarding a proposed combination 24-hour car wash and mini-mart at 9055 Sunland Blvd. L.A. City District Two Councilwoman Wendy Gruel and Dale Thrush, Director of Planning & Economic Development for Councilwoman Gruel, are opposed to it. The Committee is opposed because the car wash may contribute to drug dealing in the area; liquor would be dispensed near four schools and churches; there are already so many other liquor stores in the area; the car wash would be operating and the project's sign would be in a designated Scenic Corridor; and, a car wash was just approved at 8900 Sunland.

Ms. Benson spoke with and will draft a letter to Mr. Parra of LADWP (the Los Angeles Department of Water & Power) Real Estate Department advising him that the SVANC is opposed to a five-year long-term renewal of the car lot at 9103 San Fernando Road, and asking Mr. Parra to send a letter to the lot owner notifying him that his business is operating with an expired permit. The owner wants a zoning variance regarding storing cars there, but he's selling cars from there. The SVANC is opposed to any long term auto sales at this location and on record against "girlie" signage, and there is no sidewalk. We want the lot to be used as a bicycle sub-station.

Mr. Kunak will draft a letter to assist Frank Micelli's efforts regarding improvements at the East Valley Baseball facility at 8045 Whitsett Avenue, North Hollywood, and send it to the City Recreation and Parks Dept. and the City Planning Department, with a copy to L.A. City District Six Councilman Tony Cardenas.

Bob Morales of De Pinto Morales Communications, Inc. will be available to answer questions regarding Waste Management, Inc., and the operations and landscape plan

of Bradley Landfill & Recycling Center at 9227 Tujunga Ave., Sun Valley. Mr. Kunak has more information in the Bradley Landfill Ad-Hoc Committee report later.

No information has been received and no Crown Disposal Company representative appeared at a January 8th meeting regarding the Community Recycling and Resource Recovery facility at 9143-9189 De Garmo Ave, Sun Valley. Mike O’Gara will check with Wayne Tsuda. An EIR is expected in March.

Ms. Benson will ask the DWP’s Mr. Parra what is happening with the Looney Bins, Inc. application. Mr. Parra indicated that all permits for non-nursery use are on “hold.”

Jennifer Foster of L.A. Family Housing, 8925-8933 Glenoaks Blvd., Sun Valley, told the Committee that that they will have 60 leased 450-square-foot studio units for single adults, supported by a 24-hour on-site case manager. It will be 4,000 square feet and two to three stories with a 15-foot setback, with covered parking in the rear that meets code, streetscape common areas, a community room, and on-site infiltration of stormwater. Veterans would qualify. It will have 50% greenway in lieu of a 12-foot concrete sidewalk.

The old firehouse is full of asbestos and there are plans to deal with it. Widening of Penrose may leave a small surplus property.

Zoning variances have been requested by James Crisp for the 9103 North San Fernando Road property for a categorical exemption and continued use of a DWP transmission line right-of-way for an open storage of vehicles in conjunction with an existing dealership partially located in the PF zone.

#### Outreach Committee

Mr. O’Gara reported that he’s working to get the word out regarding the April 5<sup>th</sup> election, including placing newspaper notices.

#### Community Service Committee

Ms. Bartlett said that the Committee did not meet.

#### Bradley Landfill Ad-Hoc Committee

Mr. Kunak reported that the Committee met on January 25<sup>th</sup>, including with Grayce Liu, Project Coordinator, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) (213-485-1360; grayce.liu@lacity.org). The fee-for-service for Mike Kodama of Michael Kodama and Associates was approved. Mr. Kodama, a planning consultant, introduced himself. Mr. O’Gara said that there’ll be a meeting February 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.

#### Ad-hoc Office Committee

Mr. O’Gara reported that the office and copy machine are working well, and that he’ll buy a phone for the office.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**ITEM #1** Report from Sun Valley Youth Arts Center re: enrollment in Winter Drama Program "Cyrano De Bergerac."

No representative was present. Mr. O'Gara said that he's distributed flyers.

**ITEM #2** Report regarding pancake breakfast

Ms. Benson noted that flyers are available for the event February 16<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the American Legion facility at 9026 Sunland Blvd., Sun Valley, to honor police, firefighting and military employees, and the Volunteer Surveillance Team. All are invited and volunteers are needed to help clean up afterward. L.A. City District Two Councilwoman Wendy Gruel will be there, and L.A. County District Three Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky's office is sending certificates.

**ITEM #3** Approve letter to City Planning and Council members from Planning Committee re: proposed improvements to East Valley Baseball facility

**MOTION** (by Mr. O'Gara, seconded by Ms. Benson): to accept the letter to the City Planning and Council members from our Planning Committee regarding proposed improvements to the East Valley Baseball facility.

**MOTION APPROVED** by unanimous voice vote.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**ITEM #1** Swear in Jerry Piro and Larry Mellon as new board members replacing Doug Corcoran and Cynthia Rodriguez who resigned.

Mr. O'Gara reviewed NC Board openings. Mr. Piro and Mr. Mellon read the SVANC Pledge aloud and were so appointed.

**ITEM #2** Motion/Discussion/Vote: Proposal that SVANC take advertising in Sun Valley Middle School to promote Outreach.

Mr. Eshbach explained that this has been good outreach before, and Mr. O'Gara added that we can also post a banner.

**MOTION** (by Ms. Benson, seconded by Ms. Gracia): to buy \$500 of space in the Sun Valley Middle School yearbook to promote NC outreach.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. O'Gara and Mr. Eshbach noted that the School has supported the NC in the past.

**MOTION APPROVED** by unanimous voice vote.

**ITEM #3** Motion/Discussion/Vote: To pay the \$50.00 fee for Mr. O'Gara and Ms. Benson to attend five land use planning seminars led by people who have been actively involved in L.A. city planning for a number of years. The seminar and expense has been approved by DONE. The money is to pay for materials provided.

Ms. Benson explained that only 36 people in the City were accepted into the program.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Eshbach, seconded by Ms. Gracia): to reimburse the \$50.00 fee for Mr. O’Gara and Ms. Benson to attend the five land use planning seminars.

**MOTION APPROVED** by unanimous voice vote.

**ITEM #4** Motion/Discussion/Vote: SVANC provide money for outreach at the annual Earth Day at Sun Valley Park (\$500 + our costs).

Mr. Eshbach explained that this is to have an outreach booth and provide food. Mr. O’Gara objected because the NC hasn’t paid for this before. It was noted that the booth is available for free, but the organizers are asking for the NC’s financial help. This discussion was **TABLED**.

**ITEM #5** Motion/Discussion/Vote: SVANC agree to be billed for the cost of maintaining a certain area of Sun Valley in a graffiti-free state. Not to exceed \$4,000.

Mr. Eshbach explained that possible City budget reductions may reduce or eliminate the successful Graffiti Busters program and that the City is asking for financial help to maintain it, especially in the area around the Sun Valley Middle School. Mr. O’Gara indicated that it would help if Graffiti Busters is turned into a non-profit organization, while Ms. Benson noted that this is not yet budgeted. This discussion was **TABLED**.

**ITEM #6** Motion/Discussion/Vote: SVANC either supports or opposes the LADWP proposed rate increases.

It was agreed that this was resolved in October.

**ITEM #7** Motion/Discussion/Vote: SVANC accept the NC/LADWP Oversight Committee resolution and prepare and send letters to both City Council Members asking that they vote “NO” on the proposed LADWP rate increases until the completion and review of the Charter-mandated LADWP Industrial, Economic and Administrative Survey.

**MOTION** (by Mr. O’Gara, seconded by Ms. Gracia): for the SVANC to agree to the L.A. NCs/LADWP Memorandum of Understanding Oversight Committee ”Resolution regarding proposed LADWP rate actions for 2008-2010.”

**DISCUSSION:** It was noted that Councilwoman Gruel and L.A. City District Six Councilman Tony Cardenas have been asked to also agree to the Resolution.

**MOTION APPROVED** by unanimous voice vote.

### **Adjournment**

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.