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Neighborhood Council**
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SUN VALLEY AREA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, March 11, 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 6:33 p.m. Roll call was taken.

Board Members Present: Mary Benson, Susan Bartlett, Tina Cameron, Stephen Franklin, Raul Gonzalez, Julie Monroy, Lee McTaggart, [Larry Mellon,] Mike O’Gara, Nicholas Perdaris, Carmen Perez, Jerry Piro, and Nancy Vasquez.

Board Members absent were: Jon Eshbach (excused), Yolanda Aranda, Virginia Beck, Manuel De La Torre, Frank Felix, Sylvia Gracia, Jose Morales, John Prieto, Exiquio Ruiz, Dr. Ronald Sipus, Art Sweet, and Jorge Torres.

Thirteen of the 25 Board Members were present, which is a quorum and the business of the Council could be conducted.

Also present were 15 Stakeholders and Guests.

2. Review, correct and approve the Minutes

While the Board read the February 12, 2008 General Board Meeting Minutes, Ms. Benson explained to the Stakeholders and guests about the NC and how the community can be involved.

MOTION (by Mr. O’Gara, seconded by Mr. Perdaris): to accept the February 12, 2008 General Board Meeting Minutes [as written].

MOTION PASSED by unanimous voice vote.

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

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

Olga Ayala, Field Deputy for L.A. City District Six Councilman Tony Cardenas (818-756-7558; olga.ayala@lacity.org), said that outreach is ongoing for Earth Day, April 19th at Sun Valley Park; 500 trees are available and volunteers are needed.

Eric Menjivar, Field Case Worker for L.A. City District Two Councilwoman Wendy Gruel (818-755-7676; eric.menjivar@lacity.org), reported that 150 people attended a neighborhood forum in Lake View Terrace at All Nations Church. A Car Seat Inspection was held at Stonehurst Elementary School; 35 cars were inspected, while the LAPD (L.A. Police Dept.) handed out new car seats and confiscated others. Landscaping irrigation equipment was stolen, but the thieves were caught and the area will be re-landscaped. Joaquin Macias, Field Deputy for Councilwoman Gruel (213-473-7002; joaquin.macias@lacity.org), stated that the Councilwoman is installing security cameras to prevent newly planted trees from being stolen.

5. **Comments from D.O.N.E. representative**

Grayce Liu, Project Coordinator, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) (office 323-972-7805, cell 818-374-6851; grayce.liu@lacity.org), distributed an “[NC] Board Member Assessment Survey” and asked all Board Members, including those stepping down, to submit them to her by June 30th. Election mailers were sent to the printer and are expected by Friday. The Earth Day booth allocation is okay with DONE as long as the organizers invoice the NC; it can’t be a donation. DONE grievance policies are being revised.

Efron Valdovenos, of State 39th District Assemblyman Felipe Fuentes’ office, reported that there’ll be a Consumer Mortgage Town Hall Meeting March 5th at 10:00, with banking and mortgage information. There’ll be a Job and Career Fair April 26th from 9:00 – 1:00 at the State Employment Development Office. On March 30th and 31st, there’ll be a youth event honoring Cesar Chavez and Dr. Martin Luther King.

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Ms. Benson temporarily suspended the Meeting at 7:00 for Board candidates to speak if they so chose. She then had to leave due to a prior commitment. Mr. Perdaris took over as Chair of this Meeting. Candidates Dionisio Alcala, Jr., Rafael Cardenas, Mr. Gonzalez, Luis Medina, Mr. Perdaris, Mr. Piro, Mr. O’Gara, and Eldia Vasquez spoke.

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6. **Public Comment**

Larry Carstens, a Teacher’s Union Representative, reported that 90% of teachers voted for school-based management; he’d like the NC to endorse it, and they are seeking candidates for their council.

7. Board member comments

Ms. Perez welcomes the candidates and encourages participation on the NC, as did Mr. Piro. Ms. Monroy reported that there'll be an Easter Egg Hunt at the Sun Valley Recreation Center on March 19th. Mr. Mellon, Senior Director at Fernangeles Park, announced an event there on March 22nd from 11:00 – 1:00.

Committee Reports

President's Report

Mr. Eshbach was absent; there was no report at this time.

Land Use Committee

Stakeholder Karl Kunak said that the Committee met on February 25th, and that he and Ms. Benson attended a community meeting regarding the Care Ministries project; many people spoke and Care agreed to make changes.

Outreach Committee

Mr. O'Gara reported that the February 16th Pancake Breakfast that honored police, firefighters and others was a great success; around 100 people attended. Outreach is ongoing for the April 19th Earth Day event.

Community Service Committee

Ms. Bartlett said that the Committee did not meet; she'll report at the next Meeting.

Bradley Landfill Ad-Hoc Committee

Mr. Kunak reported that there'll be another meeting soon about this; we're waiting for the EIR [Environmental Impact Report], and you can e-mail him for information. Mr. O'Gara said that he's meeting with officials regarding an AQMD [Southern California Air Quality Management District] study; the AQMD says that L.A. air is "better than in 1986," but Sun Valley was not checked. Mr. Piro noted that their nearest testing station to Sun Valley is in Burbank.

Ad-hoc Office Committee

Mr. O'Gara reported that 9,000 copies have been made, the office is working well, and that lots of calls have been received.

OLD BUSINESS:

ITEM #1: Report from the Sun Valley Youth Arts Center regarding enrollment of Winter Drama Program "Cyrano De Bergerac."

No Arts Center representative was present and no report was made.

ITEM #2: Motion/Discussion/Vote [M/D/V]: SVANC to provide \$500 to Earth Day festivities for Publicity/Outreach.

MOTION (by Mr. O’Gara, seconded by Ms. Bartlett): to provide \$500 to Earth Day festivities for Publicity/Outreach.

DISCUSSION: Mr. O’Gara explained the event and showed a draft flyer.

MOTION PASSED by unanimous voice vote.

ITEM #3: M/D/V: SVANC agree to be billed for the cost of maintaining a selected area of Sun Valley in a “Graffiti Free” state, not to exceed \$4,000 in one year.

MOTION (by Ms. McTaggart, seconded by Ms. Cameron): for the SVANC to be billed for the cost of maintaining a selected area of Sun Valley in a “Graffiti Free” state, not to exceed \$4,000 in one year.

Mr. O’Gara explained that this Item is carried over from last month’s Meeting; the intention is for the City to match the \$4,000. We need to form a non-profit organization if Graffiti Busters wants to be funded. Mr. Perdaris suggested and it was agreed to postpone this Item until a Committee is formed.

NEW BUSINESS:

ITEM #1: M/D/V to spend up to \$400 to pay Q-Star company for installation and removal of a digital camera(s) to spot graffiti and illegal dumping.

MOTION (by Ms. Bartlett, seconded by Mr. O’Gara): to spend up to \$400 to pay the Q-Star company for installation and removal of a digital camera(s) to spot graffiti and illegal dumping.

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT (by Mr. O’Gara): with Ms. Bartlett choosing the camera test location.

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT accepted by Ms. Bartlett.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Bartlett explained that Councilwoman Gruel offered to fund 50% of the cost. The cameras haven’t caught anyone, but they act as a deterrent. Q-Star would loan one digital camera for one month; the NC would pay for the installation, monitoring and removal. It should cost around \$350 for this test; it’s not a purchase. The NC or the police can monitor it. Operation times and placement are flexible; the camera view up to 100 feet. Mr. Kunak encourages its use.

MOTION PASSED by unanimous voice vote.

ITEM #2: M/D/V to purchase up to \$3,000 worth of DVD’s to begin the replacement process of the 900 DVD’s (valued at \$27,000) that were stolen recently from Sun Valley Library.

MOTION (by Mr. O’Gara, seconded by Ms. Vasquez): to purchase up to \$3,000 worth of DVD’s to begin the replacement process of the 900 DVD’s (valued at \$27,000) that were stolen recently from Sun Valley Library.

DISCUSSION: Mr. O’Gara explained that the DVD’s cost around \$30 apiece, and that, since this Item was agendized, the Library was broken into again and their computers were vandalized. Their Adult Services Librarian said that security is being improved.

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT (by Ms. Monroy): to increase the allocation to \$5,000 and add \$2,000 toward repair of the computers.

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT accepted by Mr. O’Gara.

MOTION PASSED by voice vote, with Mr. Piro opposing.

ITEM #3: M/D/V to allocate \$500 to American Legion Post 520 for the use of their facility and labor for the Police/Firefighter and uniformed persons appreciation day event.

MOTION (by Mr. O’Gara, seconded by Ms. Cameron): to allocate \$500 to American Legion Post 520 for the use of their facility and labor for the Police/Firefighter and uniformed persons appreciation day event.

MOTION APPROVED by unanimous voice vote.

Additional Board Comments

Mr. Perdaris noted that Tujunga Avenue between Strathern Street and Saticoy Street finally opened to traffic again.

Adjournment

MOTION (by Mr. O’Gara, seconded by Mr. Piro): to adjourn the Meeting.

MOTION PASSED by unanimous voice vote.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.