

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA

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**SUN VALLEY AREA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
GENERAL BOARD MEETING**

Tuesday, June 10, 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 6:35 p.m. by President Mike O'Gara, who led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Members Present: Mary Benson, Manuel De La Torre (late), Jon Eshbach, Frank Felix, Danielle Harmon, Vinita McClennon, Lee McTaggart, Louis Medina, Julie Monroy, Mike O'Gara, Carmen Perez, and Elidia Vasquez.

Board Members absent were: Dionisio Alcala (excused), Susan Bartlett (excused), Tina Cameron (unexcused), Rafael Cardenas (unexcused), Stephen Franklin (excused), Karina Garcia (excused), Raul Gonzalez (unexcused), Sylvia Gracia (unexcused), Jerry Piro (unexcused), John Prieto (unexcused), Art Sweet (unexcused), and Nancy Vasquez (excused).

Eleven of the 24 Board Members were present, which is a quorum and the business of the Council could be conducted. (The SVANC Bylaws count seven Board Members as a quorum.)

Also present were approximately 21 Stakeholders and Guests.

1A. Opening Remarks

The Citywide Plan for Neighborhood Councils requires that stakeholders assess their local neighborhood council every two years. A single-sheet assessment form will be available at every committee and general meeting in May and June. PLEASE fill out this form, even if you attend briefly, and turn it in when you leave today's meeting. The form is ANONYMOUS, unless you specifically ask us to contact you about an issue, or want to add your name as a volunteer. If you attend more than one meeting please fill out a new form for each meeting you attend.

Mr. O'Gara explained the above.

2. Review, correct and approve the Minutes.

The following correction to the April 8, 2008 General Board Meeting Minutes was requested:

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Page two, Item #7: “. . . 7990 Lorne Street and San Fernando Road” should be “7990 San Fernando Road at Lorne Street.”

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MOTION (by Ms. McTaggart, seconded by Mr. Eshbach): to accept the April 8, 2008 General Board Meeting Minutes, as corrected.

MOTION PASSED by unanimous voice vote.

The following corrections to the May 13, 2008 General Board Meeting Minutes were requested:

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Elidia Vazquez' last name is spelled that way, not “Vasquez”;

Page two, near the bottom, between the paragraphs beginning “Ms. Monroy was announced . . .” and “At this time . . .”, another paragraph to be inserted saying, “The new Board was seated and Mr. O’Gara Chaired the Meeting from here”;

Page five, Item #3: “. . . up to 12 times per” should be “. . . up to 12 times per year”;

Page six, Item #8, second paragraph, “for accountability purposes; the City Controller has requested justification” should be “for accountability purposes”;

Page six, Item #8, fourth paragraph, “Discussion”: “the surveillance van that was damaged” should be “the AutoView license radar patrol car that was damaged”;

Page seven, Item #9, “provided there is a need to provide a second opinion by the Neighborhood Council to the City Planning Department” should be “provided there is a requirement to provide a second opinion by the Neighborhood Council to the [L.A. City] Department of Building and Safety”; and

Page seven, Item #11: “. . . an Ad Hoc Committee which would later be referred to the Rules and Elections Committee” should be “an Ad Hoc Committee.”

MOTION (by Mr. Eshbach, seconded by Ms. Benson): to accept the May 13, 2008 General Board Meeting Minutes, as corrected.

MOTION PASSED by unanimous voice vote.

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[The following Agenda Item was addressed after Item # Unfinished Business #1.]

3. Emergency Personnel from Fire and Police Departments.

LAPD Officer Michael Vasquez reminded everyone to keep our homes secure, including locking windows and cars; “property crimes are up every summer.” Recently, three to four black males were knocking on residential doors and, if no one answered, were burglarizing the homes. If you see something “that doesn’t seem right, call it in”;

“generate a radio call.” “There’re people posing as alarm system installers, too. Tell your neighbors.” There’ll be a Car Show at Grace Community Church in July. Officer Vasquez’ partner reminded everyone to “be careful” of people asking for water, money, etc. Also, National Night Out will be held at North Hollywood Park on August 5th. There’ll be a Small Business Watch Meeting at City National Bank on June 17th, 9:00 – 10:00 a.m., for businesses around San Fernando Road and Strathern Street.

[The following Agenda Item was addressed after Item #2.]

4. Presentation/announcements from elected officials or their representatives.

Eric Menjivar, Field Case Worker for L.A. City District Two Councilwoman Wendy Greuel (818-755-7676; eric.menjivar@lacity.org), announced a free children’s car seat inspection at Saticoy Elementary School in North Hollywood on June 20th, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.; many car seats are not correctly installed. He’ll update the Board about cleaning the historic mural at San Fernando Rd. & Penrose St. on the Swap Meet wall. Mr. Eshbach reminded everyone that they can call the Sun Valley Graffiti Busters to remove graffiti.

Olga Ayala, Field Deputy for L.A. City District Six Councilman Tony Cardenas (818-756-7558; olga.ayala@lacity.org), reported that there was a successful clean-up at Fernangeles Park last weekend. There’ll be a Neighborhood Watch meeting on Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. She’s still checking on Sun Valley Graffiti Busters funding; the paperwork was lost and no funding was supplied because the paperwork wasn’t submitted. Ms. McClennon explained that the City Council Office wanted two separate grant submissions: one for the Chamber of Commerce, and one for the Graffiti Busters. She submitted grant paperwork in behalf of the Chamber of Commerce to the City Council Office on the due date, but never had the Graffiti Busters paperwork

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

Grayce Liu, Neighborhood Empowerment Analyst, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) (office 818-374-6851, cell 323-972-7805; grayce.liu@lacity.org), reminded everyone that Self-Assessment Surveys for Board Members and Stakeholders are due June 30th. Also, the City e-mailed Board Members about a Brown Act revision which takes effect on July 1st and says that says that Meeting Agenda supporting documentation must be available for Stakeholders. There’ll be another Board Members Training on August 16th with both new and advanced tracks; you can submit topic ideas.

6. Presentation and discussion of the rejuvenation project at San Fernando Rd. and Sunland Blvd.

Ms. Ayala introduced L.A. Bureau of Street Services employees Robert Gutierrez, Landscape Architect, and Audrey Netsawang, Landscape Associate (213-847-0901, audrey.netsawang@lacity.org). They’re working on a streetscape project on Sunland Blvd. – Vineland Ave., from San Fernando Rd. to Strathern St., to increase pedestrian and bus safety lighting; replace dying street trees; make crosswalk enhancements; and

re-paint light poles and bus shelters. The gooseneck lights will stay. Construction will start by December. Logos in crosswalks would be two inches in diameter.

Stakeholder Christian Aguirre is concerned about whether the logo material is toxic; Mr. Gutierrez replied that that is not known to be a safety issue. Stakeholder Jack Lindblad is concerned about installing "impervious concrete" while we're needing to capture all the groundwater we can because of the drought; Mr. Gutierrez replied that the concrete is "porous concrete" that's higher-maintenance with a lower life-span than regular concrete, and the manufacturer guarantees it for seven to 10 years. Mr. O'Gara referred people interested in this to the www.sunvalleywatershed.org website. Mr. Gutierrez added that this funding needs to be used soon or will be lost; he's open to making more presentations and attending more community meetings, but we need to decide about this by mid-summer.

Mr. Eshbach noted that if the NC wants to have logos installed in the crosswalks, the NC must pay for them and they cost \$2,000 each; the NC can choose the color and style. Ms. Netsawang agreed to e-mail City logo diagram examples to those interested. Phil Tabbi, Special Projects, for L.A. City District Seven Councilman Richard Alarcon (818-768-0988; phil.tabbi@lacity.org), is concerned that logos would be an unnecessary allocation in view of the City and State budget crises; Mr. O'Gara responded that this is federal grant money that was applied for in 2001 that has just become available and that these crosswalks were "deemed unsafe"; he'll talk with the Chamber of Commerce to facilitate the process. Ms. Ayala requested NC feedback by next month.

7. Public Comment

Stakeholder Ed Drenten asked that the Stonehurst HPOZ (Historic Preservation Overlay Zone) be put onto the next Agenda. He believes that misinformation has been spread and that there's been a lack of outreach, especially to Spanish-speaking people, regarding the HPOZ.

Mr. Lindblad introduced himself as the State Senate 39th District candidate from the Green Party. He declared that we need to change priorities regarding climate change and water misuse, and the NC and other groups need to discuss this.

[The following "Board Member Comments" section was not on the Agenda, but is addressed at every General Board Meeting.]

Board Member Comments

Ms. Benson stated that we need to standardize the Agenda numbering.

Committee Reports

President

Mr. O'Gara had no report at this time.

Treasurer

Ms. Monroy reported that the NC has \$88,000 in its Treasury and that, after DONE makes the annual \$50,000 allocation to the NC on July 1st, there'll be \$138,000 in the Treasury. She described NC expenditures as of May 2008.

Land Use

Ms. Benson reported that the Land Use Committee didn't meet. She thanked the NC for sponsoring her to attend the State of California Parks and Recreation Trails and Greenways Conference May 28-30; there was lots of information presented regarding beautifying the community and about horse riding, walking and biking trails.

Outreach

Mr. O'Gara reported that 300 letters were sent to Stakeholders regarding this Meeting being held.

Bradley EIR (Environmental Impact Report) Ad-Hoc

Stakeholder Karl Kunak reported that there was a good Meeting regarding street maintenance, and that they're working with Councilman Cardenas' Office. Mike Kodama, Planning Consultant, Michael Kodama and Associates, and Stakeholder Doug Corcoran helped facilitate the meeting. Mr. Kunak announced that he is resigning as the Committee Chair as of July 1st.

Ad-hoc Office

Mr. Kunak announced that he is resigning as the Committee Chair as of July 1st.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

[The following Agenda Item was addressed after Item #1A.]

1. Motion/Discussion/Vote: Appropriation of \$7,000 for the purchase of a van for the Volunteer Surveillance Team.

LAPD (L.A. Police Dept.) Officer Tim Walia (818-834-3155) explained that this Item was Tabled at last month's Meeting; it's about helping to purchase a surveillance van for the Foothill Volunteer Surveillance Team (FVST) (Officer Walia or 818-834-3156). He explained the four-page "LAPD FOOTHILL AREA: Volunteer Surveillance Team" handout that his partner, Officer Sharon Rumenapp (818-834-3156), distributed. They're asking for an additional \$7,000, with a goal to "capture narcotics transactions." A night camera, GPS unit, and special binoculars, that'd be used by the FVST, were displayed.

MOTION (by Mr. Eshbach, seconded by Ms. Harmon): to allocate \$7,000 for the purchase of a van for the Foothill Volunteer Surveillance Team.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Eshbach declared that this is an "investment in" the "well-being of the community." Ms. Benson is supportive, but wants a "verbal commitment from the

Officers” to advise the NC regarding the \$3,000 already allocated by the NC to finance the previous FVST installation.

MOTION PASSED by a unanimous voice vote.

2. BRIEF Discussion of cleaning the mural at San Fernando Rd. & Penrose St. on the Swap Meet wall.

Mr. O’Gara suggested and it was agreed to **TABLE** this Item to the next General Board Meeting, as Ms. Bartlett is not in attendance.

3. BRIEF Discussion: Appropriate \$500 from the Land Use budget to purchase an independent engineering report on the project at 12515 Sheldon St.

Ms. Benson reported that the Zoning Administrator referred the case back to City Planning Department staff for additional environmental review; we still have the \$500 to allocate which we approved at the May General Board Meeting.

4. BRIEF Discussion: Posting places for meeting Agendas.

Mr. Eshbach suggested and it was agreed to **TABLE** this Item to the next General Board Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Motion/Discussion/Vote: Outreach in support of Hansen Dam July 4th Celebration.

Stakeholder Cile Borman reported that she’s been outreaching to all the local NCs regarding the Celebration, which is “the biggest celebration of its kind in the San Fernando Valley.” She’s seeking funds “to advertise NCs . . . and further promote outreach.” Other NCs have approved or pledged funding for this. There’ll be an “NCs Avenue,” and green tote bags and banners with all the supporting NCs’ names.

MOTION (by Mr. Eshbach, seconded by Mr. Felix): to allocate \$500 to support the Hansen Dam July 4th Celebration.

MOTION PASSED by unanimous voice vote.

1A. Motion/Discussion/Vote: to have a booth at Hansen Dam on July 4th to let the community know about the existence of the Neighborhood Council.

Mr. Eshbach wants the booth to be manned from the 11:00 a.m. Celebration start until the beginning of the fireworks. Ms. Borman said that booth manning is up to each NC and that they especially need bi-lingual Spanish-English speakers for the booths.

MOTION (by Mr. Eshbach, seconded by Ms. Harmon): to have a booth at the Hansen Dam July 4th Celebration to let the community know about the existence of the Neighborhood Council.

MOTION PASSED by unanimous voice vote.

MOTION (by Mr. Eshbach, seconded by Ms. Monroy): to extend the Meeting to no later than 9:00 p.m.

MOTION PASSED by unanimous voice vote.

2. Motion/Discussion/Vote: to identify a brand SVANC through nameplates, business cards, banners and stationary.

Ms. Benson mentioned that Ms. McClennon created example NC Board Member nameplates and would talk about that. Ms. McClennon displayed and described the nameplate examples, and explained various formats and options in which the nameplates are available. She also obtained a bid of \$375 to print business cards for the entire Board.

MOTION (by Ms. Monroy): to allocate \$25 to purchase Board Member nameplates based upon the example that has Mr. Eshbach's name on it in large print.

The above Motion was not seconded and was not returned to.

DISCUSSION: Business card design was discussed.

MOTION (by Mr. Eshbach, seconded by Ms. Harmon): to have generic NC business cards that are similar to the LAPD business cards.

MOTION PASSED by voice vote, with Ms. Monroy opposed.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Benson noted that the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council has pre-printed stationary with their NC name on it that helps with official responses. Ms. Vazquez volunteered to investigate stationary print job availability and cost. It was agreed to **TABLE** further discussion about stationary until the next Meeting.

3. Motion/Discussion/Vote: to provide financial support to Van Nuys Rescue Mission "Showers for the Homeless."

Stakeholder Jill Campbell said that the "Showers" have been good for the homeless and the community, and "cuts down on crime." She's asking for a \$10,000 allocation and introduced Ken Craft, San Fernando Valley Rescue Mission Director (818-275-4476, ext. 5070; kcraft@erescuemission.org). Mr. Craft distributed a two-page letter from the Mission to the NC, the "Rescue Mission News," and an article about the Mission. He noted that the San Fernando Valley is estimated to have 8,000 homeless people and one rescue mission, while downtown has 10,000 homeless people and four rescue missions. They're working every day to get homeless people off the street, with a goal of one to two people per week; so far, they've been successful. Every day they're in a different Valley community. Ms. Campbell said that they're collecting clothes and toiletries for distribution.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Benson noted that NCs are prohibited from allocating money to non-profit organizations and would need to “clear the City Controller.” Ms. Campbell stated that they’ll “do whatever” they need to facilitate allocations. Ms. Liu recommended Tabling this discussion until the NC can figure out how to allocate this funding.

MOTION (by Mr. Eshbach, and was seconded): to **TABLE** further discussion about this and seek ways to allocate funding for the San Fernando Valley Rescue Mission’s “Mobile Shower Program” without violating any rules.

4. Motion/Discussion/Vote: to approve \$400 for security cases for the DVDs for the Library.

MOTION (by Mr. Eshbach, seconded by Ms. Benson): to approve \$400 for security cases for the DVDs for the Library.

MOTION PASSED by unanimous voice vote.

5. Motion/Discussion/Vote: to approve reimbursing Mike O’Gara \$76.00 from petty cash for helium used on Earth Day.

MOTION (by Mr. Eshbach, seconded by Ms. McTaggart): to approve reimbursing Mike O’Gara \$76.00 from petty cash for helium used on Earth Day.

MOTION PASSED by unanimous voice vote.

6. Motion/Discussion/Vote: Purchase books for after-school program and Homework Club at Sun Valley RC.

It was suggested by Ms. Monroy and agreed to **TABLE** this Item.

7. Send letter of thanks for his service to John Prieto, who has missed four consecutive meetings and per the Bylaws has resigned.

Mr. O’Gara volunteered to send the letter to Mr. Prieto and also to Ms. Gracia, who has also missed four consecutive meetings and per the Bylaws has resigned.

8. Adjourn

It was agreed by unanimous voice vote to **ADJOURN** the Meeting at 9:05 p.m.