

**Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council
General Meeting
on
Tuesday, October 13, 2009
6:30pm – 8:30pm**

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

Board Member	Title	Status
Mike O’Gara	President	Present
Mary Benson	1st Vice President	Present
Elidia Vasquez	2nd Vice President	Absent
Karina Garcia Valles	Secretary	Absent
Julie Monroy	Treasurer	Absent
Susan A. Bartlett	Board Member	Present
Jon Eshbach	Board Member	Present
Stephen Franklin	Board Member	Absent
Jerry Piro	Board Member	Absent
Luis O. Medina	Board Member	Absent
Manuel “Manny” de la Torre	Board Member	Present
Angel Silva	Board Member	Absent
Lee McTaggart	Board Member	Present
Rafael Cárdenas	Board Member	Absent
Carmen Perez	Board Member	Present
Dionisio Alcala, Jr.	Board Member	Absence excused
Arthur “Art” Sweet	Board Member	Absence excused
Nicholas Dalton Powell	Board Member	Present
Nick Perdaris	Board Member	Absent
Samuel Palomino	Board Member	Present

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

- Mike O. took roll and after meeting quorum called the meeting to order at approximately 6:37 p.m.
- Mike read the SVANC’s pledge of allegiance
- Jon recited the Pledge of Allegiance

2. Opening Remarks –

- Mike O. announced that Mary, Sammy and he attended the Neighborhood Congress on Saturday, October 10th, and stated that the Mayor gave no concrete information about the budget’s forecast. The Mayor did, however, give a 30-minute speech stating that he was really going to push to make sure that the City residents’ trash fees which went from \$11 to \$36/month would be used to not reduce the police force and keep filling the academy. The mayor also stated that he would fight the City Council to make sure that they did not reduce police force and keep filling the police academy classes every month.

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- Mike O. also mentioned that on March 27, the SVANC will have an election of the NC, at which time all 21 Board positions will be elected for a term of two years. The City Clerk will conduct the elections in order to give credibility to the Neighborhood Councils. However, the City Clerk's office is not paying for anything. The outreach, publicity, printing, mailers' activities, etc., have to be paid for by the NCs.
- Mike O. added that there are nine NCs in Section B—having elections on March 27th—Section A is having their election on March 2nd with 11 NCs.
- Stella, Election's Division at the City Clerk's office, will give a brief presentation about the NCs elections.
- Mike O. announced that the SVANC, the Foothill Trails NC and the Shadow Hills Home Owners Association along with two other individuals partnered to buy the Jaws-of-Life for fire station 77 because the Sun Valley fire station did not have the equipment to rescue someone trapped in a car.

3. Emergency Personnel from Fire and Police Departments - Esther Vasquez, Senior Lead Officer, and Officer Michelle Rodriguez, Senior Lead Officer, LAPD's Foothill Division.

- Officer Vasquez gave a crime update about the Sun Valley area and stated that there are a lot of illegal marijuana clinics by Fernangeles Park
- The officer announced that there have been a couple of robberies at Taco trucks
- The officer announced that property crime is the only crime that has not been declining
- The rest of the Officer's remarks were not clear on the recording.
- Carmen added that there are street-walking women who walk the streets around 5:30 or 6:00 a.m. behind San Fernando Road on Roscoe, behind the school. The Officer mentioned that undercover officers have been working that area and since then, that type of crime has come down.

4. Presentation/Announcements from Elected Officials or their Representatives-

- Louie Sanchez, Assemblyman Felipe Fuentes' office, the consultant on the 'Assembly Select Committee on the Census.' He informed the community that the actual census day is April 2010. He stressed the importance of the census and the importance of participating in the census, and what it means to the community.
- Every 10 years, the federal government counts everybody and based on that count, it distributes political representation. This count has evolved on how the government distributes federal funds. Every year the federal government gives away \$400 billion dollars a year based on the census population.
- Mike O. stated that there were false "Census takers" burglarizing homes. This is mistaken with census takers who, starting in January 2009, were 'address-canvassing,' meaning that they were collecting addresses, and that portion of the census has passed. From now to the end of the census no one will be knocking on your door until about mid April 2010; and that is after you've had two or three opportunities to fill-out your census form.
- An advisory census letter will be mailed out on March 8th, 2010, then on the 15th or 17th of March the first census form will be mailed out to your address on record. Then a second form will be mailed out to your address, and if you don't fill out those forms, then someone will go out to your address and knock on your door and ask you to fill out the form.

5. Comments from DONE Representative – None

5a. Presentation from the Community Redevelopment Agency regarding Sun Valley, Al Santillanes, Project Manager for the CRA representing the East Valley Area/Region

- The East Valley Area/Region has three redevelopment area projects.
- Mr. Santillanes stated that this is a Redevelopment project area in which the CRA has been involved in for close to 15 years. This project area includes Sun Valley, and is part of the Panorama City/Pacoima Redevelopment project.
- This project area consists of over 4,000 acres and it was adopted in November of 1994 as a result of the 1994 Northridge earthquake that happened in January of that year.
- The project end date for this was set for 20 years and it is scheduled to end in December 2015. The reason that it was initially created was to address all the business and homes that were affected by the earthquake.
- The CRA has been out in the community for 15 years taking care of a number of homes and businesses in the area, and has been providing economic development activities since that time as well.
- The CRA has engaged in a couple of community efforts that have mainly talked about the envisioning processes and strategic plans that have taken place in the past year by a series of a consultant team hired by the CRA.
- These efforts will lead into a very important 2nd part, which is the redevelopment plan amendment and expansion.
- The CRA made an appeal to the attendees to get involved in the process of not only to help the CRA create a vision and plan for the project area, but more importantly for the purpose of extending the life of the CRA's redevelopment plan.
- The redevelopment plan is due to end in the next five years, and there is a lot more work to be done out here in the Sun Valley project area.
- The CRA's project timeline is a 12-month study that begun in April of this year (2009). The CRA has held one round of workshops in July and Sun Valley had about 30 of its residents who attended. Another set of workshops will begin in November of 2009 and the final workshop will take place in February and March of 2010.
- Araceli, consultant with the CRA for the Community Outreach component, asked the attendees interested in being included in the mailing list to sign the sign in sheet.
- Araceli stated that their goal is to discuss the NE San Fernando Valley neighborhoods' challenges, to gain an understanding of the community's shared vision for the area and their desire of improving their neighborhoods.
- The workshops presented were interactive with five stations, each one with a different topic: 1. Neighborhood identity; 2. Housing, jobs & business; 3. Transportation alternatives; 4. Open space opportunity; and, 5. Retail and entertainment. Araceli distributed questionnaires for stakeholders' input regarding their neighborhoods.
- The overall Sun Valley project area's feedback from the community is the need for basic amenities to raise the quality of life, better mobility options, safer and more pocket parks, access to grocery stores/retail main street plaza, access to health centers/clinics/medical facilities, greener neighborhoods, destinations for local residents, quality jobs, programs for the youth and opportunities for recent immigrants to better assimilate, job training/vocational programs, improved schools, mixed-use and mixed-income housing, more affordable and senior housing, better

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bus service with covered bus areas, repair sidewalks and street trees, soccer fields, pocket parks, jogging trails, etc.

- The 2nd round of public meetings will begin in November starting on Thursday, November 5th in Mission Hills, but it will cover the Sylmar-Mission Hill area; on Saturday, November 7th in Panorama City; on Monday, November 9th in Pacoima; on Monday, November 16th in Sun Valley. A flyer was distributed which includes the dates, locations and times. For more information on the project visit www.crala.org/pacoima.
- This CRA District was created after the Northridge earthquake in 1994.

5b. Presentation from the City Clerk regarding NC Elections, Stella Yun Project Election Coordinator

- The City Clerk has developed two procedures using the SVANC's bylaws
- Stella informed the Board that the SVANC's election will take place on Saturday, March 27th, 2010 from 10:00 am to 04:00 pm and that the SVANC's time was changed to accommodate the location. Mike informed Ms. Yun that the election division picked a location which the SVANC is against. Furthermore, Mike O. informed Stella that the SVANC's elections will be held between 1:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Yun stated that the date set by the City Clerk was based on the information the SVANC filled out on the election procedures. Mike replied that the form was originally filled out with the 1:00 – 7:00 time frame and included five locations, the number one location being Poly H.S. Every SVANC election has been held at Poly H.S. because of its big auditorium, plenty of parking, and everyone in the neighborhood knows how to get there and where to park. Mike added that he's been informed that the City Clerks office has decided to have the SVANC's elections at Sun Valley Park on Saturday, March 27th in the middle of their baseball season. The address for Sun Valley park is Vineland Blvd., it is a difficult place to get to because this Boulevard splits-off about two blocks South from the park. The major problem is lack of parking at this location. Mike informed Ms. Yun that the SVANC will not hold the election at the park, instead it will be held at Poly H.S., which has already been reserved for that date.
- Mike O. Also stated that he informed Isaias Cantu that the SVANC will pay the difference for the location cost of the park in order to hold the election at Poly H.S., which is a difference of \$30 per hour.
- Ms. Yun stated that Isaias is talking to their administration office in regards to the fee and he will call Mike O. tomorrow to further discuss it.
- Ms. Yun stated that the City Clerk Election Division will not be able to take part in the election's outreach process. They will not distribute mailers or hold candidate forums. The outreach activities will be the NCs' responsibility. The ballots will not be counted at the polling location, instead, they will be transported to the Piper Technical Center, the City's elections headquarters, and will be counted on the City's next business day, at which time the unofficial election results will be made available. The official election results will be ready and posted on the website within seven City's business days. Any observer who wishes to observe the counting process can contact the office's public counter at (213) 978-0444.
- Ms. Yun asked that anyone who is interested in participating in the NC Pollworker Volunteer Program to contact their Pollworker Recruitment Office at Clerk.ElectionPW@lacity.org or call (213) 978-0363. The City Clerk's office will only

As approved by the Board at the November 10, 2009 General Board's meeting provide one person the day of the election. No candidate will be allowed to volunteer at any other NC within their region.

- The Candidate filing form will be available in the future, online and at a stakeholder candidate information meeting before December 28—which is the candidate filing period deadline. Mike O. asked to have the filing forms as soon as possible in November in order to include it in an information packet that will be mailed out by the SVANC.
- Mike O. held a meeting on October 5th for the nine NCs in Region Section B, and six NC reps attended to talk about joining forces in outreach to share cost. Another meeting will be held at the SVANC's office on October 19th, at 6:00 pm with the nine NCs to further discuss advertisement and other costs in order to share expenses for the outreach activities.

6. Public Comment -

- Karl K.- commented that more volunteers and donations were needed for the Valley Rescue Mission, especially during the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday, where about 1,000 are expected to visit for a meal. He stated that there are approximately 80,000 homeless in the Valley. The Mission is located on the corner of Tujunga and Valerio. Donations can be mailed directly to the Mission. Also, office volunteers are welcomed during the week.
- Nina Royal.- talked about a Veteran's day parade to be held on October 11th at 11:00 am on Laurel Canyon and Brand Blvd., and invited all the veterans and/or their relatives and friends to participate. Ms. Royal stated that the North Valley Reporter is a newspaper that provides an opportunity to print community service information, free of charge. She also welcomes stories written by the local stakeholders. Ms. Royal asked for help with the distribution of this paper to the different subscribers' addresses, currently it circulates to 450 addresses. The paper is distributed in Mission Hills, Pacoima, Sylmar, Arleta, Panorama City, and Sun Valley.

7. Board Member Comments and Committee Reports

- Jon commented on the fact that since a lot of the City services are being cut due to the budget, there are certain things within the community that the SVANC should consider addressing/looking into how it can help for programs/projects such as, the sidewalks that are a hazard to people, the speed-humps program that help slow down traffic, etc.

8. Committee Reports :

- **President:** None
- **Treasurer:** Mike O. went to DONE and turned in the invoices. He stated that the consultant contracted by the SVANC for the Community Recycling's EIR for \$6,000 had to fill out a contract with the City, which entailed 76 different topics. He also stated that the City will do the roll over since the SVANC is in compliance.
- **Land Use:** Mary B. stated that there are a lot of general land use issues with the City, but of major issue is the City's bicycle plan. On Monday, October 26th, the City will meet at the Marvin Braude Bldg., 6262 Van Nuys Blvd., at 5:00-7:00 pm to talk about the Citywide bicycle plan.
- The land use regular meetings will start again soon to discuss Citywide plans that includes the redevelopment agency.

- **Environmental Justice**: There is a North Valley Planning Commission meeting to meet this week or next week and will discuss WM at their next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

ITEM 9: Outreach Committee- Volunteers are needed to work on outreach. A board member asked for the rest of the board members to volunteer and Mike informed him that currently there are about five board vacancies.

ITEM 10: Discussion of Election Committee Chairman – Mike O. asked for a volunteer chairman, which can be a stakeholder, for the elections committee especially in lieu of the fact that an SVANC election will take place on March 27, 2010. Any person who is chairman of the election committee can still run for the board as long as he/she resigns of his/her committee's responsibilities.

ITEM 11: Appoint Sam Khalaf to planning committee, but the SVANC still needs more people.

- Sam was appointed unanimously at the September's SVANC regular board meeting.
- Mike O. handed Sam some plans regarding a 110-unit apartment building that a developer wants to build on Armenta and is only proposing 67 parking spaces.

ITEM 12: Community Affairs Committee

- Mike has asked three times for volunteers for the Community Affairs Committee in order to facilitate the public's input/questions/concerns on particular projects that do not get much response from the City. Mike asked for volunteers that can help answer some of the public's questions on how to navigate through the City's bureaucracy and direct them where to go.

NEW BUSINESS:

ITEM 13: Review, correct and approve minutes from our September 8, 2009 meeting. (Karina Vallas)

- Mike O. asked if an amendment was added to the September's Agenda to have a presentation on an action item for the 7-11 or was it part of the public comment. Nick answered that it was a presentation by the 7-11.
- Jon made the motion to approve the minutes and was seconded by Nick. Without further discussion the motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 14: **Report from and possible** Discussion from our Representative on the Mayors budget (Mary Benson)

- Mary reported that October 10th was the Mayor's budget day whom reported exactly zero information regarding the budget, except that the City was spending \$1 million per day more than it's taking into its budget.
- Last week one of the public safety committee recommendations was that the police department stop hiring new police.

ITEM 15: Report from the Congress of Neighborhoods held October 10, 2009 at City Hall (Mary Benson)

- Sam attended the NC Congress on October 10th in City Hall. The City's mayor made a presentation about the 2010 City's budget at the Congress. At that time, the mayor indicated that he had hired 300 more police officers at a cost of \$176 million per year. The mayor defended his position stating that this expense would be recuperated from the trash increase fees.
- Mike O. stated that the new City attorney has won 19 cases against people suing the City. But when Delgadillo was the City attorney, he always referred these cases to outside council, which resulted in hundreds-of-thousands of dollars spent for outside attorneys who just settled these cases.
- The new City Attorney has a new policy where his people will defend the cases if the City's people are culpable, but in 19 cases the new City attorney looked at these cases and decided that the City is not culpable in any way.
- Sam also added that the new City Controller was introduced and she has started doing audits throughout all the neighborhoods. He stated that the bottom line is for all the stakeholders to know how the taxpayers' monies are being spent.
- Mike O. attended a seminar where DONE and BONC wanted all the NCs' bylaws to be the same and they decided at that meeting not to consolidate because of opposition.

ITEM 16: Motion/Discussion /Vote To send a representative to the VICA meeting on Oct 29th at a Cost of \$200.

- Jon made the motion and Nick seconded it
- The motion passed unanimously

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ITEM 17: Motion/Discussion /Vote to spend up to \$8000 for costs associated with the March 27 Neighborhood Council Election. Unlike in the past, the City will NOT pay for any costs (Mike O'Gara)

- Mary made the motion and Nick seconded it
- The motion passed unanimously

TEM 18: Motion/Discussion /Vote to pay \$500 for Halloween festivities at BOTH Sun Valley Park and Fernangeles Park (Karina Vallas)

- Jon made the motion and it was seconded by Mary for this item to be approved up to \$700
- The motion passed unanimously

ITEM 19: Motion/Discussion/Vote to approve \$250 to support Outreach and programs for Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils including their annual Holiday gathering of City Officials.

- Jon made the motion and Mary seconded it
- The motion passed unanimously

ITEM 20: Discussion and **Possible** Motion/Vote To approve letters to the Planning Dept with Comments from the SVANC Planning Committee on proposed planning issues in Sun Valley (MARY BENSON)

- Seven board members were in favor and 1 voted against it fo the 10973 Penrose St.
- The motion passed

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ITEM 21: Public Comment - None

ITEM 22: ADJOURN – Jon made the motion and was seconded by Nick to adjourn the meeting at approximately 09:47 pm.