

**Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council  
General Meeting  
on  
Tuesday, November 10, 2009  
6:30pm – 8:30pm**

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

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Status</b>
Mike O’Gara	President	Present
Mary Benson	1st Vice President	Present
Elidia Vasquez	2nd Vice President	Present
Karina Garcia Valles	Secretary	Absent
Julie Monroy	Treasurer	Absent
Susan A. Bartlett	Board Member	Absence excused
Jon Eshbach	Board Member	Present
Stephen Franklin	Board Member	Present
Jerry Piro	Board Member	Present
Luis O. Medina	Board Member	Absent
Manuel “Manny” de la Torre	Board Member	Absent
Angel Silva	Board Member	Absent
Lee McTaggart	Board Member	Absent
Rafael Cárdenas	Board Member	Absent
Carmen Perez	Board Member	Present
Dionisio Alcalá, 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 6:35 p.m.
- Nick recited the Pledge of Allegiance
- Mike recited the SVANC’s pledge of allegiance

**2. Opening Remarks –**

- Mike O. announced that Greg Bartz, LADWP, left handouts for all attendees.
- Mike stated that the State’s Water Agreement will be voted on next November and if approved by the voters it will cost taxpayers \$11B.
- Mike announced the SVANC’s elections will be held on March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010, any candidates interested please see Mike O. At which time, the SVANC will have 21 new Board members.
- Mike announced that an AQMD meeting was being held this evening at Byrd Middle School organized by Senator Padilla’s office. A Board member is attending and will share notes with the rest of the Board at December’s board meeting.

- Mike O. attended a Dept. of Public Works' meeting yesterday on Alternative Technology in waste facilities. They are looking for 1 place in each of the 7 waste sheds in the City. The Alternative Technology will be placed in Perris, Calif. The actual technology is AeroBio digestion technology. It is a partnership with one of the area's big MERF Transfer Station operators called CR&R, which is located in Perris.

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

- None

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

- Erick Menjivar, CD2 field deputy, reported that the cement contractor for the Glenoaks Voit Art medium project is scheduled to pour half of the cement footings into the ground very soon.
- Mike the artist of the Voit project is having steel inspectors check the welding on the art work to make sure it is done correctly.
- The elections for the CD2 seat will be held on Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>.
- The Bureau of Street Lighting is starting a new program for LED lights which will be installed on steel and cement posts, replacing the old cobra head lights. The LED lights are more energy efficient and a cost saving measure. A pilot program was done in CD2 in North Hollywood's Teasdale Ave, near the major streets Stratton and Bel Air.
- Mary asked Erick that since a lot of Sun Valley is on low light areas, will these increase the amount of light? Erick answered that it all depends on the type of pole, but will contact the person in charged of the program to let him know these concerns.

**5. Comments from DONE Representative –**

- Barry Stone announced that the SVANC will have their election in 2010. The Department will be helping with outreach efforts for the elections citywide.
- Barry informed the attendees that a series of Open Dialogue and Candidate Prep Sessions are being held throughout the City. The first session in the East Valley Area will be held on November 19<sup>th</sup>, Beachy Avenue Elementary from 6:30 – 8:30 pm; the second session will be held on January 14<sup>th</sup>, location TBA, from 6:30 – 8:30 pm; and the Candidate Prep session will be held on February 25<sup>th</sup>, location TBA, from 6:30 – 8:30 pm.
- On Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at Marvin Braude Bldg, there will be a Valley Regional Training. The topics include "Tools for Effective Self Governance," "Ethics Training," "Update on 2010 Elections," and "Census 2010."

**5a. Presentation from the Director of Street Services Bill Robinson regarding Payments for Sidewalk repairs also Sheldon Street Resurface & Speed Humps**

- Mr. Robinson stated the following during his presentation:
  - The sidewalk policy in the City of L.A. has never been publicized. The residents don't know who is responsible for the sidewalk repairs.
  - The City is trying to come up with a new sidewalk policy for repairs. The current backlog to fix the sidewalks in the City of L.A. is \$1.2 billion.
  - The City of L.A. has 10,750 miles of sidewalks and 4,600 miles have damaged sidewalks.

- The State of Calif Improvement Act of 1911 provides cities the authority to require property owners to effect repairs to sidewalks abutting their property.
- In 1974, the federal govt. created the CETA (Comprehensive Employment Training Act) training program for a city service.
- LA Municipal Code (Section 62.104, Ordinance No. 146,040 effective 7/2/1974) exempts homeowners from the responsibility for sidewalk repairs caused by tree root growth.
- In 2000, the City started a City General Funded sidewalk program with approximately \$9 million.
- Currently, the sidewalk repair options include:
  - 1911 Act – Enforcement
  - Point of Sale/Permitting – if a house is for sale but the sidewalk abutting the property is in disrepair, then the sale will not be finalized until the property owner fixes the sidewalk.
  - Point of Sale/Permitting – commercial
  - Point of Sale – 50/50 voluntary sidewalk repair
  - 1911 Act – Enforcement/ Liability Risks
  - Benefit Assessment Districts
  - General Obligation Bonds
  - Third Party Funding
- The action plan is the following:
  - On December 16<sup>th</sup>, the options will be presented to the Public Works Committee, and then the Committee will select the most viable options.
  - The Bureau of Street Services will begin Neighborhood Council Outreach.
  - The Bureau of Street Services will report back to the Public Works Committee in 120 days.
- The City did not plant the trees, the City does not own the tree—the adjacent property owner owns the tree, but the tree can't be cut without prior City's permission.
- In reference to Sheldon, Mr. Robinson will look into doing those asphalt wings, and in early July 2010 use it as a pilot project. He will ask the manufacturer of the new mix design to help with the cost.
- Mike asked about the hold on Glenoaks because of the potential project to fix flooding. Mr. Robinson stated that there may be a capital improvement project in the future to do that area to address the drainage, but Mr. Robinson will check with the County and get back to the Board.
- The average cost to repair a side walk is about \$3,500. This cost is based on the worst possible case.
- Mr. Robinson can be reached at (213) 847-3333 or at [William.Robertson@lacity.org](mailto:William.Robertson@lacity.org).

**5b. Update from Chip Clements regarding Community Recycling & Resource Recovery**

- The City released the Draft EIR in April 23, 2009. Three public meetings took place on May 21<sup>st</sup>, June 23<sup>rd</sup> and July 8<sup>th</sup>. CRRR had a meeting during this period with SVANC's Environmental Justice Committee.
- The Comment period closed for the Draft EIR on August 17<sup>th</sup>, resulting in a 116 day public review period.

- Bureau of Sanitation, the Dept. of Transportation, SCAQMD, SVANC, Councilman Cardenas' office, Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church and several other individuals submitted comments on the Draft EIR. The primary topics of concern focused on traffic, the enclosure of the operations, aesthetics, waste water and hydrology, and CEQA base line measure issues.
- The consulting team is working on the draft responses to these comments and the goal is to turn these to the City Planning before Thanksgiving. After the City reviews these responses, then they will provide any further comments, requests for more info., clarifications, changes, etc.
- Finally, the City will publish the final EIR probably sometime in spring 2010, and then the City will set a date for the Planning Commission's hearing.
- CCRRR is planning another meeting with Councilman Cárdenas. They are following Waste Management's project very closely, due to the similarity of issues.
- CCRRR is open for suggestions, comments, questions, and is available to give tours of the facility.
- Mr. Clements asked to be included in SVANC's January meeting's agenda to present CCRRR's revised project. The Board will get back to Mr. Clements with a date.

#### 6. **Public Comment** -

- Al Santillanes, Project Manager with the CRA, announced a workshop for the Sun Valley & North Hollywood Communities at Villa Scalibrini, on Monday, November 16 from 6:00 – 8:00 pm. The focus of the workshop is to share your vision for making the northeast San Fernando Valley a better place to live, work, play and do business.

#### 7. **Board Member Comments**

- None

#### 8. **Committee Reports** :

- **President**: Mike O. mentioned the need for volunteers to work in committees such as outreach, land use, elections, etc.
- **Treasurer**: none
- **Land Use**: Mary B. announced that there are a number of Citywide plans that are taking place and the land use committee's priority is to appeal some of these land use decisions. However the fees to appeal these decisions, in some cases, have been increased by 1000%. Mary asked anyone who might be interested in pushing to get the NCs back on the City Council's agenda to be the appellant for this decision, to talk to her. Also, during the last couple of weeks several meetings were held to comment on the citywide bike plan. However there were a number of groups that were opposed to the bike path. Sun Valley's section has Penrose as a bike-friendly street. Currently there is a stakeholder group working for a citywide bike plan. Mary will write a letter from Sun Valley to the City emphasizing that the City should be reimbursed by the consultant who did a bad job on the citywide bike plan.
- Mary also mentioned that Mike attended a conference about accessory dwelling unit issues where a property owner is allowed to build more than one house on a single family zoned lot, a granny flat, by right if your property is bigger than 7,500 square feet. Also the city is partially considering the rezoning of housing in flood areas.

- **Environmental Justice:** The City Planning Commission with Bradley landfill is not settled yet and was continued to December 22<sup>nd</sup>. Two of the main points of contention are the green waste and the tipping fees issues.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Item 9:** Outreach Committee - Mike once again asked for volunteers for this committee.

**Item 10:** Discussion of Election Committee Chairman – Mike mentioned the need to have a Chairperson for this committee.

**Item 11:** Community Affairs Committee - Mike once again asked for volunteers for this committee.

**Item 12:** Report from Mary Benson re: The VICA (Valley Industry and Commerce Association) Seminar, which was sponsored by Woodbury College, stated that the College is very interested in opening a site in Sun Valley. They are working on a number of programs such as an Architectural Design studio and might be able to help Sun Valley with some concept plans. Other subjects mentioned at the seminar were regarding water and power and how L.A. if working with the State to make sure the City has a reliable water supply and there will be a continuous water saving campaign in the County of L.A.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**ITEM 13:** Review, correct and approve minutes from our October 13, 2009 meeting. (Karina Vallas) – motion moved by Jon and seconded by Mary to approve the minutes as corrected.  
- Motion carried.

**ITEM 14:** Discussion and possible motion and Vote to inform the dept of Street Services how SVANC feels payment for sidewalk repairs should be made (SEE Item 5a above)  
- Item tabled: this item will be tabled until Bill Robinson comes back to the SVANC to talk about it after December 16<sup>th</sup>.

**ITEM 15:** Motion/Discussion /Vote to renew the lease on the office for the third year-- Lease is up Nov 30 (Mike O’Gara)  
- The lease amount is \$800/month, approximately  
- Motion moved by Jon and seconded by Nick  
- Motion carried.

**ITEM 16:** Discussion/Motion/Vote on Purchase of new Telephone for the office not to exceed \$100.  
- Motion moved by Jon and seconded by Mary.  
- Motion carried.

**ITEM 17:** Discussion/Motion/Vote for SVANC to participate in Children’s Day at Woodley Park. Not to exceed \$1000 (Jon Eshbach & Susan Bartlett)  
- Jon stated that a grant is being asked from SVANC for the San Fernando Valley Coalition of Gangs’ event. The Coalition provides alternatives for at-risk youth.  
- Mike stated the he opposes this because the SVANC should have had this request over three months ago. When the SVANC gives funds to events, the SVANC must receive advertising, outreach, the SVANC’s logo on the flyers, etc. Also, the other objection is because the event is being held outside of Sun Valley’s City boundaries and lastly, if this event in any way, shape or form is going to help the children in Sun Valley, then how are these children supposed to get to the event? There is no mode of transportation discussed. However, if next year, the SVANC is given at least three months in advance

for this request of funds then the mode of transportation for the Sun Valley kids to the event needs to be addressed.

- Jon rebutted by stating that the funds raised at this event, over and above the expenses to organize it, will be distributed amongst non-profits and schools, some of which are in Sun Valley. It was discussed that the SVANC should know the amounts and the names of the organizations and the locations that would receive part of the funds raised.
- Mary stated that this event is an opportunity for the SVANC to be seen as part of the greater San Fernando Valley community. Mary moved for SVANC to give \$500 and Jon seconded it but no vote was taken.
- Mary moved and Jon seconded – 2 in favor, 6 against, and 1 abstention. The motion failed.

**ITEM 18:** Discussion and **Possible** Motion/Vote To approve letters to the Planning Dept with Comments from the SVANC on proposed planning issues in Sun Valley ( MARY BENSON). This will include an 80' Cell tower at 9005 Bradley Ave and another one at 11401 Tuxford St. The 100 unit Apartment building on Armenta Street between Stagg and Fair. The Development Project APCNV 2009-1410-ZC-BI located at 9355 San Fernando Road and Sheldon Street, where a Developer is planning to re-do this corner, but it is not clear what will be built at that corner. The request for bid at LA Paperstock on Pendleton from LA Times. Lopez Canyon Truck Driving School. Tehachipi Valley Ready mix 11357 West Pendleton St AQMD hearing

- Mary stated that no letters will be sent out because the Land Use committee has not met. She stated disappointment on the lack of stakeholders' interest in these major projects.
- Mary asked the SVANC's opinion on involving the CRA on the 9355 San Fernando Road project because it is in a CRA zone.
- Mary stated that Mike found that Tehachipi Ready mix is being cited at the AQMD hearing, on Thursday November 12<sup>th</sup>.
- The Wealtha Street Pit hearing will take place on November 12<sup>th</sup> in Superior Court.
- Marlene and Nancy asked the SVANC's continued support relative to the Truck Driving School that is being planned on top of the Lopez Canyon Landfill, and thanked everyone for their efforts. Due to this unity, the project was sent to the Planning level. The City has hired a very experienced consultant to make the case as to why there should be a zone variance. The concern with this project is that he is trying to minimize the impacts by saying that the Driving School will only take up 1 ½ acres, but the driving school activities will take place on city streets surrounding Lopez Canyon. Of utmost concern is if the City grants a zoning variance which does not actually exist for open space, this would set a very negative precedent.
- Mike stated that he wants to object to the 85' cell tower at 9005 Bradley Ave which is on the Newman property, but would be in favor of them building a 50' cell tower disguised as a tree. As far as the other cell tower at 11401 Tuxford St., it already exists and it is 85' tall. However, there is another company that wants to install their antennas on the existing pole. As far as the Tehachipi Valley Ready mix project there is a cement company across the street from CRRR, and that company has a machine that grinds cement that is greatly polluting the air.
- No action taken on this item.

**ITEM 19:** Public Comment - none

**ITEM 20: ADJOURN** – Jon moved and Nick seconded to adjourn the meeting.

- The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:35 pm