

**Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council
General Meeting Minutes
for
Tuesday, December 13, 2011
6:30pm – 8:30 pm**

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

| Board Member | Title | Status |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| Angelica Dueñas | President | Present |
| Julie Monroy | 1 st Vice President | Present |
| Mike O’Gara | 2 nd Vice President | Present |
| Robert Lim | Treasurer | Present |
| Karina Garcia Valles | Secretary | Present |
| Gary Aggas | Board Member | Present |
| Linda Housden | Board Member | Absent |
| Imelda Padilla | Board Member | Absent |
| Susan A. Bartlett | Board Member | Present |
| Monica Vacas | Board Member | Present |
| Art Kalantarian | Board Member | Absent |
| Gerry Prieto | Board Member | Absence Excused |
| Guy Dionne | Board Member | Present |
| Josephine Navares | Board Member | Absent |
| Nicholas Dalton Pawle | Board Member | Absence Excused |
| Carmen Perez | Board Member | Absence Excused |
| Luis Medina | Board Member | Present |
| Stella Arrington | Board Member | Present |

ITEM 1: Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Code of Civility, Roll Call

- Angelica called the meeting to order at approximately 6:38 pm.
- Angelica took roll
- The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and the Code of Civility was read

ITEM 2: Opening Remarks (President)

- Ms. Dueñas announced that Vic Hernandez and Fern Romans are no longer part of SVANC’s board.
- Ms. Dueñas also stated that she is verbally resigning as the President of SVANC’s board, but added that she will not step down from this position until a replacement is assigned.
- Ms. Dueñas reminded fellow board members who have not taken the Ethics and Open Government Training to visit the following web site to take it online.

ITEM 2A: Ethics and Open Government Training – Reminder for the members of the SVANC to complete Ethics and Open Government Training for City Officials. Please visit: <http://ethics.lacity.org/education/education.cfm>

ITEM 3: Emergency Personnel from Fire and Police Departments will always be allowed to address the Board when they are ready in order to facilitate their schedule. (Officer Esther Vasquez, Senior Lead Officer, and Officer Michelle Rodriguez, Senior Lead Officer).

- Officer Vasquez stated that the crime rate for the Sun Valley area has gone down by 14% in the Foothill Division area. Two homicides occurred in the Pacoima area; as far as the Sun Valley area, no robberies reported (e.g. chain

snatches) in the last month; 1 business burglary; 1 theft crime; and 3 grand theft autos. The Officer added that a suspect, white male, about 6'0", in his 40's, with a glass eye, is being sought for attempted hijacking.

- Officer Vasquez announced that the Operations Valley Bureau (OVB) will host the upcoming LAPD Community Police Academy, scheduled to start on Thursday, January 19, 2012, from 6pm -9 pm, for eight consecutive Thursdays, at the Edward M. Davis Training Facility, Valley Bomb Squad Facility Training Room, Granada Hills. The graduation is scheduled for Thursday, March 2, 2012 at 6pm at the Mission Division Community Police Station. To sign up for the academy please contact Sergeant Egger at (818) 756-8866.
- Officer Vasquez also announced that the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program will start its classes on January 9th throughout the City of Los Angeles. For more information on the class schedule, place and times, please contact the LAFD – CERT Unit at (818) 756-9674 or at lafdcert@lacity.org or visit www.cert-la.com
- Officer Vasquez stated that the Child Passenger Restraint Law, 27363 VC current changes mandate that any child 8 years and younger, and whose height is 4'9" or less will have to be in a CPRS-type booster seat.

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

- Emily Williams, Deputy Chief of Staff CD6, announced that the Department of Sanitation is working overtime to clean up the debris left by the recent wind storms.
- Ms. Williams stated that Assembly member Felipe Fuentes' office and Pacoima Beautiful are hosting a Census Data Workshop, Wednesday, December 14, 2011, 10am – 12pm, Valley Family Technology Center, 13630 Van Nuys Blvd., Pacoima, CA. For more information contact Veronica Padilla (818) 899-2454 or at vpadilla@pacoimabeautiful.org
- Ms. Williams said that Thursday, December 15, 2011 is 'Day Without A Bag', CD 6 will be giving away reusable tote bags at its District offices, while supplies last and on a first-come-first-serve basis.
- Ms. Williams also announced a Redistricting meeting to be held on Tuesday, January 3, 2012, 6:30pm, Van Nuys City Hall, 14410 Sylvan Street, Van Nuys, CA
- Ms. Williams mentioned that a Motion was passed by City Council regarding the transfer of funds to community-based organizations that work on community beautification projects. CD6 staff requested funds through that Motion to transfer funds to the local Chamber of Commerce for Sun Valley Graffiti Busters. These funds should last from mid January to June 2012, and come from the Street Revenue Fund, which was specifically set up to do pedestrian improvements, street and sidewalk improvements, clean-ups, etc. A second Motion was introduced in City Council to transfer funding to the Gang Reduction and Youth Development contract, the Community in Schools (CIS). The motion requested a \$20,000 transfer to the contract for an increase in program implementation for at-risk-youth, in-and-around Sun Valley Park. These funds had been earmarked for the Panorama HS pool to remain open all summer 2011, but since it was only able to remain open for 7 weeks, it left a surplus of monies. Hence, the funds transferred for CIS's work.

ITEM 5: Public Comment on matters within the Board's subject-matter jurisdiction. Members of the public are limited to **three (3) minutes** per speaker.

- Ms. Gloria Muñoz, stakeholder, introduced herself and stated that it was her first time at a SVANC meeting which she attended in order to voice her interest in volunteering at community projects.
- Mr. Ricardo Benitez, stakeholder, announced that he is a candidate for District 39th State Assembly

ITEM 6: Board member comments on matters within the Board's subject-matter jurisdiction. Board members are limited to **three (3) minutes** per speaker; and additional discussion time if request is made to place an item on an agenda of a future meeting.

- Mike O' stated that flyers are available for the Redistricting Commission meetings being held throughout the City and the meeting covering the Sun Valley Area will be held on January 3rd, in Van Nuys City Hall. Mike O' stated that he is planning on calling a joint special meeting regarding Planning issues and Census Data prior to the January 3rd Redistricting meeting.
- Mike O' said that the CD2 Redistricting meeting's theme was about Sunland-Tujunga issues only. Mike O' suggested that when one makes a presentation in front of the Redistricting Commission, one should mention the commonalities Sun Valley has with the other areas; for example, Sun Valley is partially rural, it shares the Sun Valley-La Tuna Canyon Community Plan, Sun Valley is a part of the North Valley Planning District, etc. The important point of information is that each District must have 252,000 people in each District.
- Stella announced that the Sun Valley's Posadas Navideñas of 2011, will be starting on December 16th through December 24th, at 05:30 pm each evening. For further information on how to help or donate please call Estela Arrington at (818) 767-0015, or Alicia Ramos at (818) 771-0732.
- Susan's comments were inaudible on the recording

OLD Business:

ITEM 7: Review, correct and approve minutes from our October 2011 & November 2011 Board general and special meetings. (GARCIA-VALLES)

- A discussion took place to table the October 2011 general meeting minutes to January 10th, 2012, agenda for review and approval. Ms. Valles will email the October 2011 minutes to all the Board members for their review prior to the January 2012 general meeting.
- Mike O' made a motion and Rob seconded to approve the November 08, 2011 minutes as presented.
- The motion carried

NEW Business:

ITEM 8: Follow up on his introduction of the City Clerks Survey regarding an Election or Selection process. Mike presented this last month and now we need to follow up and fill out the Surveys. There are two surveys one for individuals and then one for the SVANC to respond to. That one will have to take votes on each response for it to be a group vote of the BOARD!! FIRST we will do the individual Stakeholder Survey and each board member needs to take it as well as the attendees. (O'Gara).

- Mike stated that the difference between the Election vs a Selection process is that there is no secret ballot. All stakeholders would get a ballot and sign their names on it.
- Mike said that the City Clerk office wants to have an Election for all NCs in 2014, but the majority of NCs want to administer their own election or selection process prior to 2014. Essentially, it is more costly to have the City Clerk administer this process.
- Mike distributed the surveys that should be completed by SVANC's board and a survey to be completed individual by all stakeholders. The Board as a group proceeded to complete the Board's survey.

1) *Is your NC willing to postpone elections until 2014, as determined by the City's 2011-2012 Budget and Administrative Code restrictions placed on the City Clerk?*

- *Yes by 1 vote:* (Skip to Question 3)
- *No by a majority vote:* (Please explain) – the rest of the Board voted against it: a) Don't want to wait until 2014 for an election, b) the NC needs to actively recruit members, c) the NC does not want the City Clerk's office involved in this process

2) *If your NC Board would like to hold a non-City Clerk election prior to 2014, what is your Board willing to consider in terms of cost of the election? Please check all that apply.*

- *Yes by a majority vote:* Contribute a limited amount of funds toward the cost of the election (e.g., outreach)
- *No by a majority vote:* Cover the full cost of the election
- *Yes by a majority vote:* Utilize the Town Hall selection process and forgo the election process*

* *According to the City Attorney's Office, an election requires a mandatory secret ballot whereas a selection only requires an open or public ballot.*

3) *Who would your NC Board prefer to administer your elections in the future? Please rank the options below in the order your NC would most prefer.*

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 st : C | A) Your NC (using a Town Hall Selection Process) |
| 2 nd : D | B) The Office of the City Clerk |
| 3 rd : A | C) The Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) |
| | D) Independent Election Administrator* *Supervised by the City Clerk or DONE. |
| | E) Hybrid administrator (Any combination of options. Please specify). |

4) Which method does your NC Board prefer for electing board members?

- At-Polls Elections
- Vote-By-Mail (VBM) Elections with Neighborhood Voting Centers (Pre-registration required)
- Internet Voting Elections with Neighborhood Voting Centers (Pre-registration required)
- Telephone Voting Elections with Neighborhood Voting Centers (Pre-registration required)
- Hybrid method (Any combination of options). Please specify

Mike made a motion and was seconded to add a 6th option to be 'Other: None of the Above'; the motion carried.

- The 'Other' option was chosen unanimously by the Board.

5) As an alternative to the methods above, would your NC Board prefer a Town Hall Election or Town Hall Selection?*

- Town Hall Election (Mandatory secret ballot)
- Yes by a majority vote: Town Hall Selection* (Open or public ballot)

*Due to logistical restrictions, the City Clerk is unable to oversee the Town Hall "selection" method.

ITEM 8A: Committee Updates, no action to be taken, the agenda was amended by the Board for purposes to give an update on each committee's meetings. NO action required by the Board.

- Planning Committee: Mr. Aggas stated that in reference to the project located at 7626 – 7634 Vineland that is being proposed, SVANC's majority of the conditions requested of the developer were met. Mike added that this plan was presented to SVANC about two years ago and at that time SVANC's board requested of the project's architect to keep the Santa Fe/Southwestern style. However, in his latest review of the City's file, which was not in the Valley as it should have been, it still had the original plans rather than the updated/amended ones. Mike stated this is a very complex project which included two changes in Zone variances, 30' high building, among a number of other issues. Hence, a new hearing regarding this project will be held sometime in February 2012.
- Gary stated that the conditions SVANC requested and will be included in this project include: solar panels, no alcohol sales, trash will be recycled, if it will have a restaurant then the condition is that the sale of alcohol does not exceed 20% of the total sale receipts and the occupancy number is yet to be determined, no adult entertainment, no electronic games for kids, no medical marijuana clinics, no billboards, & at least three bicycle racks conveniently located. Also, 10' landscaping beds around the perimeter was requested but it will not be included because of lack of space, instead the counter offer was 6' landscaping beds; the irrigation system will be Smart controllers, the parking lot will be designed so that the rain water can drain into the landscaping swails and solar panels for the exterior.
- Outreach Committee- Mike stated that an ad-hoc homeless committee should be created. Mike said that thus far a number of homeless guys have gotten their California IDs, and also a bus is provided to transport the homeless to a shelter for the evening but only 1 person has accepted this service, so there is the risk of discontinuing this service due to lack of homeless users.

ITEM 9: Motion/Discuss/Vote to request the ability to conduct a selection process to select new members of the Board. This will take place in August or September of 2012. The difference between a Selection process and an Election Process is that an Election process has a secret ballot and a Selection process does not. We will conduct our Selection process in a matter that most closely resembles our past elections. We will have ballots that we will sign which negates the secret ballot. In any case, we will follow the direction of DONE, BONC and the City Attorney to comply with all instructions. (O'Gara).

- Mike O' made the motion and Gary seconded it (please see Item 8 above).
- The motion carried

ITEM 10: Motion/Discuss/Vote to request that the City Clerk' office have no involvement with SVANC's Selection process. Many reasons for this the primary is cost. (O'Gara).

- Mike made the motion and Angelica seconded it (please see Item 8 above).
- The motion carried with one vote opposed

ITEM 11: Motion/Discuss/Vote to request the ability to Encumber/Roll Over any and all monies not spent in fiscal 2011-2012 to be used exclusively to pay for our selection process in August/September 2012. These monies will be used to pay for Outreach-Printing costs rental of Venue-cost of IEA and any other costs associated with the election. This is not an exhaustive list. (O'Gara).

- Mike said that the City has stated that the NCs will not be allowed to encumber/roll over funds, but the funds can be encumbered for selection-related expenses by the end of June—fiscal year end. This action must be done by a motion and approved.
- Rob made the motion and Julie seconded it
- The motion carried

ITEM 12: Motion/Discuss/Vote to request that the City Council pass a motion in whatever form that it takes to allow DONE to roll over any and all funds that are not used of the \$120,000 for elections in 2011-2012 Selections or Elections. These funds will be used to help NCs that decide to have their Elections/Selections in the latter part of 2012. (O’Gara).

- Mike said there is no money in the General Fund for the City Clerk to hold elections in 2012. However, City Council included \$120,000 in DONE’s budget for elections.
- Mike made the motion and Rob seconded it
- The motion carried

ITEM 13: Motion/Discuss/Vote to request that Mike O’Gara be given a signed affidavit stating that he is the designated representative of SVAND to the Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition (LANCC). (O’Gara)

- Mike said that LANCC was formed four years ago and next month the group will have an election and has asked Mike to be an election monitor.
- Rob made the motion and Monica seconded it.
- The motion carried

ITEM 14: Motion/Discuss/Vote to request the ability for Mike O’Gara to write a letter to City Council voicing our support of the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANCCs) resolution regarding the Selection/Election process. (O’Gara)

- Mike said that he sent an email to SVANC’s board informing them about VANCCs position which is that it does not want the City Clerk’s office involved in the Selection/Election process. This resolution was presented at the Los Angeles Alliance NCs who also voted unanimously in favor of this resolution.
- Mike made the motion and Monica seconded it.
- The motion carried

ITEM 15: Motion/Discuss/Vote to request that SVANC change any of our bylaws to make sure our Election Bylaws are changed to allow us to have a Selection Process. (O’Gara)

- Mike said that DONE will most likely waive any Bylaw changes thus allowing the NCs to override the current Bylaws as they stand in order for the NC to have a Selection process, if so chosen.
- Monica made the motion and Mike seconded it.
- The motion carried

ITEM 16: PUBLIC COMMENT - none

ITEM 17: Adjournment, a motion was made and approved, the meeting adjourned at approximately 08:43 pm.