

**Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council
General Meeting Minutes for
Tuesday, March 13, 2012
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	Absence Excused
Karina Garcia Valles	Secretary	Present
Gary Aggas	Board Member	Present
Linda Housden	Board Member	Present
Imelda Padilla	Board Member	Present
Susan A. Bartlett	Board Member	Absence Excused
Monica Vacas	Board Member	Present
Art Kalantarian	Board Member	Absence Excused
Gerry Prieto	Board Member	Absent
Guy Dionne	Board Member	Absent
Josephine Navares	Board Member	Absent
Carmen Perez	Board Member	Present
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 6:34 pm.
- The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and the Code of Civility was read
- Angelica took roll

ITEM 2: Opening Remarks (President) –

- None

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>

- Ms. Dueñas reminded all Board members who have not taken the Ethics training to please do so within the next couple of months.

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.)

- None

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

- Olga, CD6, announced a Self Defense Workshop, Saturday, March 24th, 2012, 11:00 am- 01:00 pm, Branford Rec Center, 13306 Branford Street, Arleta, CA. Please RSVP @ 818-771-0236.
- Olga announced a ‘Light the Night’ walk every Thursday in April, starting at 8903 Lankershim Blvd. (corner of Lankershim and Peoria), 6:00 pm, to discourage crime in the neighborhood. Please wear

Approved minutes as amended by the Board at the general meeting held on April 10, 2012
white t-shirts or a shirt from your organization. Ms. Ayala asked SVANC to consider sponsoring one of the Thursday walks.

- Olga stated that a press conference will take place on Wednesday, March 14th, 2012 at noon to announce the purpose of organizing this event.
- Mary Benson, CD2, stated that another pedestrian lost his life trying to cross the street at Colfax and Moorpark. Mary had flyers on pedestrian safety available for the community.
- Mary announced a Mayor's Day event, a hike and picnic, at Oro Vista Park, 11101 Oro Vista Ave, in Sunland, Saturday, March 31, 2012. The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy's rangers will have a ranger-lead hike at 10:30 am, followed by a picnic.
- Gemma, Senator Alex Padilla, stated that the Senator is working on SB1108 which will require conducting an assessment for the reclassification of a pupil from English learner to English proficient.
- Gemma also stated that Senator Padilla is working on SB 686 (Padilla) Sales and use taxes: exemption: advanced manufacturing bill.
- Gemma announced a Senior Scam Stopper event, Friday, March 30, 2012, 09:30-11:00 am, Alicia Broadous Duncan Multipurpose Senior Center, 11300 Glenoaks Blvd, Pacoima,

ITEM 5: Councilman Paul Krekorian, CD 2, who is now the chairperson of the City Budget Committee will be presenting. SVANC would like to hear about the problems with the budget and we want to hear about the redistricting process.

- Councilmember Krekorian thanked all of SVANC's board for their voluntary service to the City of L.A. and to its residents.
- The Councilmember stated that he has presented four significant reform proposals for the Neighborhood Councils, which are the following:
 - The Neighborhood Council funding program
 - Grievances
 - Community Regionalization
 - Increased training for Neighborhood Council Board members
- The Councilmember informed all present that he is now the assigned Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee.
- The Councilmember stated that the City is expected to be in a \$200M deficit for FY' 12-'13. He added that a balanced solution needs to be found via more cuts, more employee participation, more revenue enhancements and new sources of revenue in order to continue to provide the basic services for the residents of the City.
- The Councilmember stated that he is looking forward to working with the NCs in prioritizing where the City can afford to spend, where it needs to make cuts, how to find efficiencies, how services can be delivered in a smarter more efficient way, and how citizens can get more involved in the City's service-provider activities.
- The Councilmember stated that he has organized a Clean Team training neighborhood leaders to take a more active role in 'quality-of-life' issues in their neighborhoods.
- The Councilmember said regarding the Redistricting process that he will continue to represent about 40%-45% of Sun Valley as redrawn in the current Draft Maps that will be voted on in three days. However, he added that due to possible litigation procedures by some community groups against the draft maps, the final maps may not become 'final' until after all legal proceedings are resolved.
- Mike O' thanked the Councilmember for attending the meeting and added that the Councilmember has worked very hard on behalf of the City's Neighborhood Councils.
- Mike asked the Councilmember about the bus stop benches' revenues issue, which per City's terms it's called 'street furniture', and stated that a lot of revenue was lost due to lack of collection of these revenues from the advertising companies by the City. So Mike asked the Councilmember if he was willing to support a 'collections/revenue sheriff' idea as a source of revenue collection office either through the Controller's or the City Attorney's office, and the Councilmember answered an 'absolutely yes!'
- Councilmember Krekorian announced that it is expected that a new person will be hired for this position and for this purpose in the next two weeks.
- Councilman Krekorian said that meetings of the Budget and Finance Committee have been

Approved minutes as amended by the Board at the general meeting held on April 10, 2012 scheduled throughout the City to be held in the evening so that Neighborhood Councils, Citizens, Interest groups and anyone else interested in the City's budgetary process can come and provide input, suggestions and comments.

- Mike asked if the 6%-12% percentages rumored to be cut from the Neighborhood Council's yearly allotted budget by the City is accurate. The Councilmember answered that his position continues to be that NCs should not be cut any more than any other City Department.
- Councilman Krekorian announced that the City has secured \$237,000 per year as a tipping fee from Athens for their project proposal. This tipping fee will be paid by Athens annually and indefinitely. The purpose of this fee is to provide local community benefits within a pre-identified radius from the project. Mike made the point that there are outlined impacts that are directly attributable to that operation and the Councilmember suggested that maybe the community may want to consider whether there should be some flexibility in identifying those sorts of impacts.

ITEM 6A: Public Comment on matters within the Board's subject-matter jurisdiction. Members of the public are limited to **three (3) minutes** per speaker.

- Glen Bailey, Bicycle Advisory Committee—City of L.A., announced a meeting of the Board of Recreation and Parks Commission, Wednesday, February 15, 2012, 09:30 am, Branford Recreation Center, 13306 Branford, Arleta.

ITEM 6B: 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' said that a St. Patrick's Day night event will be held at L.A. Family Housing ,04:00 pm, on Lankershim Blvd., for the homeless at the new 62-bed permanent housing Palo Verde facility on Glenoaks. Mike added that volunteers are needed to help prepare and serve the food.
- Mike said that on behalf of Rob, SVANC's Treasurer, the budget has to be reconciled and the new budget for FY'12-'13 will have to be voted on next month.
- Mike O' stated that if a person asks to include an item in the agenda, then that person needs to make sure that the item completes the process by 1) giving the vendor's info with their business tax license number to the appropriate SVANC board member, 2) having a board member fill out a demand warrant for this service, 3) filling out a community benefits form
- Imelda said that UCLA students will be presenting the findings of the homeless count event at the April 2012 SVANC's general meeting.
- Stella asked on behalf of the Peoria Neighborhood Council about the status of last month's Items 5 & 22. This item was a request of \$25,000 for street lights in Sun Valley. Stella added that Mike stated at last month's meeting that this item was going to be discussed and decided upon at 'a committee'. Mike answered that what he said at last month's meeting regarding this item was that this item should first be presented to the Executive Board in order for it to be included as an 'action item' in the general meeting's agenda. Since then, an Executive board meeting took place, and all the board members were duly notified via email, but Stella nor anyone from her group attended.

OLD Business:

ITEM 7: Review, correct and approve minutes from our February 2012 Board meetings. (GARCIA-VALLES)

- Some amendments were made to the February 2012 minutes
- Mike made the motion to approve February 14, 2012 minutes as amended and was seconded
- The motion carried

NEW Business:

ITEM 8: Committee Reports - Outreach- Planning- Community Affairs- By-Laws –Treasurer

- Outreach Committee: Mike asked for volunteers to tend a voter-registration booth.
- Planning Committee: Mike stated that some board members met with Athens representatives and also with the Councilmember regarding the mitigation measures for this project. Some of SVANC's board members also met with the developer who plans on building an elder-care facility to discuss the numerous concerns about this project.
- Community Affairs: a Chair is still needed for this Committee

- By-laws Committee: none

Treasurer’s Report

February 2012 Purchase Card Transactions

Date	Vendor	Description	Amount	Purchaser
02/06/2012	Anderson Trophy		\$30.89	M. O’Gara
02/14/2012	Papa John’s	Pizza for Feb. Board Meeting	\$50.68	M. O’Gara
02/29/2012	Time Warner	Phone and Internet (office)	\$125.84	R. Lim
		Total Spent:	\$207.41	

- A motion was made to accept the treasurer’s report.
- The motion carried

ITEM 9: Motion/Discussion/Vote to RECONSIDER the motion, from the March Meeting, for allocation of funds to design and plant fire safe landscaping at Fire Station 77, in partnership with the Theodore Payne Foundation, to begin the process of aesthetically improving Sun Valley while providing and educational environment, and raising the profile of both organizations. (\$3900) (AGGAS)

- Gary made the motion and was seconded by Angelica to reconsider last month’s item
- Angelica stated that this property has a big problem because it has broken underground water pipes and irrigation system that need to be fixed prior to working on any landscaping on this site.
- The motion to reconsider this item carried

ITEM 10: Motion/Discussion/Vote to meet with the Rotary club, the Theodore Payne Foundation and the Fire Dept Representative to allocate funds to design and plant fire safe landscaping at Fire Station 77. These funds will be Encumbered from our 2011-2012 budget to be spent in the fall of 2012. Invoices must be written and all necessary paperwork submitted to the DONE before May 15th 2012. (AGGAS, O’GARA)

- Mike stated that the Rotary Club has taken care of the landscaping and irrigation system on this property since the Fire Station first opened. He added that the Rotary Club plans on continuing to clean and maintain the landscaping and also plans to repair the irrigation system on this property.
- Mike said that if SVANC gets the invoice dated for the month of November from the Theodore Payne foundation for the cost of the plants, then the funds can be earmarked and rolled over from this year’s funds to next. A request will be made to Rotary Club, Sun Valley Beautiful and Foothill Trails NC to share in this cost.
- Mike made the motion and Imelda seconded it
- The motion carried to spend up to \$3,900

ITEM 11: Motion/Discuss/Vote to rent 4 Benches in Sun Valley for advertisement purposes of our Board Meetings and Elections. (not to exceed \$3,000) (O’GARA)

- Mike stressed the importance of having the benches as a form of advertisement/outreach to the community in outreach effort for SVANC.
- Mike made the motion and Gary seconded.
- The motion carried.

ITEM 12: Motion/Discuss/Vote to purchase paper for the SVANC office. (Not to exceed \$300) (O’GARA)

- Mike made the motion and Julie seconded
- The motion carried

ITEM 13: Motion/Discuss/Vote to write A Community Impact Statement (CIS) telling the City Council that we are opposed to the manner in which the redistricting Commission conducted themselves. The map was created in a manner that does not conform to law and does not serve the interest of the public, SVANC

opposes the current map. (O’GARA)

- Mike said that after a lot of meetings on the redistricting process, there is a high probability of litigation against the City and he added that the process was misdirected from the beginning of the process.
- Mike made the motion and Imelda seconded
- The motion carried

ITEM 14: Motion/Discuss/Vote to create an ad-hoc committee to have SVANC Board members have a Day to Register Voters in Sun Valley. POSSIBLE DATE Saturday March 31st from 10- 2pm (O’GARA)

- Mike said that this is part of the Outreach Committee not part of the ad-hoc committee. Mike asked for volunteers to help on March 31st , at La Barata Market on Vineland
- Imelda and Angelica suggested having this activity on April 14th instead, and it was decided to try for both dates. Mike’s goal is to plan about six of these events by May.
- Mike made the motion and Julie seconded
- The motion carried

ITEM 15: Motion/Discuss/Vote to accept Gary Aggas resignation as Senior Advocate and vote to appoint him as an “At Large” Board Member. (DUENAS)

- Angelica made the motion and Mike seconded
- The motion carried

ITEM 16: Ask Board Members of SVANC in what category they were elected in, in order to update our records. (DUENAS)

- It was suggested to ask Karina for previous notes.

ITEM 17: Discuss request of the Foothill Police station re lockers. (O’GARA)

- Mike stated that the Police Dept. will not pay for lockers for their personnel and they are asking SVANC to contribute \$7,000 for the purchase of the lockers. Mike stated that he has asked Esther for a list of the Neighborhood Councils that are serviced by the Foothill station, and then it can be determined what amount each NC will contribute along with the LAPD for this request.

ITEM 18: Motion/Discuss/Vote to spend money on Newspaper Ads for our Elections/Selection Process. Amount not available at time of Agenda setting. (O’GARA)

- Mike asked for an amount not to exceed \$3,250: \$2,500 for a half-page ad in the Daily News and \$750 for the North Valley Reported to run ads regarding the Election/Selection process. The funds would be encumbered this fiscal year and rolled over to next fiscal year.
- Mike made the motion and Imelda seconded
- The motion carried

ITEM 19: Motion/Discuss/Vote to support Sun Valley Recreation Center and Fernangeles Recreation Center parks at Easter in order to do outreach and set up a Voter registration table at their event. NOT TO exceed \$150 each. (O’GARA)

- Mike stated that since there is no representatives present from either Recreation Centers, he suggested not funding these events.
- Angelica made the motion and Gary seconded to provide up to \$150 each for these events.
- The motion carried

ITEM 20: Discuss the new FEMA MAP and the upcoming meeting. (O’GARA)

- Mike said that FEMA is the government agency that provides low-interest loans to rebuild homes in case of disasters. Mike stated that about 2 years ago at a SVANC regular meeting, FEMA reps presented a flood map of a lot of homes off Tujunga that were located in a flood basin or a ‘100-year-storm’ track which suggested that those homes were at a high risk of being flooded. They stated that any of those homes that have a government-backed loan like Fannie Mac or Freddie Mae must have an additional flood damage insurance policy which costs about \$1,500 per year. A meeting regarding

Approved minutes as amended by the Board at the general meeting held on April 10, 2012
this issue will be held on Tuesday, March 20th, 6:00 pm, Sun Valley Park.

- Mike will send a meeting notice to all the elected official offices that represent this area so that they can send a representative to attend this meeting.

ITEM 21: Discuss year end close of budget and Election/Selection as it impacts encumbrance of funds.
Deadline for items to be encumbered is our April meeting. (O’GARA)

- Mike said that a budget meeting will be held prior to next SVANC’s general board meeting to decide what funds can and will be encumbered for next FY.
- Mike also stated that SVANC has to decide whether they will hold an Election or Selection process.
- Mike suggested having an Election process because that’s the process SVANC has always followed and has experience with.

ITEM 22: Motion/Discuss/Vote to the Eldercare Facility request at 9041 Laurel Canyon request the Planning Committee be granted permission to write a letter to the developers, the City Planning dept and the CD 6 Councilman. (O’GARA) AND any new applications that come before us between meetings.
(O’GARA)

- Mike asked to write this letter because of the numerous negative impacts this location will have on future elderly residents.
- Gary made the motion and Angelica seconded
- The motion carried

ITEM 23: PUBLIC COMMENT - none

ITEM 24: Adjournment – the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00 pm.