

**Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council
General Meeting Minutes for
Tuesday, April 10, 2012
6:30pm – 8:30 pm**

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

Board Member	Title	Status
Angelica Dueñas	President	Absence Excused
Julie Monroy	1 st Vice President	Present
Mike O’Gara	2 nd Vice President	Present
Robert Lim	Treasurer	Absence Excused
Karina Garcia Valles	Secretary	Absence Excused
Gary Aggas	Board Member	Present
Linda Housden	Board Member	Present
Imelda Padilla	Board Member	Present
Susan A. Bartlett	Board Member	Present
Monica Vacas	Board Member	Absent
Art Kalantarian	Board Member	Present
Gerry Prieto	Board Member	Absent
Guy Dionne	Board Member	Present
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

- Ms. Monroy called the meeting to order at approximately 6:35 pm.
- The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and the Code of Civility was read
- Ms. Monroy 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. Monroy 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.)

- Officer Vasquez, Senior Lead Officer for parts of west Sun Valley and North Hollywood, mentioned the following March crime stats for Sun Valley: there was an increase in theft crimes related to stolen bicycles; house burglaries—a couple; business burglary =1; car burglaries—cars are getting broken into because personal items are left within full view (e.g.: GPS’s, purses, wallets, laptops, etc.).
- Officer Vasquez encouraged community members to report any type of crimes in order to better plan LAPD’s resource deployment.
- Officer Vasquez announced LAPD’s Foothill Division Senior Lead Officer’s Summit, April 17, 2012, 6:00 pm –

8:00 pm, 7747 Foothill Blvd., Tujunga,

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

- Olga, CD6, thanked all stakeholders for their participation at last Thursday's walk, which was very successful.
- Olga stated that with regards to Mr. O'Gara's inquiries about the 'illegal dumping' issue along Brandford Blvd., it has been noted that after the cameras and lighting installation took place, and extra funds were paid to Graffiti Busters to help maintain this area, no one since then has reported any problems at this location.
- Olga stated that a couple of weeks ago, a Public Work's Commissioner was invited to Sun Valley Park in order to review a 'wish list' presented by the Sun Valley Park's Director, which included a bit more lighting, more signage, a running/walking path around a well-lit-park, & even though the new Sun Valley Park's Director was not in attendance at this evening's meeting, Olga stated that a team effort would be required in order to accomplish a more crime-free, goal-oriented project based on community input and the possible use of QUIMBY funds. Olga was asked to provide info on how much QUIMBY funds are available for parks, at next SVANC's meeting, which she will request from Darryl Ford, Bureau of Engineering, who provides financial status quarterly reports on QUIMBY funds.
- Emily Williams, CD6, stated that Shane's Inspiration organization is assisting Fernangeles Park in building a UAP (*Universal Access Playground*), but due to lack of funds this playground will not be a full universal one. However, they are also assisting with the All-Access sports field to be built at the Sepulveda Basin, which is part of the sports complex being built there. Ms. Williams added that the entire Sepulveda Basin is now in CD6.
- Ms. Williams added that out-door lighting has been installed at the Stone House in Sun Valley---a ribbon cutting ceremony will take place at the beginning of summer.
- Ms. Williams said that they met with Bureau of Street Lighting representatives about lighting concerns presented by Peoria Neighborhood Watch group to discuss the cost of light pole installation and identify funding; then the yearly assessment can be calculated for the homeowners on those neighborhood streets that are willing to pay the yearly assessments for the lights. Ms. Williams added that funding has been committed for lighting on Eilack Street, between San Fernando Road and Lankershim as a measure to detour the prostitution activity in that area.
- Mary B., CD2, announced that a brochure that lists free festivals and activities throughout L.A. has been published and is available for all community members. This brochure is published by the Dept of Cultural Affairs. Also, a book about Neighborhood Services of the City of L.A., to use as a resource of services, new contact numbers and department names is available to the public, free of charge.
- Mary stated that the Councilmember will be holding a meeting, on Thursday, April, 12, 2012, at Villa Scalabrini Retirement Center, 10631 Vinedale Street, Sun Valley, CA, 7:00 pm., about Athens Waste's permit request to develop 5-acres into a permanent Material Recycling Facility (MRF) for waste to be picked up from businesses, construction sites and other places to be brought to Sun Valley.

ITEM 5: Presentation by the UCLA Students on the Homeless Study. The graduate students from the Dept. of Social Welfare at the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs, presented the following:

- Project design: A community survey was developed with the objectives to assist the Office of Councilman Cárdenas in assessing homelessness in Sun Valley and Sun Valley Park--Homelessness in Council District 6 has risen 14.7 percent since 2009; and to add to the Sun Valley community's knowledge base on homelessness and help inform any future policy- and advocacy-related work
- The Survey Methodology consisted of a Sample Selection of Five Stakeholder Groups Identified, these are: Business Community, Service Providers, Homeless Individuals, Community Residents, & Key Informants
- Survey Development/Administration: a unique survey was developed for each stakeholder group, administered via email, phone and in-person, administered in Spanish and Tagalog as needed
- Findings from the Business Community: 17/30 businesses near Sun Valley Park agreed to participate and they stated that the negative effects to their business include, "Hiring has been difficult", "They sometimes leave feces at the front door, and who is going to want to come into a business with that on the front door?", Asking for money deters customers, Safety.
- Recommendations by the Businesses Community: Safety and patrolling, More services, Coalition building
- Findings from the Service Providers: 12/22 service providers surveyed. The service providers' perception of the homelessness is their Needs: shelter/housing, mental health services, employment; Accessibility of services and feelings of safety attract the homeless to Sun Valley Park
- Recommendations by the Service Providers: Provide more shelter/housing, Homelessness education or awareness for the community, Increase law enforcement, Drop-in access center
- Findings from the Community Residents: 10 residents living around perimeter of Sun Valley Park agreed to be surveyed, and have the following Perceptions of Homelessness: Needs: shelter/housing, substance abuse help, Accessibility of services and feelings of safety attract the homeless to Sun Valley Park. 6/10 feel

affected by the homeless community (sanitation, property value, safety), 6/10 still feel welcome at Sun Valley Park

- Recommendations by the Community Residents: Increase housing, Enhance law enforcement, Increase patrolling, Need to enforce existing laws regarding vagrancy
- Findings from the Homeless Community: 8 individuals surveyed (M=6, F=2), their Relationship to Greater Sun Valley Community- 7/8 use Sun Valley services at least once a week (Hope of the Valley, SFVCMHC, Aposento Alto Church), 7/8 report being at least somewhat satisfied with these services, 6/8 say they are treated well by residents
- Recommendations by the Homeless Community: Permanent Housing (Sun Valley IS home), Employment, Showers, Place for belongings, End citations for “being homeless”
- Findings from Key Informants: Total of 7 key informants surveyed (representing stakeholder groups), had these *Perceptions of Homelessness*- Accessibility of services, Geography of Sun Valley Park (location and size), Easy accessibility to drugs and alcohol. However, they added the following *Barriers to Solutions*: Limited funding, Lack of cooperation from homeless individuals, “Red Tape” to access services and programs, “The homeless often don’t have IDs or social security cards and, therefore, can’t access housing.”
- Recommendations by Key Informants: Engagement- Encourage more homeless individuals to access permanent supportive housing resources, Increase funding- More funding should be devoted to creating more permanent supportive housing programs, Coalition-Building--More collaboration and dialogue between stakeholders is needed to address the issue
- Community Themes included the following:
 - More services, especially permanent supportive housing, are needed
 - Increase police presence and enforcement
 - Homeless individuals against this suggestion due to legal problems heavy policing can exacerbate
 - Barriers include issues with documentation
 - Need to increase awareness, education and community engagement on the issue
 - Many of the survey participants have a long history in the Sun Valley area
 - Common sentiment that participants did not condone current status of their community
 - They envision more for the community.
- Potential Solutions for Sun Valley included the following:
 - Coalition-Building: Create a task force on homelessness, this will help representatives from all stakeholder groups better collaborate and coordinate efforts
 - Resource Development: Strengthen and continue permanent supportive housing efforts
 - Peer Advocacy Network: Train formerly homeless individuals and/or identified leaders within the homeless community to work as outreach workers and help connect homeless individuals to services , Strengthens trust in local agencies and community resources
 - Access Center: Create a weekly drop-in *Access Center* that will enable: Homeless community and service agencies to more easily connect and establish relationships -- Participating community agencies to plan and coordinate services between one another
 - Strengthen Policing Efforts: Increase presence at Sun Valley Park and surrounding areas to enhance community’s feelings of safety, & cross-train more law enforcement staff to better understand and serve the homeless population

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.

- Sergio Ibarra, Arleta NC President
- Richard Valdez, Valdez for Congress

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.

- None

OLD Business

- **ITEM 7:** Review, correct and approve minutes from SVANC’s January 2012 Board meetings. (GARCIA-VALLES)
- Some amendments were made to the March 13, 2012 minutes as amended and was seconded by Imelda
- The motion carried

NEW Business:

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

- Outreach Committee: Mike stated that SVANC sponsored two Easter egg hunts, one at each park, and even though he sent notifications to SVANC’s board for the need of volunteers, three responded as not being able to attend and got no other responses. Ultimately, Gary and Mike attended the Fernangeles Park event; and Gary, Mike and Luis attended the Sun Valley Park event.
- Planning Committee: Mike stated that a development project has asked for a permit for a retail store on Rincon and Sheldon, behind Big-Jim’s, and one of the issues discussed when the proposed project was presented was that there could not be a 7-11 at that location. However, Mike received an email from the 7-11 corporation asking to meet to discuss this proposal at Rincon.
- Please see notes on Item 17 below.
- Community Affairs: none
- By-laws Committee: Mike asked to Art, Chairman of the By-Laws Committee, to review the by-laws and double check whether there is a conflict of interest if an August 2012 election is held.
- Mike reported that SVANC’s remaining budget is \$870.98; he added that \$15,325 has been encumbered after FY2011-2012; and \$34,219.70 is the total budget residual for FY2011-2012.

Treasurer’s Report – None reported

March 2012 Purchase Card Transactions

Date	Vendor	Description	Amount	Purchaser

ITEM 9: Motion/Discussion/Vote to have an election on August 4th, 2012 for new board members to replace the board members whose term expire on 2012

- Mike stated that there is an election coming up in 2012 where 7 people were elected in each category and the top 4 had terms that run until 2014 and the bottom three in each category have terms that expire in 2012. Mike asked if SVANC is going to have an election on August 4th or a Selection?
- Mike made the motion requesting that SVANC hold an Election on August 4th and Gary seconded
- The motion to reconsider this item carried

ITEM 10: Motion/Discussion/Vote to encumber funds from this year’s budget to pay for some of the costs of the August 4, 2012 Election. North Valley Reporter, Daily News up to \$4,200

- Mike stated that these amounts would be up to \$4,200 for newspaper ads from this fiscal year’s budget, which was already encumbered in this year’s FY2011-2012’s budget.
- Mike made the motion and Art seconded it
- The motion carried

ITEM 11: Motion/Discuss/Vote to encumber funds to re-do the landscaping at the fire station, up to \$3,900

- Mike stated that these funds will be encumbered and will be available for next year. However, after talking to the Theodore Payne Foundation, it was agreed that the Foundation will buy new mulch from a different vendor than the one used before.
- Mike made the motion and Susan seconded.
- The motion carried.

ITEM 12: Motion/Discuss/Vote to add money for Academy Addressing for \$300 more.

- Mike stated that this amount plus the past \$3,800 previously approved will add up to \$4,100—these funds will be used this FY2011-2012 for SVANC’s election in August. This mailer will go out to 12,600 residents in Sun Valley and 2,000 businesses. The mailer will consist of a form on how to be a candidate and a schedule of the candidate and election deadlines.

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

ITEM 13: Report from the progress of the LAFH Homeless survey taken March 26, 27, 28, 2012.

Comments from the SVANC people involved. The park homeless is on the increase and some possible reasons why

- Mike stated that last April stakeholders attended the SVANC meeting to ask for their assistance in eradicating the problem of homeless in the park. At that time, there were about 41 homeless living in the park, and that's when SVANC's board agreed to join forces with LAFH's John Horn. At that time, organizations like Aposento Alto Church were providing services to the homeless and also another organization was providing a portable shower unit and providing food three days a week. However both of these organizations stopped providing services because of nuisance complaints by parishioners and by the Health Dept. The organization who was providing the shower facilities now owns an organization called the Hope of the Valley.
- Linda read the following statistics of the homeless survey when it was held last August from 3AM-7AM. A total of 70 volunteers from various organizations participated, including some of SVANC's board and members of the LAFH. It was held from Hollywood to Sun Valley, and SVANC members that participated concentrated on surveying the homeless in the park.
- Mike stated that at that time there were 41 white homeless people, and by January the number of homeless at the park was down to 12. He added that another count/survey took place during a three-day period, from March 26, 27, & 28th, concentrating again on the park. This time in March, there were 22 homeless at the park because Hope of the Valley is providing shower facilities three-days a week, and meals twice-a-week, and now the ethnicity of the homeless at the park is Hispanic.
- Mike added that a 60-unit bed housing facility for the homeless opened on Glenoaks which a lot of homeless are using and John Horn is also taking some of them to transitional housing, while providing them with an ID in order to get permanent housing, however, Mike added that some of this survey's findings showed that many of the homeless refused to take the survey, and many of them are repeated offenders.
- Mike also made the point that even though the Service Agencies were interviewed by the UCLA students; they opted not to cooperate with each other when last April's survey/count was held.
- Linda stated the following: everyone should work in collaboration with partner agencies, including mental health, to create action plans in order to assist the homeless. Linda said that during their nights' canvassing of the homeless, cards were handed out with the type of services available to them. Mike added that a bus-ride was set up in December to transport the homeless from the park to the shelter, and only 1 person took it for two days and was taken to the hospital on the third day. Therefore, after 14 days of the bus being under-used, its services were discontinued.
- Ms. Housden stated the following stats: 52/60 homeless have been placed in permanent housing on Glenoaks; during the March 26,27 & 28th canvassing, it was mentioned that 34 new homeless surveys took place between North Hollywood and Sun Valley, and out of the 34, Mike, Monica, Gary and Linda did 12 (10/12 were new homeless).

ITEM 14: Report from FEMA meeting

- Mike stated that 24 months ago FEMA made a presentation during SVANC's regular meeting informing all attendees that parts of Sun Valley were in a flood zone, and therefore the homeowners within the zone identified on the map HAD to purchase flood insurance within three months from this date at a premium cost or if purchased after the three months, then it would be at a much higher cost. FEMA representatives added that this flood insurance needed to be purchased only by homeowners who had a federal insured loan, either through Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac, but it is suggested to check with your bank and show them the map to see if your home is within this zone.
- The area on the map distributed is what is called the '100-year storm'—which consists of 6" of rain.

ITEM 15: Volunteers needed for March against Prostitution to be held on Thursday, April 26th, 2012 on

Lankershim Blvd. The March will take place from 6-8pm

- Mike stated that the March will start at Sun Valley equipment rentals, on Lankershim. Please wear a SVANC t-shirt, and please inform Mike if you are not planning to attend. Julie, Linda, Stella, Luis, Carmen were amongst some of SVANC's members who committed to being there on that date.

ITEM 16: Vote funds for Participation of SVANC in the Chamber May 5, 2012

- No action taken, this item was tabled

ITEM 17: Planning Committee has four applications to discuss at the April 24th meeting:

- 1) A lot split at 12313 Sheldon St.- Mike stated that this lot is kitty-corner from Sun Valley HS, whose new owner wants to split it into three-lots and then do some development.
- 2) A childcare facility at 11111 Strathern St.- it's 214 apartments at Strathern 7 they want to take out the multi-purpose room and build a childcare but the problem is that the facility is planning on admitting children from outside the area. The concern is the accommodations for the parents who are coming from the outside and want to safely drop off their children at the childcare facility.
- 3) We are still investigating the ramifications of the eldercare facility at Jerome St. and Laurel Canyon Blvd. Request permission for SVANC Plum Committee to write letters on SVANC's behalf to the Planning/Zoning Dept.
- 4) Update regarding the recycling facility at laurel Canyon and Sheldon

ITEM 18: Motion/Discuss/Vote to support the Congress of Neighborhoods scheduled for Sept 22, 2012 in the amount of \$200

- Mike included the flyer about the Congress of Neighborhoods, which holds seminars throughout the day. DONE asked for funds from NCs in order to contribute to its expenses.
- Susan made the motion and Mike seconded
- The motion carried

ITEM 19: Motion/Discuss/Vote to endorse Pacoima Beautiful in their position regarding *Clean Up Green Up* Policy

- Imelda made a presentation on Clean Up-Green Up, this is a locally-initiated policy proposal to make LA communities—and your local business climate—healthier. Clean Up proposes to streamline permitting processes—saving time and hassles—and helping provide better access to certain business support programs. This initiative proposes to establish Green Zones in three L.A. communities---Boyle Heights, Pacoima, and Wilmington.
- No action taken, this item was tabled

ITEM 20: PUBLIC COMMENT - none

ITEM 21: Adjournment – the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:50 pm