

**Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council**  
**General Meeting Minutes for**  
**Tuesday, June 11, 2013**  
**6:30pm – 8:30 pm**

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

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Status</b>
Gary Aggas	President	Present
Angelica Dueñas	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Present
Mike O’Gara	2 <sup>nd</sup> VP/Secretary	Present
Julie Monroy	Treasurer	Present
Linda Housden	Board Member	Present
Susan A. Bartlett	Board Member	Present
Imelda Padilla	Board Member	Absent
Monica Vacas	Board Member	Present
Gerry Prieto	Board Member	Absence excused
Carmen Perez	Board Member	Present
Luis Medina	Board Member	Present
Mark Mardirossian	Board Member	Present
Barbara O’Gara	Board Member	Present
Gene Culley	Board Member	Present
Sergio Carvajal	Board Member	Absence excused
Samuel ‘Sammy’ Palomino	Board Member	Absent
Sam Khalaf	Board Member	Present
Lysander Cuevas	Board Member	Present

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

- Gary called the meeting to order at about 06:30 pm
- The Pledge of Allegiance and SVANC’s Code of Civility were recited
- Gary took roll

**ITEM 2: Opening Remarks, (President) Self- introduction of Board Members**

- Mr. Aggas announced that Mr. Art Kalantarian and Mr. Lim resigned from SVANC’s Board due to pressing personal matters.
- Mr. Aggas asked fellow board members to introduce themselves, the street they live on, and/or what neighborhood/company they represent.
- Luis Medina, resident, lives on Case Ave
- Mark Mardirossian, lives on Rincon
- Angelica Dueñas, lives near Saticoy and Vineland on Cartwright
- Julie Monroy, lives on Beck Avenue
- Monica Vacas, lives on Lanark and Glenoaks
- Lysander Cuevas, lives on Wheatland Plc.
- Gary Aggas, lives near Saticoy and Tujunga
- Barbara O’Gara lives near Cayuga and Sheldon
- Mike O’Gara lives near Cayuga and Sheldon
- Carmen Perez, crossing guard at Roscoe Elementary School, lives in North Hollywood
- Susan Bartlett lives on Edmore Place and Landmark Street
- Gene Culley, lives across the Park in Sun Valley

*Minutes were approved as amended by the Board at the general meeting held July 09, 2013*

- Mr. Aggas stated that it was a very busy month, all bills have been paid and stayed within budget.
- Mr. Aggas added that June 1<sup>st</sup> was pride day and a lot of the work was done by Monica Vacas and Linda Housden; close to 300 volunteers participated in the event.
- Mr. Aggas said that the NALEO citizenship workshop was held on June 8<sup>th</sup>. SVANC supplied the copy machines for the event.

**ITEM 3: Emergency Personnel from Fire and Police Departments** Officer Esther Vasquez, Senior Lead Officer, and Officer Michelle Rodriguez, Senior Lead Officer.

- Officer Vasquez reported the following crime stats for Sun Valley in the month of May: 3 robberies; 3 aggravated assaults; 10 home and commercial burglaries; 10 cars were broken into; property crimes are still relatively high. A volunteer surveillance detail took place on Kohl's parking lot—two teenagers were arrested-- one for tagging and the other one for possession of a spray paint can. There was a shopping cart detail at Sun Valley Park—two people were arrested due to outstanding warrants; Officer Vasquez thanked Graffiti Busters for their assistance with this detail. Also, the Officer stated that a street vendor task force detail was also held around mother's day because a street vendor selling flowers was robbed; she added that it is illegal to sell anything on City streets.
- Officer Vasquez said that a new Neighborhood Watch groups has been organized at San Colon and San Fernando.
- Officer Vasquez announced that Saturday Night Lights will begin at Sun Valley Park from Wednesday to Friday, 07:00 pm to 11:30pm.
- Officer Vasquez attended a City Planning Commission hearing for Dora's bar, at which time conditions were imposed and had to be met by the operator, but it turned out that some conditions had not been met after the first month from when the conditions were set.
- Officer Vasquez announced that a 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade was going to be held at Sunland and Tujunga starting at 10:00am, and a firework show at Hansen Dam following the parade.

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

- Sulma Hernandez, CD6 representative, gave out her phone number as (818) 771-0236 or email [sulma.hernandez@lacity.org](mailto:sulma.hernandez@lacity.org) for anyone who had any questions regarding the transition process. Ms. Hernandez stated that Strathern Street was resurfaced.
- Mary Benson, CD7 representative, congratulated Ms. Vacas and Ms. Housden for their effort and participation in the June 1<sup>st</sup> Neighborhood Pride day parade.
- Mary said that CD7 held a clean-up on the alley behind 8934 Sunland Blvd.—the block behind Penrose and Glenoaks Streets, and said that a lot of trash was picked up. She added that Susan and her team from Graffiti Busters were great help. Officer Rodriguez assisted the property owner in having a No Trespassing Order for this alley.
- Ms. Benson stated that she attended a City's PLUM hearing regarding the historic designation for Tuna Camp, a Japanese internment camp located on top of La Tuna Canyon, which was an internment camp from January 1941-October 1943. A decision will be made no later than July 23, 2013 regarding this designation. She added that it is very important that SVANC create a Community Impact Statement to present for consideration by the PLUM committee members at their July meeting.

**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

- A comment was made by an unidentified member of the audience stating that after last month's meeting a private conversation took place between parties not identified on the record who suggested that 'he' (the unidentified speaker) ...should become the Senior Citizen representative for SVANC's board. Mr. Aggas replied that he did remember a conversation, albeit a bit differently, but that the Board has not had an opportunity to consider this matter.

**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.

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- Susan B. thanked Ms. Vacas for her efforts at the Neighborhood Pride parade. Ms. Bartlett added that she's had numerous conversations with True Green and with CD2 regarding the Glenoaks median, and added that someone from the City had been paying the bill for the upkeep of this median at a cost of \$48,000/year, but then added that the 'City suddenly couldn't afford continuing to pay for its upkeep.' However, Ms. Bartlett added that the median has been cleaned since then and will get a quote in the near future from True Green regarding whether their organization can continue to maintain this median.
- Ms. Bartlett stated that she is also a member of the CPAB's committee on homeless issues and neighborhood councils' matters. Ms. Bartlett added that some of the commitments made by the CPAB members include pressure washing the alley behind 8165 from Ratner Street to Sunland Blvd., up to the corner at San Fernando road, for a minimum of once a week. She added that since Hope of the Valley produced 21 participants in the clean up activity for Sun Valley's Neighborhood Pride day, Ms. Bartlett requested to add an Item in the July Agenda which considers the purchase of 24 vests to be used by the individuals and/or volunteers in order to identify them as active participants in this type of events, since they are willing to help Graffiti Busters every month to help keep the community clean.
- Ms. Monroy apologized for not been able to attend the parade and NALEO events due to work commitments. Ms. Monroy stated that she has contacts with Universal Studio's personnel and is going to ask them to provide movie screenings, for free, to be held at local parks this summer,
- Ms. Vacas agreed with Ms. Bartlett's suggestion to have a Neighborhood Pride event quarterly.

#### **OLD Business:**

**ITEM 7:** Review, correct and approve minutes from our **May 14th, 2013** Board meeting.

- Mike made the motion to table this item to July 9<sup>th</sup>'s general SVANC's board meeting, his motion was seconded by Angelica.
- The motion was put out for a vote
- The motion carried

#### **NEW Business:**

**ITEM 8:** Committee Chair Volunteers: Outreach; Planning; Community Affairs; Sun Valley Homeless; By-Laws; Treasurer; Beautification; C-PAB; VANC; PlanCheck

- Outreach: Mike O'. thanked Gene, Mike, Linda and Monica for their assistance at the citizenship NALEO event.
- Planning: See Item 21
- Community Affairs: the Chair of this Committee, Ms. Padilla, was not present.
- Sun Valley Homeless: Ms. Housden read an email from Eddy Sanders, a grant development specialist from the Northeast Valley Health Corp., about what the Homeless Coalition has been doing. The email mentioned the assistance provided to a 62-year old woman who transitioned into permanent housing. Ms. Housden mentioned the importance and success an organization can achieve when organizations work as a team, and added the need of volunteers and participation in this type of effort.
- Ms. Housden announced an L.A. Housing seminar 'Skills for Working with the Homeless', to be held Friday, 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013, 09:30-04:30pm, at 7817 Lankershim, No. Hollywood, registration is required.
- By-laws: none
- Treasurer: Ms. Monroy announced that in June the Board approved allocations for \$1,285 for purchases that were made by Mike throughout June. Ms. Monroy added that the final budget balance will be provided to the Board in July 2013, after the fiscal year of '12-'13 closes. Ms. Monroy clarified that in May's Agenda there was an action Item which allocated \$1,800 toward the Fire House, but no action was taken on this item because it had been included as an action Item in April's agenda and at which time it was approved. Mr. O'Gara added that the \$1,800 amount was rescinded at a special meeting, and instead, it allocated \$2,300 for supplies for the Fire house landscape beautification project. Mr. O'Gara stated that the final bid for the supplies for this beautification project was \$800 less than the amount allocated. Mr. O'Gara said that he requested to DONE to spend part of the \$800 to buy an additional hard-drive for

*Minutes were approved as amended by the Board at the general meeting held July 09, 2013* the office computer and to buy about \$100 for supplies needed for outreach activities and another microphone cord. Mr. O’Gara said that SVANC has spent/allocated about \$35,000 plus from the amount allocated to the NCs by DONE.

- Ms. Monroy informed the Board that DONE is planning on providing a checking account for the NCs, but more information will be forthcoming.
- Beautification: Ms. Vacas thanked everyone for participating in the Neighborhood Pride day event, and also acknowledged the companies that sponsored this event. Ms. Vacas stated that a video was made of this event and encouraged everyone to watch it.
- Ms. Vacas also reminded everyone about the Firehouse beautification project coming up and asked for volunteers from the public and the Board for this project.
- C-PAB: Ms. Bartlett stated that C-PAB meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month at the Japanese Center on Branford, off Laurel Canyon, from 06:00-07:30pm. Everyone is invited to attend.
- VANC: none
- Plan Check: Mike stated that Gary, Mark and Mike went to a plan check meeting, on Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup> from 10:00-01:00, at Glassell Park, and added that a ‘health element’ will be included as part of the consideration of future projects by the City’s Planning Department. It will create a protection element for neighborhoods in which projects are planned that will impact an already environmentally impacted neighborhood. This ‘health element’ protection factor will allow the City Planning Department to receive \$250,000 grant from the Federal government.

**ITEM 9:** Appoint 78 Don Harward to the Board in the Resident Category. Don ran for election in this category last election and is a designated alternate now becoming a full board member as per our By-Laws.(Aggas)

- Mr. Harward was welcomed to the SVANC Board.
- Mr. Harward introduced himself to the public and to the SVANC Board.

**ITEM 10:** Nominations/Discussion/Vote for Secretary. The position has been vacant for months and Mike has been doing the work. We will train if necessary.

- Lysander Cuevas volunteered for this position of secretary.
- Mike made a motion to name Lysander Cuevas as SVANC’s secretary, the motion was seconded.
- The motion was put out for a vote
- The motion carried

**ITEM 11:** Motion /Discussion/Vote to have Mike O’Gara write a CIS regarding Verdugo Golf Course as a Historic Monument. (O’Gara)

- Mr. O’Gara clarified that CIS stands for Community Impact Statement. He added that only two people per each NC is authorized to write CISs---and Mike is the only one authorized to write a CIS on behalf of SVANC. Mr. O’Gara added that the CIS is attached to the Council file and it’s included in the motion the City Council members consider for a vote.
- Mr. O’Gara said that the Verdugo Golf Course is a Historic Monument because it was an internment camp during WWII for two years.
- The motion was put out for a vote
- The motion carried

**ITEM 12:** Thank you to Mark Mardirossian for his efforts in arranging the transfer of computers from ITT Technical Institute to the Learning Skills Center at Sun Valley High School.(Aggas)

- Mr. Aggas thanked Mr. Mardirossian for the 23 computers transferred.

**ITEM 13:** Three Cheers to the students at Sun Valley High School Engineering Learning Center for winning **The NATIONAL TITLE** in the Doolittle Institutes Mini-Urban Challenge held last week at the Smithsonian Institute Notional Museum of American History in Washington DC. Teams of students design, build and program a robotic vehicle made from Lego Mindstorms NXT kits that can Navigate autonomously through a model city. Members of the winning team were Carl Nartia, Jesus Pena and Raul Prado. They were supported by their teammates Mario Murillo and Christian Mendoza and were coached by Engineering teachers David Hicks, Angela Yamagata and mentor Bob Whitten. They received \$2500 for winning the national title and \$300 for the best presentation. (O’Gara)

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- Mr. O’Gara included this Item because Sun Valley HS has the highest absentee rate for truancy in Sun Valley, and Mr. O’Gara felt that it was important to highlight this accomplishment gained by the students at this school.
- Mr. Mark M. suggested inviting all the young kids for next month SVANC’s meeting to present them a certificate of recognition. However, it was stated that the school is out for the Summer, so perhaps this can take place upon their return to the school year in September.

**ITEM 14** Motion /Discussion/Vote to spend an amount not to exceed \$50.00 for a plaque to honor John Horn for his outstanding, ongoing service to the community of Sun Valley. (Linda Housden)

- Ms. Housden said that the NC has been involved with homeless issues for about three years with the Neighborhood Homeless Coalition in Sun Valley. She added that John Horn, Director of L.A. Family Housing, is the person who spearheaded the collaboration of all the organizations for this effort. Therefore, Ms. Housden is suggesting the possibility of recognizing him with this plaque for his efforts of being a true humanitarian.
- The motion was put out for a vote
- The motion carried

**ITEM 15:** Discussion regarding Ethics Training: All board members need to take it every 2 years. It is available on line. (Aggas)

- Mr. Aggas stated that all Board members must take this Ethics training every two years. He proceeded to quote the City’s website as [www.empowerla.org](http://www.empowerla.org) which includes a list of all the NCs board members’ names and dates by which their next Ethics training workshop must be completed.

**ITEM 16:** Discussion regarding Treasurers’ Training: Everyone is strongly encouraged to attend. Treasurer and 2<sup>nd</sup> Signatory must attend and I believe a 3<sup>rd</sup> person may be required after July 1, 2013. (Aggas)

- Mr. Aggas stated that DONE is planning to require all NCs’ Board members to take a ‘funding training’ course that it’s going to be similar to the ‘Treasurer’s training’. Mr. Aggas encouraged everyone to participate in this training.

**ITEM 17:** Discussion regarding the duties of the Community Affairs Committee.

- It was stated that no discussion was warranted since the information on the duties for this Committee was included in all of the Board members’ packets.
- This Item was tabled for next month’s SVANC general meeting.
- The motion was put out for a vote to table this Item for next month’s meeting
- The motion carried

**ITEM 18:** Discussion regarding the duties of the Beautification Committee and appoint the chairperson(s)

- Mr. Aggas, under the bylaws and consent from SVANC’s Board, appointed Mr. Mike O’Gara as the Chairperson for this position.

**ITEM 19:** Discussion regarding the duties of the By-Laws Committee and appointment of the chairperson(s).

- Mr. O’Gara stated that the By-Laws have to be revised by the early part of June 2013. He added that a By-law chairman needs to be elected.
- Mr. Don Harward volunteered and was appointed as the By-law committee chairman.
- Mr. Aggas asked for volunteers for this committee.

**ITEM 20:** Discussion regarding the duties of the other *Standing Committees Ad Hoc* Committees and appoint the chairperson(s) as needed.

- Mr. Aggas asked to table this Item for July’s general Board meeting agenda.

**ITEM 21:** Discussion and Possible Action of the items on the last Planning Committee Agenda:

- Proposed Housing development on Petaluma Drive at the top of the hill:

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- Mr. O’Gara stated that a meeting was held at Sun Valley Park regarding the Petaluma Dr., a project in CD2, and he added that there is a gentleman who wants to buy the area which is straight up the hill and wants to build 14 houses on top of it. Mr. O’Gara stated that SVANC will oppose this project due to the negative impact it will have on future residents.
- Proposed apartment complex on Sheldon St and Telfair Ave:
  - Mr. O’gara suggested that SVANC oppose this project because the developer is proposing to build a number of 4-bedroom apartments, which will create a parking problem. However, the community is asking for apartments with less bedrooms and more laundry rooms on one each floor instead of recreation rooms. This would be a great, affordable housing project if more 2 and 3 bedroom apartments are built, instead of the 4-bedroom apartments currently proposed.
- Proposed Eldercare Facility on Laurel Canyon at Jerome:
  - Mr. O’Gara said that this facility is not an adequate facility for elderly housing. A determination was already made to allow this developer to build as he proposes. However, a hearing regarding this facility will be held in front of the North Valley Area Planning Commission in the near future. But, again, SVANC is going on record to oppose the permit for this facility.
- Crown Disposal FEIR and the community Working Group:
  - This project is still in the hands of Crown Disposal and the community will most likely hear from them in the next four weeks. Mr. O’Gara commented that Crown Disposal will most likely abide by SVANC’s conditions due to the upcoming City ordinance to award exclusive franchises regarding waste collection and recycling of trash from private and commercial properties.
- The LADWP Tujunga Spreading Grounds (TSG) Environmental Impact Report (EIR):
  - Mr. O’Gara stated that some members of the Board met with them and letters were written stating opposition to this project, including a letter from Councilmember Alarcón who also opposed this project. One of the conditions was for them to build a conveyor belt, to which they finally complied to build. Also, they stated that the number of truck trips has been reduced to about 5,000 which will be spread over a one-year period or 240 working days. Additionally, they agreed to meet with SVANC’s board representatives every two months regarding this project. Mr. Aggas added that this was a great ‘win’ for the community.
- 7-11 Project on Rincon & Sheldon:
  - Mr. O’Gara stated that no decision has been made regarding the hours of operation of this store.
- The Ratner Recycling Center at 10970 Ratner St., Sun Valley CA 91352
  - Mr. O’Gara said that the operators of this facility have not complied with the permit conditions requested by the City; therefore a follow up regarding this issue is warranted.

**These planning Items on agenda are subject to Discussion and Possible Action.**

**ITEM 22:** PUBLIC COMMENT – Mr. O’Gara thanked Mr. Mylo Koenig for his assistance with the upgrade of SVANC’s website.

**ITEM 23:** Adjournment – a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at approximately 08:22pm.