

**SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

PRESIDENT: Quyen Vo-Ramirez
VICE-PRESIDENTS: Hiral Bhakta
and Don Neal
TREASURER: Randall Kelly
PUBLIC RELATIONS: Nick Krall



SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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Minutes of the
**SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (SNC)
GENERAL BOARD MEETING**
Thursday, May 24, 2012

at the Church of the Foothills, 13425 Glenoaks Blvd., Sylmar, CA 91342

SNC (and all other) Meeting Minutes are a summary, not an exact, verbatim, word-for-word transcript of what was said at a Meeting. The only two exceptions to this are the Motions and quotes, which are words that have quotation marks (""") at the beginning and ending of a word or words. The Minutes were not, are not and are never meant to be a comprehensive record of what was said about an issue or project.

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

President Quyen Vo-Ramirez called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ms. Vo-Ramirez.

2. Roll Call

Roll Call was taken by the Secretary. Board Members present: Ricardo Benitez, Hiral Bhakta, Deidre Campbell-Jones, Laurie Fadness, Rosemary Jenkins, Nick Krall, Martin Laufer, Sherry Lincoln, Derek Martin, Liz Meher, Kristin Mills, George Ortega, Enrique Segura, Chris Shows, Roy Smith and Quyen Vo-Ramirez. Cheri Blose and Don Neal arrived later. Board Members absent: Randall Kelly and Jeanne Rowe (both excused). One Board seat (Industrial) was vacant. Also attending: 22 Stakeholders and Guests.

Sixteen of the 20 Board Members were present at the beginning of the Meeting. The SNC quorum (the minimum number of Board Members needing to be present to take binding votes on Agendized Items) is 11, so the Board could take such votes.

Ms. Vo-Ramirez announced that Ms. Rowe requested a medical leave of absence.

3. Minutes Approval

MOTION (by Mr. Bhakta, seconded by Ms. Lincoln): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its March 22, 2012 General Board Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with 15 in favor; one abstained.

MOTION (by Mr. Krall, seconded by Mr. Bhakta): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its April 26, 2012 General Board Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with 14 in favor; one abstained.

4. Housekeeping, Stakeholder Comments, Speaker Cards, and Timekeeper.

Mr. Bhakta explained the above.

5. Welcome and Introduction by Board Meeting Host.

Ms. Vo-Ramirez thanked Church of the Foothills for hosting this Meeting.

6. Public Officials, Community Representatives and Board Member Announcements and Presentations.

Manny Figueras, Constituent Svcs. Rep. for L.A. City District Seven Councilman Richard Alarcon (818-756-8409; Manny.Figueras@LACity.org), announced the May 28th Pioneer Cemetery Veterans ceremony and that City Controller Wendy Greuel audited L.A. City Fire Dept. response time.

Alonzo Menchaca, LAPD Mission Division (north/east of Glenoaks Blvd.) Senior Lead Officer (mobile/text 818-634-0619; office 818-838-9846; 36178@LAPD.LACity.org; http://www.LAPDonline.org/Mission_Community_Police_Station), reported that crime is up 5% from last year, though violent crime is down 35%, burglaries are up 45% and arrests are up 42%.

Mr. Krall reported that the Relay for Life fundraiser raised around \$33,000 for cancer research and services. Ms. Vo-Ramirez announced the 3rd Annual Race for Youth fundraiser go-cart race Thursday, August 30, 2012, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. at the MB2 Raceway. She explained that the SNC co-sponsors the Race with the Mission Community Police Council to raise funds for Police youth programs such as Cadets, Jeopardy and Boot Camp. Mr. Benitez encouraged voting in the June 5th primary election.

Board Member Don Neal arrived at this time.

Stakeholder Lory Keller opposes the proposed cell towers installation near Eldridge and Sayre. Ms. Vo-Ramirez pointed out that the 1996 Telecommunications Act indicates that government agencies cannot consider health concerns regarding wireless telecommunications facilities. Mr. Ortega volunteered to explain the comment process to Ms. Keller. Stakeholder John Holmes thanked Board Members for attending the recent L.A. County Sediment Management Plan Meeting and described some Plan options.

Board Member Cheri Blose arrived at this time.

Stakeholder Krisna Crawford-Velasco invited everyone to the Independence Day Fourth of July City Council District Seven Celebration at Hansen Dam and requested \$500 funding for the sound system, for which the total cost is \$3,900. Ms. Vo-Ramirez agreed to Agendize this for the June 28th General Board Meeting.

7. Public Comments

[The following comment was made after Item #17.] Stakeholder David Barron commented on the proposed DWP rate hike.

8. Reports

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #13.]

Secretary

The Secretary reported on recent work assisting Board Candidates; setting up new Board Members' e-mail accounts; facilitating, writing and coordinating information regarding the Sediment Management Strategic Plan; writing a summary of SNC fire protection efforts; facilitating August 30th Race for Youth flier design; providing public

safety and other contact information; writing a revised website article regarding the proposed surface mining project above Gavina Ave.; and more.

Treasurer/Budget – There was no report at this time.

Land Use

Mr. Ortega explained that the below Item #10 projects are Withdrawn (see below). Also, the DEIR (Draft Environmental Impact Report) for the proposed surface mining project above Gavina Ave. is being done. Also, the DEIR regarding the Lakeside Park project was completed; Public Hearings will be scheduled.

Outreach

Mr. Neal reported that the L.A. Mission College SpringFest raised almost \$40,000. The Farmers Market will soon return to the College on Saturday mornings. Also, Hamer Toyota will be the Title Sponsor for the Labor Day weekend Olive Festival.

Election

Mr. Laufer reported that there will be a Region One Neighborhood Councils Election Meeting tomorrow.

Government Affairs, Public Safety and Services

Mr. Bhakta announced the next Committee Meeting on Tuesday, June 12th which will discuss the DWP's proposed rate increase.

Green

Ms. Jenkins reported that the Committee did not meet this month and that L.A. County Supervisory Zev Yaroslavsky has said that El Cariso Park will get soccer fields.

Equestrian

Ms. Blose announced the next Committee Meeting on Thursday, June 21st.

Bylaws

Ms. Vo-Ramirez reported that the restated Bylaws have not yet been approved by the L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment [DONE], which now has a moratorium on Bylaws changes; the SNC will wait until the next Board is Seated to approve the Bylaws.

Additional Reports, requested by the President

Ms. Vo-Ramirez announced the May 31st CPR Training at the Sylmar Recreation Center; a free emergency supplies kit is available to attendees, one per household, to Stakeholders who have completed a CPR or First Aid Class and show their Certification card.

Unfinished Business

9. Report and discussion on possible action to fill vacant seat(s) on the SNC Board of Directors (Industrial Rep.).

There were no candidates at this time.

10. Discussion and possible action to support the following recommendations by the SNC Land Use Committee:

a. Support: 13076 Glenoaks Boulevard, conditional use permit for on-site sales and consumption of alcoholic beverages at a restaurant under construction.
Mr. Ortega explained that this Item is Withdrawn from the Agenda because the Committee awaits information from City Council District Seven regarding project conditions.

b. Support: 13530 Foothill Boulevard, a zone change from LARA (RA-1) to RD1.5 in order to construct 8 townhouses on a 20,465 s.f. lot.
Mr. Ortega explained that this Item is Withdrawn from the Agenda because the developer is working out storm drainage details.

11. Discussion and possible action to support the following recommendation by the SNC Equestrian Committee: to support the completion of the "Trail Maps" project with financial support not to exceed \$500 for the committee can move the project into the next phase of making a power point presentation of the maps and pictures already collected to finish the final draft of the project for presentation.
Ms. Blöse requested and it was agreed to Table this Item for more information.

New Business

12. Discussion and possible action to support a letter to LAUSD to sustain Adult Education, as it is essential to the working class communities of Los Angeles, providing opportunities to educate parents and students in classes such as English, job training and parenting.
Ms. Villalobos-Morrow, LAUSD-Parent Educator, explained the below Motion.

MOTION (by Mr. Krall, seconded by Ms. Jenkins): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves a Resolution and will send a letter stating same to the LAUSD Superintendent and Board Members supporting continued funding for adult education and the School-Readiness Language Development Program.

DISCUSSION: Stakeholders Alex Aban, Donna Case and Patty Lopez, and Board Members expressed support.

MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with 13 in favor; three abstained.

Recess. There was a brief recess at this time.

13. Discussion and possible action [see the below Motion].
[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #6.] Ms. Vo-Ramirez read the below Motion. Officer Menchaca explained National Night Out and that the Police want to have a children's petting zoo at the event.

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Jenkins, seconded by Mr. Segura): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council supports the LAPD Mission Division National Night Out event, Tuesday, August 7, 2012 at the Sylmar Recreation Center with funding not to exceed \$500 for a petting zoo for the event.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Laufer was concerned that the City Council could significantly cut Neighborhood Council funding for the 2012-2013 Fiscal Year.

AMENDED FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Laufer, accepted by Ms. Jenkins and Mr. Segura): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council supports the LAPD Mission Division National Night Out event, Tuesday, August 7, 2012 at the Sylmar Recreation Center with funding not to exceed \$500 for a petting zoo for the event, subject to City Council funding for Neighborhood Councils.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Vo-Ramirez explained that all Neighborhood Council funding is through the L.A. City Council.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Mr. Laufer); there were no objections.

AMENDED FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with 15 in favor; one abstained.

14. Discussion and possible action to support the following items for SNC 2012 Elections: [This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #12.]

a. [See the below Motion.]

Mr. Laufer explained Election procedures.

MOTION (by Mr. Laufer, seconded by Ms. Lincoln): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council will participate in the August 4, 2012 Neighborhood Council Election.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote of all 18 Board Members present.

b. [See the below Motion.]

Mr. Laufer explained that Region One outreach is being coordinated among seven Neighborhood Councils. Mr. Shows volunteered to revise the Candidate Filing Packet for 2012.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Laufer, seconded by Mr. Krall): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council allocates \$600 for the August 4, 2012 SNC Election towards outreach materials such as newspaper advertising for candidates, and banners and fliers.

DISCUSSION: The Election will be held at the Sylmar Recreation Center. Mr. Laufer encouraged volunteers to make Election fliers and recruit Candidates so that all Board Seats are contested.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote of all 18 Board Members present.

Twelve Board Members indicated that they are again running for Board Seats.

c. [See the below Motion.]

Mr. Laufer announced and explained the June 22nd event, the only such event. The Candidate filing deadline is July 3rd; Candidates cannot handle Election documents after July 4th.

MOTION (by Mr. Laufer, seconded by Mr. Segura): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council Secretary will provide a Candidate Filing Packet to be amended by a Board

Member for the 2012 Neighborhood Council Election and require Candidates to attend the June 22, 2012 Election Candidate Information Night.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Laufer reported that DONE wants Neighborhood Councils to outreach as soon as possible regarding the NC Election. Ms. Vo-Ramirez and Mr. Krall explained that Candidates must follow DONE's rules.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote of all 18 Board Members present.

d. [See the below Motion.]

Mr. Laufer explained how the Forum could be funded.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Laufer, seconded by Ms. Jenkins): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council will facilitate an SNC Candidate Forum in July, date to be determined, by allocating \$300 towards refreshments and outreach materials.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote of all 18 Board Members present.

15. Discussion and possible action to approve SNC Purchasing Card expenditures for May 2012.

Mr. Kelly was not present; Ms. Vo-Ramirez requested and the Board agreed to Table this Item.

16. Appointments of Committee Chairs by the President

Ms. Vo-Ramirez requested and the Board agreed to Remove this Item from the Agenda pending the Seating of the new Board after the August 4th Election.

17. Board Member Comments

Mr. Neal requested and the Board agreed to pose with Dave Gilman of Hamer Toyota for a photo honoring Mr. Gilman for Hamer Toyota being the Olive Festival Title Sponsor. Mr. Krall encouraged attending the Pioneer Cemetery Memorial Day event. Mr. Martin distributed a brochure describing Sylmar High School achievements and programs.

18. Future Agenda Items, next Meeting date

Ms. Vo-Ramirez announced the next General Board Meeting will be Thursday, June 28th at 6:30 p.m. at Concordia Jr./Sr. High School, 13570 Eldridge Ave., Sylmar.

19. Closing Remarks, Announcements, Acknowledgements and Adjournment

Ms. Vo-Ramirez **ADJOURNED** the Meeting without objection at 8:54 p.m.

Minutes written by DL.