

SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
PRESIDENT: Ann Job
VICE-PRESIDENTS:
Administration: Diane Valencia
Communications: Kathy Grubert
TREASURER: Patricia Rau
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**Minutes of the
SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (SNC)
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, April 30, 2014**

El Cariso Park – Community Room, 13100 Hubbard Street, 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 Ann Job called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

2. Roll Call

Roll Call was taken by the Secretary. Twelve of the 20 Board Members were present at the beginning of the Meeting: Kathy Bloom, Cheri Blose, Lucille Floresta, Kathy Grubert, Ann Job, Jackie Mata, Jeh Meher, Patricia Rau, Christian Rubalcava, Chris Shows, Maria Silva and Roy Smith. Laurie Fadness, Derek Martin and Diane Valencia arrived later. Board Members absent: Brenda Resendis and Wally Aguilar (both excused); Carlos Lara, Judi Neal and Silverio Pelayo (all unexcused). The SNC quorum (the minimum number of Board Members needing to be present to take binding votes on Agendized Items) is 11 (see <http://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/Sylmar-NC-Bylaws.pdf>), so the Board could take such votes. Twenty of the 21 Board Seats were filled. One Board Seat (Faith-Based Organizations) was vacant. Also attending: seven Stakeholders and Guests.

3. Housekeeping, Speaker Cards and Timekeeper – Ms. Job explained this.

4. Approval of the Minutes

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #7.]

MOTION (by Mr. Rubalcava, seconded by Mr. Smith): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its March 27, 2014 General Board Meeting as written.

DISCUSSION: There was extensive discussion of how to indicate roll call votes to DONE [the L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment]. Ms. Valencia explained the Board Vote Resolution Form. Ms. Job relayed that DONE said that Minutes approval doesn't affect Seating of the Board or the Executive Board. The Secretary clarified that, if a roll call vote is requested, voters' names are shown in the Minutes and that,

if no roll call vote is requested, no names can be shown; that contact information is shown in the Minutes if the speaker already has indicated at some time that they want the information in the Minutes or if it is a public official who spoke, and that many people find the information helpful; and that no personal comments are included in the Minutes.

MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 14 eligible voters present with eight in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Bloom, Floresta, Mata, Rau, Rubalcava, Shows, Silva and Smith); four opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Grubert, Job, Martin and Valencia); two abstained (Blöse and Fadness).

5. Public Officials and Community Representatives announcements and presentations.

There were no announcements or presentations at this time.

6. Board Member community announcements.

[*This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #12.*] Ms. Blöse commented that California spends less than 30% of the nation’s average on its seniors. Ms. Blöse announced a May 17th 9:00 a.m. the Sylmar Equine Coalition, with other equine groups, is putting together the “Jackpot Poker Ride” at Stetson Ranch. She is working on the next “Make Your Horse Count” event, to be held “probably after it gets cooler.” To Ms. Fadness’ inquiry, she explained that at every function we have there will be licensing available. She explained the need to keep working to protect equestrian rights. Ms. Bloom announced the El Cariso Community Garden Grand Opening and BBQ. Ms. Valencia mentioned the Sylmar Hang Gliding Association Spring Air Festival with BBQ. Mr. Martin announced there will be Summer School classes at Chavez Learning Academy and other local schools. Sylmar High School has its own core-waiver Summer School just for Sylmar students provided by the District. Also a couple of weeks ago Mr. Martin said that SHS had applied for a School Improvement Grant, from the State. The State told Sylmar “basically that you don’t need” an “improvement” grant; and that is a very good thing. Ms. Fadness reported that April 26th at Stetson Ranch Boeing employees, with Tree People, “planted hundreds of trees.” Ms. Rau [Pat.Rau@SylmarNC.org] encouraged participation on the Budget Committee that soon will meet. Ms. Valencia requested and Ms. Rau agreed to provide a year-to-date SNC expenditures list. Ms. Rau reminded of the May 15th Demand Warrant submission deadline and the June 13th P-Card (Purchase Card) use deadline. Sylmar High School had a workshop for the baseball team to reach out to kids in the community, and had a very good turnout. Ms. Silva’s 10-year-old son is going to be SHS’s bat boy for the rest of the school year. Ms. Job asks everyone to look out for things going on in our community and let Kathy know so she can get it on the website, and Maria can publicize it. Ms. Grubert encouraged submitting event information and photos for SNC website posting, and to “like” the SNC on Facebook.

7. Public Comments

Bonnie Bernard, a SIBL (Sylmar Independent Baseball League) Board Member, announced that L.A. “Mission College plans to ‘take’ the property that has long been used by of SIBL,...100% of the property of the Sylmar Independent Baseball League through Chapter 8 due to tax default.”

Board Member Laurie Fadness arrived at this time, making 13 Board Members present (the SNC quorum is 11).

Ms. Bernard continued, “we have to move very fast to get this property settled.” Ms. Job added, “we will take this very seriously.”

[*This Agenda Item was continued after Item #6.*] Ms. Bernard forwarded to the SNC for storage computer files about the founding and history of the SNC. May 6th is the SNC’s 11th anniversary.

8. Discussion and possible Board action [see below].

Ms. Job indicated that this was discussed at the General Board Meeting.

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Grubert, seconded by Ms. Fadness): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves its monthly expenditure report (MER) for April, 2014.

Board Member Derek Martin arrived at this time, making 14 Board Members present (the SNC quorum is 11).

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 14 eligible voters present with all 14 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Bloom, Blose, Fadness, Floresta, Grubert, Job, Martin, Mata, Meher, Rau, Rubalcava, Shows, Silva and Smith).

9. Discussion and possible Board action on which Bylaws (2009 or 2014) the Board will follow for Committee Bylaw authority and structure.

Ms. Job distributed partial copies of July 20, 2009 and January 26, 2014 Bylaws versions. She wants Committee Chairs to be able to appoint Committee Members.

MOTION (by Ms. Job, seconded by Mr. Meher): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves that its President can choose Committee Chairs and that Committee Chairs can appoint Committee Members, in accordance with the July 2, 2009 version of the SNC Bylaws.

DISCUSSION: There was extensive discussion of what the Board can or should do.

Ms. Grubert asked if could we not just agree that we are operating under the 2009 Bylaws, until we write our new bylaws? Mr. Aisenman said, “you only operate under the most recently approved bylaws.”

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Ms. Job) restating the Motion: “For the purposes of forming committees, and appointing committee chairs, we are acting under the 2009 Bylaws, as approved by the Sylmar Neighborhood Council.” There were no objections.

MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 14 eligible voters present with 12 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Bloom, Blose, Floresta, Grubert, Job, Martin, Mata, Meher, Rau, Shows, Silva and Smith); two abstained (Fadness and Rubalcava,).

- 10. Discussion and possible Board action** to determine Committees, other than Standing Committees, and their general purpose. Stakeholders are welcome to make recommendations to the Board for consideration. Such Committees are to be other than Ad Hoc (which are for temporary issues and for a short duration).

Ms. Silva asked why we were not forming a safety committee tonight. Ms. Job wants us to all re-think government services and safety and create exciting committees later to address the myriad of issues facing us.

MOTION (by Ms. Job, seconded by Ms. Blose): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council establishes a Bylaws Committee.

MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 14 eligible voters present with 13 in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Bloom, Blose, Floresta, Grubert, Job, Martin, Mata, Meher, Rau, Rubalcava, Shows, Silva and Smith); one abstained (Fadness).

MOTION (by Ms. Job, seconded by Mr. Smith): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council establishes an Equestrian Committee.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 14 eligible voters present with all 14 in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Bloom, Blose, Fadness, Floresta, Grubert, Job, Martin, Mata, Meher, Rau, Rubalcava, Shows, Silva and Smith).

MOTION (by Ms. Job, seconded by Ms. Blose): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council establishes a Planning and Land Use Committee.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 14 eligible voters present with all 14 in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Bloom, Blose, Fadness, Floresta, Grubert, Job, Martin, Mata, Meher, Rau, Rubalcava, Shows, Silva and Smith).

- 11. President to appoint Committee Chairs (or Members if using 2014 Bylaws) for the Committees, other than Standing Committees.**

There was discussion about SNC Committees' roles in serving Sylmar.

MOTION (by Ms. Job, seconded by Ms. Rau): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council President appoints Board Member Roy Smith as its Bylaws Committee Chair.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Smith accepted the nomination.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 14 eligible voters present with all 14 in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Bloom, Blose, Fadness, Floresta, Grubert, Job, Martin, Mata, Meher, Rau, Rubalcava, Shows, Silva and Smith).

MOTION (by Ms. Job, seconded by Mr. Smith): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council President appoints Board Member Cheri Blose as its Equestrian Committee Chair.

DISCUSSION: To Ms. Fadness' question, Ms. Job indicated that she prefers solo Committee Chairs, rather than Co- or Vice-Chairs. So the Chair is responsible to

the Board; the committee members are responsible to the Committee Chair. If a Chair wants a co- or vice-chair, it will be his/her prerogative.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Ms. Job); there were no objections.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 14 eligible voters present with all 14 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Bloom, Blose, Fadness, Floresta, Grubert, Job, Martin, Mata, Meher, Rau, Rubalcava, Shows, Silva and Smith).

MOTION (by Ms. Job, seconded by Ms. Fadness): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council President appoints Board Member Wally Aguilar as its Planning and Land Use Committee Chair.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Job relayed that Mr. Aguilar “said he would accept it.” She said “he’s got quite a bit of experience with City and State government . . . he’s lived here all his life” and indicated he has the time. Mr. Meher, Mr. Smith, Ms. Blose and Ms. Floresta indicated that they were not interested in being the Chair. There was extensive discussion about Committee roles and previous Committee Chairs’ work. Ms. Blose is “willing to put together a glossary of terms” relating to land use for the whole board to understand land issues. Ms. Blose indicated that we should probably have a ‘workshop’ for board members regarding planning and land use. Ms. Silva talked about the value to talking to people who have been on the board and on committees before, in order to learn from them. Ms. Floresta, whose background is as a architect, pointed out how specific knowledge is necessary to make good land use decisions. Ms. Blose pointed out that we need ‘smart growth.’ Ms. Job urged Board Members to attend Planning and Land Use Committee Meetings “to hear both sides.”

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Ms. Job); there were no objections.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 14 eligible voters present with all 14 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Bloom, Blose, Fadness, Floresta, Grubert, Job, Martin, Mata, Meher, Rau, Rubalcava, Shows, Silva and Smith).

- 12. Discussion and possible Board action** pertaining to the creation of an Ad Hoc Committees which are to be for a short duration and disbanded when the purpose is completed. President to appoint Chair.

MOTION (by Ms. Job, seconded by Mr. Smith): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council establishes an Ad Hoc Sediment Removal Committee.

Board Member Diane Valencia arrived at this time, making 15 Board Members present (the SNC quorum is 11).

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 15 eligible voters present with all 15 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Bloom, Blose, Fadness, Floresta, Grubert, Job, Martin, Mata, Meher, Rau, Rubalcava, Shows, Silva, Smith and Valencia).

MOTION (by Ms. Job, seconded by Mr. Martin): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council President appoints Board Member Kathy Grubert as its Ad Hoc Sediment Removal Committee Chair.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Ms. Job); there were no objections.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 15 eligible voters present with all 15 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Bloom, Blose, Fadness, Floresta, Grubert, Job, Martin, Mata, Meher, Rau, Rubalcava, Shows, Silva, Smith and Valencia).

13. Discussion and possible Board action 1:04:[see below]. [*From the Agenda:*] The slogan of the LAAAC is “Keeping the Promise: Strengthening the Safety Net for Seniors.” Ms. Job will assess the value this group may have for Sylmar’s seniors. She will report her findings to the Board, and also to the seniors who meet at El Cariso Community Center. The cost of the ticket will come out of Outreach Category, Advertising Line.

Ms. Job explained that she, as the SNC Senior Seat representative, wants to attend the event and will report back to the Board.

Stakeholder, Mr. Aisenman says the “\$35 is little enough for the SNC to pay to make Ann more responsible.”

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Martin, seconded by Ms. Floresta): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves the purchase of one (1) ticket at the non-Member price of \$35, for Ann Job (Senior Representative and President) to attend the 5th Annual Los Angeles Aging Advocacy Coalition (LAAAC) Aging Summit on May 8 from 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Job indicated that funding could be allocated from the Advertising part of the SNC Outreach budget. Ms. Valencia recommended that the funding be allocated from the Miscellaneous part of the Outreach budget. Ms. Job explained that LAAAC is a coalition and said “I believe it’s like a training . . . I would know the services we’re not getting that others are getting.”

Stakeholder John Holmes wants us to look into the resources that are available to the seniors in Sylmar.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 15 eligible voters present with all 15 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Bloom, Blose, Fadness, Floresta, Grubert, Job, Martin, Mata, Meher, Rau, Rubalcava, Shows, Silva, Smith and Valencia).

14. Discussion and possible Board action [see below].

MOTION (by Mr. Rubalcava, seconded by Ms. Rau): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council will replace Ross Liquor, 12643 San Fernando Rd., Sylmar, CA 91342 as a posting place, by Cell Corner, 12637 San Fernando Rd., Sylmar, CA 91342, subject to approval from DONE as noted in the SNC’s Bylaws dated 2/27/09, Article IV, Section 5a.

DISCUSSION: There was discussion of why it might or might not be good to make the change and the pros and cons of each location.

Mr. Smith said the location was picked because it has so much traffic. Ms. Blose said it was picked in part because it is in an area where we do not post. Ms. Job indicated that the Cell Corner was on the same corner as Ross Liquor. Mr. Smith said we should approach many businesses to see if they would be willing for us to post. Ms. Bloom said that Ross Liquor is much more than just a liquor place; it sells ice cream, soda, etc. Ms. Job said, "I think we should vote me down."

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Ms. Job); there were no objections.

MOTION FAILED by a roll call vote of the 15 eligible voters present with two in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Job and Rubalcava); 13 opposed ("No" or "Nay") (Bloom, Blose, Fadness, Floresta, Grubert, Martin, Mata, Meher, Rau, Shows, Silva, Smith and Valencia).

Board Member Jeh Meher left at this time, making 14 Board Members present (the SNC quorum is 11).

15. Board Member Comments

[*This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #4.*] Ms. Job indicated that candidates expressed interest in the vacant Faith-Based Organizations Board Seat. Ms. Grubert noted that applications are available on the website.

16. Future Agenda Item suggestions from public and Board Members.

Write to Executive Board by email at ExecutiveBoard@SylmarNC.org or mail Executive Board c/o Sylmar Neighborhood Council, 13517 Hubbard St., Sylmar, CA 91342. The next General Board meeting will be May 22, 2014, at 6:30 PM, at Sylmar High School/Spartan Hall

17. Closing Remarks, Acknowledgements and Adjournment

MOTION to ADJOURN (by Ms. Rau, seconded by Mr. Smith).

MOTION to ADJOURN PASSED by a voice vote with no objection.

Ms. Job **ADJOURNED** the Meeting at 9:03 p.m.

Minutes written by DL, revised by SNC Board.