

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

California



SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Special Joint Meeting of the EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE and BOARD MINUTES

Tuesday, March 21, 2017 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

Sylmar Public Library, Community Room, 14561 Polk St. Sylmar, CA 91342

John Pacheco, Chairperson

Sylmar Neighborhood Council Meeting Minutes are a summary, not an exact, verbatim, word-for-word transcript of what was said at a Meeting. The only two exceptions are the Motions shown in italics and quotes shown with quotation marks (“ ”) at the beginning and ending of a word or words. The Minutes are not, nor were they ever meant to be, a comprehensive record of what was said about an issue or project.

- 1. Call to Order** The meeting was called to order by John Pacheco at 5:37 pm. Present at the meeting were John Pacheco, Janet Gibson, Greg Hoerner and Emily Rubalcava. Also attending were; Martin McKibben, Marti Marshall, Ann Job and Sharon Washington.
- 2. Roll Call/Introductions** John Pacheco introduced the newest member of the committee, Emily Rubalcava. Emily is a current member of the SNC and represents youth on the council. Members welcomed Emily to the committee. John asked Emily to let the committee know if she had any specific goals for the committee. Emily indicated she would consider this and share her thoughts at the next meeting. John asked members and visitors to introduce themselves.
- 3. Housekeeping: Sign-In Sheets, Speaker Cards for Agenda Items, Recording and Timekeeper.** John Pacheco agreed to take minutes and act as Timekeeper.
- 4. Public Comment** on matters not appearing on the agenda. No requests for additional items were made to the committee.
- 5. Discussion and possible action** to approve the Minutes of the March 21, 2017 Preparedness Committee Meeting. Motion, made by Janet Gibson and seconded by Greg Hoerner. Motion to approve minutes from 2/21/17 EPC meeting passed with unanimous voice vote.
- 6. Presentation, discussion and possible action:** on proposal regarding upcoming L.A. Mission College sponsored Preparedness Project. Presentation by: Dr. Monte Perez, President L.A. Mission College. John provided an update on a meeting he had with the college president last week. The president had advised Ann Job earlier in the month that he was interested in working with the council on an unspecified preparedness project. John indicated that Dr. Perez had shared with him that the college was under consideration by LA City OEM to be designated as a backup communications facility for the department. The president also mentioned that the college was working actively with other emergency agencies including the Red Cross. John told the committee that he discussed the committees' current goals regarding CERT and MAP and was advised by Dr. Perez that the college was very interested in working with the committee. Specifically, John asked about the possibility of training some of their students as presenters for the MAP program. Dr Perez indicated he would have a senior staff contact us to follow up on this request.
- 7. Discussion and possible action** on marketing efforts for:

A. CERT Training. Greg updated the committee on his efforts to hold a CERT training program at Olive Hospital this coming May. Greg indicated that recruitment is going well but would like to expand his outreach efforts by distributing a flyer for the program. Greg asked several members if they would review the flyer that he has created before it is sent out and posted on the SNC website. Janet and Ann agreed to review the flyer. Greg mentioned that the training will include an extra component on “Active Shooter” response. Greg pointed out that this is not usually available in CERT programs but is a special opportunity for participants.

B. MAP Your Neighborhood. Janet provided an update on her outreach efforts for the MAP program. Jane mentioned that she had been asked to provide a series of seminars for the Oakridge Mobile Home Park that was impacted in the Sayre Fire 2 years ago. Janet has continued her efforts in training residents of the Santiago Estates. Janet suggested that it would make sense to focus outreach efforts on communities that are either more disaster prone or have had recent experiences with evacuations. Janet advised the committee that these residents are more likely to recognize the need as they have been more directly affected by recent disasters. These residents might be more likely to want to become part of our program. John mentioned that he had advised Bill Hopkins that we need to purchase MAP materials. John also stated that he had spoken to a printer who recommended we place a sticker on the handouts with the SNC logo rather than trying to print directly on the handouts which could cost significantly more.

C. Business Preparedness Seminar. John gave an update on efforts to hold a preparedness seminar for local businesses in late spring or early summer. John has secured a keynote speaker, Paul Weinberg, Emergency Services Director for Santa Monica. John indicated that when he was the CEO for the Red Cross of Santa Monica he had worked with Paul to host a similar event several times for small businesses in Santa Monica. John mentioned that he had spoken with David Rodriguez who has offered to assist with marketing for the program. John asked attendees to let him know if they had suggestions about businesses to contact regarding sponsoring the event.

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- 8. Update from Public Safety Liaison.** No new information was discussed.
- 9. Presentation on Wildland/Brush Fire Safety** by Greg Hoerner, Los Angeles City Fire Department, Committee Vice-Chair. Greg provided a very informative presentation on the steps that residents who live near the foothills can take to reduce danger posed by wildfires here in Sylmar. Greg referred to a map that outlined wildfire danger areas and that is used by the fire Department to identify those homes that are required to meet brush clearance standards. Greg utilized a safety presentation from NFTA called Firewise. The presentation included explanation of the different “zones” around a property and what efforts are required to ensure maximum protection in the event of a brush fire before a fire occurs. Greg pointed out that homeowners who follow these guidelines have a much better chance of keeping their homes safe in the event of a wildland fire. In addition to the need to clear brush and other flammable materials away from the home, Greg pointed out the importance of keeping roofs and rain gutters clear of debris. Attendees thanked Greg for the informative presentation. Attendees had the opportunity to look over the map of High Fire Danger zones at the conclusion of the meeting.
- 10. Discussion and possible action** on possible SNC participation with other Foothill Neighborhood Councils to jointly support the 2017 Valley Preparedness Fair. John opened the discussion on our potential collaboration with other Foothill Councils to jointly host a booth at the upcoming “ Valley Preparedness Fair”. Sharon Washington told the committee that there is support for collaboration. John asked Sharon what the cost sharing might look like. It was suggested by the committee that \$200-\$300 might be reasonable if the cost was split 3 ways. Sharon mentioned the importance of ensuring the booth focused on issues that would be important to all residents in the foothill communities. Committee agreed that it would be important to focus the effort on wildland fires. Sharon will keep the committee updated on plans for the project. Sharon also mentioned that the location may be changing because the Fire Station that has been used in the past is not available this year.
- 11. Discussion and possible action on formalizing 2017 EPC budget request.** Item was deferred to a future meeting. John did caution the members that we needed to be aware that as our formal budget had been approved by the council, new costs should be clearly identified if they were not included in the original funding requests. It might be necessary to modify our budget if new items are required that were not figured into the original budget.
- 12. Future Agenda Items:** Future Agenda Items: Please e-mail the EPC Chair at John.Pacheco@sylmarnc.org by the first of the month for that month’s meeting.
- 13. Closing Remarks, Announcements, Acknowledgements, and Adjournment**

Next Meeting; Tuesday, May 18, 2017 Sylmar Public Library-Community Room.
