

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA

SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

PRESIDENT: Christian Rubalcava

VICE PRESIDENTS:

Administration: Andres Rubalcava

Communications: Maria Silva

TREASURER: George Ortega

SECRETARY: Michelle Underwood



P.O. Box 921023, Sylmar, CA 91392-1023

Telephone: (818) 833-8737

E-mail: Board@SylmarNC.org

Website: www.SylmarNC.org

MEETING OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE - MINUTES

Thursday, July 12, 2018 - 6:30 PM

Oakridge Mobile Home Park (Clubhouse)

15455 Glenoaks Blvd., Sylmar, CA 91342

Committee Chair – Diane Valencia

Vice Chair – Tom Weissbarth

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

Diane Valencia called the meeting to order at 6:42 pm and thanked Oakridge Mobile Home Park for hosting our meeting tonight.

2. Housekeeping: Sign-In Sheets, taking of Minutes, etc.

Diane Valencia covered housekeeping items. Linda Willeford, President of the Oakridge Residents Association and host of tonight’s meeting, welcomed everyone.

3. Roll Call of Committee

All Committee members were present: Diane Valencia, Tom Weissbarth, Kurt Cabrera-Miller, Kathy Grubert and Robyn Farrow.

4. Appointment and/or removal by Committee Chair of Committee Member(s)

Diane Valencia asked Bonnie Bernard if she was still interested in serving on the Committee as she and another member were removed at a prior meeting in order to meet quorum. Bonnie expressed an interest in returning as a committee member and Diane re-appointed her. SNC Directors Andres Rubalcava and David Gonzalez each expressed an interest in joining the Committee with Diane saying that she would follow up with them after the meeting to provide further information about the role and consider their possible appointments. Diane indicated that it was her preference to keep the Committee to an odd number of members – either 5 or 7.

5. Public Comment on non-agendized matters, within the Committee’s subject matter jurisdiction.

John Holmes expressed concern about activities and associated fire danger, and asked who to contact about it. LACSD Lieutenant Deedrick offered to assist. Marti Marshall expressed concern over traffic congestion at the 210 and Maclay on/off ramps.

Another stakeholder suggested a horse trail cleanup. Yet another stakeholder expressed concern over transients and associated fire danger.

6. Public Official Comments / Presentations, including Q&A

After describing a bit about himself and his professional background, Lieutenant Geff Deedrick of LA County Sheriff’s Department provided a presentation and Q&A on the Homeless Initiative – a county fund allocated to combat/address homelessness (related to Measures H/HHH). Though they now have more resources to devote to

homelessness, the Lieutenant shared that 95% of homeless that the LACSD encounters suffer from mental illness or narcotics addiction, and 52% were either sexually abused as children or grew up in foster homes. California has the largest homeless population in the country likely because of its mild weather. He then went on to describe what the County is doing to combat/address homelessness. For example, any time there is an encampment of 5 or more people, their protocol is enacted. That protocol includes the launching of an app in which the public can enter the address/location/date/time and description of a homeless encampment. The information initiates their collaborative approach on the part of LASD and a team of outreach professionals. The basics of their protocol are to: 1) identify, 2) assess, 3) outreach. Their approach has been successful in helping homeless to get the services they need, and to avoid costs from unlawful search and seizure lawsuits by respecting people's constitutional rights and treating them respectfully and helpfully. Diane indicated that she had come to know Lt. Deedrick by receiving a referral from Captain Steinbrenner who attended the Public Safety Town Hall meeting in April, 2018 based upon a request for County resources for homeless encampments in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones.

After Q&A, in which stakeholders shared their concerns and questions, the Lieutenant promised to address the situation at Olive View Hospital and the neighboring County mental urgent care center by ensuring that there is a resource stationed there for the express purpose of making sure homeless patients are not released without receiving services.

Diane Valencia shared an email received from Senior Lead Officer Crawford, including contact information for a new task force being formed to address street racing.

7. Discussion and possible action to approve the draft Minutes of the June 14, 2018 Public Safety Committee meeting.

Minutes not yet prepared and will be on next month's agenda.

8. LAPD Mission Division Report / Updates – LAPD / Tom Weissbarth

Tom Weissbarth provided an update on the latest statistics received from LAPD Mission Division, including some new, more effective procedures for addressing illegal fireworks at the point of sale.

9. Discussion and possible action regarding open / action items of the Public Safety Committee, including review of Council Files identified as being relevant to public safety.

Diane Valencia reported on the status of open/action items and relevant City Council Files.

10. Discussion and possible action related to Council File #17-1421-S1 (Illegal Fireworks / June, July and August / Task Force / Enhanced Enforcement Strategies). Public Safety Committee has previously drafted a Community Impact Statement in support of Council File #17-1421 (Illegal Fireworks Task Force / Restrict Usage / Public Safety Threat / Quality-of-Life Issues which was approved by SNC Board then submitted to the City Council and its Committees on March 22, 2018.

Motion to approve writing a CIS in support of Council File #17-1421-S1 made by Kurt Cabrera-Miller and seconded by Diane Valencia. The CIS will include the following bullet points: 1) a request to dramatically increase the penalties for possessing or igniting illegal fireworks, 2) a request to increase fines substantially for anyone found to be selling over a certain threshold.

Motion passed unanimously: 6/0/0

11. Discussion and possible action related to Council File #18-0401 (Combat Illegal Street Racing / Citywide / Review Current Ordinances), including possible approval of a Community Impact Statement (CIS).

Motion to approve a CIS related to Council File #18-0401 (Combat Illegal Street Racing / Citywide / Review Current Ordinances) made by Diane Valencia and seconded by Kurt Cabrera-Miller. CIS to include language about the impacts of street racing to Sylmar.

Motion passed unanimously: 6/0/0

12. Discussion and possible action related to Council File #18-0600-S124 (Motion No. 14 / Two Firefighter IIIs / Fast Response Vehicle / Fire Station 91), including possible approval of a Community Impact Statement (CIS).

Item tabled until next month after more information is obtained.

13. Discussion and possible action related to the general purpose/mission of the Public Safety Committee, assessment of activity to date, along with possible changes to the Committee and its strategies moving forward, budget and plan for next Fiscal Year in furtherance of its goals.

Diane emphasized the need to improve community outreach. Discussed were some of the opportunities and challenges we face in terms of current communication technologies and support.

14. Discussion and possible action related to the SNC's Public Safety / Quality of Life Community Town Hall meeting held on April 21, 2018. (Questions from Stakeholders, responses from officials, video of meeting, updates on SNC website, etc.)

Diane reported that she is working with the Board to determine how or if the SNC website can be expanded to accommodate the Town Hall data so that it is viewable by our Stakeholders. Diane has also requested a copy of the contract with the SNC's webmaster to determine if there is some limitations on the website functionality that would prevent the necessary changes being made.

15. Committee Member Comments on subject matters within the Committee's jurisdiction

None

16. Future Agenda Items: Please e-mail the Committee Chair, Diane Valencia, at Diane.Valencia@SylmarNC.org

Request made by Bonnie Bernard to agendize the topic of a study being done by Monica Rodriguez's office on the need for another fire station in CD7.

17. Closing Remarks, Announcements, Acknowledgements, and Adjournment

Diane moved to adjourn, without objection, at 8:58 pm.

Committee Meeting Minutes are available on the SNC website www.SylmarNC.org