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CALIFORNIA

SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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MEETING OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE - MINUTES

Thursday, June 14, 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 and explained that a drawing would be done later during the meeting, with the prize being an LAPD ride-a-long, courtesy of Captain Marino. Everyone who wished to participate was offered a red ticket. Linda Willeford, President of the Oakridge Residents Association and host of tonight’s meeting, welcomed everyone.

3. Roll Call of Committee

Committee members present: Diane Valencia, Kurt Cabrera-Miller, Kathy Grubert and Robyn Farrow

Committee members absent: Tom Weissbarth, Bonnie Bernard, Art Rocco

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

Bart Trevino of San Fernando Valley Partnership, Inc. spoke about his organization’s work to prevent underage drinking and drug use.

There was also a short presentation about air bag safety and the importance of checking about airbag recalls.

5. Q&A with Captain Robert Marino - Area Commanding Officer, LAPD Mission Division

Diane stated that since there were no other public officials present, that agenda item #5 and #6 would be combined. With that, the floor was turned over to Captain Marino.

Captain Marino introduced himself and provided general information about Mission Division. He stated that he wanted to spend some time discussing the steps that Mission has taken to curtail the sale of illegal fireworks – undercover work with Craig’s List sales, etc. He spoke about outreach efforts related to fireworks and the enforcement process, including that LAPD would be on max deployment on the 4th of July. A press conference will be held on July 28.

Volunteer Patrol – force multiplier for LAPD. Citizens trained to help with visibility in a marked City vehicle with amber lights on top. Could be helpful for house break-ins, vehicle break-ins, vandalism, etc. Currently has 10 individuals and would like a larger volunteer pool.

Volunteer Surveillance Team – members come out once per week, coming out looking for crimes. Work in close proximity with officers but in a low visibility manner. Additional volunteers are also welcome for this program.

Encampments – working close with Sanitation. SLOs have been given direction to hit encampments once a week. A description of the HOPE detail was provided. LAPD is doing what they can to deal with the RV's. For vehicles subject to towing, a tow order could take up to two weeks. Officers also work very closely with service providers and outreach personnel.

Property crime – there has been recent burglary of residential homes, GTA, recent murder in Sylmar Park. YTD robberies within Mission – 154, up 7 from last year. Spike in teenagers getting intoxicated at parties and then being sexually assaulted. Working with Council Office on Party Car funding.

Code 3 response time – 6.5 min. Non-coded calls (non life threatening) – 51 min.

Street racing – Valley Traffic is starting a Task Force. Recent operation involving CHP officers, LAPD in uniform and undercover. Talked about developing stiffer fines and penalties. He indicated that he has discussed crushing cars with City officials to push the punishments to be more meaningful.

Explained staffing and shift schedules

Senior Lead Officers Giron and Crawford also presented crime stats for their respective areas.

Approximately 30 minutes was spent on answering questions from community members – topics included fireworks, vehicle theft, recent car fire at Stetson Ranch, crime, vehicle dwelling, street racing, street vending.

Diane asked Captain Marino about the Council File in agenda item #11 and he indicated that he was supportive.

The discussion was wrapped up and an announcement was made that the drawing would be done. Jose Diaz was the winner of the LAPD ride-a-long.

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

See notes under agenda item #5.

7. Discussion and possible action to approve the draft Minutes of the May 10, 2018 Public Safety Committee meeting.

Motion by Kathy Grubert, Second by Robyn Farrow to approve the Minutes as drafted

Motion passed 4/0/0

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

Diane indicated that we will come back to this later on in the meeting when the Committee strategy is discussed later on in the meeting.

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

With Tom being absent and having a strong presence from LAPD during previous agenda items, this item was tabled to the July meeting.

10. 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 very briefly covered this and suggested that the Committee discuss in more detail when the Committee strategy is discussed later on in the meeting.

11. Discussion and possible action related to Council File 16-0881 (Gated Communities / Provide Fire and Police Departments Emergency Access / Install Universal Emergency Access Systems), including possible approval of a Community Impact Statement (CIS).

Motion by Kathy Grubert, Second by Kurt Cabrera-Miller to approve the CIS as drafted.

During discussion, Diane explained how each fire agency typically uses the Knox entry system with each agency using a unique key. LAPD does not have any such entry system or ability. Often, during emergency response to calls, Officers need to wait to reach someone at the gate to be buzzed in for entry, follow someone in or even climb gates. She gave an example of a brush fire adjacent to her own community where there was a response by LA City Fire, LA County Fire and the Forest Service. Though her community had a Knox entry system for LA City Fire, LA County Fire and the Forest Service were unable to gain entry. This could be a problem elsewhere in Sylmar or in other areas with multi-agency / multi-jurisdictional response.

Motion passed: 4/0/0

12. Discussion and possible action related to Council File 14-1057-S1 (Section 85.02 Prohibiting the Use of Streets and Public Parking Lots for Habitation / Ordinance). Ordinance is scheduled to sunset July 1, 2018. Possible action could include submitting a Community Impact Statement, resubmitting the SNC's letter dated February 1, 2018 to CD7 and/or sending to City Council, asking that all areas within the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ) be excluded under this Ordinance, asking that No Parking signs for Oversize Vehicles be posted within the VHFHSZ or other action related to the Ordinance, including supplemental Council Files 14-1057-S2, 14-1057-S3, 14-1057-S4 and 14-1057-S5.

Diane summarized her research on the various Council Files and indicated that the Ordinance is scheduled to sunset soon but is very likely to be extended. There was a discussion about taking a position which is similar to the prior position taken by the Committee, though slightly different. Currently, the position is to ask for a color coding change under LAMC for all areas tagged as Green or Yellow which are in the VHFHSZ to Red. There was a discussion around suggesting that LAMC 85.02 be amended to prohibit vehicle dwelling within the VHFHSZ, rather than to focus on the color coding.

Motion by Diane Valencia, second by Kathy Grubert to draft a CIS, asking that vehicle dwelling be prohibited within the VHFHSZ under LAMC 85.02 and that we attach our letter dated February 1, 2018 to Councilwoman Rodriguez as back-up.

Motion passed: 3/1/0 with Kurt Cabrera-Miller opposed.

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, and plan for next Fiscal Year in furtherance of its goals.

Diane covered some of our work done to date but that unfortunately we have not been receiving much of a response regarding our input. Kurt recounted his efforts to communicate with CD7 and that communication seems challenged with all Neighborhood Council's across the District. Kathy suggested getting representatives from other NC's across the District together; Diane suggested that we look for other NC Public Safety Committees.

The Committee talked about how to get more participation from the community with the Committee, it's meetings and its work. Nextdoor.com was identified as a good outreach tool as most in the room are using Nextdoor.com. Diane indicated that she is still following up with the SNC Board with regard to the SNC website, use of email blasts, and general outreach tools to improve communication. Tom and Diane met with Christian last week to discuss the website challenges. It seems as if the SNC website is currently a "template" with individual pages not being able to be expanded without assistance from the SNC webmaster, The Web Corner. Kurt has turned over all Constant Contact database and login information to Christian. Diane indicated that she has been asking for assistance on these items since October, 2017 when the Committee first discussed communication and outreach strategies. Diane will look into what other communication options may be available. Kurt suggested that the Committee might wish to do Meet & Greets around town with our Stakeholders. Diane also suggested that the Committee members consider how they can contribute between meetings – by doing research, attending other relevant meetings, etc. Kurt also suggested compiling a list of volunteers – folks who are interested in helping but who may not wish to serve on the SNC Board or its Committees.

Diane also raised the issue of the Committee structure with 7 members and that it has been challenging to meet quorum for the past couple of months. It was noted that Art Rocco has not been present for the past few months and Bonnie Bernard has also needed to miss the past couple of meetings due to other commitments. Diane indicated that she felt that it was best for the Committee that if we reduced the number of Committee members to 5, so that our quorum was reduced to 3. An informal polling of the Committee showed that all members were in support of these removals and to reduce the size of the Committee. Diane reminded everyone that the only

difference in being on the Committee or a member of the public is the “official” voting on items, but that the Committee is always seeking input and feedback from the community on all items. Also, no one is restricted in helping the Committee in any way with research or other work at any time, during the meetings or otherwise.

Janet Gibson suggested perhaps rolling the Emergency Preparedness Committee into the Public Safety. Diane indicated that would be something that would need to be discussed with John Pacheco and that Public Safety has a pretty full plate already.

Diane reminded the Committee that we have been asked to come up with a budget for the next year, so she engaged SNC Treasurer, George Ortega who was present, in the discussion. Ultimately, it was decided to ask the Board for \$3,000 for the year, which would potentially cover quarterly Town Hall or other community meetings, regular monthly meetings, supplies, etc.

Motion by Diane Valencia, second by Robyn Farrow to ask the SNC Board for \$3,000 to cover Public Safety Committee expenditures during the next fiscal year.

Motion passed: 4/0/0

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 indicated that she is still trying to work on getting our Q&A posted on the website, the meeting video on the website, our compiled list of resources, etc. She is hoping that there will be a response soon so that we can deliver on our promises to our Stakeholders.

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

17. Closing Remarks, Announcements, Acknowledgements, and Adjournment

Diane moved to adjourn, without objection, at 9:04 PM

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