

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA

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MEETING OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE - MINUTES

Thursday, January 10, 2019 - 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

Tom Weissbarth called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM

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

Tom Weissbarth covered basic housekeeping items and Linda Willeford, President of Oakridge Residents Association, welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming.

3. Roll Call of Committee

Members present: Diane Valencia, Tom Weissbarth, Kathy Grubert, Bonnie Bernard.

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

Penny reported that she has seen fewer RVs of late (i.e. 20 vs. previous 38), and other stakeholders shared similar experiences.

A Stakeholder shared that he had noticed dumping on Foothill Blvd and asked who did the clean-up.

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

Ann Marie Rodriguez, CD7 was not in attendance.

Hope Christman, LA Public Utilities Commission Local Community Liaison, spoke about her role and jurisdiction (e.g. railroad, water companies, private and public transportation entities). In particular, she spoke about the CPUC’s wildfire mitigation efforts.

LAPD SLO Joe Carter introduced himself and explained that SLO Crawford was unable to attend. Officer Carter shared local crime statistics and reported that crime in nearly every category is down for the year. Further topics of discussion with stakeholders included gang activity, homeless encampments, RV dwelling, narcotics, illegal dumping, street racing. Station Golf Tournament will be held March 18 at Knollwood Country Club (12040 Balboa Blvd, Granada Hills): check-in at 6:30 am, 8:00 am start. January 23 at Carrusel Baker (13923 Van Nuys Blvd, Arleta) from 10:30 am to noon there will be a Coffee with the Captains. When asked about the best way to contact the LAPD about homeless encampments, Officer Carter suggested sending pictures and particulars to your SLO (i.e. SLO Joe Carter or SLO Keith Crawford). Bonnie Bernard suggested the SLOs hold

a regular monthly meeting at the SNC office, to which Officer Carter was receptive, time and resources allowing.

- 6. Discussion and possible action** to approve the draft Minutes of the October 18, 2018 Special Public Safety Committee meeting.

Motion by Kathy, seconded by Bonnie, to approve the Minutes as written.

Motion passed: 4/0/0

- 7. Discussion and possible action** to approve the draft Minutes of the November 8, 2018 Special Public Safety Committee meeting.

Motion by Tom, second by Bonnie to approve the Minutes as written. There was a brief discussion about whether Kathy was present for that meeting or not and the Committee agreed that Diane would double check the records before posting the final version.

Motion passed: 4/0/1 with Kathy abstaining

- 8. Discussion and possible action** to approve the draft Minutes of the December 13, 2018 Special Public Safety Committee meeting.

Item tabled to next month to allow additional time to prepare and proof draft Minutes.

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

Tom reported that there was nothing further to report that SLO Carter didn't already cover. However, he did share that Mission's Quality of Life Committee is looking closely at street vending. Ordinances passed in December will not be invoked until 2020. Until then "vending is a free-for-all" – limited to administrative citations, which are regulated by the state and difficult to enforce.

- 10. Discussion and possible action** to approve an expenditure of SNC funds during the balance of the current Fiscal Year for community projects and/or initiatives which fall within the purpose and scope of the Committee.

Bonnie moved to approve requesting an expenditure of funds from the SNC not to exceed \$5,000 for LAMC "No Trespassing" signage to be purchased and posted, to be completed by the end of the current Fiscal Year at Stetson Ranch and other areas bordering brush in areas mapped to be within the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. Tom seconded the motion.

Motion passed: 4/0/0

Tom moved and Bonnie seconded supporting SNC activities in collaboration with the LAFD, including Station 91's 2019 Fire Service Day, in an amount not to exceed \$750.

Motion passed: 4/0/0

- 11. Discussion and possible action** regarding obtaining specialized No Trespassing signs for placement within Sylmar's open space designated as being within the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ) to discourage trespassing and to allow enforcement. These signs have existed for years and have been effective in other parts of Los Angeles such as Pacific Palisades. Recent news story:

<https://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/Homeless-Encampment-Fires-Brush-Wildfires-Danger-ITeam-500546861.html>

Diane Valencia shared a YouTube video from a PPTFH Community Meeting in January 2017 in Pacific Palisades as well as similar efforts and progress made locally regarding installation of permanent "No Trespassing" signage restricting burning/smoking, camping and other prohibited and dangerous activities in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (such as Stetson Ranch). The Committee discussed how other parts of Los Angeles has seen the successful placement of these signs, coupled with enforcement. SLO Carter will look into the specific LAMCs.

12. **Discussion and possible action** regarding local LAFD resources in Sylmar. (Follow-up from prior 2018 Committee meetings). Discussion regarding Public Records Act request regarding past payments and contracts between the City of Los Angeles and the City of San Fernando, special taxes levied (Mello-Roos) related to City of Los Angeles Community Facilities District No. 8 (Legends At Cascades), and disposition of land acquired for LAFD Station 31.

Diane suggested, and the committee agreed, to table this item until next month.

13. **Discussion and possible action** regarding work done to date and identifying strategic goals for 2019. Goal setting / ideas for 2019 – community engagement, education, outreach, etc.

The Committee discussed accomplishments and challenges from the past year, including our April 2018 Town Hall and ongoing trouble with the SNC’s website and other outreach tools.

14. Committee Member Comments on subject matters within the Committee’s jurisdiction

None

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

None

16. Closing Remarks, Announcements, Acknowledgements, and Adjournment

Diane suggested, without objection, changing the date of our regularly scheduled February meeting so as not to conflict with Valentine’s Day. She will work with Oakridge and the Committee to find an alternate and suitable date.

Diane adjourned the meeting at 8:29 pm.

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