

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Don Neal

VICE-PRESIDENTS: George Ortega
and Kristin Mills

TREASURER: Chris Shows

PUBLIC RELATIONS: Jose Oliva



SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

13109 Borden Ave., Sylmar, CA 91342

Telephone: (818) 833-8737

Fax: (818) 833-8707

E-mail: Board@SylmarNC.org

Website: www.SylmarNC.org

Office Administrator: David Levin

Minutes of the
SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (SNC)
GENERAL BOARD MEETING
Thursday, February 27, 2014

Sylmar High School, Spartan Hall, 13050 Borden Ave., 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 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 and Pledge of Allegiance

President Don Neal called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Neal.

2. Roll Call

Roll Call was taken by the Secretary. Seventeen of the 19 Board Members were present at the beginning of the Meeting: Ricardo Benitez, Kathy Bloom, Cheri Blose, Deidre Campbell-Jones, Laurie Fadness, Ann Job, Sherry Lincoln, Derek Martin, Don Neal, Judi Neal, George Ortega, Chardell Powell, Rubi Ramirez, Patricia Rau, Chris Shows, Roy Smith and Diane Valencia. Board Members absent: Kristin Mills (excused) and Jose Oliva (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. Nineteen of the 21 Board Seats were filled. Two Board Seats (Industrial and Retail) were vacant. Also attending: 28 Stakeholders and Guests.

3. Housekeeping, Speaker Cards and Timekeeper – Mr. Neal explained this.

4. Welcome, Introduction, and Announcements by Board Meeting Host.

Meeting Host Derek Martin welcomed everyone.

5. Approval of the Minutes

MOTION (by Ms. Fadness, seconded by Mr. Ortega): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its November 21, 2013 General Board Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with 12 in favor; three abstained.

MOTION (by Ms. Fadness, seconded by Mr. Ortega): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its December 19, 2013 General Board Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with 12 in favor; three abstained.

MOTION (by Mr. Ortega, seconded by Mr. Smith): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its January 30, 2014 General Board Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with 14 in favor; one abstained.

6. Public Officials and Community Representatives announcements and presentations.

John Lonergan, LAPD Mission Division (south/west of Glenoaks Blvd.) Senior Lead Officer (mobile/text 818-634-0610; office 818-838-9848; 31304@LAPD.LACity.org; http://www.LAPDOnline.org/Mission_Community_Police_Station), reported that crime is “down . . . 22% over last year . . . we’re suffering from property crimes . . . Keep your car in a secure place.” David Gonzalez, Field Representative for Monica Ratliff, L.A. Unified School District Six Board Member (213-241-6388; David.Gonzalez3@lausd.net), reported on a March 6th event at Cesar Chavez Learning Academy.

7. Board Member community announcements.

Ms. Fadness announced that “over 30 horses and riders attended” the February 15th community horse ride event at Stetson Ranch sponsored by City Council District Seven, including L.A. City District Seven Councilman Felipe Fuentes (818-756-8409; Felipe.Fuentes@LACity.org; <http://council.lacity.org/Directory/CouncilDistrict7/index.htm>). Mr. Martin announced that every Sylmar High School senior applied for federal student aid.

8. Reports

Secretary -- The Secretary reported on recent work including communications and arrangements for the March 8th Election, the February 25th Candidate Forum, this Meeting location, website domain name renewal, land use project documents, the ad hoc Sediment Removal Committee, the old ad hoc Edison Property Committee, other public safety concerns and requests, Board Member e-mail accounts, Board Members’ Ethics Training and Funding Training, spam e-mail alerts, a Stakeholders Database update and more.

Treasurer/Budget – Mr. Shows deferred to below Item #11.

Land Use -- Mr. Smith reported on the Silver Oaks Cascades project Hearing that a representative is “in negotiations” with the developer; “it looks like there will be no apartments put in there.” The Committee awaits a reply from Sakaida & Sons Trucking about their proposed mining project above Gavina Ave.

Outreach – Mr. Benitez noted “very good outreach” for the February 15th community horse ride event at Stetson Ranch.

Government Affairs, Public Safety and Services -- Mr. Shows indicated that there was no report.

Equestrian -- Ms. Blöse reported that there were 37 horse riders at the February 15th community horse ride event at Stetson Ranch.

Bylaws -- Mr. Martin indicated that there was no report.

Election – Ms. Job reminded that the SNC Election will be Saturday, March 8th [see <http://empowerla.org/snc/sylmar-nc-2014-elections> for more information]. The February 25th Candidates Forum was successful. She encouraged recruiting voters and explained that there will be no vote-by-mail; it would cost \$500 and has not gotten many votes for other Neighborhood Councils that used it.

President -- Mr. Neal reported that the new Board will be Seated at the next [March 27th] Board Meeting.

Ad Hoc Pacoima Dam Sediment Removal – Ms. Valencia reported that Committee Members attended a DPW (L.A. County Department of Public Works; <http://dpw.LACounty.gov/care>) Meeting; the DPW indicated there will be a Public Scoping Meeting “sometime in April.” The DPW has not replied to the Committee’s outreach help offer.

9. Public Comments

Stakeholder Eugene Hernandez was concerned that an L.A. Mission College Professor was denied tenure and two students suspended for protesting it. Stakeholder Mikaela Chapman announced and described the “Relay for Life” Cancer Walk-a-Thon 24-hour event [www.RelayForLife.org/SylmarCA] from Saturday, May 17th at 9:00 a.m. through Sunday, May 18th at 9:00 a.m. at Olive Vista Middle School. Volunteers are needed. She encouraged creating, being on and/or supporting a team “walking non-stop” to raise funds for cancer research. Stakeholder Les Aisenman mentioned a petition about voting rights and encouraged contacting him to demonstrate about an upcoming Supreme Court ruling about corporations’ status.

Old Business

10. Discussion and possible vote [see the below Motion].

MOTION (by Ms. Fadness, seconded by Mr. Benitez): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council supports a resolution in opposition to the development of permanent Wash Basin Sediment Debris dump sites in the “North and South Canyons” in Sylmar next to the Pacoima Dam.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Job supported “the spirit” of the resolution “but cannot support the wording . . . it’s premature.” Mr. Neal would like the resolution “pared down to 25 words or less.” Mr. Smith was concerned that additional canyons involved were not mentioned in the resolution. Ms. Fadness and Mr. Powell encouraged the Board “to take a stand” on the issue before the March 8th Election, after which the new Board “would have to start over” considering the issue. Ms. Job reminded that the DPW had “given the impression that there would be a September [2013] Public Scoping Meeting.” Ms. Campbell-Jones would “request,” not “demand.” Ms. Neal believed that if the resolution was re-worded “it should go back to the Committee.” Ms. Valencia believed that the Committee should revise the resolution. Mr. Aisenman believed that the Committee didn’t meet often enough and was concerned that the SNC may not consider the resolution in time to advise the County before the County’s next Scoping Meeting. Stakeholder Dan Feinberg encouraged the Board “to take a position.”

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Mr. Neal); there were no objections.

MOTION FAILED by a hand vote with three in favor; 13 opposed; one abstained.

New Business

11. Discussion and possible vote to approve monthly recurring operational expenses, and any outstanding “Election Expense” balances.

Mr. Shows indicated that he is working with DONE [the L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment; <http://EmpowerLA.org/Funding>] to account for expenditures, reconcile statements and submit receipts, reconciliations and other documents, past and present.

12. Discussion and possible vote on Land Use Committee Recommendation of Denial of a Conditional Use Permit /Zone Variance to have a drive-thru, and 24 hour operation, in the R-1 Zone at a proposed MacDonald’s Restaurant on the 4,150 ft² site of the current “El Chaparral” restaurant at 13763 Foothill Boulevard.

Mr. Neal relayed that the developer requested and it was agreed to TABLE this Item. Stakeholder Bonnie Bernard “strongly opposes” the Application due to traffic and food content considerations. Another Stakeholder wanted “other options” to be considered, such as “green space.”

13. Discussion and possible vote to support the LA Mission College Springfest event, in an amount not to exceed \$1,000 for engraved glasses with the Sylmar NC & Mission College names, in support of Sylmar NC Community Outreach to the college constituency.

Mr. Neal requested and it was agreed to TABLE this Item because the presenter was not present.

14. Appointments and possible vote to approve new Board Members to open Board Seats & Committee Chairs, as needed. [A monthly item, but with elections on March 8th, NO new Board Members will be appointed this month.]

There were no appointments at this time.

15. Board Member Comments

Board Members encouraged voting in the March 8th SNC Election and thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve Sylmar. Mr. Neal reminded that all SNC Board Members are volunteers. Ms. Bloom announced the April 26th Earth Day.

16. Future Agenda Items, Meeting date

Write to Executive Board at ExecutiveBoard@SylmarNC.org, or mail Sylmar Neighborhood Council, c/o Sylmar Recreation Center, 13109 Borden Ave., Sylmar, CA 91342. The next General Board Meeting will be on March 27, 2014 at Sylmar High School, Spartan Hall, 13050 Borden Avenue, Sylmar, CA 91342.

17. Closing Remarks, Acknowledgements and Adjournment

MOTION to ADJOURN (by Mr. Ortega, seconded by Ms. Fadness).

MOTION to ADJOURN PASSED with no objection.

Mr. Neal declared the Meeting **ADJOURNED** at 8:00 p.m.

Minutes written by DL.